



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

May/June 1987

Volume X, Bulletin No. 5/6

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

On 7 May 1987, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/42/278-S/18850), the Chairman of the Committee drew attention to air raids carried out by the Israeli Air Force against Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon. The full text of the letter was 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 recent air raids carried out by the Israeli Air Force against Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon in Lebanon.

"According to information published by Agence France Presse (AFP) on 6 May 1987 and corroborated by other press agencies, in the early morning of that day four Israeli fighter-bombers attacked the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh while people were still sleeping, killing eight civilians and wounding 28 others, including several children and women. The AFP correspondent was able to ascertain in person that 10 houses were destroyed and another 15 were severely damaged.

"This was reportedly the second attack in less than a week; an earlier raid on 1 May 1987 against the Palestinian refugee camp of Mieh Mieh in the same area resulted in 14 dead and 37 injured persons, again among the civilian population.

"In the opinion of the Committee, these attacks against the Palestinian refugee camps have to be seen in the context of the intensification of the measures taken by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, as well as the general military escalation in south Lebanon in recent weeks. The situation that is being created in the area is a most explosive one, which cannot but arouse the greatest concern on the part of our Committee and the international community as a whole.

"In light of these grave developments, the Committee wishes to express once again its deep concern at the actions of the Israeli authorities, which continue to heighten tension in the region and pose a serious obstacle to international efforts towards achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which is at the core of the Middle East conflict.

"The Committee therefore wishes to reiterate its appeal to you to continue to do all in your power to promote such a solution, and to bring about the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations."

In a further letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 May 1987 (A/42/297-S/18874), the Chairman of the Committee expressed his grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The letter read as follows:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express once again the grave concern of the Committee at the continuing deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 592 (1986), and my letter of 16 December 1986 on this matter (A/41/970-S/18525), demonstrations by Palestinians against the Israeli military occupation have intensified in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli authorities have again resorted to a variety of measures to quell the demonstrations, including the use of armed force, the detention of Palestinian leaders for six-month periods, arrests, the closing down of several universities, and expulsions.

"Most recently, three youth leaders were ordered deported. They were: Mr. Marwan Barghouti, Chairman of the Student Council at Bir Zeit University; Mr. Khalil Ashour, Chairman of the Student Council at An-Najah University (both in the West Bank); and Mr. Ahmed Abdulfatah Nasser, President of the Arab Youth Federation at Khan Yunis in Gaza. All were accused of encouraging activities in opposition to the Israeli military occupation. Mr. Barghouti and Mr. Ashour, in particular, withdrew their appeal against the deportation before the Military Objections Committee, expressing lack of confidence in the Israeli legal system, and were forced to cross the border to Jordan on 14 May 1987.

"In the light of these grave developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, now in their twentieth year of occupation, I wish, on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to recall that the Security Council has repeatedly affirmed, most recently in resolution 592 (1986), that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,^{1/} is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and has called upon Israel to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Convention.

"The Committee wishes to reiterate its deep concern at the measures taken by the Israeli authorities, which only heighten tensions in the region and present a serious obstacle to international action for a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which is at the core of the Middle East conflict.

"The Committee remains convinced that positive consideration and action by the Security Council on its recommendations and on the proposed

International Peace Conference on the Middle East would advance prospects for a just and lasting peace in the region. The Committee therefore renews its appeal to you to continue to do all in your power to promote this objective."

On 3 June 1987, the Chairman again addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (A/42/318-S/18893) calling his urgent attention to serious incidents which continue to occur in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The text of the letter was as follows:

"As Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to call your urgent attention to the serious incidents which have continued to occur in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"According to cables from Kuna and Reuter agencies dated 1 and 2 June 1987, the Israeli authorities have launched a massive campaign of detention of Palestinians following protest demonstrations in the refugee camps in the West Bank. Israeli soldiers burst into the refugee camp of Balata, near Nablus, opening fire on the demonstrators, and arrested 60 people. Ten people were detained without trial for a period of six months. The Israeli authorities also declared a curfew in the camp.

"In view of the gravity of these events, I must emphasize, on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, that the actions taken by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories are absolutely contrary to 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 detained in violation of that instrument.

"The Committee wishes to reiterate its concern at the actions of the Israeli authorities, which continue to heighten tension in the region and impede international efforts aimed at finding a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which lies at the heart of the conflict in the Middle East.

"The Committee accordingly requests you once again to continue to do everything in your power to facilitate this solution and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions."

II. STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE TWENTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR

The following statement was issued on 5 June 1987 by the Chairman of the
Committee:

"Today marks the twentieth anniversary of the 1967 war in the Middle East, in the course of which Israeli forces occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This occupation has prevented the Palestinian people from exercising its right to self-determination.

"On this occasion, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to launch an appeal to the international community to redouble its efforts to bring about a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question, the root cause of the conflict in the Middle East. The Committee believes that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, should be convened as soon as possible, and it requests the co-operation of all concerned and interested parties in order to ensure its success in the common interest."2/

III. SIXTEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION
OF PALESTINE, HELD AT NEW DELHI
FROM 8 TO 12 JUNE 1987

1. The Sixteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian People", was held at the Vigyan Bhawan Conference Centre, New Delhi, India, from 8 to 12 June 1987, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/96 B of 12 December 1985. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had decided to integrate the Seminar with the Asian Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, which was held from 8 to 10 June 1987, on an experimental basis and in the interest of economy.
2. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation consisting of H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, head of the delegation; H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian SSR); H.E. Mr. David D. Karran (Guyana); Mr. Saviour F. Borg (Malta); Mr. Pramathesh Rath (India); and Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). Mr. Oramas-Oliva was Chairman and Mr. Rath Rapporteur of the Seminar.
3. Seven meetings were held and 14 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. In addition, representatives of 40 Governments, the PLO, three United Nations organs, two United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, one intergovernmental organization and observers of 30 non-governmental organizations attended the Seminar.
4. The opening session of the Seminar was addressed by H.E. Mr. K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs of India; Dr. N. G. Rathore, representative of the Secretary-General; H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Chairman of the Seminar; H.E. Dr. N. N. G. Makura, High Commissioner of Zimbabwe to India, who read a message from H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement; and H.E. Dr. Khalid El-Sheikh, Ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization to India, who read a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The opening session was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian SSR) representing the Special Committee against Apartheid,

and Mr. Ammar Amari (Tunisia), representing the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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

(a) "The Role of the Palestine Liberation Organization" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Dr. Jawad Naji Al-Awad (Palestinian). The paper prepared by Dr. Al-Awad was read by H.E. Dr. Khaled El-Sheikh, Ambassador of the PLO to India;

(b) "The International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, the need for such a Conference and efforts and prospects to promote a successful outcome and benefits thereof" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Mr. P. N. Haksar (India), Dr. Igor M. Khvorostiany (Ukrainian SSR), Dr. Jorge Manfugas (Cuba), H.E. Mr. Abdullah Salah (Jordan), Dr. Mohammad Aziz Shukri (Syrian Arab Republic), Dr. V. P. Vorobyov (USSR), Mr. Wan Guang (China);

(c) "The Question of Palestine and Asian Public Opinion" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Mr. Mansoor Alam (Pakistan), Prof. Mohammad Rahmet-Ali (India), Prof. Yilmaz Altug (Turkey), Mr. Hardi (Indonesia), Mr. Tran Hoan (Viet Nam), Prof. K. R. Misra (India);

(d) "The United Nations and the Question of Palestine": H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian SSR).

6. The report of the Seminar, which was adopted unanimously, contains a summary of the presentations made by the panelists and of the discussions of the four panels, as well as conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Seminar's deliberations. The Seminar also adopted messages of support to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to H.E. Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations and to H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. The Seminar also adopted a motion of thanks to the people and Government of India. The full text of the report will be published in due course as a special bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Seminar are as follows:

(a) The Seminar expressed deep concern over the dangerous situation in the Middle East as it presents a threat to the stability of the region and to international peace and security as a whole. In the nuclear age it is necessary that international relations be restructured so that confrontation is replaced by co-operation, and conflict situations are resolved through peaceful political means, not through military means. The Seminar affirmed the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine. The full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination without external interference and the

right to create its own independent State in Palestine, as well as the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, remain the basis to solve the Palestinian problem.

(b) The situation relating to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people continues to deteriorate. Whilst strenuous attempts have been made to find a solution to this problem, the situation in the region continues to be further complicated by Israel's actions in the occupied territories. Israel continues with its policies of illegally maintaining and expanding Jewish settlements as well as the confiscation of Arab-owned lands in the occupied Palestinian territories. The "iron-fist policies" are accentuated by measures designed to stifle all forms of political, cultural, social and economic expression of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, Israel continues to strengthen its control over most aspects of life, with the objective of obstructing the self-generating development of the occupied territories by turning them into a dependent entity with the aim of its final absorption and annexation. These policies are in violation of United Nations resolutions and international law and lead only to the exacerbation of tension in the area, thus hindering attempts to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

(c) The Seminar was aware of the factors that encouraged Israel in pursuing its policies. It noted with serious concern the relations between Israel and the racist régime in South Africa, in particular in the economic, military and nuclear fields. The Seminar called upon the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights to keep under review the development of such relations and report thereon. The Seminar also demanded that Israel should desist from and terminate such collaboration and abide scrupulously by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(d) The Seminar expressed grave concern about the economic and social policies of the occupying power, Israel, against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. It noted that Israel pursued a policy which deprived the Palestinians of their main source of livelihood and survival, in particular agriculture, land confiscation and takeover of water resources. The Seminar further noted the increasing utilization of cheap Arab labour by Israeli employers which constituted exploitation and discrimination. In this context, the Seminar expressed appreciation for the endeavour and efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the field of social and economic development of the Palestinian people. The Seminar called upon the United Nations and its organs and agencies to render and co-ordinate all forms of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in consultation and co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

(e) The Seminar also recalled that the year 1987 marked a number of anniversaries of significant events in the history of the Palestinian people in its struggle to attain its legitimate and inalienable rights, including the seventieth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II), the twentieth anniversary of the 1967 War and the fifth anniversary of the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanese territory and the massacre of Sabra and Shatila. The Seminar stressed the urgency to solve the Middle East conflict and its

core issue, the question of Palestine. Those States that did not support the attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and the exercise of those rights, in particular, the right to self-determination as well as the establishment of a State of its own in Palestine, were urged to reconsider their position towards a solution to the problem.

(f) The Seminar unanimously concluded that the best 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 conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other concerned States, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. The Seminar supported the establishment of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of its permanent members, as called for by General Assembly resolution 41/43 D, as a means to undertake practical steps towards the convening of the Conference.

(g) It further recalled the unyielding and firm support by the Palestine Liberation Organization, Arab States, the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries, the European Community and other groups of countries, to the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The Seminar was convinced that partial and piecemeal agreements would ignore the core of the Arab-Israeli problem and were not conducive to a comprehensive peaceful solution. The Seminar was of the view that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had a major role to play in promoting the convening of such a conference and encouraged its efforts in this regard.

(h) The Seminar greatly appreciated the efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. In this regard the Seminar took note of the Secretary-General's report (A/42/277-S/18849) of 7 May 1987 and expressed support for the continuation of his efforts to intensify his contacts with the parties concerned and of his consultations with the members of the Security Council. In this context the Seminar urged the Governments of Israel and the United States to reconsider their negative attitude towards the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

(i) 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.

(j) The Seminar viewed the results of the eighteenth session of the Palestine National Council, held in April 1987 at Algiers, as a significant contribution in achieving a just solution to the question of Palestine and resolving the plight of the Palestinian people. The Seminar welcomed in particular the unequivocal support of the Palestine Liberation Organization

for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and the establishment of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of its permanent members.

(k) The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has an important role to play in promoting the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. In that context, the Seminar recommended the intensification of the political and diplomatic efforts by all concerned for reaching a comprehensive, just and durable settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

(l) The Seminar agreed that vigorous efforts should be made to mobilize public opinion in Asia as well as in other regions of the world, in particular, through the use of the media and activities by non-governmental organizations. The Seminar suggested that the United Nations information centres in various cities in Asia should establish closer liaison with universities, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Seminar appealed to the leaders of major powers and the parties of the conflict to demonstrate political will and to play an active and constructive role in the efforts to create lasting peace in the Middle East, in particular in the resolution of the Palestine problem.

(m) In that regard, the United Nations should make additional efforts to disseminate factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine not only in its official languages but also in other languages and, in particular, on the United Nations resolutions relevant to the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and the establishment of the afore-mentioned preparatory committee.

(n) It was important that the media should play a more responsive role in providing a 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. The Seminar emphasized that intergovernmental organizations, 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, especially in the United States and Israel. Those institutions should be urged to give wider coverage and balanced treatment to the question of Palestine. It was the view of the Seminar that national committees be set up to promote the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

(o) 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 on the basis of the attainment by the Palestinian people in Palestine of their inalienable rights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat had an important role in such dissemination of information. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information in co-operation with the Division for Palestinian Rights should make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine received the widest possible dissemination.

IV. SECOND UNITED NATIONS ASIAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM
ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HELD AT NEW DELHI
FROM 8 TO 10 JUNE 1987

1. The second United Nations Asian Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, on the theme "The Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" was held at the Vigyan Bhawan Conference Centre, New Delhi, India, from 8 to 10 June 1987, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983. The Symposium was held concurrently with the Sixteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, which was held from 8 to 12 June 1987.

2. The Symposium was attended by 21 NGOs as participants and 11 NGOs as observers with about 80 persons in attendance, as well as by observers from several governments, one United Nations programme, one intergovernmental organization and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

3. The combined opening session for the Symposium and the Seminar was addressed by H.E. Mr. K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs of India; Dr. N. G. Rathore, representative of the Secretary-General; H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Chairman of the Seminar; H.E. Dr. N. N. G. Makura, High Commissioner of Zimbabwe to India, who read a message from H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement; and H.E. Dr. Khalid El-Sheikh, Ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization to India, who read a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The opening session was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian SSR) representing the Special Committee against Apartheid, and Mr. Ammar Amari (Tunisia), representing the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The Seminar and Symposium shared two panels on different aspects of the question of Palestine. Those panels and their panelists were as follows:

(a) "The Role of the Palestine Liberation Organization" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Dr. Jawad Naji Al-Awad (Palestinian). The paper prepared by Dr. Al-Awad was read by H.E. Dr. Khaled El-Sheikh; Ambassador of the PLO to India;

(b) "The International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, the need for such a Conference and efforts and prospects to promote a successful outcome and benefits thereof" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Mr. P. N. Haksar (India), Dr. Igor M. Khvorostiany (Ukrainian SSR), Dr. Jorge Manfugas (Cuba), H.E. Mr. Abdullah Salah (Jordan), Dr. Mohammad Aziz Shukri (Syrian Arab Republic), Dr. V. P. Vorobyov (USSR), Mr. Wan Guang (China).

In addition, participants and observers in the NGO Symposium were provided with papers of the remaining two panels of the Seminar as follows:

(c) "The Question of Palestine and Asian Public Opinion" (combined for Seminar and NGO Symposium): Mr. Mansoor Alam (Pakistan), Prof. Mohammad Rahmet-Ali (India), Prof. Yilmaz Altug (Turkey), Mr. Hardi (Indonesia), Mr. Tran Hoan (Viet Nam), Prof. K. R. Misra (India);

(d) "The United Nations and the Question of Palestine": H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukrainian SSR).

5. Arrangements were made for the Symposium to have a combined workshop on "NGO activities to promote the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and to mobilize Asian public opinion". The following three experts presented statements including their summations of the panelists on these topics and led the discussions: Dr. Roman T. Akhramovich (USSR), Dr. Ergun Ozbudun (Turkey), and Dr. Amnon Zichroni (Israel).

6. The Symposium also considered a panel entitled "NGO collaboration on the question of Palestine and the role of the United Nations". The following two panelists made presentations: H. E. Mr. David D. Karran (Guyana) and Dr. Donald Betz (United States) who made presentations on behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the International Co-ordinating for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, respectively.

7. The Symposium sent a message of appreciation to H.E. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and in addition, sent a message of appreciation and support to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

8. The Symposium decided to create a 12 member Asian Regional Preparatory Committee. In this connection, a Chairman and an Executive Secretary were elected. These two officials were charged with the responsibility, through consultations with NGOs in the region, to identify the remaining 10 members who should include representatives of NGOs from countries represented at the Symposium. It was also decided that such a body would be the prototype for an Asian Regional Co-ordinating Committee.

9. The Declaration of the Symposium, which was adopted unanimously, is reproduced hereafter. The full text of the report will be issued in due course as a special bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

Declaration of the Symposium

1. We, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participating in the United Nations Asian Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, wish to thank the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for convening this meeting. We are indeed honoured by the presence of the members and observers of the distinguished United Nations body and the expert resource persons whose valuable contribution provided a suitable perspective for working out concrete programmes of action.
2. We also wish to thank the Representative of the Secretary-General, the Chief of the Division for Palestinian Rights, the International Co-ordinating Committee, the NGO liaison officers, the staff of the Department of the Department of Conference Services and the interpreters for their valuable assistance in the preparation and execution of this meeting. We believe this meeting strengthens the bonds between the United Nations and the community of Asian NGOs involved with the Palestine question and look forward to increasing levels of understanding, appreciation and co-operation.
3. We wish also to thank very sincerely the Government of India for hosting this Symposium and for its generous co-operation. We recognize and appreciate the long-standing and unfailing support of the Government and the people of India to the just cause of the Palestinian people, in the tradition of the national liberation movement of India from the early twenties when it opposed the Balfour Declaration.
4. We recognise that 1987 marks the 70th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 for the partition of Palestine, the 20th anniversary of the 1967 war and the subsequent Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the fifth anniversary of the destructive Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the massacre at Sabra and Shatila and the International Year of the People of Palestine.
5. We resolutely reaffirm the international consensus that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in its just struggle for its inalienable rights. Taking note of the support of the Palestinian people for the PLO, and of the consolidated unity established at the April 1987, 18th session of the Palestine National Council at Algiers, we reject outright the idea that any one other than the Palestinian people should decide who should represent them, all the more so as the first act of any people in implementing its right to self-determination is the choice of its own representatives. We fully support the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to untrammelled independent decision-making through its own national organization the PLO.
6. Accordingly, we call upon all governments that do not recognize the PLO to do so without delay. We also call upon all governments to support the convening of the International Peace Conference and to work for the realization of such a conference as a top priority.

7. We recognize that the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to self-government in their own independent State in Palestine is the central requirement for peace and security, for a just and durable peace between Israel and the Palestinian national State and its Arab neighbours, and is in full accord with one of the most fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We reaffirm that this right must be exercised without outside interference on its own national territory and under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions.

8. We fully support the Geneva Declaration on Palestine of 7 September 1983 adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983, in favour of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and we fully uphold General Assembly Resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983. It is essential that the Conference be inclusive and be attended by the representative of both Israel and the PLO, those Arab States party to the conflict, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, all on an equal footing. We are aware that not only world peace but also the human and civil rights of the Palestinian people have been set back by the non-implementation of the Assembly resolution 38/58 C. In this context, we reject partial and piecemeal agreements as counter-productive and not conducive to a comprehensive peaceful solution, as others totally ignore the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

9. We take serious note of the fact that while the PLO fully supports the Assembly resolution 38/58 C, the U.S.A. and Israel are opposed to it. We strongly feel that the position of these two governments constitutes a serious threat to world peace and we urge upon all governments to exert more pressure on these two governments to join the global consensus on this issue.

10. We view with grave concern the law recently adopted by the Israeli Government making any meeting between an Israeli citizen and a member of the PLO punishable by three years imprisonment. This is considered an act designed to prevent peace efforts at the NGO level. We urge the Israeli government to immediately repeal this law and call upon the United Nations and all governments to exert their influence upon the Israeli Government to do so.

11. We note with grave concern the discriminatory policy and practices being committed by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel and condemn the racist laws and practices that endanger their existence in their homeland. We call upon the Israeli Government to give equal rights to the Arab citizens of Israel. We declare our full support for the struggle of the Arab Israeli community together with the Jewish democratic forces for equality and security. We believe that there can be no democracy without equal rights for all citizens.

12. We have heard with great appreciation the voice of Israeli peace forces and extend to them all our sympathy and support in their difficult task of opposition to the oppressive policies of the Israeli Government, within the Israeli Parliament and among the Israeli public. In particular, we express solidarity with those who, as an act of peace, accept imprisonment for their refusal to engage in military service in the occupied territories. We note with great satisfaction the emergence of peace forces, particularly within the Oriental Jewish Community in Israel. We regard this as a most significant development and call upon all elements interested in early peace in the Middle East to give moral and political support to the emerging peace forces within Israel.
13. We strongly condemn the continuation of the repressive measures by the Israeli administration against the Arab population in the occupied territories (arrests, tortures, demolition of homes and land requisitions, etc.) and call upon the United Nations, all governments and people to urge the Israeli Government to stop such oppressive acts.
14. We note with great concern the continued Israeli attacks on the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and strongly condemn the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people in the camps. We call upon all concerned parties to enforce a durable cease-fire and to ensure the flow of medical and relief supplies to the camps through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the International Red Cross and other international agencies.
15. We call upon all concerned parties to guarantee the security of the Palestinian people in Lebanon and to their right to live in security in Lebanon. The presence of the Palestinian people in the refugee camps is not of their own will, but the result of the non-fulfilment of the General Assembly resolution 181 (II). As this is the responsibility of all member nations of the United Nations we call upon them and the United Nations General Assembly to take every necessary measure to ensure the security of the Palestinian people in Lebanon and elsewhere.
16. We draw attention to the continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, intervention in that country's internal affairs through political coercion and oppressive actions in the south. We demand the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and the release of thousands held in prison. The question of Lebanon is an integral part of the Palestinian question and Israeli military expansion.
17. We believe that it is the increasing expansion of conflict areas by Israel and the growing threat it constitutes not only to the peace of this region as a whole but of Asia and the world, that makes the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East such an urgent necessity and the only practical and realistic solution to the problem of Palestine and the establishment of a Palestinian State. Immediate steps should be taken to set up a preparatory committee with the participation of the Permanent Members of the Security Council as the first step toward the holding of the conference.

18. We further assert the inextricable connection between the struggle of the Palestinians for their independent homeland and every struggle in every part of the world of peoples fighting for their independence and sovereign right to build their life in their own way without any outside interference. The struggle of the Palestinian people is an integral part of the struggle of all peoples for world peace and against neo-colonialism, racism and all sort of oppression against humanity and for a nuclear-weapon-free and non-violent world.

19. We fully appreciate the growing support in the United Nations for the Palestinian struggle and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the significant part being played in this connection by the non-aligned movement and express our awareness of the urgent need for the non-governmental organizations of Asia to take the fullest advantage of the growing favourable environment to create public opinion in the U.S.A. and Israel against the policies of their governments, while at the same time activising public opinion in the Asian countries.

20. We are fully confident of the powerful role that the NGOs and particularly the NGOS of Asia can play in creating public opinion for the urgent convening of the International Conference. We are also confident that by creating public opinion not only in Asia but also in other countries of the world we can bring pressure on the Governments of Israel and the U.S.A. and also strengthen the hands of our respective governments in this task.

21. We believe the time has now come for urgent practical action. Having considered the various suggestions made at this Symposium we pledge to mobilize people from different disciplines in Asian countries to influence their counterparts in other parts of the world, organise the dissemination of news about the conditions of the people of Palestine through the media, produce campaign pamphlets, organise film screenings, meetings, demonstrations, symposia on specific issues concerned and signature campaigns among parliamentarians of the respective Asian countries, and similar other activities.

22. We appreciate the formation of the International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs. We strongly urge the United Nations through the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to continue to give all assistance to the ICC in organising a network of NGO activities at a global level on the Palestinian question. Such a co-ordination committee with regional branches is essential for building up a massive campaign by the NGOs for immediately convening the International Conference and for a continuing mobilisation of public opinion for the realisation of the just demands of the people of Palestine. Without the active material support of such an International Co-ordinating Committee it will not be possible to mount effective mass campaigns involving expensive modern media.

23. We, the Asian NGOs present here decide to form an Asian Regional Co-ordinating Committee of NGOs to serve as a focus for our regional efforts. We recommend that we should begin with a preparatory committee of 12 members for this purpose to be formed through a wider discussion with other Asian NGOs for identifying the structure of such an organisation and for finally constituting the preparatory committee. The delegates to the Symposium elect Mr. P.N. Haksar as the Chairman and Dr. M.S. Agwani as Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Committee for undertaking this task. The participants decide that NGO representation from countries represented by NGOs at this Symposium shall be included in the Preparatory Committee when finally constituted.

24. We, call upon the international organisations of media men in the Asian region to take up the Palestine question and work together with the NGOs active on this issue. We call upon the non-aligned news agencies' pool to provide more information about the Palestine question and also about the world-wide campaign for the international conference on peace in the Middle East.

25. We conclude this Symposium with a great feeling of confidence and call upon the United Nations through the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to give due consideration to the practical recommendations of activities proposed in this document and provide necessary assistance and co-operation to the Asian Regional Co-ordinating Committee in fulfilling these tasks.

V. SEVENTEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION
OF PALESTINE, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK
FROM 22 TO 23 JUNE 1987

1. The Seventeenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 22 to 23 June 1987, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 40/96 B of 12 December 1985.
2. H.E. Mr. Shah Mohammad Dost (Afghanistan), Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was Chairman of the Seminar, and Mr. Saviour F. Borg (Malta), Rapporteur of the Seminar.
3. Four meetings were held and seven panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. In addition, representatives of 42 Governments, the PLO, three United Nations organs, four United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, three intergovernmental organizations, one national liberation organization as well as observers of 20 non-governmental organizations attended the Seminar.
4. The opening session of the Seminar was addressed by Mr. William B. Buffum, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services, on behalf of the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Shah Mohammad Dost, Chairman of the Seminar; Mr. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Alternate Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations, who read a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The opening session was also addressed by H.E. Dr. Isack Mudenge (Zimbabwe), on behalf of the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Mr. Ahmad Farouk Arnouss (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Mr. Moussa Bocar Ly (Senegal), representing the United Nations Council for Namibia, Mr. Arif Shahid Khan (India), Rapporteur of the Special Committee against Apartheid; Mr. Samir Mansouri, Deputy Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations; Mrs. Salimatu T. Timbo, representing the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity to the United Nations and, Mr. Nouredine Mezni, Deputy Director of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the United Nations.

5. Two panels were established and the following persons participated as panelists:

(a) "The International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58C, the need for such a conference and efforts and prospects to promote a successful outcome, and benefits thereof": Brother David Carroll (United States), Mr. Ramsey Clark (United States), Mr. Konstantin Gueivandov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Prof. Atif Kubursi (Canada), Mr. Pramathesh Rath (India). The participants in the Seminar regretted that Mr. Gueivandov was not in a position to participate in the Seminar, because his visa for the United States was not issued. His paper was made available to all participants. Prof. Atif Kubursi also addressed the impact of the economic and social policies on the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

(b) "The Question of Palestine and North American public opinion": Prof. Ibrahim Abu-Lughod (Palestinian) and Prof. Francis Boyle (United States).

6. The report of the Seminar, which was adopted unanimously, contains a summary of the presentations made by the panelists and of the discussions of the panels, as well as conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Seminar's deliberations. The Seminar also adopted a message of support to H. E. Mr. Yasser Arafat. The full text of the report will be published in due course as a special bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Seminar are as follows:

(a) Despite intensive efforts by the United Nations, a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict remains elusive and the situation in the region continues to be unstable. Recent events in the Middle East highlight the increasing urgency of finding a solution to this most complex problem. Such delays not only prolong the plight of the Palestinian people, but also continue to pose a threat to regional peace. In this age it is necessary that international relations be restructured so that confrontation is replaced by co-operation, and conflict situations, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, are resolved through peaceful political means, not through military force.

(b) The Seminar, concerned over the dangerous situation in the Middle East, is profoundly convinced that the vital interests of the peoples of that region, as well as interests of international peace and security as a whole, urgently dictate the need for the speediest attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is

the question of Palestine. The full exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination without external interference and the right to create its own independent State in Palestine, as well as the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, remain the basis to solve the Palestinian problem.

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

(d) The Seminar noted with grave concern the continued Israeli economic subjugation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories by confiscating their land, denying them the exploitation of their own water resources, preventing them to engage in trade with the parties of their choice, and treating the people of the occupied territories as a hostage pool of cheap labour, using them as a buffer to cool an overheated Israeli economy and as the first to lose their jobs at the slightest slowdown of the Israeli economy. The Seminar expressed appreciation for the endeavours and efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the United Nations and its organs and agencies, as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of social and economic development of the Palestinian people under occupation. The Seminar called on the United Nations and its organs and agencies to render and co-ordinate all forms of social and economic assistance to the Palestinian people in consultation and co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

(e) The Seminar affirmed that the problem of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people remained the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that no comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region could be achieved without the full exercise of those rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to create its own independent State in Palestine, and without the complete withdrawal of Israel from Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. It further reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

(f) The Seminar considered the question of the status of Jerusalem and reiterated the position of the Security Council as contained in its resolution

478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, by which it affirmed "that the enactment of the "basic law" by Israel constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;" and determined "that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purported to alter the character and the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the recent "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith".

(g) The Seminar unanimously concluded that the best 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 conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and other concerned States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. The Seminar supported the establishment of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of its permanent members, as called for by General Assembly resolution 41/43 D, as a means to undertake practical steps towards the convening of the Conference. The Seminar believed that the members of the Security Council should immediately proceed to establish the said preparatory committee.

(h) The Seminar further recalled the unyielding and firm support by the Palestine Liberation Organization, Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the socialist countries, the European Community and other groups of countries, to the proposed International Peace Conference on the Middle East. The Seminar was convinced that partial and piecemeal agreements would ignore the core of the Arab-Israeli problem and were not conducive to a comprehensive peaceful solution. The Seminar was of the view that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had a major role to play in promoting the convening of such a conference and encouraged its effort in this regard.

(i) The Conference should be convened without preconditions and its proceedings should be conducted in a constructive spirit. The aim of the Conference should be a comprehensive settlement encompassing all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Seminar appealed to all members of the Security Council, and in particular to its permanent members, to fulfill their responsibilities for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to exercise the necessary political will and to undertake vigorous efforts to bring about the convening of the Conference.

(j) The Seminar greatly appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. In this regard the Seminar took note of the Secretary-General's report (A/42/277-S/18849) of 7 May 1987 and expressed support for his intention to intensify his contacts with the parties in order to try to find ways of bridging the gaps between them.

(k) The Seminar viewed the results of the eighteenth session of the Palestine National Council, held in April 1987 at Algiers, as of great importance. It welcomed in particular the unequivocal support of the Palestine Liberation Organization for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and the establishment of a preparatory committee within the framework of the Security Council, with the participation of its permanent members.

(l) The Seminar recalled that the year 1987 marks a number of important anniversaries in the history of the struggle of the Palestinian people including the seventieth anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II), the twentieth anniversary of the 1967 War and the fifth anniversary of the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanese territory and the massacre at Sabra and Shatila.

(m) Intensified efforts should be made to mobilize public opinion in North America and throughout the world through the use of the media. In that connection, the United Nations should make additional efforts to disseminate more factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine, as one of the contributions to the achievement of a just solution to the problem of Palestine on the basis of the attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights.

(n) The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat have an important role in the preparation and dissemination of information. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, in co-operation with the Division for Palestinian Rights, should ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine receives the widest possible dissemination.

(o) It was important that the media should play a more responsive role in providing more balanced reporting on the Middle East and, in particular, on the plight of the Palestinians in and outside the occupied territories. 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, particularly in the United States and Canada. Those institutions should be urged to give wider coverage and more balanced treatment to the question of Palestine.

(p) The Seminar encouraged the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to take a strong position against the proposed enactment of legislation by the United States Congress to close the Permanent Observer Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations, in New York, or to make association with the Palestine Liberation Organization a crime. It was the view of the Seminar that such proposed legislation went against the United Nations Host Country Agreement with the United States. The Committee should examine and explore with the United Nations Legal Counsel the implications as to the compatibility or not of the proposed pieces of legislation with basic principles of international law, including the Host Country Agreement. The Seminar also urged the Committee to request the Committee on Relations with the Host Country to take a position against this proposed legislation.

VI. CALL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
FOR EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY
FOR THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

1. Steps to spur the economic development of the occupied Arab territories, to improve the conditions of employment and to ensure the effective exercise of trade union rights are recommended in a report issued by the International Labour Office (ILO).^{3/}
2. As long as the state of occupation continues, the application of these measures "will call for special efforts from the Israeli authorities", the report says. It recommends that the Arab inhabitants of these Territories should be allowed to play their part in the process of development and the technical assistance of ILO.
3. The report on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, based on information collected during a recent ILO mission to the area, was submitted to the International Labour Conference at its seventy-third session, held at Geneva from 3 to 24 June 1987.

VII. FACT-FINDING MISSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORIES

1. On 14 June 1987, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Arab Territories concluded a two-week series of meetings held at Geneva, Cairo, Amman and Damascus.^{4/}

2. In the course of these meetings, the Special Committee received the latest developments concerning the human rights situation in the occupied territories on the basis of information appearing in the press, communications from Governments, individuals and organizations, as well as the testimony of witnesses appearing before it. The members of the Committee heard accounts of persons who said they had had personal experience of the conditions of daily life in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, in Israeli prisons, in education, agriculture, public health services, trade unionism and sectors of daily economic activity.

3. The report of the Special Committee will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

VIII. UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED FACT-FINDING NEWS MISSION
FOR JOURNALISTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/43 C of 2 December 1986 on the question of Palestine, a news mission for journalists to the Middle East was organized from 3 to 15 June 1987.

2. The objective of the mission was to promote better understanding of the question of Palestine by bringing the journalists together with experts on the subject for brief, in-depth, informal and candid discussion.

3. The following journalists were selected to participate in the news mission: Ms. Lyndall Crisp, Times on Sunday, Australia; Mr. Michel Dubuisson, Le Soir, Belgium; Mr. Manoel Francisco, Jornal do Brasil, Brazil; Ms. Christina Spencer, The Ottawa Citizen, Canada; Mr. François d'Alençon, La Croix/L'Événement, France; Mr. Andreas Kohlschütter, Die Zeit, Federal Republic of Germany; Mr. Rikuo Sato, Mainichi Shimbun, Japan; Mr. Michael Stein, NRC Handelsblad, Netherlands; Mr. Jörgen Strömberg, Foreign Affairs, Sweden; Mr. Krishna Gaur, The Chicago Sun Times, United States of America; and Mr. Borivoj Erdeljan, Politika, Yugoslavia.

4. The Mission visited Egypt from 3 to 7 June, Jordan from 8 to 11 June and Iraq from 11 to 15 June. Formal requests had been sent to the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic for the mission to visit their respective countries. A similar request was also sent to the Permanent Mission of Israel to visit Israel and the West Bank. Positive responses were received from Egypt, Jordan and Iraq. No response was received from Israel. The response of the Syrian Arab Republic was not received in time, so that the visit was cancelled for this year.

5. In Cairo, the journalists met the following senior officials: Dr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Dr. Osama El-Baz, Adviser to the President; Dr. Mamdouh El-Beltagi, Chairman of the State Information Service; and Dr. Nabil El-Arahi, Head of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the delegation met with Dr. Mohamed Abdellah, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly, the Director and senior researchers of the Political and Strategic Centre of Al-Ahram newspaper, as well as senior PLO officials. The journalists also met a prominent Israeli journalist, Mr. Amos Kenan, whom the Department of Public Information had specially invited to Cairo.

6. In Amman, Jordan, the delegation met the following: Mr. Mohamed Al-Khatib, Minister of Information; Mr. Marwan Doudin, Minister of Occupied Territories; The Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs; Sheikh Abdel-Hameed El-Sayeh, Chairman of the Palestinian National Council; and Mr. Abdul-Jawad Saleh, Deported Mayor of El-Beerih.

The mission also visited the Beqaa Palestinian refugee camp outside Amman and the King Hussein bridge on the Jordan river.

7. In Baghdad, the mission met with Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization. On the Iraqi side the mission was received by Mr. Latif Jassem, Minister of Information, and Mr. Wissan El-Zahawy, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The mission also met the United States Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. David Newton.

8. Government officials in the three countries visited expressed their support for the United Nations public information programme on the question of Palestine and the mission received extensive media coverage.

Notes

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

2/ GA/PAL/348.

3/ ILO/2282.

4/ See HR/3097.
