



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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

On 11 December 1987, 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 drew urgent attention to renewed acts of violence by
Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza which had resulted in casualties
among Palestinians. 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 very dangerous situation which is being created in the
West Bank and the Gaza Strip by the renewed acts of violence by the
Israeli troops, which have again resulted in casualties among
Palestinians.

"A number of very serious incidents have taken place in the
occupied Palestinian territories since my letter of 13 November 1987
(A/42/768-S/19270) on the same subject. According to United Press
International and the Associated Press, on 9 December 1987 Israeli troops
shot two Palestinian youths dead and wounded 18 others in day-long
disturbances in the Gaza Strip. The students were protesting the death
of four Palestinians in a road accident which they said was caused by an
Israeli truck driver in revenge for the fatal stabbing of a Jewish
businessman in Gaza on 6 December. Four of those injured in the protest
were reported in critical condition at Shifa Hospital, where protesters
assembled in the courtyard were later attacked by Israeli helicopters
which dropped tear-gas canisters into the crowd. Several members of the
security forces were also injured in these disturbances. Many schools
and shops in the Gaza Strip remained closed and hundreds of Palestinians
stayed away from work in Israel because of the protests.

"According to The New York Times and United Press International,
the widespread protest demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza resulted
in clashes with Israeli soldiers and the shooting death of a Palestinian
youth in Nablus and the wounding of at least 12 others on 10 December.
The same sources reported that at Kalandia refugee camp north of
Jerusalem 23 students, who had raised Palestinian flags during a
demonstration, were arrested. Another 12 persons were hurt in scuffles
with the police. Many students were later treated for tear-gas
inhalation.

"Reuters reported that an 11-year-old Palestinian boy from the town of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip died after Israeli troops shot him in the head during anti-Israeli protests. At least eight Palestinians were wounded.

"According to Reuters and United Press International, Israeli troops opened fire on another protest demonstration in Balata refugee camp in the West Bank on 11 December, killing four Palestinians and injuring another 30.

"Reuters also reported that in Jerusalem military authorities jailed the head of the Arab Journalists' Union for six months without trial and ordered the daily Al-Fajr to halt distribution in the West Bank for 10 days.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to express its utmost concern at this escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories and at these policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which are in clear violation of United Nations resolutions and the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949. The Committee appeals to you once again to redouble your efforts to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, in particular through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

"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 38, and of the Security Council."

In a subsequent letter to the Secretary-General dated 29 December 1987,^{2/} the Acting Chairman of the Committee referred again to the continuing cruel policies of the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian population in the occupied territories. The text of the letter was as follows:

"In my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the very grave situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip created by the cruel policies of the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian population.

"Since my letter of 11 December 1987 (A/42/877-S/19337), the situation has continued to deteriorate in these territories. According to the Christian Science Monitor of 24 December 1987, the use of live ammunition by the Israeli troops has caused the killing of at least 23 Palestinians and the injuring of hundreds of others.

"The New York Times reported on 26 December 1987 that the number of Palestinian youths arrested by the Israeli army for suspected involvement in the recent wave of protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has, based on official sources, risen to nearly 1,000. However, the same day, the Palestine Press Service in Jerusalem reported that the information received from its reporters in the territories indicated that the number of Palestinians arrested since 9 December was more than 2,000.

"Further, according to The New York Times, the Palestinians were picked up at their homes in the West Bank and Gaza villages and refugee camps by squads of Israeli soldiers, who arrived at their doors at all hours of the day and night with arrest warrants issued by the army. Moreover, the army has opened two makeshift prisons to detain the hundreds of prisoners until trials could be arranged. The conditions in these prisons are reported to be extremely harsh.

"On 27 December, The New York Times reported that the Israeli army was preparing to begin military trials for the arrested Palestinians. The newspaper said that, based on past experience, defence lawyers expect the trials to be what is called "swift proceedings - in effect, a mass court-martial". Defence lawyers have not been allowed to see the detainees. Furthermore, Palestinian lawyers in the Gaza Strip have been boycotting the military trials, accusing officials of putting pressure on the defendants by offering one-month prison terms to those who confessed and threatening much longer sentences for those who insisted on trials.

"On 24 December, a military official told The Jerusalem Post: "Where the law allows us to arrest, we will arrest, where we are allowed to expel, we will expel. There will be no mercy shown". The army has also reportedly ordered the closing of several universities as well as about 800 schools on the West Bank and 92 schools in the Gaza Strip.

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to express its utmost concern at the policies and practices of Israel, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular, the use of live ammunition as well as brutal force by the Israeli army against young defenceless Palestinians. These policies and practices are in clear violation of United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949.

"The Committee appeals to you to take such measures as may be available to you for alleviating the suffering of the affected Palestinians and for promoting the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. Further, the Committee appeals to you to intensify your efforts to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, in particular through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

"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 the item entitled "Question of Palestine", and of the Security Council."

II. ADOPTION BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RESOLUTIONS
ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

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

42/66. 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, 40/96 A of 12 December 1985 and 41/43 A of 2 December 1986,

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 92 to 96 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 ^{4/} 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, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of seminars and symposia and meetings for non-governmental organizations as it may consider necessary, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third 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 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.

89th plenary meeting
2 December 1987

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 the relevant information contained in paragraphs 56 to 80 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, 40/96 B of 12 December 1985, and 41/43 B of 2 December 1986,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the action taken by the Secretary-General in compliance with General Assembly resolution 41/43 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 paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 36/120 B, paragraph 3 of resolution 33/58 B and paragraph 3 of 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 of the issuance by them of special postage stamps for the occasion.

89th plenary meeting
2 December 1987

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 81 to 91 of that report,

Recalling its resolution 41/43 C of 2 December 1986,

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 41/43 C;

2. Requests the Department of Public Information, in full co-operation 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 during the biennium 1988-1989, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America and, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports of the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organs;

(b) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine, including Israeli violations of the human rights of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories as reported by the relevant United Nations organs;

(c) To expand its audio-visual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of special series of radio programmes and television broadcast;

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

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

89th plenary meeting
2 December 1987

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 38/58 C of 13 December 1983, 39/49 D of 11 December 1984, 40/96 D of 12 December 1985 and 41/43 D of 2 December 1986, in which it, inter alia, endorsed the call for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolutions 39/49 D, 40/96 D and 41/43 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 13 November 1987,^{5/} in which he, inter alia, stated that "the major obstacle at present, however, is one of a different kind, namely, the inability of the Government of Israel as a whole to agree on the principle of an international conference under United Nations auspices",

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

Having heard the statements made by numerous representatives, including the statement by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Taking note of the resolutions as well as the Final Declaration of the Extraordinary Arab Summit Conference, held at Amman from 8 to 11 November 1987, in which, inter alia, the Arab leaders declared that "in the context of promoting peaceful efforts and endeavours seeking to achieve a just and durable peace in the Middle East region in accordance with international legality and the resolutions of the United Nations and on the basis of the return of all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, the leaders supported, as the only appropriate means of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict in a peaceful, just and comprehensive manner, the convening of the International Peace Conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation, on an equal footing, of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, and the permanent members of the Security Council .^{6/}

Noting with satisfaction the growing international consensus in favour of convening the Conference under the auspices of the United Nations, and in conformity with its relevant resolutions, to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the just solution of the question of Palestine, which is the core of this conflict,

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

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General; 7/
2. Noting with satisfaction the ever-increasing international consensus in favour of the early convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as reflected in the statements made during the debate;
3. Determines once again that the question of Palestine is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East;
4. Reaffirms once again its endorsement of the call for convening the Conference in conformity with the provisions of resolution 38/58 C, particularly the guidelines and participation determined therein;
5. Reiterates its endorsement of 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. Stresses once again the urgent need for additional concrete and constructive efforts by all Governments in order to convene the Conference without further delay;
7. 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 31 March 1988;
8. Decides to consider at its forty-third session the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution.

89th plenary meeting
2 December 1987

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

The Security Council met on 11 December 1987 at the request of the Arab Group to consider the current situation in the occupied Arab territories. The request for the meeting was made by the Permanent Representative of Democratic Yemen, Chairman of the Group of Arab States for the month of December. A total of seven meetings were held on the item in the course of that month.

On 11 December 1987, 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:^{8/}

"Allow me at the outset, Sir, to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December. Aware of your qualities as an experienced diplomat well versed in international affairs and your devotion to the ideals of our Organization, I am convinced that your work will be crowned with success, all the more so because your country has just signed, together with the United States of America, a historic agreement which I am convinced will constitute a step forward in the consolidation of international peace and security.

"On this occasion we should pay tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Kikuchi, the Permanent Representative of Japan, for the exemplary fashion in which he presided over the work of the Council in November.

"Lastly I should like to 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 in its debate with respect to the grave events of recent days and Israeli practices against the population in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"The deterioration of the situation in the occupied territory is all the more disturbing because it directly affects not merely the future of the Palestinian population but also international peace and security. In a letter I have sent to the Council I have provided information on the incidents which have just taken place in the occupied Arab territories.

"According to United Press International (UPI) and the Associated Press (AP), on 9 December 1987 Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip opened fire on young Palestinians, killing 2 and injuring 12. The students were demonstrating following the killing of four Palestinians in a road "accident" in which, apparently, an Israeli truck had been used to avenge the death of an Israeli businessman stabbed on 6 December. The critically injured were taken to El-Shifa hospital, where demonstrators were subsequently attacked by Israeli helicopters, which dropped tear-gas bombs on the crowd. Several members of the police force were injured in the demonstrations. Schools and shops remained closed in the Gaza Strip, and hundreds of Palestinians did not go to Israel to work because of the demonstrations.

"According to The New York Times and UPI, widespread demonstrations on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip resulted in clashes with Israeli troops. On 10 December a young Palestinian was killed and a dozen people were injured. According to the same sources, in the refugee camp of Kalandia, north of Jerusalem, 23 students who had raised a Palestinian flag during a demonstration were arrested. Twelve others were injured during a clash with the police, and many students who had inhaled tear-gas subsequently had to be hospitalized.

"A Reuters report states that an 11-year old Palestinian from Khan Yunis, in the Gaza Strip, died after being hit on the head by Israeli troops during demonstrations against the Israelis. According to Reuters and UPI, on 11 December

Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrators in the Balata refugee camp on the West Bank, killing 4 Palestinians and injuring 30 others. Reuters also reports that in Jerusalem the military authorities held the head of the Arab journalists' trade union in prison without trial for six months and prohibited the distribution of the daily Al-Fajr on the West Bank.

"It will be recalled that during the debates at this session delegations referred to the question of Palestine and the need to find a comprehensive, just and lasting solution. It is striking to observe, furthermore, that the strong emotions and subjectivity to which we had become accustomed yielded to reason and objectivity. This new approach to the question should lead us henceforth to translate into specific action the common denominator on which we all agree, namely organizing an International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

"The Secretary-General of our Organization in his report calls upon us to do so, when he states that

'in the light of the widespread agreement on the part of the international community ... the convening of such a Conference, under United Nations auspices, offers the best chance of successfully negotiating a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, my decision to make a special effort this year was endorsed by leaders of all parties to the conflict. These two factors - international backing and the support of the parties - have provided an important basis for several rounds of consultations that have been held thus far and will undoubtedly be crucial to future progress.

'... I am encouraged by the fact that the past year has seen favourable developments in the political environment, in terms of both the level and frequency of contacts between the permanent members of the Security Council

and between them and the parties. I am also encouraged by the fact that the idea of an international conference under United Nations auspices has been given high priority among the Arab parties to the conflict and has been the subject of lively debate within Israel. These positive trends, combined with the growing international consensus in favour of the early convening of a Conference, demand of us that we consolidate and build on the foundation that has so far been established.' (A/42/714, paras. 32 and 34)

"On the basis of those assessments, which represent the end of a lengthy process, and on the basis of the principles and purposes of our Charter, nothing should prevent us at last from attaining our objective: the establishment of peace in the Middle East through the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, namely their right to self-determination and independence. With respect to those who might raise the question of the right to existence of all the States of the region, I would refer them to paragraph 3 (f) of the Geneva Declaration, which stipulates the right to existence of all States in the region within secure internationally recognized frontiers, with peace and justice for all.

"Only a few hours ago the General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted four resolutions on the Middle East. We note in them, in particular, an appeal for reason, moderation, renewed dedication to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine.

"With that approach in mind, the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East is advocated. As I said earlier, this Conference - the outcome of a lengthy process of negotiations among the Members of our Organization - has just been reconfirmed by 129 votes during the consideration of the question of

Palestine. It will also be recalled that in presenting our Committee's report to the General Assembly I stated that, if the United Nations delayed in finding a solution to the question of Palestine, violence would worsen and come to threaten peace and security in the region, if not world wide. Unfortunately, recent events in the occupied territories only bear this out.

"In the absence of a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, tension and violence will only increase in occupied Palestinian territories and in the other Arab occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Thus, our Committee has continued to emphasize that the situation will continue to worsen as long as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people have not been exercised.

"The United Nations has an undeniable responsibility for ensuring the enjoyment of the rights of the Palestinians and their protection in the occupied territories. We consider that it is now up to the Security Council to implement the findings of the 1983 International Conference on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva, endorsed by growing majorities in the General Assembly, in particular, by calling for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

"We wish once again to recall that these recommendations are objectively founded upon the underlying internationally accepted principles relating to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The international community considers that the convening of such a conference is now an urgent necessity. This view has been expressed not merely within the United Nations but also in decisions of a growing number of other intergovernmental bodies, such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as in the declaration of the European Economic Community (EEC) and, more recently, the recent Summit Conference of Arab countries held at Amman.

"Hence on behalf of the Committee, I should like to underscore that the question of Palestine has reached a critical stage. We urgently appeal for increased efforts to achieve a just and lasting solution to this question and to put an end to the intolerable situation of the Palestinian people.

"In this respect, the Committee is convinced that the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, which enjoys near unanimous support, offers to all the parties concerned broad possibilities for participation in negotiations resulting in a just and lasting solution of the question. Given the increasing worsening of the situation in the occupied territories, as just described by Ambassador Terzi, we should step up our efforts. We therefore appeal to the Security Council to take appropriate steps to restore the policy of dialogue between all the parties concerned in order to put an end to this tragic state of affairs which has prevailed for more than 40 years.

"As I said last week, the time has come for peace of the valiant. It should not be an exclusively Arab or Israeli peace; rather, it should be an Arab-Israeli peace, a peace founded on sincere and objective negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations. We are duty-bound - especially the Security Council, the guarantor of international peace and security - to seize this opportunity, a sad but promising one, to foster the convening of this International Conference, the only appropriate and timely way of ensuring a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"I am convinced that events in the past week - which was characterized by the international community's steadfast commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations as demonstrated by the statements we heard on the question of the Middle East during the holding of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, as well as during the debates on the question of Palestine and

the situation in the Middle East - should be of particular concern to the Security Council.

"On behalf of the Committee, I once again, in all humility, appeal to the members of the Security Council to see to it that peace in the Middle East is restored."

At its 2777th meeting on 22 December 1987, the Security Council adopted the following resolution (S/RES/605 (1987)) the revised draft of which was co-sponsored by Argentina, the Congo, Ghana, United Arab Emirates and Zambia, by 14 votes in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (United States of America):

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the letter dated 11 December 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Yemen to the United Nations, in his capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of December, 9/

"Bearing in mind the inalienable rights of all peoples recognized by the Charter of the United Nations and proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10/

"Recalling its relevant resolutions on the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and including its resolutions 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 497 (1981) and 592 (1986),

"Recalling also the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 11/

"Gravely concerned and alarmed by the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Taking into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israeli occupation,

"Considering that the current policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territories are bound to have grave consequences for the endeavours to achieve comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

"1. Strongly deplores those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and in particular the opening of fire by the Israeli army, resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians;

"2. 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;

"3. Calls once again upon Israel, the occupying Power, to abide immediately and scrupulously by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in violation of the provisions of the Convention;

"4. Calls furthermore for the exercise of maximum restraint to contribute towards the establishment of peace;

"5. Stresses the urgent need to reach a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to examine the present situation in the occupied territories by all means available to him, and to submit a report no later than 20 January 1988 containing his recommendations on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation;

"7. Decides to keep the situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, under review."

IV. DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUED BY THE HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENT OF THE TWELVE STATES MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY MEETING IN THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AT COPENHAGEN
ON 4 and 5 DECEMBER 1987 12/

The European Council deplores the continuing absence of resolution of the crises in the Middle East.

The Twelve reaffirm their willingness to develop their political dialogue with all States in the Middle East. They also wish economic co-operation to progress and in particular the current negotiations on an agreement between the European Community and the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council to be completed rapidly.

The European Council expresses its profound concern about the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran and reiterates its firm and whole-hearted support for Security Council resolution 598 (1987) as the means to bring an end to this armed conflict. The Twelve continue to give their unreserved and strong support to the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and the Secretary-General to obtain the immediate and full implementation of this resolution. Continued non-compliance with this mandatory resolution is not acceptable to the world community and the appropriate action should now be taken to enforce its implementation by means of a follow-up resolution.

The Twelve confirm their desire for a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which would bring to the region a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in accordance with the principles set out in the Venice declaration, and reiterate their support for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations. They welcome the endorsement given to such a conference by the Arab League summit in Amman under the chairmanship of King Hussein of Jordan. They call for renewed efforts by all concerned to reach agreement on arrangements for the conference to be held as soon as possible.

The Twelve reiterate their preoccupation about human rights and living conditions in the occupied territories. Without prejudging future political solutions they will continue to contribute to the economic and social development of those territories.

The European Council remains deeply concerned about the situation in Lebanon. It calls for a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis, which should be based on the independence, unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national reconciliation of that country. The Twelve reaffirm their support for UNIFIL and call on all concerned to support the Force and to allow it to fulfil its mandate unobstructed. They reiterate their condemnation of the continuing detention of hostages and victims of kidnapping in Lebanon, and call for their immediate release.

V. COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED AT THE URGENT MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT THE
UNITED NATIONS ON THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES HELD AT NEW YORK ON
15 DECEMBER 1987 13/

An urgent meeting of the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations was held in New York on Tuesday, 15 December 1987, to consider the explosive situation and the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The meeting heard a statement by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in this regard, with specific reference to the recent Zionist atrocities in the Gaza Strip and Balata refugee camp, which have also since been perpetrated all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations proudly salute the steadfast militants in the occupied Palestinian, Syrian Arab Golan and other occupied Arab territories, the militants detained in the prisons of the Zionist entity, the wounded and the innocent martyrs who laid down their lives in defence of their people, their national homeland and their holy shrines.

The leaders of the Zionist entity are under the spell of a vindictive hysteria as they continue their escalated reprisal campaign against the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the face of the Zionist occupation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations strongly condemn the Zionist terrorist aggression against the Palestinian and other Arab people in the occupied territories and warn the international community against the dangers of this Zionist blatant arrogance, jeopardizing international peace and security, and urge all to respond to their moral and legal responsibility toward the Palestinian people and stand up for their historic inalienable national right to return to Palestine, to exercise self-determination and to establish their independent Palestinian State on their national soil.

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference reaffirm that solving the problems in the area and establishing a just peace there cannot be achieved by ignoring the Palestinian people, their inalienable national rights and their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization. The key to the solution lies, in fact, in the convening of the International Conference for Peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization on an equal footing, in accordance with United Nations resolution 38/58 C of 13 December 1983.

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, expressing their condemnation of the Zionist entity and these criminal Zionist policies and practices of cold-blooded murder of innocent and defenceless students, men, women and children, and acts of brutality against the civilian population in the occupied

Palestinian territories, urge the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to intervene immediately to stop the massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The Islamic Ummah reaffirms its solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people and their glorious uprising under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Zionist occupying invaders would not have pursued their arrogance had it not been for the constant support extended to them by certain States and the absence of an international deterrent force.

In this connection, the meeting calls upon the Security Council to take the necessary urgent measures to send a special fact-finding mission to investigate the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and to report to the Council as soon as possible. The meeting further calls upon the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, urgently to take effective steps, including the imposition of sanctions stipulated in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, against the Zionist entity with the view to enforcing immediate and total withdrawal and ending the Zionist occupation of all the Palestinian territories as well as the other Arab territories including the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif, occupied since 1967.

VI. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 15 DECEMBER 1987
BY THE CO-ORDINATING BUREAU OF
THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES 14/

1. The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held an urgent meeting in New York on Tuesday, 15 December 1987, to consider the current tragic developments in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.
2. The meeting heard a statement by the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization in this regard, with specific reference to the recent dangerous situation created in the occupied Palestinian territories by the renewed acts of violence by the Israeli occupying forces, which have resulted in the killing and wounding of many Palestinian men, women and children.
3. The meeting condemned Zionist Israel for its cold-blooded murder of innocent and defenceless Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as the wounding, arrests and detention of Palestinian youths in the occupied territories. The meeting noted that these atrocities and acts of terrorism constituted one aspect of the "iron fist" policy that the occupying Power, Israel, is already practising with a view to reinforcing its "creeping annexation" of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories.
4. The meeting further condemned Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and repeated resolutions of the United Nations. It also reaffirmed that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Arab Golan and southern Lebanon.
5. The meeting called upon the Security Council to send a fact-finding mission to the occupied Palestinian territories to investigate the situation and to report to the Council as soon as possible. It also warned the international community against the dangers of the continued Zionist arrogance, which jeopardizes international peace and security as well as the peace and stability of the region, especially in the absence of an international deterrent force.
6. The meeting reiterated the Non-Aligned Movement's call upon the United Nations urgently to take effective steps, including the imposition of the sanctions stipulated in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, against Israel with the view to enforcing immediate and total withdrawal and ending the Israeli occupation of all the Palestinian territories as well as other Arab territories, including the city of Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967.
7. The meeting stressed that the conflict and the violence in the region will continue as long as occupation continues and as long as the Palestinian people are prevented from exercising their inalienable rights in their independent homeland.

The meeting called once again for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the problem of the Middle East, the core of which is the Palestinian problem. In this regard, the meeting emphasized that the key to such a solution lies in the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, on an independent and equal footing in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. It also urged the early establishment of the preparatory committee for the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and stressed the primary responsibility of the Security Council in this regard. It called upon all parties concerned to co-operate in the search for a just and peaceful solution.

8. The meeting reiterated its solidarity with and its firm support for the Palestinian people led by their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in their struggle against Zionist occupation and for the attainment of their inalienable national rights to return to Palestine, to exercise self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state. It appealed once again to all members of the Non-Aligned Movement as well as the international community to give increased support for this legitimate struggle.

VII. EIGHTEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE QUESTION
OF PALESTINE, HELD AT HAVANA, CUBA,
FROM 15 TO 17 DECEMBER 1987

The Eighteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine, entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people", was held at the Palacio de las Convenciones at Havana, Cuba, from 15 to 17 December 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 was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Massamba Sarré (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee, head of the delegation; Mr. Alberto Velazco-San José (Cuba); Mr. Pramathesh Rath (India); and Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). Mr. Massamba Sarré was Chairman and Mr. Pramathesh Rath Rapporteur of the Seminar.

Four meetings were held and 17 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. In addition, representatives of 26 Governments, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), 2 United Nations organs, 4 United Nations programmes and specialized agencies, 2 national liberation organizations, as well as observers of 17 non-governmental organizations attended the Seminar.

The opening session of the Seminar was attended by Mr. Jorge Risquet, Member of the Politburo and the Secrétariat, Chief of the General Department for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. The seminar was addressed by the following: Mr. Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Minister of External Relations of Cuba; Mr. Naseem Mirza, Chief, Division for Palestinian Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General; Mr. Massamba Sarré, Chairman of the Seminar; Mr. Imad Jada'a, Ambassador of the PLO to Cuba, who conveyed a message from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO; Mr. Ammar Amani (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; and Mr. Nasreldin A.M. Idries (Sudan) representing the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The Seminar also heard statements from Mr. Helmut Angula, Permanent Observer of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) to the United Nations and from Mr. Stanley Manana, Representative of the African National Congress of South Africa to Cuba.

Messages of support were received from Mr. Clodomiro Ameyda, former Vice-President of Chile and Secretary-General of the Socialist Party of that country, as well as from the Arab Union of Cuba of the City of Ciego de Avila.

On its part, the Seminar adopted messages to Mr. Yasser Arafat, to the President of the Security Council and also to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Three panels were established. The topics of these and panelists were as follows:

(a) Panel I, "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": Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout (Palestinian), Mr. Tillo Declercq (Belgium), Mr. Miklós Endreffy (Hungary), Mr. Eduardo Kronfly (Colombia), Mr. Jorge Manfugas (Cuba), Mr. Paul McCloskey (United States), Mr. Mattiyahu Peled (Israel), and Mr. Gabriel Pérez Tarrau (Cuba);

(b) Panel II, "The question of Palestine and Latin American/Caribbean public opinion": Mrs. Irma Caceres Pérez (Cuba), Mr. Roberto Garcia (Nicaragua), Mr. Alvaro Mendendez Franco (Panama), Mr. Ruben Montedonico (Mexico), Mr. Juan Pereira Fiorilo (Bolivia), Deputy Henry Rondinel Cornejo (Peru), Mr. Juan Sanchez (Cuba) and Mr. Carlos Alverto Torrenço (Argentina);

(c) Panel III "The role of the Palestine Liberation Organization": Mr. Fouad Moughrabi (Palestinian).

The expert members of the three panels agreed on summaries of the presentations and the discussions on the three topics. The Seminar decided to include those summaries in the report, the full text of which has been published as a special Bulletin of the United Nations Division for Palestinian Rights.

Conclusions and recommendations

The Seminar 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. It was 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 Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

The Seminar expressed its deep concern over the present dangerous situation in the Middle East which posed a serious threat to international peace and security. In the nuclear age it was necessary for international relations to be restructured so that confrontation was replaced by co-operation, and conflict situations were resolved through peaceful political means and not through military actions.

The Seminar was profoundly convinced that the vital interests of all peoples of the region, as well as the interests of international peace and security, could be secured only through the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions and under its auspices, of the Arab-Israeli conflict of which the question of Palestine was the core.

The Seminar was aware that while strenuous attempts had been made to find a solution to the Middle East conflict, the situation in the region remained intractable. It was further aggravated by Israel's actions in the occupied Arab territories. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people continued

to be undermined. Israel continued its policies of illegally maintaining and expanding Jewish settlements as well as confiscating Arab-owned lands and diverting scarce water resources to its own use in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. The "iron-fist" policy of Israel had further stifled all forms of political, cultural, social and economic expression of the Palestinian people. Israel continued to strengthen its control over most aspects of life, with the objective of obstructing a self-sustained development of the Palestinians in the occupied territories by turning those territories into a dependent entity with the aim of their final absorption and annexation. Such policies were in violation of United Nations resolutions, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other norms of international law and exacerbated tension in the area, thus hindering attempts to find a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine.

The Seminar affirmed that the denial of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people remained the core of the conflict in the Middle East and that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region could not be achieved without the full exercise of those rights, including the rights to return, to self-determination and to statehood, and without the complete withdrawal of Israel from Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem. It further affirmed that the PLO was the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It invited Governments which had not yet done so to accord recognition of the PLO as such.

The Seminar unanimously concluded that the way to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East was by convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing, as well as the United States and the Soviet Union and other concerned States, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. The Seminar was convinced that partial and piecemeal solutions would ignore the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and were not conducive to a comprehensive settlement. The need was stressed for a comprehensive attempt at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through the International Peace Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People had an important role to play in promoting the convening of the Conference.

The Seminar was of the view that, during 1987, international understanding of the question of Palestine and support for the attainment and exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights had continued to grow. At the same time, in the region, tension and violence had continued to mount, with tragic consequences. The Seminar considered that the present situation demanded renewed and intensified collective international efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive, just and lasting solution. Urgent positive action by the Security Council was required on the recommendations formulated by the Committee in its first report, submitted in 1976 and endorsed by the General Assembly, as well as the recommendations adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva in 1983. The peaceful solution of this long-standing conflict and the attainment of justice and security for all, based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, remained a primary and urgent responsibility of the United Nations.

The Seminar took note with appreciation of the efforts of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to secure universal recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and of its recommendations for ensuring the exercise by the Palestinian people of those rights. The Seminar also noted with satisfaction the increased support at the United Nations for the programme of action undertaken by the Committee. It urged the international community to sustain and strengthen its support for the Committee's activities and endeavours, in particular its efforts for facilitating 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.

The Seminar expressed its grateful appreciation for 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 his report (A/42/714-S/19249) and expressed full support for his intention to maintain his special efforts and continue to explore with the parties ways of advancing the process. The Secretary-General, in his report, had stated that "the inability of the Government of Israel as a whole to agree to the principle of an international conference under United Nations auspices" remained a major obstacle. The Seminar concluded that the Government of Israel, along with the Government of the United States, opposed compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. In that context, the Seminar urged the Governments of Israel and the United States to reconsider their negative attitudes towards the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

The Seminar was of the view that the recent adoption of Amendment No. 940 by the United States Senate making unlawful the establishment and maintenance of offices of the PLO in the United States ignored the fact that the PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations was present in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974. Furthermore, that legislation was contrary to the Headquarters Agreement between the host country and the United Nations. The Seminar was also of the view that the closure of the PLO Observer Mission to the United Nations would mean the elimination of an important institution contributing to the search for peace in the Middle East.

The Seminar expressed its strong protest against the reported Israeli military actions against Lebanon as well as the new wave of oppression of Palestinians in the occupied territories. It demanded that those actions should cease immediately and requested the Security Council to undertake every effort under the Charter of the United Nations in order to put an end to the causes of violence and the use of force.

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 convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East without further delay.

The Seminar viewed the results of the eighteenth session of the Palestine National Council, held in April 1987 at Algiers, as a significant contribution to 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 PLO for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

The Seminar recalled with appreciation the support that Governments and peoples of Latin America had extended at the United Nations and in other forums to the Palestinian cause and for the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. It agreed that efforts should be continued and intensified to mobilize the official and public opinion in the Latin American region, as well as in other regions of the world, especially through the use of the media and activities of non-governmental organizations. The United Nations should undertake additional efforts to disseminate factual and up-to-date information on the question of Palestine, the plight of Palestinians under occupation or in exile, and the measures required to be taken for the achievement of a just solution to the question of Palestine on the basis of the attainment by the Palestinian people in Palestine of its inalienable rights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights had an important role in the dissemination of such information. Moreover, the United Nations Department of Public Information should make every effort to ensure that accurate information on the question of Palestine received the widest possible dissemination and should ensure adequate representation of Latin American journalists in its annual fact-finding missions to the Middle East.

It was important that governmental media and international news agencies should play a more objective role in providing balanced reporting on the Middle East and, in particular, on the plight of the Palestinian 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 encouraged to give wider coverage and objective treatment to the question of Palestine.

Notes

1/ A/42/877-S/19337.

2/ A/43/73-S/19394.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/42/35).

4/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August - 7 September 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/83.I.21), chap. I, sect. B.

5/ A/42/714-S/19249.

6/ See A/42/779-S/19274, annex.

7/ A/42/277-S/18849 and A/42/714-S/19249.

8/ S/PV.2770.

9/ S/19333.

10/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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

12/ See A/42/858-S/19322.

13/ See A/42/892-S/19348.

14/ See A/42/899-S/19360.
