



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 5 June 1986, the Chairman of the Committee, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/399-S/18133), expressed the Committee's grave concern at recent reports of renewed attacks against Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh. The full text of the letter is as follows:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express the Committee's grave concern at recent reports from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and in the media regarding renewed attacks against Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh in Beirut. While continued severe fighting has made it impossible to obtain accurate casualty figures, preliminary estimates indicate that 15 Palestine refugees have been killed and 100 wounded, and the toll continues to rise. The Committee is particularly distressed to learn that, although UNRWA has been able to provide some emergency relief to those who have fled the camps, neither that Agency nor the International Committee of the Red Cross has been permitted to enter the camps to evacuate the wounded and provide medical help. This is especially grave in view of the fact that there are no facilities for treating the wounded in Shatila.

"The human suffering and destruction which the Palestinians have endured in the refugee camps in the past years must arouse the indignation of the international community. The Committee warns once again that the continued failure to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine, the root cause of the conflict in the Middle East, can only lead to a growing spiral of violence in the region, with unforeseeable consequences for international peace and security. The Committee wishes to reassert that the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, has a clear responsibility to ensure the physical safety of the Palestinians and to bring about the exercise of their inalienable rights.

"In this connection, the Committee urges you to continue to do all in your power to put an end to this senseless violence against the Palestine refugee camps and to promote progress towards the attainment of a just and lasting solution in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

"I should like to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council."

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On 13 June 1986, the Chairman of the Committee, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/41/413-S/18159), expressed once again the Committee's grave concern at the persistence and intensification of the attacks against Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh. The full text of the letter is as follows:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express once again the Committee's grave concern at the persistence and intensification of the attacks against Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh in Beirut. Since my letter of 5 June on this question (A/41/399-S/18133), the violence and destruction have continued to grow, causing an incalculable number of victims and serious material damage in the refugee camps.

"In his statement of 6 June 1986 (S/18138), issued on behalf of the members of the Security Council, the President of the Council appealed to all concerned to use their influence in bringing about the cessation of the fighting in order to enable the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East as well as other humanitarian organizations to mount emergency operations for the benefit of the populations concerned, including the Palestinian refugees, towards whom the international community has a particular responsibility.

"Despite this appeal, the attacks have continued and intensified, with tragic consequences for the civilian population of the refugee camps, who have no adequate protection. On behalf of the Committee, I must reaffirm that the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, clearly has the responsibility to guarantee the physical safety of the Palestinian refugees, and I earnestly request you to take urgently all the necessary measures to put an end to these attacks and to provide emergency relief to the refugees.

"At the same time, the Committee urges you to renew your efforts to promote a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, the underlying cause of the conflict in the Middle East, since in the absence of such a solution violence will continue to intensify in the region, with disastrous consequences for international peace and security.

"I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council. "

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II. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
ISSUE STATEMENTS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING

The following statement, attributable to the Spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was made on 3 June 1986:

"The Secretary-General is deeply concerned at the heavy fighting in Beirut, most recently concentrated in the area of the Palestinian refugee camps. He is saddened by the severe casualties suffered by all sides during the fighting.

"The Secretary-General appeals to all concerned to exercise the utmost restraint and to renew efforts to end the present bloodshed so that relief may be brought to all those who have suffered.

"In this connection, the Secretary-General has also been in touch with the Commissioner-General of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who stands ready to provide every possible assistance to the Palestinian refugees affected by the fighting as soon as conditions permit."

Following consultations, the President of the Security Council issued the following statement, on behalf of the members of the Council, on 6 June 1986:

"The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned at the continuing intensification of the fighting in Beirut, especially in and around the Palestinian refugee camps, with its high toll of casualties and material destruction.

"The members of the Security Council appeal to all concerned to use their influence in bringing about the cessation of the fighting in order to enable the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East as well as other humanitarian organizations to mount emergency operations for the benefit of the populations concerned, including the Palestinian refugees towards whom the international community has a particular responsibility.

"They reaffirm that the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon must be respected.

"The members of the Security Council endorse the Secretary-General's appeal to all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and to renew their efforts to end the present bloodshed."

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III. FOURTEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE,
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, 9-10 JUNE 1986

1. The Fourteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 9 and 10 June 1986, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/96 B of 12 December 1985. Four meetings were held and six panelists presented papers on a selected aspect of the question of Palestine.
2. Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was Chairman of the Seminar, and Mr. George A. Agius (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee, Rapporteur of the Seminar. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, acted as Chairman of the Seminar at the third meeting.
3. The opening session of the Seminar on 9 June 1986 was addressed by Mr. Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under-Secretary-General, Legal Counsel of the United Nations. In welcoming the participants on behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Fleischhauer stated that the convening of the Seminar was testimony to the will of the international community and its recognition of the urgent need to find a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which lay at the heart of the Middle East conflict. The extent of the involvement in the Middle East conflict by the General Assembly, the Security Council and various other organizations of the United Nations attested to the importance which the international community attached to it.
4. Despite intensive efforts by the United Nations and a number of individual Governments, the search for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict remained elusive and the situation in the region continued to be unstable. Recent events in the Middle East highlighted the increasing urgency of finding a solution to this most complex problem. Ever present was a threat of renewed conflagration which could cause further suffering and create additional obstacles to peace. This had a profound influence on the stability of that region and consequently posed a threat to international peace and security.
5. There was a wide measure of agreement in the international community that peace in the Middle East could best be achieved through negotiation involving all parties concerned and leading to a comprehensive settlement involving all aspects of the problem. The General Assembly had in recent years called for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Certain Governments had put forward various proposals to promote the negotiating process. Unfortunately none of the above initiatives had achieved so far the desired results. It was important that, despite the difficulties encountered, the peace efforts continued without let-up in order to overcome the present impasse.
6. Mr. Massamba Sarré, welcoming the participants, recalled the importance the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People attached to the question of Palestine and stressed its commitment to finding a solution to the problem. He gave a brief account of the Committee's work and highlighted the Committee's conviction that objective information on

the question of Palestine would help to ensure more comprehensive coverage of developments in the region and promote public support in favour of an equitable and peaceful solution. Once all the facts surrounding the question of Palestine were known, the resultant better understanding of the question would help to convince even those who so far had been somewhat indifferent to the just cause of the Palestinian people.

7. The Committee was convinced that North American public opinion had to be mobilized, along with that of all the other regions, to make the voice of reason, the voice of peace and respect for people's rights in world affairs, better heard. It had to be mobilized to exert a more significant influence in the formulation of policies calculated to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence, rights that they had been unjustly denied for so long.

8. The widely attended International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva in 1983, had recommended the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation on an equal footing of all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) - as the representative of the people directly concerned - together with the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Since its thirty-eighth session, the General Assembly had endorsed the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East. It had also invited the Security Council and the Secretary-General to undertake all preparatory measures to convene the Conference. By resolution 40/96 D, the Assembly had stressed the urgent need for additional constructive efforts by all Governments in order to convene the Conference without further delay and for the achievement of its peaceful objectives. It had also called upon the Governments of Israel and the United States to reconsider their positions towards the attainment of peace in the Middle East through the convening of the Conference.

9. Strongly supported by the majority of the States Members of the United Nations, the Committee fully endorsed the importance of such a Peace Conference and, as a matter of priority, continued to exert all efforts to promote its early convening. The Committee was convinced that the present Seminar would stimulate, in North America and throughout the world, an awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and contribute towards ensuring that the Palestinians will be able to exercise their national inalienable rights on their own soil.

10. Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi, Permanent Observer of the PLO to the United Nations, conveyed a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution. In his message, Chairman Arafat thanked the participants in the Seminar for their continued efforts in defence of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

11. The Palestinian people had great respect for the United Nations which embodied international legitimacy and at the same time undertook all endeavours to establish peace based on justice, as peace and justice were the main foundations for the struggle of the Palestinian people and both, peace and justice, were completely inseparable and indivisible. The United States

Administration persisted in its rejection of international legitimacy and in its refusal to abide by resolutions adopted by the United Nations. Such resolutions affirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and property, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its independent state on its Palestinian national soil. At the same time the United States Administration maintained its support to the continuance of Israeli occupation and also its support of Israel's expansionist and racist policies against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. Israel, supported by the United States, insisted on imposing what was called functional division and a bogus civilian administration in an effort to cover up the cause and the people.

12. As the Seminar was being held, the Palestinian people in Lebanon were subjected to a campaign aimed against its integrity as a people through organized attacks on the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and south Lebanon. When the Palestinian leadership had departed from Beirut in 1982, agreement provided that the refugee camps and the families of the Palestinian fighters would be protected and adequate guarantees would be secured for their safety, but these commitments had never been honoured. In this regard the Secretary-General of the United Nations was reminded that the members of the United Nations Observer Group were still in Beirut and consequently it was their duty to carry out their mission in any way that the Secretary-General found possible. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon troops were still in south Lebanon. The international community was requested to prompt the concerned parties to honour their commitments to protect the Palestinian people and to provide adequate means to ensure their safety in the refugee camps or to enable the PLO to provide such protection that would secure the safety of the Palestinian people and would preserve the security, stability and independence of Lebanon, its territorial integrity and the unity of its people.

13. The opening session was also addressed by Mr. Natarajan Krishnan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko, Vice-Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, Mr. Mamoudou Kane on behalf of the Organization of African Unity and Mr. Engin A. Ansay on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

14. A panel entitled "The International Peace Conference on the Middle East (United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C), the need for such a Conference, efforts and prospects to promote a successful outcome and benefits thereof" was established and the following participated as panelists:

H. E. Mr. George Agius, Mr. Ramsey Clark, Prof. Rashid Khalidi
Senator Heath MacQuarrie, Mr. Jack O'Dell, Prof. Alexei M. Vasilyev.

15. The Seminar agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations.

16. Despite intensive efforts by the United Nations the search for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict remains elusive and the situation in the region continues to be unstable. Recent events in the Middle East highlight the increasing urgency of finding a solution to this most complex

problem. Delays only prolong the plight of the Palestinian people and encourage acts of violence. Ever present is a threat of renewed conflagration which could cause further suffering and create additional obstacles to peace. This has a profound influence on the stability of that region and consequently poses a threat to international peace and security.

17. The Seminar, concerned over the dangerous situation in the Middle East which has been aggravated by repeated acts of all forms of terrorism, especially State terrorism, is profoundly convinced that the vital interests of the peoples of that region, as well as interests of international security as a whole, urgently dictate the need for the speediest attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict, of which the question of Palestine is the core, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and under its auspices.

18. Whilst strenuous attempts have been made to find a solution, the situation in the region is further complicated by Israel's actions in the occupied territories. The situation relating to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people continues to deteriorate. Israeli policies of illegally maintaining Jewish settlements and confiscating Arab owned lands in the occupied Palestinian territories continue. They are accompanied by measures designed to stifle all forms of political, cultural, social and economic expression of the Palestinian people. Actions to strengthen control over most aspects of life, with the objective of obstructing the self-generating development of the occupied territories and to turn them into a dependent entity aiming at its final absorption and annexation continue. These policies are in direct contravention of United Nations resolutions and international law and lead only to the exacerbation of tension in the area further hindering attempts to find a peaceful solution.

19. The Seminar affirms that the problem of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people remains the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region can be achieved without the full exercise of those rights, including the right to return, to self-determination and to create their own independent State, and without the complete withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories occupied since 1967. It further reaffirms that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The settlement of this problem remains a continuous responsibility of the United Nations.

20. Those States Members of the United Nations which do not support the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, especially the United States and Israel, should reconsider their positions towards the solution to the problem. The best way to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is by convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

21. The Conference should be convened without preconditions and its proceedings should be conducted in a constructive spirit. The aim of the Conference should be a comprehensive settlement encompassing all aspects of the Middle East conflict. The participation of the United States and the Soviet Union in the Conference is essential. All States should endeavour to

persuade the United States to reconsider its current position towards the convening of the Conference. An appeal should be made to the United States to join other nations in convening the Conference.

22. The Seminar is of the view that there is no other serious avenue to a resolution of the Middle East conflict except within the context of an international peace conference as called for by the General Assembly, where the numerous complex and interrelated aspects of this conflict could be addressed. In view of the fact that bilateral approaches resulted only in continuing warfare and occupation, the suspicion must be strong that those opposing the International Peace Conference do so because they place other priorities before the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

23. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has an important role to play in promoting the idea of convening the Conference. In general, the Seminar recommends the intensification of the political and diplomatic efforts by all concerned for reaching a comprehensive, just and durable settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

24. Every effort should be made to influence public opinion throughout the world through the use of the media. In that connection, the United Nations should make additional efforts to disseminate factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine, as one of the major contributions to the achievement of a just solution to the problem of Palestine on the basis of the attainment by the Palestinian people in Palestine of their inalienable rights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat have an important role in such dissemination of information. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations should make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine receives the widest possible dissemination.

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

The North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 11 to 13 June 1986, adopted the following Declaration.

1. We, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participating in the third United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, wish to thank the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for making this meeting possible. We are indeed honoured by the presence of the members and observers of this distinguished United Nations body.

2. We wish also to thank the Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the NGO Liaison Officers and the staff of the Division and the Department of Conference Services for their invaluable assistance in the preparation and execution of this meeting.

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3. We wish also to voice our appreciation to the distinguished expert panelists, workshop organizers, resource persons and facilitators who offered their invaluable insights into the question of Palestine and the potential central role to be played by NGOs in North America. The practical suggestions and strategies developed in the workshops assisted us in formulating future collaborative efforts in North America and in linking our efforts to a broader global network.

4. We believe this meeting contributed to the constructive interaction between the United Nations and the North American NGO community concerned with the non-implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1984, a resolution whose implementation we hold to be indispensable in securing a just and durable solution to the question of Palestine.

5. We call upon the peoples and Governments of the United States of America and Canada to take all possible steps to secure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, in order to secure a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine.

6. We resolutely reaffirm the international consensus that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian People. We affirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and to establish an independent Palestinian state on its own national territory under the leadership of the PLO, in conformity with all relevant United Nations resolutions.

7. We further strongly support the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as called for at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, 1/ August 1983, and as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 38/58 C. It is essential that the International Peace Conference be inclusive and be attended by representatives of both Israel and the PLO, those Arab states party to the conflict, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

8. The aim of this meeting was to develop practical objectives and strategies to be implemented by North American NGOs. Our primary work was conducted in workshops, and we affirmed their conclusions as we have amended them below.

9. The Women: Builders of Peace Workshop addressed the common objective of building popular support for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and devised the following strategies:

(a) Using outreach and education to establish the issue of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian women in its rightful and legitimate place in religious groups, women's groups, peace groups and the solidarity movement, with the objective of building support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people;

(b) Through education processes, to raise awareness, promote understanding and generate empathy for the lives of Palestinian women and children;

(c) Through enlisting a broad spectrum of United States women's groups, to pressure the United States Government to implement the recommendations that relate to the plight of Palestinian women and children as put forth in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; 2/

(d) Through exchanging cultures, traditions and histories among Jewish, Arab and other North American women, to highlight their implicit self-interest in eliminating the oppression of Palestinians;

(e) Through monitoring regular television programming and other media, to promote positive images and identity of Palestinian and other Arab women;

10. The Peace-Makers Workshop resolved to build popular support within the peace movement for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East by:

(a) Increasing public awareness of the legitimacy of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, enjoying their full support, serving their needs and seeking peace with justice;

(b) Building a mass movement of North Americans, enlisting the support of minorities and of peace and disarmament groups;

(c) Pressuring the Government of the United States to adopt a policy of military non-interventionism in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Gulf;

(d) Pressuring the Government of the United States to participate in working for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in conformity with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

11. The Religious Communities and Development Projects Workshop devised the following strategies to realize our common objective of building popular support in the religious community for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East:

(a) A letter-writing campaign from constituencies to government bodies and targeted congressional and parliamentary offices calling for a Palestinian state in Palestine;

(b) Support for indigenous Palestinian programmes for their own development, channelling funds through indigenous Palestinian institutions;

(c) A national conference of the religious community addressing the urgency for Middle East peace and the need to address "Armageddon Theology";

(d) Encouraging all NGOs to address the issue of "Armageddon Theology" through the promotion of the new book Prophecy and Politics by Grace Halsell;

(e) A more assertive education of constituencies about their church's position supporting the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people and recognizing the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

12. In building popular support for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and mindful of the difficulties imposed by the centrality of Israel's role in implementing the global foreign policy of the United States, the Civil and Human Rights Workshop defined four strategies to be pursued in the coming year by NGOs co-ordinating their efforts throughout North America:

(a) Undertake educational campaigns focusing on specific cases in order to broaden public understanding of the issues relating to Palestinian human rights;

(b) Work in concert for a reduction of United States aid to Israel by 1988 as a direct response to Israel's repeated human rights violations;

(c) Link the campaign against violations of Palestinian human rights to other such violations world-wide, such as apartheid;

(d) Vigorously oppose the use of the term "terrorism", which infringes on human and civil rights both in North America and abroad;

(e) Pursue a campaign to combat anti-Arab racism and anti-Muslim attitudes in North America.

13. Additional, more comprehensive strategies and tactics emanating from the workshops are reproduced in annex I and should be carefully considered by the NGO community.

14. NGOs present at this meeting have established a North American Co-ordinating Committee (see annex II). During the coming year, the Committee is charged by this meeting to co-ordinate the work of the North American NGOs present in pursuing our common objective and strategies. The NGOs present request a report from the Committee at the 1987 North American Symposium in order to evaluate its efforts.

15. The North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine reaffirms the importance of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and strongly supports contributions from the Governments of the United States and Canada at current or higher levels. The NGOs strongly reject attempts on the part of some in the United States to delegitimize the importance of the work of UNRWA.

16. We, the North American NGOs, have taken note of the assault on Palestinian refugee camps (Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh, near Beirut) and their residents, in June 1986, and have duly condemned the atrocities committed, have called for the siege to be lifted and enforced, and have called for the free flow of medical assistance and other relief to the camps. The Secretary-General has received our statement on this matter and has been encouraged to act on it at once.

17. While all Palestinians suffer greatly in the diaspora and under occupation from the denial of their national rights, women suffer special hardships. Whether in 1948 Palestine, the camps of Beirut, in southern Lebanon, in the camps of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, or in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian women often carry the burden

for their entire households, including securing shelter and providing food and clothing. These women must often assume double or triple work-loads in the home, the field and the factory. Their hardships are compounded by gender discrimination. We strongly encourage the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights to promote the implementation of all United Nations resolutions and programmes to improve the status of Palestinian women and children. We urge North American NGOs to stress in their work the urgent situation of Palestinian women, and to participate in the March 1987 Conference on Palestinian Women organized by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign.

18. We request continued United Nations assistance for the North American Co-ordinating Committee in organizing and financing its meetings in the coming year.

19. In order to continue collaboration between the United Nations and the North American NGO community, we urge both the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights to send representatives to the major North American NGO conferences.

20. We urge the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to convey this Declaration to the General Assembly at its forty-first session as part of the Committee's report.

Notes

1/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.21), chap. I, sect. B.

2/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (A/CONF.116/28 and Corr. 1-4), chap. I, sect. A.

Annex I

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS

A. Civil and Human Rights Workshop

The Civil and Human Rights Workshop suggest the following tactics to realize the articulated strategies:

1. Educational campaign on Palestinian human rights

(a) As 1987 is the twentieth anniversary of Israeli occupation, we call for a campaign to end that occupation, leading to culminating events in June 1987;

(b) The campaign would include letter-writing, petition drives, photographs and biographies on individual cases, which would be "packaged" for North Americans;

(c) Unify organizations across North America to work in concert around specific cases, as approved by the North American Co-ordinating Committee;

(d) Highlight a specific municipality in the West Bank, such as Ramallah, which has not had elections in 10 years, and implement a campaign for democratic municipal elections;

(e) Develop a national North American network on Palestinian human rights violations linked to organizations in the occupied territories, which would set priorities for North American work (e.g. Law in the Service of Man (LSM) and Committee Confronting Iron Fist);

(f) Focus on the State Department's human rights report and critique in the media, through organizations, etc., and then lobby the State Department for improvements in its 1986 report;

(g) Organize activities in regions around International Human Rights Day, 10 December 1986, to draw media attention to the cases approved by NGOs (identify organizations to carry out this task on behalf of NGOs);

(h) Identify and link with progressive Israeli groups that share our basic commitment to Palestinian rights;

(i) Target Amnesty International, PEN, etc. and other human rights organizations to urge adoption of specific Palestinian human rights cases.

2. Cut in aid to Israel

(a) Identify potential congressional co-sponsors who could introduce a bill to cut United States aid to Israel by a specified amount (by 1988);

(b) Link the United States aid cut to Israel to the United States Arms Export Control Act (1977) and the Foreign Assistance Act;

(c) Identify an organization in Washington, D.C. to co-ordinate items (a) and (b);

(d) Survey congressional districts, identify the organizations, individuals, etc. that have influence in that district, in order to lay the ground work for local support of the resolution;

(e) Go to religious and peace groups on group-by-group strategy to facilitate their work on Palestinian rights. Focus on lessons learned from South African and Central American work and link them to ways in which the Rainbow Coalition can press the above agenda;

(f) Expose the duplicity of the United States supporting two standards of human rights, one for Israeli Jews and another for Palestinian Arabs;

(g) Defend cases of Palestinian academic freedom violations and support North American academicians who defend Palestinian rights;

(h) Critique both Israeli and United States violations of international law with regard to Palestinian rights;

(i) Note Israel's central role in United States foreign policy and Israel's global role in supporting repressive Governments that undermine human rights in other regions, such as South Africa and Central America.

B. Women: Builders of Peace Workshop

In the Women: Builders of Peace Workshop, the following strategies were set forth for implementation by those groups that wish to go beyond the formal objectives:

(a) Organize North American women's tour to the Middle East;

(b) Publicize specific cases (individual or general) such as family reunion, deportation and civil rights violations;

(c) Ensure that the National Conference on Palestinian Women 1987 addresses the Nairobi Women's Conference (1985);

(d) Promote a speaking tour with forward-looking strategies with the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), members and Palestinians;

(e) Sensitize conferences of women's groups to the Palestinian issue;

(f) Encourage speaking tours of Israeli and Palestinian women to mainstream women's organizations;

(g) Bring the Israeli peace movement to the attention of women's groups and encourage them to adopt resolutions in response;

(h) Relate to mainstream Jewish women's groups and Arab women's groups;

(i) Distribute material from the West Bank, e.g., newsletters from women's groups;

(j) Create a media and resource network on the subject of Palestinian women;

- (k) Organize seminars for the media on Palestinian women, their culture and traditions;
- (l) Strengthen the network of groups in North America that are concerned with the Middle East issue;
- (m) Find ways to network following this NGO symposium.

C. Peace-Makers Workshop

1. Increase awareness of the legitimacy of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

- (a) Draw attention to the peace proposals made by the PLO since 1974;
- (b) Counter the trend to separate Palestinians from the PLO and to discredit the PLO;
- (c) Organize a media committee of NGOs to promote awareness/acceptance of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people;

2. Build a mass movement for North Americans by North Americans to deal with the Middle East peace issue, and bring peace

- (a) Broaden constituencies and bring in new ones, with emphasis on racial minorities;
- (b) Encourage groups to conduct internal education on the issues and establish yearly commitment among several groups to focus on peace movements and Middle East peace issues. Also, meet with directors of national organizations such as SANE, etc.;
- (c) Mobilize efforts to hold national conference;
- (d) Organize a strong campaign to culminate on the twentieth anniversary of occupation;
- (e) Establish/host a dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis;
- (f) Highlight the Israeli role in "star wars";
- (g) Increase awareness of and support for Israeli peace forces and the diversity of that movement;
- (h) Development information resources (e.g., a video library);
- (i) Devise ways to protect the United Nations and to keep efforts of the United Nations in the public eye;
- (j) Organize a hunger strike to accompany the deliberations in the United Nations during the General Assembly debate on the question of Palestine;

3. Pressure to change United States foreign policy

- (a) Stop United States intervention and tie the Middle East to anti-intervention concerns (using the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya as a jumping-off point);
- (b) Slogan: "Let's Practice our Principles".

Annex II

NORTH AMERICAN CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

(Elected at the 1986 North American Regional Symposium)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

American Friends Service Committee

America-Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church

Canadian Arab Federation

NAJDA: Women Concerned about the Middle East

National Conference of Black Lawyers

Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada (NECEF)

November 29th Committee for Palestine

Palestine Human Rights Campaign

Presbyterian Church, USA

US Peace Council
