



## 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 13 April 1988, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/302-S/19769), the Acting Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People drew urgent attention to the intensification of repression by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. The full text of the letter is 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 most urgent attention to the intensification of repression by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the deportation of persons, the demolition of houses, the imposition of curfews over long periods, restrictions on media coverage, and other measures. Live ammunition continues to be used indiscriminately and widely against demonstrators. The growing death toll of Palestinians due to Israeli gunfire has now reached at least 138 since the beginning of the uprising in early December.

"The Committee, in particular, strongly deplores the expulsion of eight Palestinians to southern Lebanon, and the decision by the Israeli authorities to deport another 12 Palestinians, as reported in The New York Times of 12 April 1988. Such deportations are taking place in defiance of Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), which strongly requested Israel, the occupying Power, to abide by its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories, and to ensure the return of those already deported.

"According to The New York Times of 13 April 1988, the eight deportees are: Khalil Kuka, Hassan Abu Shakra and Abdel Aziz Odeh, religious leaders in Gaza; Furayi Khalil Khayri, a union leader in Gaza; Adil Bahir Hamad, a youth leader in the Kalandia refugee camp in the West Bank; Mohammed Abu Samara, a student in Gaza; and Jamayel Shatti Hindi and Abdul Nasser Affo from the West Bank, accused by the army of being associated with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"While the army is reportedly accusing the deportees of being 'leading activists in terrorist organizations involved in incitement and subversive activities', The New York Times reported on 12 April 1988 that according to Israeli television, a major reason for the expulsions was 'to rehabilitate the deterrent power of the army in the eyes of the residents of the territories'.

"It was also reported that six of those designated for future deportations are from the village of Beita, where the army has engaged in massive repression following a confrontation between Israeli settlers and Palestinian villagers during which an Israeli

girl was killed. While early reports had accused Palestinians of stoning the girl to death, the army later revealed that she had been killed by a shot fired in panic by an armed Israeli guard, who had also provoked the confrontation by killing a Palestinian farmer outside the village. It was also reported that Palestinians had tried to protect the Israeli children during the confrontation. Nevertheless, the army has taken measures of collective punishment against the entire village, razing 14 houses, uprooting hundreds of trees, and placing the village under curfew.

"In view of the gravity of these developments, the Committee wishes once again to express its utmost concern at the intensification by Israel, the occupying Power, of its repressive policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, which are in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, international human rights instruments and United Nations resolutions. These policies and practices pose further obstacles to international efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Palestine question.

"The Committee reiterates its appeal to you to take all possible measures for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under occupation, and to intensify your efforts towards 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 item 37 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council."

On 14 April, the Committee sponsored a press conference to give an opportunity to an emergency delegation sent to the occupied territories by the North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC) to report on its findings.\* The Acting Chairman made the following statement (GA/PAL/385):

"In repeated letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, and in several statements made before the Security Council, our Committee has expressed the most serious concern at the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied Palestinian territories. In the past few months, since the Palestinian uprising began, the death toll from gunfire by the Israeli army has reached at least 138 Palestinians, including women and children. As you know, the Israeli authorities have engaged in increasingly severe punitive measures against the population as a whole, including mass arrests, beatings, bans on food and fuel supplies, extended curfews, cutting of international telephone links, stringent curbs on travel, the

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\*For more information on the fact-finding mission, see below, p. 31.

demolition of houses and uprooting of trees, as well as economic and financial sanctions.

"Three days ago, the Israeli authorities deported eight Palestinian leaders to southern Lebanon, in total disregard of Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) adopted in January 1988 which reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories and called upon Israel to rescind the deportation orders, to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of those already deported, and to desist forthwith from further deportations of Palestinian civilians. As you are aware, the Security Council resumed its consideration of the item this morning in view of the gravity of the situation.

"Our Committee has continued to reiterate its position that these policies and practices of the occupying Power are in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention, international human rights instruments, and United Nations resolutions. The recourse to growing repression poses further obstacles to international efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which is the primary objective of our Committee and of the United Nations as a whole. In view of the gravity of the situation, it is imperative for all concerned to take all possible measures for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians under occupation, and to redouble the efforts towards the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

"In its continuing efforts to promote such a comprehensive solution and to mobilize public support for the just cause of the Palestinian people, our Committee has strengthened its co-operation with non-governmental organizations in all regions. We are firmly convinced that an informed and aroused public opinion can make a great contribution to the achievement of our objectives, and that non-governmental organizations and the representatives of the media have an invaluable role to play in this respect."

II. SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERS THE SITUATION IN THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AN ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE  
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF TUNISIA

On 30 March 1988, the Council met at the request of the Arab Group to discuss the situation in the occupied territories. The Chairman of the Committee took part in the Council's debate and delivered the following statement (see S/PV.2804):

"My delegation would first like to welcome the Arab ministerial delegation, headed by H.E. Mr. Ahred Taleb Ibrahim, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria. We are convinced that with their advice, we shall be able to provide a wise solution to the question now before the Council.

"We are meeting to consider the situation in the occupied Arab territories at a time when mankind is experiencing a spiritual event with international dimensions: the Jewish Passover and the Christian Easter. This offers us an opportunity of thinking about peace, solidarity and better understanding among nations. And it will soon be the holy month of Ramadan which, for the Muslim community, is also a period of much reflection on the aims I have just mentioned. There is an interconnection here that we should bear in mind in our deliberations designed to restore peace, justice and stability to a troubled part of the Middle East.

"A little over three months ago - in December last - when the uprising by Palestinians was beginning to gain momentum in the occupied Arab territories, particularly Gaza and the West Bank, the Security Council met and once again denounced the brutal and repressive behaviour of Israeli troops. When we participated then in the Council's deliberations, we sought, both as representative of Senegal and as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to voice our refusal to see the situation in Palestine deteriorate and to witness this threat to international peace and security without the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, being able to shoulder its responsibilities.

"Today the Council is resuming its work at a particularly critical time in the development of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and throughout the region. In this connection, I have today addressed to you, Mr. President, and to the Secretary-General, a letter drawing attention to the further deterioration of the situation in that region.

"Over the past four months, the Security Council has been convened several times to consider this extremely distressing situation. All those initiatives have been based not only on our faith in and our devotion to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations but also, and above all, on our determination to find, within the United Nations framework, a just, lasting and negotiated solution to the Middle East problem, the core of which is the Palestinian question.

"The problem that we face now is particularly serious since the constant deterioration of the situation, characterized in particular by the continuing violence and, above all, the murders and assassinations that continue to be committed by the occupation army, has not yet induced the Security Council to take the measures necessary to protect the Palestinians and safeguard international peace and security.

"As we stated in the Council and in the General Assembly when introducing the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, if the United Nations delayed in acting to find a solution to the Palestinian question, violence would increase to the point of constituting a threat to peace and stability in the region and in the world. The tragic events that are now occurring in the occupied territories, unfortunately, have confirmed that statement.

"The United Nations certainly does have a responsibility with respect to the realization of the aspirations and rights of the Palestinian people and to the protection of that people. We now believe that it is for the Security Council to take action on the recommendations adopted by consensus at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva in September 1983, and approved repeatedly by an increasing majority in the General Assembly, for, inter alia, an international peace conference on the Middle East. We should like to remind members once again that those recommendations are objectively based on the internationally recognized principles that relate to the Palestinian problem, which is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Almost the entire international community believes that the convening of that conference remains an urgent necessity. This opinion is expressed not only in the United Nations, but also in the decisions and statements that have been made by a large number of intergovernmental organizations, such as the League of Arab States, whose Secretary-General we have just heard, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the European Economic Community, and more recently, the session of the Council of Ministers of the Islamic Conference, held last week in Amman, apart from other statements made by representatives of countries. In this respect, I am thinking in particular of the statement made by the Soviet Union last month on this same question. When we look at this question, I think we should bear in mind all the proposals that have been submitted, since they are based on a desire to participate in finding a just and lasting solution to this conflict. We hope that the initiative taken by the United States will be given proper consideration, to the extent that it respects the sacred principles concerning Palestinian rights.

"On behalf of the delegation of Senegal and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, we should like once again to stress that the question of Palestine has entered a critical phase. We urge that increased efforts should be

undertaken to provide a just and lasting solution to this question and that an end be put to the unacceptable situation of the Palestinian people.

"My delegation and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People are convinced that an international peace conference on the Middle East, which has been given unanimous support, offers all interested parties considerable opportunity to participate in negotiations that should lead to a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis. We therefore urgently appeal to all members of this Council to make a positive contribution to the adoption of appropriate measures so that the policy of dialogue can be followed by all the interested parties to put an end to this tragic situation which has continued for more than 40 years.

"As I stated more than a month ago, it is high time for an honourable peace to be found. That peace cannot be exclusively Arab or Israeli. It should be Arab-Israeli, a peace guaranteed by the United Nations, through sincere and constructive negotiations. It is therefore our duty and our responsibility to work tirelessly to bring about this noble objective.

On 14 April 1988, the Council resumed consideration of the subject and heard the following statement from the Acting Chairman of the Committee (see S/PV.2805):

"Today's meeting marks the fifth time since the beginning of this year and the sixth time since last December that the Security Council has had to meet to review the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. This demonstrates the deep concern with which the international community views Israeli policies and practices in the region, which have been universally repudiated. In a number of resolutions adopted since last December, the Security Council has unanimously reaffirmed 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. It has called upon Israel, as the occupying Power, to abide by that Convention immediately and scrupulously and to desist forthwith from its policies and practices that are in contravention of the Convention and that have caused fatalities and injuries among defenceless Palestinian civilians. The Council has also called upon Israel to rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those already deported, as well as to desist forthwith from deporting any other Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories.

"Notwithstanding those resolutions and the emphatic appeals addressed to Israel by the entire international community, the Israeli authorities have continued and intensified their policy of suppression, which is aimed at the whole of the Palestinian population and designed to crush the opposition by military means.



"In a number of letters addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, as well as in a number of statements made in the Council, our Committee has voiced its growing concern over the escalation of repressive measures by Israel, the occupying Power. In the past few months, since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising, the number of Palestinians who have died as a result of Israeli army gunfire has risen to at least 138. They include women and children. Many others have died as a result of beatings or the inhalation of tear gas, and hundreds have been wounded.

"The Israeli authorities have resorted to increasingly drastic measures of collective punishment, including mass arrests, beatings, the interruption of supplies of food and fuel, prolonged curfews, the cutting of international telephone lines, severe travel restrictions, the demolition of houses and the uprooting of trees and economic and financial sanctions. The activity of the media has been restricted over large areas in order to prevent the international public and the Israeli people from observing the extent of the abuses of human rights in the occupied territories.

"Three days ago the Israeli authorities deported eight Palestinian leaders to southern Lebanon, ignoring Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988), adopted in January. The deportation has been ordered of another 12 Palestinians, six from the village of Beita, where the Israeli army has adopted extensive measures of collective punishment to avenge the recent death of a young Israeli girl, even though the Israeli army itself has stated that she was killed accidentally by her bodyguard, and not by Palestinians, as had originally been reported. According to recent reports, the Israeli authorities have declared that they will continue the deportations as a deterrent and that they will apply whatever measures they deem necessary to crush the uprising.

"In the light of those grave events, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes to put on record again its condemnation of those policies and practices of the occupying Power, which contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention, international instruments on human rights and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Israel's resort to mounting repression presents new obstacles to the international efforts to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine, which is the main goal of our Committee and of the United Nations as a whole. The situation is so serious that all those concerned must use every possible means to guarantee the security and protection of the Palestinian civilians living under occupation; it is so serious that we must redouble our joint efforts to secure the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C. We wish to reiterate that such a conference is the most practical and most widely accepted proposal for bringing about a solution to this long-standing problem. We urge the Council to take measures to that end before it is too late.

"On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I appeal to the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations in his report (S/19443) of 21 January this year, so that the necessary humanitarian assistance can be provided to the long-suffering Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

On 15 April 1988, at its 2806th meeting, the Council again took up consideration of the situation in the occupied territories and had a draft resolution before it, submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia (S/19780), the text of which reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Expressing its grave concern over the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

"Recalling the report of the Secretary-General of 21 January 1988 (S/19443),

"Having been apprised of the deportation by Israel, the occupying Power, of eight civilian Palestinians on 11 April 1988 and of its decision to continue the deportation of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories,

"Gravely concerned and alarmed by the measures adopted by Israel against the civilian Palestinian people and its persistent policy of taking measures of collective punishment, such as the recent demolition of homes in the village of Beita,

"Also expressing grave concern over the action taken by the forces of the occupying Power against Sheikh Saad Eddin Al-Alami, Head of the Supreme Islamic Council, who was assaulted and beaten in the Haram Al Shareef in Jerusalem on 1 April 1988,

"Reaffirming once again that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to Palestinian and other Arab territories, occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Recalling in particular the provisions of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and expressing alarm that Israel has continued to transfer its civilian population into the territory it occupies and has equipped those settlers with arms, which have been used against the civilian Palestinian people,

"1. Urges 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;

"2. Urges further Israel to rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians and ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those already deported;

"3. Urges once again Israel to desist forthwith from deporting Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories;

"4. Condemns those policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, that 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;

"5. Affirms the urgent need to achieve, under the auspices of the United Nations, a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, an integral part of which is the Palestinian problem, and expresses its determination to work towards that end;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit periodic reports on the situation in the occupied territories, including those aspects relating to endeavours 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."

The vote was 14 in favour to one against (United State of America) with no abstentions, and the resolution was not adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.

On 21, 22 and 25 April 1988, the Council considered a complaint by Tunisia, contained in a letter to the Council President (S/19798) concerning "the situation created by [Israel's] new deliberate attack on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Tunisia". The complaint charged that on 16 April, an Israeli commando unit had broken into the house in suburban Tunis of Khalil al-Wazir, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and assassinated him in the presence of his wife and daughter.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in his capacity as representative of Senegal, took part in the debate and made the following statement on 21 April 1988 (see S/PV.2807):

"My country was shocked and indignant to learn of the latest act of aggression against a friendly, peaceful country, Tunisia. Once again, there has been a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country member of the United Nations. That act is indefensible in international law. My country expresses its solidarity with the Tunisian people, and we take this opportunity to express our great concern that there should be no similar violations of Tunisian territory in the future.

"The violation of Tunisian territorial integrity resulted in the assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, a highly placed leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). His assassination has been condemned by the whole international community.

"The presence amongst us of H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ahmed Mestiri, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Tunisia, clearly reflects the concern of the Tunisian authorities over this two-fold act: the violation of a State's territorial integrity and terrorism.

"Respect for the territorial integrity of States is a guiding principal of the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly, in its relevant resolutions, has categorically condemned terrorism.

"There is no need to describe again the facts giving rise to this meeting. Nor shall I go into the evidence directly implicating Israel. Other speakers have already done so eloquently and authoritatively. I shall simply mention the following facts.

"There is conclusive information showing that there is no shadow of a doubt, either amongst Arabs or Israelis, that Israel deliberately violated Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"Secondly, the scale of the means used and the consummate professionalism of the perpetrators excludes the possibility of a group of individuals acting in an isolated way.

"Those facts are of great concern to my Government because of their consequences for the credibility of a number of principles on which the present international order is based.

"We regard the murder of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir as a definite act of terrorism. The fact that it was sponsored by a State Member of our Organization and carried out on the territory of another gives the situation a peculiar character of its own.

"While international terrorism is in and of itself a scourge that must be combatted, State-sponsored terrorism is the most dangerous form for the stability of relations between States and the maintenance of international peace and security.

"The Security Council must unequivocally condemn, on the one hand, the repeated violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty and, on the other hand, the assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, as a terrorist act that the international community finds intolerable. Such condemnation would be in keeping with the principles defined by the Security Council in its resolutions 573 (1985) and 579 (1985) and by the General Assembly in its resolutions 40/61 of 9 December 1985 and 42/159 of 7 December 1987.

"My country's respect for the human person draws its strength from the humanist traditions of Senegalese society and the

fundamental provisions of our Constitution, which provides, among other things, that the human person is sacred and the State has the duty to respect and protect it. That is why Mr. al-Wazir's murder cannot fail to arouse our condemnation.

"We also fully condemn the flagrant violation of the territorial integrity and independence of Tunisia, a friendly country and a Member of the United Nations, well known for its devotion to peace and co-operation between nations. The infiltration of commandos from Israel and the carrying out of murder on Tunisian soil violate all the rules of international law and the spirit and letter of the Charter of our Organization.

"Senegal wishes once again to express to the delegation of Tunisia the sympathy and solidarity of the fraternal people of Senegal at this difficult time. We also wish to convey our condolences to the PLO, the bereaved family of Mr. al-Wazir and the families of the other victims.

"Before I conclude, I should like to say a few words about what seems to me to be the source of all these tragic events - the situation in the Middle East. The violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the assassination of a highly-placed Palestinian leader, are brutal reminders of the imperative need to find a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, at the core of which is the question of Palestine. While we lack a political solution guaranteeing the Palestinians the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and the creation of a State, and guaranteeing that all the States of the region may live in peace within secure and recognized borders, it will be difficult to halt the cycle of violence that, for more than 40 years, has sown death and disarray in that part of the world.

"The cause of peace is not served by the assassination of political leaders, deportations, collective punishments and the muzzling of the press to meet the needs of repression. Such acts simply postpone the reaching of a peaceful settlement and cast doubt on the ability of the United Nations to find just and lasting solutions to conflicts that are a constant threat to international peace and security.

"Senegal continues to believe in the possibility of a political solution to the Middle East conflict. Such a solution should be sought within the framework of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as laid down in many General Assembly resolutions. As in the past, my country will continue to make its modest contribution to efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

On 25 April, at its 2810th meeting, by a vote of 14 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (United States of America), the Council adopted the following resolution (resolution 611(1988)), submitted by Algeria, Argentina, Nepal, Senegal, Yugoslavia and Zambia:

"The Security Council,

"Having considered the letter dated 19 April 1988 (S/19798), in which Tunisia made a complaint against Israel following the new act of aggression committed by the latter against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia,

"Having heard the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia,

"Having noted with concern that the aggression perpetrated on 16 April 1988, in the locality of Sidi Bou Said, has caused loss of human life, particularly the assassination of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir,

"Recalling that in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or acting in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

"Considering that in its resolution 573 (1985), adopted following the act of aggression committed on 1 October 1985 by Israel against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia, it has condemned Israel and has demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression or from threatening to do so,

"Gravely concerned by the act of aggression which constitutes a serious and renewed threat to peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean region,

"1. Condemns vigorously the aggression perpetrated on 16 April 1988 against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia, in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and norms of conduct;

"2. Urges Member States to take measures to prevent such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States;

"3. Expresses its determination to take the appropriate steps to ensure the implementation of the present resolution;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report urgently to the Security Council any new elements available to him and relating to this aggression;

"5. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

III. SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN AT ISRAEL'S  
DECISION TO DEPORT EIGHT PALESTINIANS TO SOUTHERN LEBANON

On 12 April 1988, the following statement was issued by the spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (SG/SM/4116):

"The Secretary-General views with grave concern the decision by the Israeli authorities to deport eight Palestinians to southern Lebanon yesterday. He is equally concerned that 12 other Palestinians have received deportation orders. He notes that the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to the territories occupied by Israel, and recalls that Security Council resolution 607 (1988), unanimously adopted on 5 January 1988, called on Israel to refrain from such action.

"The Secretary-General is worried that measures such as deportation, and other forms of collective punishment such as the recent demolition of homes in the village of Beita, will aggravate the tension that prevails in the area. Furthermore, as he stated in his 22 January report to the Security Council (S/19443), these measures are a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. He appeals to Israel, as the occupying Power, to abide by its obligations under this Convention and to rescind the deportation orders. He earnestly hopes that the Palestinians who have been deported will promptly be allowed to return to their homes and families."

IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER APPARENT EVIDENCE OF  
INFRINGEMENT BY ISRAEL OF TUNISIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

On 20 April 1988, the following statement was issued by the spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar (SG/SM/4125):

"The Secretary-General has been informed in Europe of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the President of the Security Council requesting an urgent meeting of the Council and conveying the preliminary results of an investigation carried out by the Tunisian authorities into the circumstances attending the assassination of Mr. Khalid al-Wazir (Abu Jihad). The Secretary-General is very concerned at what appears to be evidence of a further infringement by Israel of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia. He recalls that, in resolution 573 (1985), the Security Council, inter alia, vigorously condemned an earlier act of armed aggression by Israel against Tunisian territory. The Secretary-General has consistently expressed his condemnation of acts of assassination."

V. DECLARATION MADE AT BONN ON 15 APRIL 1988 BY THE  
TWELVE STATES MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
ON ISRAELI PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The following declaration (A/43/318-S/19804) was transmitted to the Secretary-General on 18 April 1988:

"The Twelve have noted with concern recent actions by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories that are likely to have the effect of deepening mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians and of making a peaceful settlement in the region harder to find. They regret the continuing loss of life during the current violence.

"The Twelve deplore the deportation of 8 Palestinians from the occupied territories on 11 April 1988 and the Israeli threat to deport 12 more. As the Twelve expressed in their démarche to the Israeli authorities on 12 January 1988, such action is a clear breach of article 49 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and is in defiance of Security Council resolutions 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) of January 1988. The Twelve deeply deplore the continuing repressive measures taken by Israel, including the destruction of houses, which is in clear contradiction of international law.

"The Twelve furthermore regret the closure on 30 March 1988 by the Israeli authorities of the Palestinian Press Service, which has been an important source of information for those concerned with developments in the occupied territories. The Twelve believe that suppression of facts and restrictions on the freedom of the media will endanger the search for a negotiated solution in the region.

"The Twelve call upon the Israeli authorities to be mindful of the effects such action will have upon the worsening situation in the occupied territories and upon the search for a lasting negotiated peace."



VI. COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AT THE URGENT MEETING TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION CREATED  
BY THE NEW DELIBERATE ATTACK ON THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY  
AND SOVEREIGNTY OF TUNISIA ON 20 APRIL 1988

In a letter dated 20 April 1988 (A/43/323-S/19813), the following communiqué was transmitted to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations:

"An urgent meeting of the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations was held in New York on Wednesday, 20 April 1988, to consider the terrorist assault perpetrated by Israel during the early hours of 16 April 1988 against Tunisia, violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a member State of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and a Member of the United Nations, by attacking under cover of darkness the residence of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization, brutally assassinating him and two other Palestinians and a Tunisian national, with Israeli commando units estimated to number no less than 30, supported by sophisticated naval and aerial coverage.

"The meeting strongly condemned this heinous Israeli terrorist act of aggression against Tunisia, which is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

"The meeting further condemned this repeated act of state terrorism against a hospitable and peaceful sovereign State Member of the United Nations, in total disregard of Security Council resolution 573 (1985) which demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression and requested the States Members of the United Nations to take measures to dissuade Israel from resorting to such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States.

"In this connection, the meeting expressed its support and solidarity with the people and Government of Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the face of this blatant act of aggression and its dangerous consequences. Furthermore, the meeting fully supported Tunisia in its request for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider effective appropriate action against this aggression.

"The meeting noted that this dastardly aggression by Israel against Tunisia coincided with Israel's ongoing campaign of terror conducted by its armed forces and armed Israeli settlers against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories who are subjected to the ugliest forms of terror, oppression, torture, murder, deportation and demolition of houses.

"This act of aggression once again reveals the true fact and expansionist designs of Israel by resorting to savage practices aimed at the total annihilation of the Palestinian people.

"The Israeli excessive practices and attempts to suppress the Palestinian national uprising, climaxed by the most recent violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Tunisia and the assassination of one of the leaders of the Palestinian people, justify the most urgent need of the international community to help bring about an urgent, just and peaceful settlement of the Palestine question in accordance with all the United Nations resolutions and the attainment of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people to return to its homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of its independent State on its national territory.

"In this connection, the meeting reiterated the resolutions of the previous Islamic Conference, including that of the recent seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers - 'session of Islamic solidarity with the uprising of the Palestine people' - held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3 to 7 Sha'ban 1480H, corresponding to 21 to 25 March 1988.

"The meeting reiterated its full support and solidarity with the Government and people of Tunisia and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

VII. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON 21 APRIL 1988 BY THE CO-ORDINATING  
BUREAU OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES

On 21 April 1988, the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed the following communique to the Secretary-General (A/43/327-S/19820):

"The Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held an urgent meeting on 21 April 1988 in order to consider the situation created by the new deliberate attack on the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Tunisia.

"The Bureau vehemently condemned the terrorist assault perpetrated by Israel during the early hours of 16 April 1988 against Tunisia, violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this member State of the Movement and of the United Nations, by attacking under cover of darkness the residence of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), brutally assassinating him and other Palestinian and Tunisian nationals by means of Israeli commando units, estimated to number no less than 30, supported by sophisticated naval and aerial coverage.

"The Bureau further condemned this repeated act of state terrorism against a hospitable and peaceful sovereign State Member of the United Nations in total disregard of Security Council resolution 573 (1985), which demanded that Israel refrain from perpetrating such acts of aggression and requested the States Members of the United Nations to take measures to dissuade Israel from resorting to such acts against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States. The Bureau expressed its support and solidarity with the people and Government of Tunisia and the PLO in the face of this blatant act of aggression and its dangerous consequences. In this regard, it expressed its full support for Tunisia's request for an urgent meeting of the Security Council in order to consider appropriate and effective action against Israel.

"The Bureau noted that the Israeli 'iron-fist' policies and practices and attempts to suppress the Palestinian national uprising, climaxed by the most recent violation of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Tunisia and the assassination of one of the leaders of the Palestinian people, justify the most urgent need for the international community to help to bring about an urgent, just, peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question in accordance with all the United Nations resolutions and the attainment of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people to return to its homeland, to self-determination and the establishment of its independent State on its national territory.

"The Bureau reaffirmed the active solidarity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with the people and Government of Tunisia, victims of Israeli aggression, and with the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative.

VIII. DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA FOLLOWING THE DESECRATION  
OF THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE AND THE ASSAULT ON THE MUFTI OF  
AL-QUDS (JERUSALEM) BY ISRAELI OCCUPATION FORCES ON 1 APRIL 1988

The following declaration (A/43/340-S/19846) was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations on 28 April 1988:

"Following the connivance of the Zionist occupation authorities with the Zionists known as the "Faithful of the Temple Mount" and the granting of permission to them to hold their prayers in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which constitutes blatant aggression against the Haram al-Sharif, the third holiest shrine in Islam; after the attack by occupation troops on Friday, 1 April 1988, on his eminence the Mufti of Al-Quds, President of the Supreme Islamic Council and President of the Council for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, which is a heinous violation of what is held sacrosanct by all Muslims, inasmuch as he is a mighty spiritual symbol for them; inasmuch as the Zionist occupation authorities have continued the deportation of Palestinian citizens from their land, thereby depriving them of their most elementary human right, namely the right to citizenship, security and stability;

"Therefore, the Supreme Islamic Council of the Republic of Tunisia:

"1. Declares its extreme condemnation of these aggressive and inhumane practices, which have reached such extremes that the Muslims of the world can no longer tolerate them or remain silent concerning them;

"2. Addresses a fervent appeal to free men of conscience throughout the world and defenders of principles and values to censure these Zionist attacks on the holy places of Islam and of mankind in usurped Palestine and on the leaders of this country and the generality of its citizens, old, young, women and children, in its attempt to crush their tremendous uprising, which is, in actuality, a defence of their existence and of the sanctity of the occupation-sullied homeland and a defence of the usurped rights of its people;

"3. Addresses you and all other international organizations and institutions in order to express its firm hope that you will take the necessary steps and adopt positive stands to put a stop to the Zionist practices, halt the series of violations, which are now innumerable, guarantee the safety of Islamic landmarks and holy places and the rest of occupied Palestine, ensure security for Palestinian citizens, particularly their spiritual leaders, and establish them in their blessed land."

IX. NINETEENTH UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON THE  
QUESTION OF PALESTINE, HELD AT BERLIN,  
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, FROM 25 TO 29 APRIL 1988

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People accepted the offer of the Government of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to hold the Nineteenth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine (Fourth European Regional Seminar) entitled "The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people". The Seminar was held at the Palasthotel, Berlin, from 25 to 29 April 1988, in accordance with the terms of General Assembly resolution 42/66 B of 2 December 1987.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Alexander Borg Olivier (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee, head of the delegation; Mr. Tom Obaleh Kargbo (Sierra Leone); Mr. Alberto Velazco-San José (Cuba); Mr. Dirk Hielscher (GDR); and Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi (Palestine Liberation Organization). Mr. Borg Olivier served as Chairman, Mr. Velazco-San José as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Kargbo as Rapporteur of the Seminar.

The opening session of the Seminar was attended by the President of the forty-second session of the General Assembly, Mr. Peter Florin.

Eight meetings were held and 14 panelists presented papers on selected aspects of the question of Palestine. In addition, representatives of 37 Governments, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), 3 United Nations organs, 4 United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, one intergovernmental organization as well as observers of 5 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the Seminar.

The opening session of the Seminar was addressed by Mr. Oskar Fischer, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the GDR, and a message was received from the General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, H.E. Mr. Erich Honecker, which was read out by the Chairman of the Seminar.

At the opening session, statements were also made by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Under-Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed, and by H.E. Mr. Alexander Borg Olivier, Chairman of the Seminar.

A message was received from Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, and read out by Mr. Isam Kamel Salem, Ambassador of the PLO to the GDR. In addition, a statement was made by Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

The Seminar also heard statements from Mrs. Shi Yanhua (China), representing the United Nations Council for Namibia, Mr. Emmanuel Douma (Congo), 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, Mr. Dirk Hielscher (GDR), representing the

Special Committee against Apartheid, and Mr. Achim Reichardt, General Secretary of the Solidarity Committee of the GDR. The Seminar also received a message by the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, Mr. Daya Perera.

On its own part, the Seminar adopted messages to Mr. Erich Honecker, Chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, and to Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

Three panels were established. These panels and their panelists were as follows:

(a) Panel I: "The Uprising in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: The Urgency of Convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 38/58 C":

Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout (Palestinian), Mr. Dragan Jovanic (Yugoslavia), Mr. Igor M. Khvorostiany (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mr. Vladimir I. Kisselyov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. Roberto Mesa (Spain) and Mr. Ingo Schoenfelder (GDR);

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

Mr. Yusif Sayegh (Palestinian);

(c) Panel III: "The Question of Palestine and European Public Opinion":

Mr. Mikko Lohikoski (Finland), Mr. Ion Margineanu (Romania), Mr. Lothar Pilz (GDR), Mr. Mümtaz Soysal (Turkey), Mr. Jörgen Stromberg (Sweden), Mr. Paolo Ungari (Italy) and Mr. Nicolas Voulelis (Greece).

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.

#### Conclusions and recommendations

The Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories confirms that the Palestinians are determined to reject and resist Israeli domination and occupation. The Palestinian people is struggling to preserve and protect its identity and its land and to regain and freely exercise its inalienable national rights to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent State of its own in Palestine.

While strenuous attempts have been made to bring about a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the region remains intractable. It is further aggravated by Israel's reaction to the Palestinian uprising in using military might to quell the demands by the Palestinian people for the exercise of its inalienable human and national rights. Israel continues 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 has further stifled all forms of political, cultural, social and economic expressions of the Palestinian people. Israel continues to strengthen its control over most aspects of life, with the objective of obstructing a self-sustained development of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories by turning those territories into a dependent entity with the aim of their final absorption and annexation. Such policies are in violation of United Nations resolutions, the Geneva Conventions of 1949, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention, and other norms of international law and exacerbate tension in the area, thus hindering attempts to find a peaceful solution to the question of Palestine.

The Seminar agreed that the role of the PLO derives from the inalienable right of the Palestinians to Palestine, their right to identify with it, to live on its soil as a community and national entity, with its social structure and its economic life. It derives from the collective will of the Palestinians, both on Palestinian territory and outside of it, that the PLO is their legitimate and sole representative. Those two factors are the source of the legitimacy of the PLO and the determinant of the complex role it has to play. The record of the PLO confirms and solidifies that legitimacy and has won the recognition, first of all by the Arab States and, in due course, by more than 100 other States, that the PLO is the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinians. Among the exceptions to this significant development is Israel, the United States and South Africa.

The international community is becoming more deeply convinced of the need to find an immediate political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is evidenced by the growing support for the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C as the only realistic and reliable means of achieving such a settlement. That support is clearly reflected in the position adopted by the PLO, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European Community, the Nordic countries, as well as by the USSR, China and other socialist countries. In that regard, the Seminar emphasized in particular the sustained and continuing support by the European socialist and non-aligned countries for the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights and the convening of the International Peace Conference on the basis of General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

The Seminar appreciated the evolving position of Western European and Nordic countries in support of a comprehensive settlement and the convening of the International Peace Conference as expressed in the official statements by the European Community and the Nordic countries. It took also into account the position of the European Parliament in that regard and expressed the hope that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will undertake further endeavours with a view that the countries of Western Europe will play an even more active role in bringing about a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, guaranteeing the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights.

The Seminar concluded that the way to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is by convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and in conformity with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, which endorsed the Geneva Declaration adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva in 1983. There was concurrence that a careful examination of the components of that resolution, which was based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, and took into account all relevant United Nations resolutions, included the objective, the political elements, the framework of, and the participants in the International Peace Conference, ensures the credibility and applicability of that project to produce a durable solution. It is the only prescription that could claim to have the ingredients for a just solution to the conflict, for the transformation of the military conflict into peaceful political platforms. Among the parties involved in the Middle East conflict, Israel and the United States are the only ones rejecting that path.

The Seminar expressed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Security Council of the United Nations to bring about a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and in particular, to facilitate the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Attention was drawn to the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/19443 of 21 January 1988), as requested by resolution 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, describing the existing situation in the occupied territories and indicating action to be taken by the international community to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people under occupation and to rectify the causes of the present situation through a peaceful negotiated settlement. The Seminar urged the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to take the necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of those action. Attention was also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/43/272) on the current situation regarding the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. In that context, the Seminar urged the Governments of Israel and the United States to reconsider their negative attitudes towards the convening of the Conference in conformity with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C.

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 its recommendations for ensuring the exercise by the Palestinian people of those rights. The Seminar expressed its satisfaction that the Committee had organized the Seminar for Europe and the suggestion was made that the Committee should intensify its efforts so that the next European Seminar could be held in a Western European country. 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. At the same time, all countries must act and make their own contributions towards the convening of the International Peace Conference.



Although Israel and the United States are not yet convinced of the usefulness of the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, overall international conditions for accomplishing that task are not unfavourable. Additional efforts toward the political, negotiated settlement of regional conflict are essential. The hope was expressed that the forthcoming summit meeting of General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan would lead to a healthier international climate and produce tangible progress for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core, the question of Palestine.

The Seminar condemned the brutal assassination by Israeli special forces in Tunis of Khalil al-Wazir, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Palestinian armed forces, and the open violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia. In that regard, the Seminar was apprised of the deliberations of the Security Council and noted with appreciation the adoption of resolution 611 (1988) of 25 April 1988. The Seminar expressed its condolences to the PLO and the family of al-Wazir. It was of the view that that outrageous act of State terrorism, which has been condemned by the international community, would not deter the Palestinian people from its path to secure and exercise its inalienable rights.

The Seminar expressed its serious concern over the attempts by the United States Administration to close the Permanent Observer Mission of the PLO to the United Nations in complete disregard of its legal obligations under the Headquarters Agreement. The position of the General Assembly in its resolution on that issue was unequivocally supported. The hope was expressed that that dispute between the United States and the United Nations could be resolved in accordance with the provision of the Headquarters Agreement and on the basis of the principles of international law. The Seminar took note of the Advisory Opinion unanimously adopted by the International Court of Justice which affirmed that the United States was obliged to enter into the settlement procedure under article 21 of the Headquarters Agreement. The Seminar expressed the hope that the United States would act accordingly.

The Seminar recalled with appreciation the support that Governments and peoples of Europe have 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 official and public opinion in Europe, and in particular in Western Europe, as well as in other regions of the world, especially through the use of the media and activities of NGOs. 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 of its inalienable rights. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights have 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 European journalists in its annual fact-finding missions to the Middle East.

The Seminar was apprised of the activities of the European Co-ordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine and expressed its appreciation for the manifold activities undertaken by that Committee. Regarding the co-operation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People with the European Co-ordinating Committee and European NGOs in general, the following suggestions were made:

(a) To encourage the United Nations to strengthen its co-operation with the NGO community in all ways possible. In that respect, the decision that the United Nations is planning to organize regional European NGO symposia annually was noted with appreciation;

(b) To encourage visits by representatives of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to national events organized by various NGOs;

(c) To foster efforts to produce and update existing factual information material on the question of Palestine about the various aspects of the life of the Palestinian people, its organizations, national identity, culture, etc.;

(d) To promote to the extent possible the translation of those publications in languages other than the official languages of the United Nations;

(e) To facilitate a closer dialogue between NGOs and Governments for exchange of information and views.

It is 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, peace movements, churches and other religious establishments, as well as national and international NGOs, have a crucial role to play in the formation of public opinion, especially in Western Europe, the United States and Israel. Those institutions should be encouraged to give wider coverage and objective treatment to the question of Palestine.

## X. NGO ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION

### 1. NGO Symposia and meetings scheduled by the United Nations for the second half of 1988

(a) The North American Regional NGO Symposium will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 29 June to 1 July 1988. There will be two panels on: "The Uprising in the Occupied Palestinian Territories: The Urgency of Convening the International Peace Conference in Accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C"; and on "Implications of United States legislation affecting the promotion in the United States and the United Nations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

In addition, ample time has been allocated for ten action-oriented workshops under the general title "Overcoming Obstacles and Organizing in North America."

The event will immediately follow the twentieth United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine to be held from 27 to 28 June 1988, which NGOs have been invited to attend as observers.

(b) The European Regional NGO Symposium will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 29 and 30 August 1988. There will be a panel on "The Palestinian Uprising and the European commitment to the International Peace Conference" and four action-oriented workshops meeting simultaneously for a total of four hours each.

(c) The International NGO Meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 31 August to 2 September 1988. There will be a panel of eminent persons on the topic "The Consequences of the Uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories and the new urgency of convening the International Peace Conference in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 38/58 C". A second panel consisting of witnesses from the occupied territories is entitled "The consequences of occupation - witnesses from the occupied Palestinian territories - what has happened."

Several of the witnesses as well as other persons from the occupied territories will also conduct five action-oriented workshops under the general topic "Responding to the challenge of the uprising and the search for peace." The workshops will meet simultaneously for a total of six hours each. Time has also been allocated for special interest groups meetings.

### 2. Conferences and Symposia organized by NGOs

The European Interim Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (EICCP), with the support of the Finnish-Arab Friendship Society, organized a meeting of Scandinavian NGOs which was also attended by Palestinian representatives. The meeting was in response to the EICCP objective of organizing sub-regional meetings in the European region.

The EICCP will also organize a meeting at Geneva on 28 August 1988 devoted specifically to the problem of trade unions: relations between NGOs and unions, violation of Palestinian union rights in the occupied territories, and the expression of European trade union solidarity with the Palestinians.

The Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity has undertaken the preparation of a conference on "Peace in the Mediterranean". A symposium on "Palestinian children under occupation" is also being prepared in liaison with Radda Barnen International.

The Refugee Studies' Programme (Oxford, United Kingdom) will hold a symposium entitled "Palestinian Refugees in Gaza and the West Bank" on 8 to 10 July 1988. The Symposium will focus on the legal, social and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The Committee for Palestinian and Jewish Studies (Tokyo, Japan) has organized an international symposium from 13 to 15 May 1988 in Tokyo entitled "International Symposium on different aspects of Israel."

The Norwegian Ecumenical Committee for the Middle East (Oslo, Norway) has organized a conference in Oslo from 6 to 7 May 1988 entitled "The Churches and the Palestinians", with the participation of religious leaders from Israel and the occupied territories, and from Norway. The participants will attempt to define the form that Western churches' involvement with the Palestinians should take.

The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) (London, United Kingdom) held a conference entitled "The Catastrophe: the Uprooting of the Palestinians in 1948" on 9 April 1988 with the participation of eyewitnesses of the events of 1948.

The Evangelische Akademie Tutzing (Tutzing, Federal Republic of Germany), held a conference on the subject "Palestinians: Life Needs Future" on 26 to 28 February 1988, with participants from Europe, Israel and the occupied territories. The conference wrote to the Foreign Ministers of the European Community urging them to take active steps to secure respect for the Geneva Convention by Israel and to work immediately for a political solution of the conflict through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties including the PLO.

Groupe Chrétiens et Proche Orient (Paris, France) organized a conference on 3 March 1988 on the theme "Israelis and Palestinians: Daring for Peace."

The Asociación Nacional Amigos del Pueblo Palestino (Gijon, Spain) was involved in the organization of a number of conferences on the history of Palestine and the uprising in the occupied territories, two of which took place in the Asturias on 9 and 11 March 1988.

### 3. Assistance

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee (Moscow, USSR), together with other Soviet groups, has decided to offer concrete assistance to the Palestinians. In the near future they will hand over medicines, foodstuffs, clothing, footwear, fabric, bedding and other necessities to representatives of the Palestinian people.

The United Holy Land Fund (Chicago, Illinois) has launched an urgent appeal for assistance to help alleviate the exceptional hardships now facing Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Save the Children Federation (Westport, Connecticut, USA) has reported that it is continuing its 10-year old effort to promote community development in the occupied Palestinian territories. Their current emphasis is increasingly on projects in the small-scale enterprise and credit sector, with the objective of addressing what they consider two of the most critical problems in the occupied territories: dependency on Israel for employment and consumer products, and underemployment and unemployment. In response to the uprising, SCF has diverted some of its resources to meet the urgent needs of the population, including distribution of food and medical supplies, development of emergency programmes to deal with the physical abuse; provision of educational materials; and dissemination of information.

The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA) has launched ~~an emergency food relief programme for Gaza and the West Bank~~. The Association runs projects in Gaza in the area of leadership training and refugee day camps.

Yesh Gevul (Jerusalem) has initiated a programme of financial aid to the families of Israeli soldiers imprisoned for refusing duty on grounds of principle.

The Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (Jerusalem) reports that it continues to intensify its efforts to meet the health needs of a population in an ongoing state of tension and conflict. In particular, blood donation and screening campaigns are being organized.

Roots (Reston, VA., USA) reports that in view of the emergency situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, it has put aside its regular activities in order to devote its resources and means to relief work. The organization plans to concentrate in particular on three projects: an ambulance for the Ahali hospital in Gaza; milk for children in refugee camps; and rebuilding demolished houses in Beita and Qabatiya.

#### 4. Public information and mobilization, and protest actions

The International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP) has filed a complaint with the Permanent People's tribunal concerning the violations, by the State of Israel, of the rights of Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The Tribunal will meet in September in Paris to consider the complaint.

The North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC) sponsored a tour of the United States and Canada by Rana Nashishibi from the Union of Palestinian Working Women's Committees in the West Bank. She spoke at several events and brought up-to-date information and eyewitness accounts about the continued Palestinian uprising and about the role and situation of women under occupation.

Several NGO members of the NACC: the American Friends Service Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the International Jewish Peace Union and the Palestine Solidarity Committee have joined with 61 other individual and organizational plaintiffs in Federal District Court in New York to seek a ruling that the United States Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 is

unconstitutional and violates the First Amendment rights of United States citizens. The plaintiff NGOs have also joined with other plaintiffs and interested individuals and organizations to organize a "Task Force for Protection of Palestinian Rights" in order to publicize the case.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee (San Francisco, USA) reports that it is organizing for a National Day of Protest on 4 June 1988 which will involve simultaneous protests in several United States cities focusing on the theme "End the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, stop the killing, beating, imprisonment and expulsion of Palestinians, stop United States funding of the occupation, support the International Peace Conference under the auspices of the United Nations." The Committee also organized a postcard campaign to protest Israel's actions against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Copies of some two thousand postcards sent by individuals in the United States to the Israeli Minister of Defense were received by the United Nations in March and April.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and others joined in demanding that the United States manufacturers of the toxic tear gas being used by Israel against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza stop shipment immediately. The protests included demonstrations, press conferences, and meetings with representatives of Trans-Tech Corporation, which manufactures the gas.

Letters of protest concerning the export to Israel of tear gas grenades were addressed to the Ambassadors to Italy of Austria and the United States by Associazione Medica Italo-Palestinese (Rome, Italy). The organization also called on the Italian Surgeons' and Dentists' Federation to take a stand on the harassment by Israel of hospitals and other medical institutions and medical staff in the occupied territories.

The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace reported in its March-April 1988 newsletter that in the first three months of 1988 dozens of new peace groups have come into existence in Israel and that at the same time older and nearly defunct groups have greatly intensified their activities. Professional associations and large numbers of individuals who were politically inactive have become politicized. The group lists over fifty different types of actions undertaken between January and March by a variety of groups in opposition to the Israeli policies in the occupied territories and in favour of a negotiated settlement, such as petitions, rallies, demonstrations, aid to refugee camps, and other solidarity efforts.

Demonstrations in support of Palestinian rights and against Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories and for the issuance of appeals, action alerts, press releases, and the adoption of resolutions and other forms of protest were reported by many international NGOs, namely, the International Union of Students (Prague, Czechoslovakia); the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violence (Jerusalem); the London Friends of Palestine (London); the Egyptian Committee in Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising; the British Refugee Council (London, United Kingdom); International Federation of Resisters (Vienna, Austria); Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation (Brussels, Belgium); Palaestina Kampagnen (Copenhagen, Denmark); Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (CEDETIM),

International Jewish Peace Union, Justice et Paix, Association de Solidarité Franco-Arabe, Chrétiens du Monde Arabe et leurs Amis (all based in Paris, France); World Council of Churches (Geneva, Switzerland); International League for the Rights and the Liberation of Peoples (Geneva, Switzerland); the United States Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East (New York, USA); Women's International Democratic Federation (Berlin, GDR); Yesh Gevul (Jerusalem); Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (Damascus, Syria); Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (Cairo, Egypt); International Association of Democratic Lawyers (Brussels, Belgium); Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Geneva, Switzerland); Palestine Solidarity Committee (San Francisco, CA., USA).

5. Missions to the area

The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation (Brussels, Belgium) sent a fact-finding mission composed of three members of the European Parliament and three members of national parliaments in the Community to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories in February 1988. The mission concluded that: the Palestinian population is unanimously and firmly in support of the uprising and the PLO; the Israeli authorities have engaged in brutal repression of the uprising; there is an urgent need for the international community and Europe in particular to increase peace efforts; and expressed the conviction that Europe has the means and the possibility to act. In addition, the mission collected factual evidence that the Israeli authorities had violated the existing co-operation agreement with the European Economic Community and were obstructing Palestinian exports from the occupied territories into European Community markets. PAEAC reported that due to efforts by its members, and in light of that evidence, the European Parliament subsequently voted to reject ratification of three additional protocols to the co-operation agreement.

The World Federation of Teachers' Unions (WFTU) reported that an international delegation visited the occupied Palestinian territories from 15 to 23 February 1988. It comprised eight representatives of teachers' unions from Western Europe (Spain, Greece, France, Portugal) and Quebec (Canada), and one representative each from WFTU and the Trade Union International of Public and Allied Employees. The report by WFTU indicated that the members of the delegation were shocked by their findings concerning the brutality of repression in the occupied territories and by the general living conditions of the population under occupation. The report called for teachers' organizations to send additional delegations to the occupied territories in order to verify the situation on the spot, to increase understanding and objective reporting of the situation, to stimulate moral and material solidarity with the Palestinians and to press responsible Israeli policy-makers to recognize Palestinian rights and to end the occupation.

Amnesty International (London, United Kingdom) sent three missions to Israel and the occupied territories between December 1987 and February 1988. Early in December 1987 an Amnesty International delegate visited the country to look into scores of allegations of beatings of Palestinians during 1987 and received many sworn testimonies. In mid-January the organization sent another delegate to Gaza. A three-person mission then visited Israel and the occupied territories in February 1988 for further information on human rights

violations. The mission urgently called for a full independent judicial inquiry into the extensive range of human rights violations by Israeli security forces since the beginning of the demonstrations in December. In particular, the inquiry should investigate every single death at the hands of the security forces; the indiscriminate beatings; the maltreatment of Palestinians in detention; and the methods of riot control used by the authorities. The organization also issued statements expressing concern at the summary justice handed out by the military courts, which violated international standards, and at the use of administrative detention, which it said was being abused to detain prisoners of conscience. In March, Amnesty International took up the cases of six individuals in Israel and the occupied territories who had been so detained without trial and adopted them as prisoners of conscience.

An emergency delegation was sent by the North American Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC) to the West Bank and Gaza from 30 March to 5 April 1988 to monitor events during the closure of the occupied territories and the imposition of a curfew by the occupying Power in connection with the Land Day observances. The delegation held a press conference at United Nations Headquarters, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on 14 April, in the course of which they said that there had been a geometric increase in human rights violations in the occupied territories and repression of human rights organization, as well as detention of human rights workers. There were severe restrictions on the flow of information from the occupied territories. Violence against Palestinians had greatly increased, including the involvement of armed settlers, and there was a great deal of civilian suffering. Particularly disturbing was the case of a toxic form of tear gas which had caused many deaths by suffocation and miscarriages.

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