



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 27 July 1986 the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People adopted by consensus its annual report to the General Assembly (A/41/35). In its report, the Committee made the following recommendations to the General Assembly:

"The Committee contends that action by the Security Council is now required to take positively into account the recommendations of the Committee and those adopted by consensus at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva in September 1983 and endorsed by General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. It once again recalls that those recommendations are solidly founded on fundamental and internationally recognized principles relating to the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The Committee wishes to stress once again that it considers the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, to be an essential element in the progress towards a solution of the question of Palestine. It also notes that there is overwhelming support for that conference. The Committee intends to continue to make the convening of the conference the focal point of its work programme and to do everything possible to increase awareness of the importance of that conference through contacts with governments as well as with non-governmental organizations.

"The Committee stresses that its original recommendations were specifically designed to enable the Palestinian people to attain its inalienable rights, as affirmed in General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX).

The Committee also stresses that the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held in Geneva in 1983 contained specific guidelines for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, of which an essential element would be the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in Palestine. Those guidelines were endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 38/58 C, and reaffirmed in resolutions 39/49 D and 40/96 D which, inter alia, 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.

"The Committee strongly points out that the question of Palestine has reached a critical phase and urges a renewed, concentrated and collective effort to find a just solution under United Nations auspices on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and to end the unacceptable plight of the Palestinian people.

"To this end, the Committee is convinced that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as endorsed in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, and generating quasi-unanimous support, provides a comprehensive opportunity for all the parties concerned to participate in negotiations which should lead to a just and lasting solution of the question.

"The Committee recommends that the General Assembly call once again upon Israel and the United States to reconsider their position towards the attainment of peace through the convening of the conference and appeal to all countries to exert their best efforts to achieve the convening of that conference, and renew the mandate of the Secretary-General to continue his contacts, in consultation with the Security Council, on the preparations for the convening of the Conference.

"The Committee is pleased and greatly encouraged by the widespread understanding it has already secured, and the favourable reaction of non-governmental organizations and international public opinion in general to its recommendations. The Committee will continue to engage in the process of evaluating the progress achieved and the experience gained in its various activities, with the goal of achieving optimum effectiveness and impact in carrying out its mandate."

FIFTEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE HELD AT NAIROBI
FROM 18 TO 22 AUGUST 1986

1. The Fifteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people" was held at the United Nations Office, Nairobi, from 18 to 22 August 1986 in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/96 B. Seven meetings were held and 13 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine.
2. The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation consisting of H.E. Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee; H.E. Mr. Noel G. Sinclair (Guyana); Mr. Gerhard Richter (German Democratic Republic); Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). Mr. Sarré was Chairman and Mr. Richter Rapporteur of the Seminar.
3. The opening session of the Fifteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine was addressed by the Honourable Mr. E. Mweu, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. In his statement, he stressed that the people of Kenya, under the wise and dynamic leadership of President Daniel arap Moi, had consistently supported the national rights of the Palestinians, who were struggling for peace and security. Recent developments in the Middle East, whose stability and security were closely connected with those of Africa, made it imperative that the international community should work vigorously for peace in that troubled region. For peace to endure, it had to be comprehensively based on justice and the rule of law.
4. Kenya and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) shared a common stand in various international forums, particularly in the United Nations. Furthermore, Kenya and the PLO shared a common abhorrence and strong opposition to the inhuman apartheid system of South Africa and the acquisition of other countries' territory by the use of force. Kenya and the PLO continued to condemn the evil régime in South Africa, which still defied international outcry for an end to apartheid.
5. Kenya and the PLO had always had a warm and cordial relationship and these relations continued to flourish in the spirit of brotherhood. Kenya recognized the PLO as the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian people and gave it full diplomatic recognition on 4 October 1980. It continued to support the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, sovereignty and a State of their own and believed that no just and lasting peace could be achieved in the Middle East until the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people were fully recognized, including the right of all States in the region to live in peace within internationally recognized boundaries. Therefore, it was most important that Member States in the Middle East should strive to live in peace with their neighbours.
6. At the same opening session, Mr. Sarré, the Chairman, gave a brief account of the work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. He stressed the particular importance that the Committee attached to the seminars in the various regions. He indicated 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 the African countries were in a position to play an active role in the search for a solution. African 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 its inalienable rights to self-determination and independence, rights which it had been unjustly denied for so long.

8. The General Assembly had, since its thirty-eighth session, endorsed the idea of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. It had gone further, to invite the Security Council and the Secretary-General to undertake all preparatory measures to convene the Conference. In its resolution 40/96 D, adopted by the General Assembly at its fortieth session, it 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 also called upon the Governments of Israel and the United States of America to reconsider their position 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 views of the experts who participated in the Seminar would be of great value in assessing what still needed to be done in that field.

10. Dr. Abdul Rahman, Ambassador of the PLO to Kenya, conveyed a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces of the Palestine Revolution.

11. In the message, it was stressed that the convening of the Seminar in Nairobi underscored the constant militant unity among the Arab and African peoples who had suffered under the old colonialism in all its forms. They had revolted against that colonialism and had been able to wrench their freedom, and independence. Despite those developments, the African continent and the Arab nation still suffered from two racist régimes: the racist Zionist régime and the racist régime of South Africa.

12. Those two régimes threatened African stability and security as they threatened the security of the Arab nations and international security and stability in general, depending on the support and aid from United States imperialism on military, economic, political, diplomatic and informational levels. Ideological and military links which bound these two régimes had reached the level of close co-operation in the nuclear field, the making of the atomic bomb, and in the economic, commercial and cultural sectors.

13. The Palestinian Arab people, who were struggling with all their energy against the Zionist racist régime which occupied their land, were fully aware of the struggle waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa against the twin of the Zionist régime in Palestine.

14. The PLO supported the struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa, the position of the African front-line States and the international community to impose mandatory sanctions against the racist régime in Pretoria to force it to put an end to the policy of apartheid and to comply with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) requiring the independence of Namibia. It condemned arbitrary measures taken by the Pretoria régime against the African front-line States and reaffirmed its unswerving stand on the side of the militant Namibian people and their courageous revolution under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

15. Confronted with Zionist oppression, the Palestinian Arab people continued the struggle to wrench their liberty and to regain their inalienable national rights, affirming their absolute support for the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The Palestinian people resisted the American-Zionist conspiracies, in which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated, to create an alternative weak Palestinian leadership to the PLO which would succumb to the policy which the United States and Israel were attempting to impose on them.

16. The Palestinian Arab people would continue to work for the convening of the International Conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and also the concerned parties in the conflict, including the PLO, on an equal footing in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

17. The Seminar decided to send a message to Mr. Arafat, thanking him for his message.

18. H.E. Mr. Noel G. Sinclair (Guyana), representing the United Nations Council for Namibia, reiterated its firm solidarity with the struggling people of Palestine. It was the firm conviction of the Council that the prospects for a lasting peace in the Middle East began and ended with the enjoyment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, including their right to their own independent State. It followed from that that the Palestinian people had to participate in any discussions or negotiations concerning their future, and they had to do so through their chosen representative, the PLO, their sole authentic representative.

19. The involvement of the United Nations in the legitimate struggle of the peoples of Namibia and of Palestine was as old as the United Nations itself. The struggle of the Palestinian people was inseparable from that of the Namibian people. It was with very good reason that the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted special attention to the question of collaboration between the racist régime of Pretoria and the Zionist régime of Tel Aviv. That collaboration had to be exposed and denounced.

20. There was a need to identify ways of exerting pressure on the régime in Tel Aviv and on its powerful backers to comply with the relevant resolutions

of the United Nations on the question of Palestine. A special responsibility lay with the Security Council to act without further delay to secure implementation of its own relevant resolutions. It was regrettable that the Council continued to be prevented from adopting the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

21. The Council for Namibia reiterated its endorsement of the call for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The holding of such a Conference would provide an opportunity for some positive movement towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Council also supported the call for intensified support for the Palestinian people, in particular to their sole, authentic representative, the PLO.

22. Mr. Abdelmahmoud A. Mohamed (Sudan), representing the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, noted with deep regret that the Palestinian people were still denied their inalienable right to self-determination. This was due to Israel's intransigence, expansionist policy and its relentless oppression of the Palestinian people in order to usurp their fundamental rights. In its policy of continued provocations and intransigence, Israel was defying the will of the international community and flouting international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

23. Both the question of Palestine and of apartheid were of the gravest concern to the international community. Both problems emanated from the denial of the right of self-determination to the peoples concerned. All attempts made so far to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine as well as to bring about the end of apartheid had failed. The denial of the right to self-determination, with the attendant subjugation of peoples to alien and discriminatory rule, was the most fundamental violation of all their rights. This denial was the lot of Palestinians as of Namibians and Africans in South Africa.

24. Israel in the Middle East and the Pretoria régime in southern Africa practised policies of destabilization of the neighbouring States. Israeli authorities discriminated against and oppressed the Palestinian people, the Pretoria régime established the equally inhuman system of apartheid against the South African black majority. There were many striking similarities between the discriminative and aggressive policies of zionism and apartheid. That two of the most oppressive régimes in the world, Israel and South Africa, had close links historically, ideologically, commercially and militarily was well documented. At a time when the Palestinian people, the people of South Africa and the people of Namibia were going through crucial phases in their struggles for freedom, it was important to emphasize the ways in which the two racist régimes supported each other.

25. The issue of collaboration between Israel and South Africa had been and continued to be a matter of concern to many Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The most serious aspects of the collaboration between Israel and the apartheid régime related to military and nuclear matters. The international community was preparing to undertake drastic measures to eradicate the inhuman system of apartheid. In that critical situation it was of paramount importance to stop the continuing trend of

increasing collaboration between Israel and South Africa. The Special Committee believed that the international community had the right and the responsibility to exert all influence at its disposal to make Israel desist from such collaboration.

26. The Seminar received a message from H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba), 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, which emphasized that the Special Committee attached great significance to the mobilization of international opinion towards the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations on the question of self-determination for all peoples under alien and colonial domination. The situation in the region continued to constitute a crisis which bore the explosive potential of a conflict that would seriously endanger international peace and security. It was particularly relevant in that context to recall that the General Assembly had repeatedly called for the full and speedy exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination without external interference and to national independence and sovereignty, as well as their right to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced and uprooted. It was incumbent upon the international community to make a positive and significant contribution and, in so doing, to ensure that no action be taken which would so exacerbate the situation, that a just settlement would be rendered more difficult to achieve.

27. It was of particular importance to recall General Assembly resolution 38/58 C which, among other things, had called for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The proposed Conference had received a wide measure of support as an indispensable vehicle by which a legal and political framework acceptable to the vast majority of the international community could be worked out in order to enable negotiations to proceed with full respect for universally recognized international principles and with all the parties concerned being on an equal footing and with equal rights.

28. H. E. Mr. Mohamed Sharif, head of the Mission of the League of Arab States in Nairobi, emphasized that the Middle East problem constituted a point of tension in the world which continued to threaten world peace if a just and comprehensive solution to the heart of the conflict, the question of Palestine, could not be found. Peace could not be achieved without adherence to international legality and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Palestine. The Arabs, being desirous to solve a conflict that threatened the whole world, and guided by the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations, had proposed a plan for a peaceful solution to the conflict, namely the Fez Summit Plan endorsed on 9 September 1982. In spite of the international welcome for this generous initiative, it had been adamantly rejected by Israel.

29. Israel's logic in the Middle East was similar to the logic of apartheid in South Africa. The South African régime challenged United Nations resolutions and insisted on occupying Namibia without any right or legal validity. It had been only natural that a strategic alliance should have emerged between the two régimes to counter the African and Arab boycotts. Economic, military, nuclear and political co-operation between them was moving ahead. The right of pursuit practised by Israel in the Middle East was imitated by South Africa.

30. Peace could not be achieved in the Middle East region as long as Israel continued to ignore material facts, attempted to impose on the international community fait accompli, and denied international legitimacy by rejecting the United Nations resolutions on Palestine.

31. The Palestinian people possessed every right to self-determination and to an independent State under its legitimate leadership. Without the achievement of that, peace would not be attained in the Middle East. Mankind with the exception of very few, supported those rights. It was hoped that those few would return to the right track, reason, logic and legitimacy.

32. Mr. Nabil Maarouf, representing the Organization of the Islamic Conference, conveyed greetings of H.E. Mr. Sharifeddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of that Organization, and stressed that the tyranny and oppression to which the Palestinian people were being subjected resembled very closely those to which the people of South Africa were being subjected since the two racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine were established on injustice and owed their continuity to the blood of the peoples of the two areas who were the genuine owners of the land.

33. The international community had demanded of the Palestinian people that they should follow a moderate course in the pursuit of their objectives so that they might be able to support and assist it to regain their rights. The Palestinian people represented by the PLO - their sole and legitimate representative - had favourably responded to those appeals. The PLO had demonstrated the required diplomatic flexibility. But more plots and machinations aimed at the final liquidation of the Palestinian cause, more conspiracies to exterminate the Palestinian people, as well as the active pursuit of the policy of changing the features of their land and history of occupied Arab Palestine were the results.

34. The Middle East region was currently living under a situation of no war and no peace. It appeared that the United States was trying its utmost to maintain that situation in the region through the use of its international standing as a big Power. It provided massive armed assistance to Israel in such a way that ensured a state of permanent superiority for Israel and had signed the Treaty of Strategic Alliance. Moreover, it also prevented the establishment of peace by its rejection of all attempts and proposals aimed at realizing a just and lasting solution in the area, and resorted to the use of its veto right in the United Nations Security Council to abort the desire of the entire world to restore peace in the Middle East region. Such a state of affairs placed international peace and security under constant threat.

35. The Palestinian problem, which was the core of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East region, was a clearly defined one: a people who were expelled from their land and were pursued even in the Diaspora. These people had resisted and were still resisting and would continue to resist until they regained their inalienable rights. The problem was well known and solutions were available. But, so far, peace had not been achieved. The obstacle standing in the way of achieving peace was, as was well known, the Zionist entity.

36. The Organization of the Islamic Conference reiterated its full commitment to the Palestinian cause and to the right of the Palestinian people to exercise them fully. Practical means had to be found to exercise effective influence upon the United States to respond favourably to the opportunities available for the establishment of peace in the area. All efforts had to be undertaken to convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The peace process in the area could not succeed without the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a major party in any dialogue or negotiation. There would be no peace without the full recognition of the historical and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including its rights to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent state, with its capital of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, on its national soil.

37. The Seminar received a message from the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity reiterating the support of the Organization for the just cause of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO to obtain and exercise its inalienable rights.

38. At the third meeting, Mr. Abdillah Ali Dualeh, representing the Organization of African Unity, gave a brief account of the resolutions relating to the question of Palestine adopted by the recent session of the Council of Ministers of the OAU.

39. Four panels were established to consider different aspects of the question of Palestine. These panels and their panelists were as follows:

- (a) Panel I: "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":

Mr. Amadou Deme (Senegal), Mr. Emmanuel Douma (Congo),
H.E. Mr. El-Bakaye Kounta (Mali), Dr. Ahmed Osman (Egypt),
Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Refaat (Egypt), Mr. El Hadji Ousmane Sarr
(Senegal);

- (b) Panel II: "The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization":

Dr. Ameen Haseera (Palestinian);

- (c) Panel III: "Africa and the question of Palestine:

- (i) African public opinion
- (ii) Relations between Israel and South Africa";

Dr. Richard Andriamanjato (Madagascar), Mr. R. E. Barlay (Sierra Leone), Dr. Bukar Bukarambe (Nigeria), H.E. Mr. Rachid Driss (Tunisia), Mr. Patrick Hayford (Ghana);

- (d) Panel IV: "The United Nations and the question of Palestine":

H.E. Mr. Noel G. Sinclair (Guyana).

40. The Seminar agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

41. Despite intensive efforts by the United Nations, hitherto 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 solving that most complex problem. Delay only prolonged the plight of the Palestinian people and encouraged acts of violence. Ever present was the threat of renewed conflagration which could cause further suffering and create additional obstacles to peace. That had a profound influence on the stability of that region and consequently posed a threat to international peace and security.

42. The Seminar, concerned over the dangerous situation in the Middle East, was profoundly convinced that the vital interests of the peoples of that region, as well as interests of international security as a whole, urgently dictated the need for the speediest attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

43. While strenuous attempts had been made to find a solution, the situation in the region was further complicated by Israel's actions in the occupied territories. The situation relating to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people continued to deteriorate. Israeli policies of illegally maintaining Jewish settlements and confiscating Arab-owned lands in the occupied Palestinian territories continued. They were 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, continued. Those policies were in direct contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, international treaties and conventions, the basic principles of international law and the various resolutions of the United Nations relating to different aspects of the question of Palestine, and led only to the exacerbation of tension in the area, further hindering endeavours toward a peaceful solution.

44. The denial of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people remained the core of the conflict in the Middle East and no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region could be achieved without the full exercise of those rights, including the right to self-determination and to create its own independent State, and without the complete withdrawal of Israel from Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. The settlement of that problem remained a continuous responsibility of the United Nations.

45. Those States Members of the United Nations who did not support the attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights should reconsider their position towards the solution to the problem. The way to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East was by convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the United States, the USSR and other concerned States, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by General Assembly

resolution 38/58 C. In that connection, the United States and Israel should reconsider their negative position and agree to the convening of the Conference.

46. In the International Year of Peace proclaimed by the United Nations, it was in the interests of international peace and security that all States endeavoured to persuade the United States and Israel to reconsider their current positions towards the convening of the Conference, so that it could be held without any further delay.

47. The Seminar appealed to the members of the Security Council, and in particular to its permanent members, in exercising their responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, to make every effort to achieve the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East without further delay.

48. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had an important role to play in promoting the convening of the Conference. The intensification of efforts to fulfil its mandate and to implement its recommendations as well as political and diplomatic endeavours to reach a comprehensive, just and durable settlement of the conflict in the Middle East were essential.

49. Strong bonds existed between the African States and peoples with the people of Palestine in its struggle to secure the implementation of its inalienable national rights and the creation of a State of its own in Palestine. The position of Africa as manifested in the declarations and resolutions of the Organization of African Unity was one of solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle and one of support for a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement of the question of Palestine on the basis of the resolutions of the United Nations. The plight of the Palestinian people was one that was viewed with profound sympathy by the peoples and Governments of Africa. A deep interest and active involvement in the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the problem of Palestine through all means represented the natural and understandable response of Africans who themselves had experienced colonial domination. On the other hand, the Palestinian people who were struggling against Israeli occupation and annexation and for the exercise of their inalienable rights in Palestine were fully aware of the struggle waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa against the twin of the racist régime in Palestine, the apartheid régime in South Africa.

50. The most distressing manifestations of the continuation of that abhorrent policy of colonial domination were the practice of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and the oppressive and racist policies of Israel in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories. Both the question of Palestine and of apartheid were of the gravest concern to the international community. Both problems emanated from the denial of the right of self-determination to the peoples concerned. Israel in the Middle East and the Pretoria régime in southern Africa practised policies of destabilization of the neighbouring States. The international community was more and more getting prepared to undertake drastic measures to eradicate the inhuman system of apartheid. In the current critical situation, it was of paramount importance to stop the

continuing trend of increasing collaboration between Israel and South Africa. The Palestinian people and South African blacks suffered from that collaboration, which served as one of the sources of power of the apartheid régime in Pretoria and helped Tel Aviv to strengthen its hold on the occupied Arab territories. The Seminar urged the international community to exert all influence at its disposal to make Israel and South Africa desist from such collaboration. To counteract that collaboration Afro-Arab Solidarity at all levels should be promoted and strengthened.

51. It was important that the media play a more responsive role in providing a more balanced reporting on the Middle East and, in particular, on the plight of the Palestinians in and outside the occupied territories as a dispossessed and harassed people. Institutions such as universities, colleges, research institutes, churches and other religious establishments, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, had a crucial role to play in the formation of public opinion. Those institutions should be urged to give wider coverage and more balanced treatment to the question of Palestine.

52. The PLO, as well as all Arab States, should increase and intensify their efforts to sensitize public opinion everywhere, and particularly in those regions where there was currently little understanding or awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian case should be presented by varied means of public information in simple terms so as to ensure more widespread comprehension of the realities of the situation.

53. Every effort should be made to step up the widespread dissemination of information, 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 United Nations Secretariat had an important role in such dissemination of information. Furthermore, the United Nations Department of Public Information should make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine received the widest possible dissemination.

III. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORED AFRICAN REGIONAL
AND NATIONAL JOURNALISTS ENCOUNTER ON THE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 C of 13 December 1985, the African regional journalists encounter on the question of Palestine was held in Lusaka from 12 to 15 August 1986. The objective of the encounter was to promote a better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media by bringing them together with experts on the subject for a brief, in-depth, informal and candid discussions of the various aspects of the Palestinian problem.

The panelists were:

Ambassador Dr. Ahmed Osman
Former Under-Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi
Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation
Organization to the United Nations
New York

Dr. Amnon Kapeliuk
Correspondent
Le Monde Diplomatique
Israel

Eleven journalists, nominated by the United Nations Information Centres in Africa were invited to participate.

The encounter was formally inaugurated on 12 August 1986 by Mr. J.C.M. Punabantu, Zambian Minister of National Guidance, Information and Broadcasting Services.

In addition to the invited journalists, a large number of local journalist and representatives of embassies, universities, institutes, United Nations agencies and the African National Congress attended the encounter.

The selection of the journalists was intended to cover the whole African continent and have a balance between representatives of press, radio and television media.

The agenda of the encounter was as follows: "Historical review of the origins of the Palestinian question"; "United Nations and the question of Palestine"; "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people"; "The prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem".

The last session of the encounter was devoted to concluding remarks by the panelists. The opportunity was also given to journalists to give their own assessment of the encounter and their perspectives for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question. A questionnaire was distributed to journalists in order to obtain their views, remarks and suggestions on all aspects of the encounter.

There was a wide consensus among the journalists on the need and necessity to hold an international peace conference on the question of Palestine under the auspices of the United Nations in order to achieve a just and lasting settlement.

Most of the participants expressed the view that they would have preferred to have heard an official Israeli representative. Still, they appreciated the participation of Dr. Kapeliuk in the panel. It was explained to them that the Department of Public Information had repeatedly invited Israeli officials to participate in United Nations public information activities on the question of Palestine but they had always declined.

A national journalists encounter on the question of Palestine was held in Nairobi on the afternoon of 18 August 1986. The purpose of the encounter was to provide the opportunity for the largest possible number of local journalists and foreign correspondents to meet with experts on the subject, constituting a small balanced panel, for a brief discussion of the various aspects of the Palestinian question in a way of an in-depth press conference.

The panelists were Ambassador Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Senegal to the United Nations, Ambassador Noel Sinclair, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations and Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.

The encounter was attended by more than 50 journalists and embassy and university representatives.

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

1. The 198th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in session 10 to 18 June 1986, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, enacted the enclosed resolution on the right of the state of Israel to exist, and the rights of the Palestinian people to a homeland.

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The General Assembly of 1986 was composed of 658 commissioners (voting delegates) elected to represent a constituency of more than 11,600 congregations with more than 3,000,000 members. The General Assembly has the authority to establish policy and direction for the program of the denomination, to resolve disputes in the internal life of the church, and to determine the denomination's witness to the world. The General Assembly's judgements on public issues directly govern the programs of denominational agencies, and provide guidance for the lower governing bodies and congregations of the Presbyterian Church. General Assembly statements and policies do not claim to express the opinions, nor to bind the consciences, of individual Presbyterians. Such policy statements, however, do require the careful consideration of the entire membership of the denomination, and represent the best judgement of the denomination's highest deliberative body.

RESOLUTION ON A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND

Approved by the 198th General Assembly (1986)
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
June, 1986

Whereas, the 196th General Assembly (1984) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) called upon the United States Government (84.28.220) to seek, along with the right of Israel to exist, the realization of the full rights of self-determination, including statehood, for the Palestinian people; and

Whereas, the 197th General Assembly (1985) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirmed the 196th General Assembly's call for a Middle East emphasis on study and advocacy throughout the church; and

Whereas, the Middle East peace process, which began again in hope in February 1985 among Jordan, the Palestine liberation Organization, the United States, and Israel, collapsed in February 1986; and

Whereas, the recurring violence in the area and increasing threats of another Arab-Israeli war deeply concern us;

Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 198th General Assembly (1986) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

1.) Call upon the United States Government to seek peace now in the Middle East by recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, while affirming Israel's right to exist, and by taking immediate actions to support and cooperate with international efforts for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and homeland in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as determined by Palestinians;

2.) Call upon the United Nations to convene an international conference for a just resolution of the conflict;

3.) Call upon the United States Government to support actively the peace process in the Middle East, including this international conference; and

4.) Call upon the Stated Clerk to communicate this resolution, and the 196th General Assembly (1984) resolution on the Middle East, to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, member of Congress, the Secretary General of the United Nations, and the appropriate church and civil leaders in the Middle East.

2. As a service to its readers, New Outlook magazine has updated its two-year old list of Israeli movements and institutions concerned with peace and co-existence. These include civil rights groups, educational, cultural and community groups, research and policy institutes and academic institutions.

3. The offices of the United Palestine Appeal (UPA), a humanitarian organization whose objective is to raise funds to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, were destroyed on 17 June 1986. UPA lost its computerized mailing list and other records. Dr. Bishara Bahba, Executive Director of UPA, is reported to have said that UPA will not cease its activities.

4. The International Jewish Peace Union issued an alert regarding the fact that Canon Riah Abu el Assal, head of the Anglican Church in Nazareth, has been forbidden to leave Israel for one year (31 July 1986-31 July 1987), on administrative orders of the Ministry of the Interior. Canon Abu el Assal, a Palestinian who has Israeli nationality, is also a leader of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

The Palestine Human Rights Campaign on 1 August 1986 announced that Na'ama Al Hilu, a leader of the Women's Work Committees in J'baliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip would be tried on 3 August on charges of possessing forbidden literature. Ms Al Hilu argued that all the materials she possessed, including Arabic literature and leaflets published by the Women's Work Committees, were all legal and could be found in libraries and many other homes. The officer was not convinced and refused to state which materials were forbidden.

The Women's Work Committees throughout the Occupied Territories carry out literary campaigns, medical care programs, prisoners' aid activities, social work, day care centres, and organize kindergartens and summer camps for children.
