



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

November/December 1986

Volume IX, Bulletin 11/12

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE	1
II. CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AT THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	4
III. THE SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES A STATEMENT REGARDING THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON	26
IV. THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES	27
V. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE	34
VI. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION	36



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

On 10 November 1986, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General, 1/
the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People expressed the Committee's grave concern at the persistence and
the intensification of fighting in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Tyre,
Beirut and Sidon. 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 put on record the Committee's grave
concern at the persistence and the intensification of fighting in and around
Palestinian refugee camps in Tyre, Beirut and Sidon, as reported by the United
Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and
by the media.

"According to those reports, fighting broke out on 30 September 1986 at the
refugee camps of Rashadieh, El Buss and Burj el Shemali in the Tyre area.
Rashadieh and Burj el Shemali remained under siege for two weeks, and Rashadieh has
been again under attack since 20 October. Refugees are unable to leave or enter
the camps and all, except El Buss, remain inaccessible to UNRWA staff. Casualties
from the first round of fighting are estimated at 9 killed and 54 wounded, while no
information is yet available on more recent victims.

"The Committee wishes to express its utmost concern at the fact that UNRWA has
been unable to deliver food or medicines to Rashadieh camp since the beginning of
fighting and that, as stated recently by the Commissioner General, thousands of
innocent women, children and old people are trapped in the cross-fire in the camp.

"Fighting has also been reported at Burj el Barajneh in Beirut, as well as
around the Ein el Hilweh and Mieh Mieh camps in the Sidon area. Burj el Barajneh
has been surrounded and remains inaccessible. UNRWA has estimated the casualties
at 12 killed and 50 wounded.

"In the light of these grave developments, I wish to reaffirm once again, on
behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People, that the United Nations, and in particular the Security

Council, has a clear responsibility to ensure the physical safety of the Palestinians in the refugee camps. It is imperative that all necessary measures be taken urgently to put an end to the suffering and hardships of the Palestinians in the refugee camps and to provide the necessary emergency relief.

"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 would request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the agenda, and of the Security Council."

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in a letter dated 16 December 1986 addressed to the Secretary-General, 2/ drew his urgent attention to the grave incidents which had continued to take place in the occupied Palestinian territories since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 592 (1986). 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 draw your urgent attention to the grave incidents which have continued to occur in the occupied Palestinian territories since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 592 (1986).

"You will recall that the Council met on 5 and 8 December last in response to the sudden deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories. On 4 December, Israeli soldiers had shot at defenceless Palestinian students demonstrating against the Israeli "iron-fist" policy at Bir Zeit University, killing two and wounding several others. A 14-year-old boy was shot and killed on 5 December during a demonstration at Balata refugee camp.

"As a consequence, protest demonstrations have broken out throughout the West Bank and Gaza and are still continuing. Demonstrators have thrown up barricades, burned tires and thrown stones at armed Israeli patrols. The Israeli soldiers have responded with gunfire, killing more Palestinians and causing tens of injuries, many of them children. Hundreds have been arrested.

"The following summary is to inform you of the most significant developments since the Council meeting:

- On 8 December, The New York Times reported that a Palestinian was shot in the leg during a demonstration at the town of Khan Yunis in the Gaza

Strip. Israeli troops fired warning shots to disperse demonstrations at the towns of Bir Zeit, El Bireh and Bethlehem and the refugee camps of Daheisheh, El-Amari and Jalazoun. Demonstrations by Palestinian students in Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv were dispersed with tear gas.

- On 9 December, The New York Times reported that the old campus of Bir Zeit University was closed by the Israeli authorities until after the Christmas holidays. Israeli troops wounded four youths demonstrating at Balata refugee camp. A curfew was placed on the camp. Two other Palestinians were wounded by Israeli soldiers at villages near Jerusalem and Ramallah, which were placed under curfew.
- On 10 December, Associated Press reported that Israeli soldiers fired at Palestinian high-school student demonstrators in the Gaza City area, wounding a 16-year-old girl. A 16-year-old Palestinian was also shot in the head by an Israeli soldier at the Bureij refugee camp, and was reported in serious condition. Later, witnesses said the shooting was totally unprovoked. Another Palestinian teenager was wounded when Israeli troops fired at demonstrators at the Daheisheh refugee camp.
- Also on 10 December, the Palestinian news bulletin Jerusalem Press reported that the Israeli authorities had closed several schools following the demonstrations, including two girls' schools in Jabalia refugee camp, the Polytechnic Institute and Hebron University in Hebron.
- The same source reported that the Israeli forces have arrested a total of 580 Palestinians since 5 December, 32 of whom are from Jerusalem, 22 from Ramallah, 20 from Bethlehem, 175 from the Gaza Strip, 111 from Hebron and 220 from Nablus. In several instances, the troops had stormed hospitals and arrested Palestinians who had been brought there with bullet wounds. In Gaza, the troops were reported to have stormed the offices of the Red Cross to arrest demonstrators. According to The New York Times of 12 December, many of those arrested are teenagers and their parents have been unable to obtain information as to their whereabouts.
- On 14 December, The New York Times reported that a Palestinian had been wounded by Israeli soldiers during a demonstration at Jenin, and that demonstrators had been arrested in several towns and refugee camps.

"In the light of these grave developments, I wish on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to stress that the actions of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories are totally in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. In its resolution 592 (1986), the Security Council called upon Israel to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Convention and to release any person or persons detained as a result of the recent events in violation of the Convention. The Committee earnestly appeals to you to do all in your power to ensure implementation of that resolution by the Israeli authorities, and to renew your efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

"I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 35, and of the Security Council."

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AT THE
FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 21 November 1986 the General Assembly began consideration of the question of Palestine. The debate began with a statement by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Rapporteur of the Committee introduced the Committee's report. ^{3/} The full text of the Chairman's and Rapporteur's statements are reproduced below:

Statement by the Chairman ^{4/}

"Mr. SARRE (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (interpretation from French): Last year, when we were celebrating the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, a large number of Heads of State and Government representing all parts of the world, solemnly reaffirmed here, from the rostrum of the General Assembly, the fact that they supported the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and their determination to seek peaceful solutions to the unresolved conflicts of our day, among which is foremost the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and its underlying cause, the question of Palestine. The designation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace provided Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and others with an opportunity to satisfy the common aspiration of all peoples for peace and to act in a creative and systematic way to achieve the goals of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, although the overwhelming majority of the international community wishes to see an end to the ever present tragedy of the Palestinian people and the pointless bloodshed in the Middle East, the efforts made to resolve this particularly complex problem have reached a dangerous deadlock, particularly during the course of the past year.

"Over the last three years the General Assembly has, by large majorities, requested the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in 1983. Those guidelines, which the General Assembly endorsed in resolution 35/58 C, deserve to be reiterated, to avoid any confusion with other approaches, which must take the Conference on Palestine into account to have any validity. Those guidelines include the attainment of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent State in Palestine; the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing with other parties in all efforts, deliberations and conferences held on the Middle East, and the need to put an end to Israel's occupation of the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the right of all States in the region to existence within secure and internationally recognized boundaries.

" The General Assembly invited all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - because of the moral and political influence of those two Powers on the maintenance of international peace and security - and other concerned States to participate on an equal footing and with equal rights in the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

" The Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, having proposed the idea, unreservedly supported the convening of this international Conference, as the only proposal that could ensure for all parties

concerned the opportunity of participating fully in the negotiations and that would make it feasible to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

"The Committee is firmly convinced that only the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, which has been asked to facilitate the organization of the Conference, can provide an acceptable legal and political framework acceptable to the great majority of the international community that will make it possible for negotiations to proceed with full respect for internationally recognized principles and with an equal footing for all parties concerned.

"Only an international conference organized under the aegis of the United Nations will make it possible to go beyond the narrow strategic interests and the purely national concerns of various States and arrive at a comprehensive just and lasting peace. Agreements concluded at such a conference would thus enjoy universal legitimacy and could be guaranteed and applied equitably in a manner acceptable to all parties.

"In that context the Committee has continued, in accordance with the mandate given it by the General Assembly, most recently in resolution 40/96 A, to give absolute priority to the convening of this conference in its work programme for 1986.

"It is gratifying to note that despite the financial crisis of the United Nations and the consequent economy measures which have been requested of all committees and commissions, the Committee was able to adjust its timetable and to combine certain meetings so as to be able to carry out practically the whole of its work programme within the constraints of the resources allocated by the General

Assembly at its resumed fortieth session. You will find a brief description of the regional and international meetings organized by the Committee in the report which you have before you, which will be presented in detail by the Rapporteur. Only a regional symposium for non-governmental organizations in Latin America had to be deferred until 1987 because of the financial crisis, but the Committee has every hope that it will be able to host that important meeting in the course of next year

"It is essential that the Committee, which has been asked by the General Assembly to spare no effort in promoting the implementation of its recommendations, should be able to continue to organize regional seminars, symposiums and meetings for non-governmental organizations and meetings of journalists to the maximum extent possible. The Committee is firmly convinced that in order to arrive at a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question it is essential to educate and mobilize international public opinion in support of the just cause of the Palestinian people and the strict implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

"The Committee was encouraged once again this year by the increased awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and the overwhelming consensus in support of its recommendations and those of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at the various meetings organized under its auspices, particularly the recommendation that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East should be convened, a proposal which received the unanimous support of those who participated in all those meetings.

"As you will see in the report, the Committee this year organized seminars in Istanbul, New York and Nairobi which were attended by members of parliaments,

university dons, experts and other shapers of public opinion, as well as government observers and others. The conclusions and recommendations adopted at those seminars have been published as Committee documents and are being distributed.

"The participants in the seminars without exception approved the recommendation that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East be held in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the General Assembly, and they appeal to those who have up to now opposed that idea to reconsider their position and to join the other nations in that undertaking. Likewise, they have asked the United Nations Secretary-General, to whom we should like to pay a tribute for his unrelenting efforts to bring about a settlement of the problem, to make further efforts to attempt to break the deadlock and have made a general appeal to all the parties concerned to redouble their political and diplomatic efforts to arrive at a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Middle East conflict.

"As the General Assembly requested, the Committee has also strengthened its co-operation with non-governmental organizations that help to make international public opinion about the realities of the question of Palestine better informed and to create a climate which is more favourable to the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

"Regional symposiums for non-governmental organizations were held in Vienna and New York and an international meeting was also held in Vienna with the participation of a considerable number of non-governmental organizations, some of which came from Israel and the occupied territories.

"The Committee also sponsored preparatory planning meetings of the co-ordinating committees of the non-governmental organizations set up by the international non-governmental organizations and the non-governmental organizations of North America. We are pleased to announce that a co-ordinating committee has also been set up by the non-governmental organizations of the African region after this year's symposium.

"The Committee greatly appreciates the efforts of the non-governmental organizations that have displayed interest in the question of Palestine and was heartened by the adoption at the various meetings of important declarations in which non-governmental organizations reaffirmed their vigorous support for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, and pledged themselves to intensify their activities directed to their movements, their Governments and public opinion in their countries. The Committee has published those declarations as part of its documentation because of their importance for the promotion of its objectives.

"Other activities of the Committee, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information are set out in detail in the Committee's report, and I shall not describe them now. I wish simply to emphasize the considerable efforts made by the Committee to achieve its priority aim - the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

"Unfortunately, despite the Committee's work and the support of public opinion for that goal, the holding of that international conference, it has not yet been possible to reach agreement on the matter. In its report the Committee expresses its regret that there has so far been no change in the attitudes of Israel and the

United States to the convening of the conference, and it expresses its hope that a positive change will occur as soon as possible. In this connection, the Committee noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General intends to continue his efforts, in the light of resolution 40/96 D.

" At the same time, the Committee wishes to re-emphasize that the Security Council - because consensus could not be reached - has still not acted in accordance with its recommendations, which have been endorsed by the General Assembly on a number of occasions. The Committee remains convinced that the chances of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East would be considerably enhanced if the Security Council adopted concrete measures to follow up those recommendations.

" It cannot be said too often that those recommendations are based on sound, internationally recognized principles and are expressly designed to make it possible for the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable rights, without which there can be no peaceful solution to the question of Palestine, which is at the heart of the Israeli-Arab conflict in the Middle East. Consequently, the Committee once again annexed its recommendations and those of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held in Geneva in 1983, to its report, since it believes that it is now up to the Security Council to follow up those two series of recommendations.

" The Committee intends to continue to put the convening of the International Peace Conference at the very centre of its programme of work for next year, and it will spare no effort to increase awareness of the importance of that conference, through contacts with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

"Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should once again request both Israel and the United States to reconsider their position on the convening of the conference as the sole means of attaining peace. We believe that all countries will spare no effort to ensure that the conference takes place and that they will renew the Secretary-General's mandate so as to make it possible for him to maintain his contacts in order to prepare for the conference, in consultation with the Security Council.

" The tragic events in the region during the past year show clearly that it is now more urgently necessary than ever that the United Nations discharge its moral and even its political responsibility towards the Palestinian people and that it increase its efforts to end its suffering and bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region. In our report we give information about the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories, and we decided to bring strongly to the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council Israeli policies and practices in the area, since they are clearly a violation of international law and have serious repercussions not only on the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, but also on peace and security in the whole region.

"As a matter of urgency, I have drawn the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to the grave events affecting the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the refugee camps, and a request has been made that the proper steps be taken in accordance with United Nations resolutions to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine and to guarantee the safety of the Palestinian refugees in those camps.

"The Committee believes that the developments and events described in the report as well as the tension and violence that continue to be rife in the region will worsen in the coming year if no tangible progress is made towards a comprehensive, just and lasting solution in accordance with United Nations resolutions. We vigorously reaffirm that it is the duty of the United Nations, and in particular of those who have so far opposed the recommendations of the General Assembly, to make a fresh, concerted, collective effort to find such a solution and end the unacceptable situation of the Palestinian people.

"As the Secretary-General emphasized in his report of 29 October 1986, 'the attainment of a just and lasting peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict in the Middle East continues to be elusive... Meanwhile, the situation in the region continues to be highly volatile... It is therefore vitally important that the international community should not lose sight of the dangers inherent in this state of affairs.' 5/

That is an appeal to our conscience. We are asked to rise above passion, misunderstandings and prejudice. It is in this way and in this way alone that we can achieve a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine and thus of the Middle East. I am convinced that with a little more political will on the part of the parties concerned, together with the support of the great Powers, the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is more than a possibility. We should therefore without further delay end this International Year of Peace by launching comprehensive negotiations to bring about peace in the Middle East."

Statement by the Rapporteur 4/

"Mr. AGIUS (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: It is an honour for me to present to the Assembly the 1986 report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

"Before going into the substance of the report, I wish to make some remarks on the procedure followed by the Committee this year. In response to the request made by the Chairman of the Committee on Information, and in view of the Organization's continuing financial crisis, the Committee this year made a considerable effort to meet the deadline and length restrictions imposed by the Assembly. The report, which, as in the past, was endorsed unanimously by Committee members and observers, was accordingly submitted earlier than usual and in a somewhat shortened version. Non-essential parts of the text were condensed, and the reports of seminars and non-governmental organization symposiums were not annexed to the body of the report. Those reports have been made available as documents of the Committee under the symbol A/AC.183/1986/1-6. I hope these changes will facilitate consideration of the Committee's annual report by the Assembly.

"During the past year the Committee has again done all in its power to fulfil the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, namely, to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine, as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights, and to promote the implementation of its recommendations for the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

"In the report the Committee has once again expressed its regret that its recommendations, although endorsed by the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority each year, have still not been acted on or implemented by the Security Council owing to the attitude of a permanent member. In its programme of work for 1986 the Committee continued to give priority to the early convening of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, which, in its view, would facilitate the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Committee has, further, expressed the hope that a positive change in the attitude of the United States and Israel towards the proposed Conference will be forthcoming.

"In its review of the situation relating to the question of Palestine, contained in paragraphs 16 to 29 of the report, the Committee has expressed its growing concern that the situation of Palestinians in occupied territories and in the refugee camps has continued to deteriorate, as evidenced in reports received from a variety of sources, such as Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, individual experts and the media.

"The information reviewed by the Committee leaves no doubt that Israel has persisted in its policy of gradual de facto annexation of the occupied Palestinian

territories, accompanied by measures designed to suppress all forms of resistance and of political, social, cultural and economic expression by the Palestinian people, as well as in acts of violence and provocation by Israeli troops and armed Jewish settlers. Of grave concern also are reports that the occupying authorities continue to strengthen their economic control over the occupied Palestinian territories and to transform them into a dependent entity whose socio-economic development is geared to the benefit of Israel and not of the Palestinians.

"The Committee decided to bring the policies and practices described in the report forcefully to the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council, as they are in clear violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and have serious implications not only for the achievement of Palestinian rights but also for peace and security in the region and international efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement.

"As in the past, in urgent cases the Chairman of the Committee has on several occasions drawn the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to such developments and urged appropriate action in accordance with United Nations resolutions. In this connection, the Chairman has repeatedly protested at action taken against Palestinian activists in the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities, such as administrative detention for up to six months without trial, deportation, travel restrictions, increased censorship and other measures. The Chairman also expressed the Committee's grave concern at reports regarding attacks against Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj el-Barajneh. The Chairman has repeated 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. A brief summary of the Chairman's letters is contained in paragraphs 30 to 41 of the report.

"Since last year's report, the Security Council has met on three occasions on matters related to the Committee's mandate. These developments are covered in paragraphs 42 to 63 of the report. The Council had to deal with the act of aggression by Israel against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Tunisia, which caused great loss of human life and considerable property damage. That action was vigorously condemned by the Council in resolution 573 (1985). The Council also met at the request of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to consider the Middle East problem, including the Palestine question. The Security Council was also seized of the serious threat to international peace and security resulting from Israeli acts of profanation committed against the sanctuary of Haram al Sharif in Jerusalem. Regrettably, a draft resolution deploring such acts and reaffirming United Nations resolutions on Jerusalem was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member. On these occasions, the Committee, through its Chairman, repeatedly appealed to the Council to take action on the Committee's recommendations and on the proposal for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as the most appropriate measures for bringing about a peaceful settlement of the Palestine question.

"As I have already mentioned, in its programme of work for 1986 the Committee again gave utmost priority to the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and pursued that goal in all its activities during the year. The efforts of the Committee in this sense are covered in paragraphs 64 to 101 of the report.

"Committee representatives participated in 12 international conferences and meetings organized by United Nations organs and intergovernmental organizations, and on those occasions continued to stress the urgent need for implementation of United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine. The Committee followed with great interest the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations, and was greatly encouraged by the universal consensus expressed in these forums in support of its recommendations, in particular the recommendation concerning the early convening of the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

"In pursuit of its objective of further expanding co-operation with non-governmental organizations active on the question of Palestine, the Committee sponsored two preparatory planning meetings of non-governmental organizations, two regional symposiums, in Europe and North America, and one international meeting of non-governmental organizations during 1986. Only one symposium, the one planned for the Latin American region, had to be deferred to 1987 because of the financial crisis. The Committee was greatly encouraged that, in the various declarations adopted at those meetings, the participating non-governmental organizations reaffirmed their full support for the proposed International Peace Conference, agreed on common objectives and strategies for their future work and established co-ordinating structures to carry this out. I would like to stress in this connection that the meetings, as in the past, were attended by large numbers of non-governmental organizations, including several from the occupied territories and Israel itself.

"The topic of the International Peace Conference was also given prominence in the seminars organized by the Committee, with the participation of parliamentarians, academic experts, governmental and intergovernmental observers, and others. This year seminars have been held in the European, African and North American regions. I am pleased to report that the participants in the seminar unanimously reaffirmed the need to convene the Conference and appealed to those States Members of the United Nations which did not support the efforts to ensure the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights to reconsider their position on the solution of this problem. They also recommended intensification of political and diplomatic efforts by all concerned towards this goal.

"There is no doubt that the programme of seminars and non-governmental symposiums and meetings has continued to play an important role in furthering public understanding of the Palestine question and in promoting support for the recommendations of the Committee. As indicated in the final section of the report, the Committee intends to continue 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.

"Before concluding, I should like to take this opportunity to express the Committee's appreciation for the continued strong support of the Secretary-General and his staff for the work of the Committee. In the year under review, the Division for Palestinian Rights, in addition to its other responsibilities, has continued its programme of research and publications, and has this year published a very useful new study, Approaches for the Practical Attainment of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. For its part, the Department of Public

Information has continued its information campaign, as mandated by the General Assembly. Its work is covered in paragraphs 102 to 111 of the report.

"The message conveyed by the Committee's report to the Assembly is that the situation with regard to the question of Palestine presents both great obstacles and great opportunities for the international community. There is no doubt, in reviewing the information presented here, that we are now at a critical stage in this complex problem which has defied a solution for so long. The Committee has continued to warn that violence and tension will continue to grow in the region so long as the Palestinian people is prevented from exercising its inalienable rights. With each passing year, the Committee has had to report to the Assembly that the situation had continued to deteriorate, seriously endangering international peace and security, and that its recommendations remained unimplemented.

"At the same time, however, understanding of, and support for, the just cause of the Palestinian people has continued to increase, and so have efforts at all levels to promote a just, comprehensive and lasting solution. In the hope that these efforts will finally bear fruit, the Committee has once again reiterated its original recommendations, along with those adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, which members will find in Annex I and II of the report. As indicated in paragraphs 112 to 120 of the report, the Committee intends to continue to make the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East the focal point of its work programme for 1987 and to do everything possible to increase awareness of the importance of that Conference at all levels. Once again, the Committee 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."

The following resolutions on the Question of Palestine were adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session:

41/43. Question of Palestine

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, 3375 (XXX) and 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, 31/20 of 24 November 1976, 32/40 of 2 December 1977, 33/28 of 7 December 1978, 34/65 A and B of 29 November 1979 and 34/65 C and D of 12 December 1979, ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980, 35/169 of 15 December 1980, 36/120 of 10 December 1981, ES-7/4 of 28 April 1982, ES-7/5 of 26 June 1982, ES-7/9 of 24 September 1982, 37/86 A of 10 December 1982, 38/58 A of 13 December 1983, 39/49 A of 11 December 1984 and 40/96 A of 12 December 1985,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, 3/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly;

2. Endorses the recommendations of the Committee contained in paragraphs 112 to 120 of its report and draws the attention of the Security Council to the fact that action on the Committee's recommendations, as repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session and subsequently, is still awaited;

3. Requests the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights 6/ and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate;

4. Authorizes the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the implementation of its recommendations, including representation at conferences and meetings and the sending of delegations where such activities would be considered by it to be appropriate, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session and thereafter;

5. Requests the Committee to continue to extend its co-operation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and in creating a more favourable atmosphere for the full implementation of the Committee's recommendations, and to take the necessary steps to expand its contacts with those organizations;

6. Requests the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, established under General Assembly resolution 194 (III), as well as other United Nations bodies associated with the question of Palestine, to co-operate fully with the Committee and to make available to it, at its request, the relevant information and documentation which they have at their disposal;

7. Decides to circulate the report of the Committee to all the competent bodies of the United Nations and urges them to take the necessary action, as appropriate, in accordance with the Committee's programme of implementation;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

93rd plenary meeting
2 December 1986

B

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, 3/

Taking note, in particular, of relevant information contained in paragraphs 73 to 101 of that report,

Recalling its resolutions 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, 33/28 C of 7 December 1978, 34/65 D of 12 December 1979, 35/169 D of 15 December 1980, 36/120 B of 10 December 1981, 37/86 B of 10 December 1982, 38/58 B of 13 December 1983, 39/49 B of 11 December 1984, and 40/96 B of 12 December 1985,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 B;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the necessary resources and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 40/96 B in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;
3. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure the continued co-operation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division for Palestinian Rights to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine;
4. Invites all Governments and organizations to lend their co-operation to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights in the performance of their tasks;
5. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by Member States to observe annually on 29 November the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and the issuance by them of special postage stamps for the occasion.

93rd plenary meeting
2 December 1986

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, 3/

Taking note, in particular, of the information contained in paragraphs 102 to 111 of that report,

Recalling its resolution 40/96 C of 12 December 1985,

Convinced that the world-wide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information and the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions remain of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in compliance with General Assembly resolution 40/96 C,

2. Requests the Department of Public Information, in full co-ordination and co-ordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1986-1987 and, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine;

(b) To continue to update publications on the facts and developments pertaining to the question of Palestine;

(c) To publish brochures and booklets on the various aspects of the question of Palestine, including Israeli violations of the human rights of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories;

(d) To expand its audio-visual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of a new film in 1987 and special series of radio programmes and television broadcasts;

(e) To organize fact-finding news missions to the area for journalists;

(f) To organize regional and national encounters for journalists.

93rd plenary meeting
2 December 1986

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/58 C of 13 December 1983, 39/49 D of 11 December 1984 and 40/96 D of 12 December 1985, in which it, inter alia, endorsed the call for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 39/49 D and 40/96 D, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, to continue his efforts with a view to convening the Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 14 March 1986, in which he, inter alia, stated that "the obstacles which have so far prevented the

/...

convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as called for by the General Assembly still exist", 7/ and his report of 29 October 1986, 8/

Expressing its regret that, owing to the negative attitude of some Member States, the difficulties regarding the convening of the Conference "have remained essentially the same", 9/ and expressing its hope that those Member States will reconsider their attitude,

Having heard the constructive statements made by numerous representatives, including that of the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Emphasizing the need to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict which has persisted for nearly four decades,

Recognizing that the persistence of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East constitutes a threat to security and stability in the region and to world peace, and therefore directly involves the responsibility of the United Nations,

Stressing its conviction that the convening of the Conference will constitute a major contribution by the United Nations towards the realization of a just solution to the question of Palestine conducive to the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict,

Appreciating the concern about the exacerbating situation in the Middle East as voiced in a great many statements during the general debate at the current session and at previous sessions,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General;
2. Determines that the question of Palestine is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East;
3. Reaffirms once again its endorsement of the call for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in conformity with the provisions of the resolution 38/58 C;
4. Stresses the urgent need for additional concrete and constructive efforts by all Governments in order to convene the Conference without further delay;
5. Endorses the call for setting up a preparatory committee, within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of the permanent members of the Council, to take the necessary action to convene the Conference;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, to continue his efforts with a view to convening the Conference and to report thereon to the General Assembly not later than 15 May 1987;

7. Decides to consider at its forty-second session the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution.

93rd plenary meeting
2 December 1986

**III. THE SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES A STATEMENT REGARDING
THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN LEBANON**

On 2 December 1986, the President of the Security Council, on behalf of the members of the Council, issued the following statement: 10/

"The members of the Security Council, mindful of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon, express their serious concern at the current escalation of violence there, affecting the civilian population in and around the Palestinian refugee camps. The members of the Council appeal to all concerned to exercise restraint in order to end these acts of violence. They also appeal to all concerned to take necessary measures to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. They urge all concerned to facilitate the efforts of various United Nations agencies, particularly the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance."

IV. THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION
IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The Security Council met on 5 December 1986 at the request of the Non-Aligned Movement to consider the situation in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The request for the meeting was made by the representative of Zimbabwe, Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

On 8 December 1986, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the Council's debate and delivered the following statement on behalf of the Committee: 11/

"Mr. SARRE (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (interpretation from French): "A warrior among diplomats": that is the title that I would have suggested to your biographer, Mr. President. For decades now you have, with a skill to which you hold the secret, mastered the intricacies of these two professions, in order to advance international relations or resolve situations threatening international peace and security. I am convinced that the Security Council will benefit from that talent in the settlement of the question currently before it. In advance, we thank you and congratulate you.

"I take this opportunity also of congratulating your predecessor, Ambassador Sir John Thomson of the United Kingdom, on the exemplary way in which he presided over the Council's work in November - and with his English sense of humour.

"Finally, I thank all the members of the Council for authorizing me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to take part once again in a debate on the situation in the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

" The Committee observes with ever-growing concern that the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel, including Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate. Recent events are all the more disturbing because they directly affect not merely the future of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, but also international peace and security. The very fact that the Security Council has been obliged to meet once again to consider this situation confirms - if further proof were necessary - the deep concern of the international community at the events in the occupied territories and their world-wide consequences, which are serious, to say the least.

"Well-informed sources report that Israeli soldiers opened fire last Thursday within and around Bir Zeit University against Palestinian students who were demonstrating against the Israeli iron-fist policy and against the destructive measures applied daily against universities in the occupied territories. As a result of that fusillade of shots, two students were killed outright and a third died an hour later in hospital at Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank. Furthermore, 15 students were wounded, and two of them are in critical condition. The three students killed were Jawad Abu-Salmeh, Kamal Radi and Saib Sulaiman Thahab, all of whom came from the Gaza Strip.

" According to information we have received, more than 500 Israeli soldiers are patrolling the streets of Ramallah and Bir Zeit. Those two towns have been declared a military zone and have been prohibited to the local and international press. Soldiers continue, moreover, to surround the area of Bir Zeit University, where almost 200 students have gathered to protest against the murder of their comrades.

"According to the Jerusalem Post, Israeli troops entered Ramallah Hospital by force and removed the bodies of the dead students to an unknown destination.

These incidents are only the latest manifestations of the policy of repression and the iron fist adopted by the Israeli authorities to check Palestinian activities directed against the military occupation and progressive annexation of the occupied territories. These Israeli practices in pursuance of this policy have been described in the Committee's report to the General Assembly and in letters that I have addressed to the Council during the course of this year. They include, among other things, expulsion, administrative detention without charge or trial for renewable periods of six months and the imposition of restrictions on freedom of movement, trade union freedom and freedom of the press, including the closing of newspapers and the arbitrary arrest of journalists, trade union members and students. According to information received by the Committee, there have been several cases of torture and the conditions of detention and imprisonment of Palestinians continue to be inhumane. Furthermore, the collective punishment and other acts of repression perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian population have become an almost daily fact of life.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would like to re-emphasize that such measures constitute a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on this matter.

"These measures have been taken in an atmosphere characterized by growing provocation by the Jewish settlers established in the occupied Palestinian territories. That provocation is clearly intended to drive the local population to emigrate, thus furthering the annexation of those territories by Israel. The

latest incident took place some 10 days ago in the Holy City of Jerusalem. A group of Jewish settlers went on the rampage, setting fire to houses and vehicles belonging to Palestinians living in the old city, in particular in Khalidye Street. They attacked and beat up a number of Palestinians, provoking the flight of several Palestinian families. According to reliable sources, this campaign of intimidation was launched by Yeshiva seminarists more than a month before the incident in which a Jewish seminarist was stabbed. Their strategy also consisted in damaging Palestinian houses. For more than a week they shot at or stoned passing Palestinian vehicles. Shopkeepers were obliged to remain at home and practically compelled to impose a curfew upon themselves.

"Given these tragic events, which only increase the suffering of the Palestinian people and make even more remote the prospect of a peaceful solution, the Committee of which I have the honour to be the Chairman would like once again to appeal urgently to the Security Council to take practical steps to put an end to this state of affairs, which to say the least is distressing.

"During the course of this year the Committee has continued to emphasize that, owing to Israel's policy and practices and failing progress towards a comprehensive, peaceful, just and lasting solution of the problem, the tensions and violence in the region can only increase, seriously jeopardizing international peace and security. It is clear that this state of affairs will continue unaltered as long as the Palestinian people are prevented from exercising their right to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty and to return and have their property restored, and as long as the Palestinian and other Arab territories continue to be occupied.

"How can this state of affairs be ended?

"The General Assembly has already answered our question. On 2 December the General Assembly, in adopting resolution 41/43 D, reaffirmed once again that the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C would constitute a significant contribution to the search for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question which could result in a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The General Assembly, furthermore, endorsed the idea of establishing within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of the permanent members of the Council, a preparatory committee to take the necessary steps for the convening of the Conference. That resolution was supported by 123 delegations, the overwhelming majority of the Members of the United Nations.

"It is therefore clearly necessary to approach this problem with a new sense of determination. It is essential to take steps to initiate the process which will lead to a peaceful solution. That is the objective of the Conference, and the Secretary-General, to whom I wish to pay a tribute, continues to make the appropriate efforts in this direction.

"Consequently, we invite those that have so far opposed the holding of that Conference to associate themselves once again with the democratic wishes of the majority of nations and to work in a more constructive fashion for the convening and success of that International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The Security Council, by acting on the basis of its legitimate authority and respect for the common interest of mankind, can bring about peace in the region and thus preserve mankind from the danger of a far more extensive conflagration.

"In this connection, the Committee is convinced that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, which enjoys practically unanimous support, offers

all the parties concerned the full possibility of participating in the negotiations, which should lead to a just and lasting solution of the question. In view of the constant deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories, we appeal to the Security Council to take appropriate measures to ensure resumption of the policy of dialogue among all the parties concerned so as to end this tragic situation, which has lasted far too long, and restore a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

At its 2727th meeting, the Security Council adopted the following resolution [S/RES/592 (1986)] the draft of which had been co-sponsored by the Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates, by 14 votes in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (United States):

The Security Council,

Having considered the letter dated 4 December 1986 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, contained in document S/18501,

Recalling the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Seriously concerned about the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

Bearing in mind the specific status of Jerusalem,

1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;
2. Strongly deplores the opening of fire by the Israeli army resulting in the death and the wounding of defenceless students;
3. Calls upon Israel to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;
4. Further calls upon Israel to release any person or persons detained as a result of the recent events at Bir Zeit University in violation of the above-mentioned Geneva Convention;
5. Also calls on all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint, to avoid violent acts, and to contribute towards the establishment of peace;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the present resolution not later than 20 December 1986.

V. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 1 December 1986, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed at United Nations Headquarters, New York, at Geneva, Vienna and several other capitals.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held two special meetings on Monday, 1 December 1986, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977. All Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies and observers were invited to attend.

Among those who addressed the special meetings of the Committee were the Chairman of the Committee, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights read out a statement by the President of the Security Council.

Statements were also made by the 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, Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Acting President of the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the representative of the Chairman of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, the Chairman of the Group of Arab States, the Chairman of the Group of Asian States, the Chairman of the Group of African States, the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, the Chairman of the Group of Latin American States, the representative of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, the Chairman and Observer of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Observer of the League of Arab States.

A number of messages from Heads of State or Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs were read out on the occasion by their representatives.

In commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had arranged the screening of a series of films during the week beginning 1 December 1986, in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.

At the request of the Committee, in commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Palestine Liberation Organization had prepared an exhibition which was displayed in the Public Lobby at the United Nations Headquarters from Monday, 1 December to Friday, 5 December 1986.

VI. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

1. The 1986 Palestine Human Rights Campaign National Conference (PHRC) held in Chicago from 19 to 20 September was attended by nearly 600 people from throughout North America. The gathering was the fourth annual commemoration for the victims of Sabra and Shatila massacres sponsored by PHRC. Keynote speakers included Ibrahim Mattar, a Palestinian economist from Jerusalem; Gideon Spiro, an Israeli anti-occupation activist; former United States Attorney-General Ramsey Clark; theologian Rosemary Ruether; Saleh Baransia, a veteran Palestinian activist from Tayibeh and Dr. Noam Chomsky.

The Rev. Don Wagner, PHRC National Director, declared that "the 1986 Conference will be a perfect springboard to expand current PHRC projects and launch new ones." He further stated that PHRC in 1987 intended to double the circulation of its newsletter and publications, convene an international conference on Palestinian women in Washington, D.C. from 27 to 28 March, and continue to expand the North American academics in solidarity with Palestinian universities. He added that PHRC, in co-operation with the Jerusalem-based Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) had initiated a computerized data base.

In addition to speaking at the Conference, Dr. John Demarest Abu-Shakrah, Director of PHRIC, participated in discussions with the new Chicago-based staff person of the data base project, Louise Cainkar, and with the Advisory Board for the project. As part of the cultural component at the Conference, an exhibit of Palestinian embroidery and dresses was brought over and exhibited for the first time in the United States by Shihani Abu-Ghazali and Hadah Al-Saraf of the General Union of Palestinian Women in Kuwait. The exhibit was also displayed at the Federal Building in Chicago the week preceding the Conference. A Board Member of PHRC and Director of International Affairs for the National Conference of Black Lawyers, Adrien Wing, concluded the 1986 Conference with a recollection of a visit to the Sabra and Shatila camps hours after the massacre.

2. The International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP) held a meeting from 8 to 9 November 1986 at Geneva.

The meeting, inter alia, discussed:

(a) NGO commemorative activities for 29 November, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People:

(b) The 1987 programme for three anniversaries namely, the fortieth anniversary of the partition of Palestine, the twentieth anniversary of the 1967 war and the subsequent military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon and the massacre at Sabra and Shatila/;

(c) Speaking tours for Palestinian women and youth in Europe and North America:

(d) Application of the Vienna resolutions;

(e) Work of the Co-ordinator of the ICCP;

(f) The programme of the 1987 International Meeting for NGOs on the Question of Palestine.

The ICCP concluded that 1987 would be designated as the "Year of the Palestine People" and undertook to encourage and co-ordinate the commemorative activities of NGOs worldwide throughout the year.

3. The North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC) held a meeting from 16 to 17 November 1986 in Boston, Massachusetts. At the meeting the NACC discussed goal setting and the development of strategies for their implementation.

The next meeting of the NACC will be held from 17 to 18 February at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

4. The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation held a Euro-Arab Parliamentary Dialogue at Vienna from 12 to 14 September 1986.

The meeting issued a final communique which included the following:

"(i) Requests the implementation of the United Nations resolutions and the holding of an international Conference for Peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation on an equal footing of all concerned parties, including the PLO;

"(ii) Appeals to European governments and parliaments to play a more active and independent role in the Middle East, particularly in the development and implementation of the Venice Declaration in recognizing and establishing diplomatic relations with the PLO."

5. Several NGOs have reported on their activities in conjunction with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

On 5 December 1986 the November 29th Committee for Palestine sponsored an evening celebration in New York. Featured speakers included Mr. Zehdi Terzi, PLO representative at the United Nations, and Mr. Jack O'Dell of the National Rainbow Coalition. A cultural programme concluded the event.

The All India Indo-Arab Friendship Association organized meetings in various Indian States capitals climaxing in a meeting on 6 December in New Delhi at which a resolution was passed declaring 1987 as the "Year of the Palestinian People", marking the seventieth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the fortieth anniversary of the Partition Resolution, the twentieth anniversary of the 1967 war and the occupation of all Palestine and the 5th anniversary of the invasion of Lebanon and the resulting massacres at Sabra and Shatila.

The New York Peace Council and the New York Chapter of the Palestine Aid Society of North America held an evening in observance of the Day on 29 November.

Notes

1/ A/41/811-S/18452.

2/ A/41/970-S/18525.

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/41/35).

4/ A/41/PV.80.

5/ A/41/768-S/18427, paras. 33-35.

6/ 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.

7/ See A/41/215-S/17916, para. 2.

8/ A/41/768-S/18427.

9/ Ibid., para. 31.

10/ S/18492.

11/ S/PV.2725.
