



## 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

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People met on 28 April 1987. It welcomed the State of Kuwait as an observer. The Chairman of the Committee reported on his participation in the meeting of the Committee of Nine Non-Aligned Countries on the Question of Palestine held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 14-15 April 1987 and in the 18th session of the Palestine National Council held at Algiers from 20-26 April 1987.

The Committee also heard reports from the representative of India, Acting Chairman of the Working Group, regarding the Asian and North American seminars and NGOs symposia to be held this year. The Committee adopted the proposals of the Working Group. The Committee further heard a report of the representative of Cuba, leader of the Committee's delegation to the Preparatory Planning Meeting for the International NGOs Meeting, to be held at Geneva from 7-9 September 1987. The Committee adopted the report of the Preparatory Planning Meeting and the recommendations of the Working Group. The representative of the Department of Public Information submitted a report to the Committee on the United Nations-sponsored Asian Regional and National Journalists' Encounters on the Question of Palestine.

II. Harare Declaration of the Committee of Nine  
Non-aligned Countries on Palestine

The following Declaration was adopted:

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Committee of Nine Non-Aligned Countries on Palestine met at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 14 to 15 April 1987 to review the situation in the Middle East and to consider actions that the Committee could take within the context of its mandate to contribute to the peace efforts in the region aimed at achieving a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis and in particular the Palestinian question, which is the core of the Middle East crisis.
2. The Ministers reaffirmed the Movement's firm commitment to the search for a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the situation in the Middle East and reiterated that the attainment and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, as defined by the relevant United Nations resolutions, and Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, would contribute to the establishment of peace in the Middle East.
3. Having received and analysed the report on the important consultations with the President of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the Permanent Members of the Security Council carried by the Permanent Representatives at the request of the Foreign Ministers at their meeting in Georgetown, Guyana, and having listened to and considered the briefing given by H. E. Brother Milhem of the PLO on the current situation in the Middle East, the Ministers recalled the relevant decisions taken by the Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at their Eighth Summit Conference with regard to the Middle East problem. They noted that since the Harare Summit Conference, the conflict in the Middle East had worsened as a result of the actions of the Israeli occupation forces against the civilian population in the occupied territories in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They concluded that this situation still posed a serious threat to international peace and security.
4. The Ministers reviewed the situation in and around the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon resulting from Israeli invasion and occupation of the country in 1982 and expressed grave concern and profound anguish at the escalation of fighting that has brought untold suffering to the civilian population in the area. They stressed the need for free access to the camps of medical supplies, food, water and fuel, the lifting of the siege imposed on the camps and for ending the fighting and destruction.
5. The Ministers reiterated the Movement's solidarity and firm support for the Palestinian people led by their sole and legitimate representative the PLO in their struggle against Israeli occupation, and appealed to all members of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the International Community to give additional support for this legitimate struggle. The increasing popular resistance of the Palestinian people in Palestine is proof of the vitality of the struggle and of the confidence of the Palestinian people in the leadership of the PLO. Taking note of the positive element of the dialogue which has begun among the Palestinians, the Ministers welcomed the forthcoming meeting of the Palestine National Council scheduled for 20 April at Algiers. In this regard,

the Ministers appreciated all efforts, in particular the efforts of President Chadli Benjedid in organizing and hosting this meeting with a view to enhancing the unity of the PLO.

6. The Ministers reviewed the current international developments in relation to the Middle East particularly in the light of General Assembly resolution 41/43 D of December 1986 and welcomed the growing sentiment and momentum in favour of the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices with the participation, on an equal footing, of all the parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and of any other party able to make a positive contribution to the restoration and maintenance of peace in the region. They particularly welcomed the Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve member States of the European Community on the Middle East made at Brussels on 23 February 1987. They also welcomed the Franco-Soviet initiative.

7. The Ministers further welcomed the efforts of the U.N. Secretary-General aimed at facilitating the early convening of the Conference. Conscious of the urgency of finding a comprehensive and durable solution to the complex problem of the Middle East and of the dangers that further delay could entail for the region and beyond, they urged all parties concerned to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in his efforts to facilitate the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. In this regard the Ministers reiterated their call for the early establishment of a Preparatory Committee for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices and in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of December 1983, and further stressed the primary responsibility of the Secretary-General as well as that of the Permanent Members of the Security Council to bring this about.

8. Pursuant to the mandate given to the Committee by the Eighth Summit Conference and cognizant of the new international climate which is more conducive to the concept of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East and desirous of promoting and supporting these international efforts aimed at the early convening of such a Conference, the Committee addresses this Declaration to all States, international organizations and world public opinion to do all in their power to promote and support all efforts for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, one of the objectives of which is the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly the right to establish its independent State in Palestine.

9. (a) To convey to the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations the Movement's concern over the situation in the Middle East and to give full support to their endeavours in this regard as well as to urge them to intensify their efforts in order to set in motion the Preparatory Process for the Peace Conference.
- (b) To meet with the Permanent Members of the Security Council in the capitals of Committee countries and in New York in order to convey to them the Movement's concern over the situation in the Middle East and to urge them to contribute to the creation of the needed

conditions for the urgent convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

- (c) To invite the members of the Security Council, following the presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the Middle East in May 1987, to assess prospects of convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.
- (d) To request the Chairman of the Movement to consult with the non-aligned members concerned with the convening of the Peace Conference, i.e. Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, in order to continue co-ordination and increase efforts for the promotion of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.
- (e) To brief the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the urgent need to work for the promotion of the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

10. The Committee decided to continue its activities to work actively and closely with regional and international organizations as well as to liaise with interested parties in order to promote the idea of the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and to ask the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries to conduct consultations and contacts in order to develop further action to promote our goals.

III. The Nordic Foreign Ministers issue a statement  
on the Middle East

The following statement was issued:

During the meeting of the Nordic Foreign Ministers in Reykjavik on 25 and 26 March 1987 the Ministers discussed the situation in the Middle East.

The Ministers noted with regret that efforts to get the peace process moving have not yet produced a break-through. There is no alternative to a negotiated solution.

The Nordic Foreign Ministers support the idea of an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the parties concerned. The Ministers consider such a conference to be an important contribution to a just and lasting solution to the conflict, based upon the Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and upon the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Each encounter was attended by around forty journalists and observers. At the beginning of each encounter, the moderator explained the purpose of the meeting, the mandate of the General Assembly and introduced the panelists. After brief introductory remarks by each panelist, the floor was opened for questions and answers which were lively and frank. The moderator also answered questions about the absence of an official Israeli representative in the meeting. The media in the three countries widely covered the discussions.



V. Non-Governmental Organizations Activity and Information

1. The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee held its national convention from 2 to 5 April in Arlington, Virginia.

A panel entitled "Occupied Palestine: Where Now?" featured Palestinian attorney Jonathan Kuttab; Louise Cainkar, Director Human Rights Research and Education Foundation Data Base Project; Mona Younis, University of California, Berkeley; and Cheryl Rubenberg, author of "Israel and the U.S. National Interest".

2. The Arab Lawyers Union organized a conference in Kuwait from 18 to 21 April on the theme "The Right to Self-Determination, Human Rights and Peace in the World". There was a commission devoted to the Palestinian question.

3. The Union of Palestinian Women's Associations held its second annual convention from 24 to 26 April in San Francisco, California. There were panels and workshops dealing with issues relating to Palestinian women's lives both under Israeli occupation and in refugee camps in Lebanon and elsewhere. Featured speakers included Nuha Nasser, Bir Zeit University, and Nawal Khalil from Lebanon; 350 delegates representing over 1000 Palestinian women attended.

4. The Arab Club of Columbia University co-sponsored with the November 29 Committee for Palestine and the General Union of Palestine Students a programme entitled "The Israeli Connection". Featured speakers were Jane Hunter, Publisher, Israeli Foreign Affairs, and Fred Dube of the African National Congress (South Africa).

5. The Twenty Years of Occupation Committee has launched a nationwide petition campaign calling for an end of Israeli occupation and for U.S. support for an International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

6. NAJDA - Women Concerned About the Middle East, together with the Palestine Human Rights Campaign, the National Association of Arab-Americans and the Association of Arab-American University Graduates hosted showings of the paintings of Palestinian artist Jumana El-Husseini throughout the San Francisco area. In addition, NAJDA sponsored the West Coast premiere of "Wildflowers: Women of South Lebanon."

7. Prisoner's Friends Association in Israel held a public meeting on 15 April in Nazareth to which overseas guests had been invited.

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