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[...]

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 30 March 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, which hosted the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, "Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People", held at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3 to 7 Sha'ban A.H. 1408, (corresponding to 21 to 25 March A.D. 1988), I have the honour to transmit herewith the Arabic, English and French texts of the final communiqué adopted by the Conference.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 12, 18, 24, 30, 32, 36, 37, 40, 43, 47, 54, 69, 70, 76, 77, 84, 94, 130, 137 and 138 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

I shall provide you at a future date with the text of the resolutions adopted by the Conference, for circulation as a document of the General Assembly, as indicated above, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Final communiqué of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers,
Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People,
held at Amman from 3-7 Sha'ban 1408 H
(A.D. 21-25 March 1988)

1. The Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People, was held at Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 3-7 Sha'ban 1408 H, corresponding to A.D. 21 to 25 March 1988, pursuant to the warm and brotherly invitation extended by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait in January 1987.

[...]

8. His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan inaugurated the Conference. In his inaugural address, His Majesty,

after extending a warm welcome to the Foreign Ministers and participants of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, stated that they had gathered together to discuss the numerous and varied problems that beset the Ummah. He emphasized that an Ummah faced with such major problems must unite its forces, co-ordinate its efforts, settle its internal differences, train its manpower and utilize all its resources for the benefit of all.

[...]

His Majesty said that colonization policies pursued by Israel were no less perverse than the policy of apartheid practised by the Government of South Africa, which the Arabs and Muslims condemned and opposed with all available means. The uprising of the Palestinian people, His Majesty noted, was not an end in itself nor was it a transient coincidental event, but an expression of the will of a nation to fight for its freedom and right of self-determination on its own land. His Majesty added that the Palestinian people had a rightful claim on the Muslim Ummah to support their uprising both on the national and international levels so that the uprising might bear fruit. Jordan's role in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people was common knowledge. At the international level, Jordan was committed to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences calling for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty was of the view that efforts should be directed towards the crystallization of a definite international position for the convening of an International Peace Conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and on an equal footing.

[...]

10. His Excellency Mr. Filali, the Foreign Minister of Morocco, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, delivered an address in which he expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal, to his Government and the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the efforts that they had undertaken to host the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and paid tribute to His Majesty for his inspiring inaugural address. The Foreign Minister of Morocco was of the view that the periods separating the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Islamic Conference had witnessed a number of developments and events with positive as well as negative impact over the causes of the Islamic world. In the field of common Islamic action he noted that the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference and the Al-Quds Committee chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II had been held during this period. The Extraordinary Session of the Al-Quds Committee had been held to provide support to the uprising of the Palestinian people against the brutal occupation of the Israeli armed forces. He paid tribute to the heroism of young unarmed Palestinian people who were laying down their lives in the cause of freedom. He also noted that the Iran-Iraq conflict had continued despite the efforts exerted to bring it to an end. In this context, he referred to the necessity to implement Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and expressed the hope that the war would stop so as to enable the Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq to live in peace. The Foreign Minister of Morocco wished all success to the deliberations of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

11. His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, then delivered a statement in which he thanked His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal for his patronage of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and for his inspiring inaugural address. The uprising of the unarmed Palestinian people to reject occupation and to assert their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza had been the major event of 1988. Israeli brutality, killings and mass detentions had failed to subdue the unarmed Palestinian youth and had revolted world conscience.

Israel continued arrogantly to reject all efforts to negotiate a comprehensive, just and lasting peace and for years had rejected the proposal of the international community to hold an International Peace Conference. However, the international community remained powerless to act because of the unquestioning and total support of the United States for the Zionist régime.

[...]

12. The Conference thereafter unanimously elected His Excellency Mr. Tahar Al Masri, the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Jordan, as Chairman of the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. On assumption of office, the Chairman delivered an opening address in which he thanked the Ministers for having elected him, by acclamation, as the Chairman of the Conference and welcomed them to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He stated that the preoccupation of the Islamic world had not changed since the First Islamic Summit Conference held at Rabat 19 years ago. Recalling that the cause of Palestine was a permanent item on the agenda of the Islamic Conferences, he expressed the conviction that the Organization would devote all its efforts and energies to supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people against the forces of Zionist occupation.

The Seventeenth Conference was being held close to the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, where the sole weapon of the youth opposing the oppression was their faith in God and the belief that force could not be mightier than right. The shedding of their blood and the breaking of their weaponless arms had not deterred the youth of Palestine from opposing the soldiers of evil.

[...]

The Chairman stated that the problems of the Islamic countries had not made them oblivious to the problems of the rest of the world and referred to the support of the Islamic Ummah for the independence of Namibia and its rejection and condemnation of the abhorrent policies of apartheid pursued by the racist Pretoria régime, which were similar to those of the Zionist regime in Palestine. Similarly the Islamic countries were keenly aware of the economic crisis of Africa, aggravated by famine and drought, and would continue to provide assistance and support to their African brothers.

[...]

14. The Conference also heard a message read out on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations wherein the Secretary-General noted that the Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was taking place at a time when major political issues confronting the Organization were also among the foremost concerns of the United Nations. The intensification of the "war of the cities" between Iran and Iraq had underscored the urgency of bringing the Iran-Iraq war to a swift end in accordance with resolution 598 (1987). The developments in the Israeli-occupied territories were a poignant and tragic reminder of the plight of the Palestinians under occupation and of the need for a solution to the

Palestinian question. The uprising has injected a new sense of urgency into the efforts to promote a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including self-determination, through the holding of an International Conference under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties concerned. The Secretary-General expressed regret over the adoption of legislation by the United States that, if enforced, would impede the functioning of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations. The situation in Lebanon, particularly southern Lebanon, continued to be of concern to him.

[...]

17. The Conference decided unanimously to declare its seventeenth session "The Session of Islamic Solidarity with the Uprising of the Palestinian People" and offered al-Fateha for the souls of Palestinian martyrs.

18. The Conference also adopted a declaration hailing the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories of Palestine and expressing its total support and solidarity with them in their courageous confrontation with the Zionist occupation forces. The heroic uprising had created a new situation and had exposed the true nature of Israel with its fascist practices and its aggressive and expansionist goals. The uprising had convinced the international community of the justice of the Palestinian cause and of the need to bring to an end the Israeli occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories, including the holy city of Al-Quds al-Sharif. The Declaration strongly condemned the campaign of intimidation, repression and murder launched by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian people and appealed to all international and regional organization to assist in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Declaration also reaffirmed the determination of member States to provide material, political and moral support to the Palestinian people in occupied territories and to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

19. The Conference also adopted a declaration of solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, denouncing Israeli military threats against the Kingdom and the holy places of Islam, which constituted a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The Conference assured the Kingdom and its people of the total support of the Islamic world for the Kingdom's safety and security against any threats from the Zionist entity.

[...]

Political affairs

28. The Conference hailed with pride the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people against the heinous Israeli occupation forces in defence of their homeland and their inalienable national rights. It reaffirmed the unflinching stand of the Islamic States to support the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle until the total withdrawal of Israeli enemy forces from all occupied Palestinian territories, including the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif. The Conference reaffirmed its rejection of any partial and individual solutions that would disregard the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and would bypass the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative. The Conference condemned Israel's expansionist policy and continued occupation of Arab lands and denounced its coercive measures in violation of human rights as well as the imposition of an economic strangulation on the population to force them to end their courageous uprising. It deplored the policy of the United States of America of disregarding the Palestine Liberation Organization and for providing support to Israel. The Conference mandated the Secretary General to maintain contacts with the United Nations Secretary-General and with other regional and international organizations with a view to implementing Security Council resolution 605 (1987), 601 (1988) and 608 (1988) and the application of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The Conference also decided to set up committees for the support of Palestine throughout the Islamic world to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and to provide them with material and moral assistance; to request information institutions in Islamic States; to intensify their coverage of news on the uprising in occupied Palestine; to mandate the General Secretariat and the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization; to draw up a special information programme on the Palestinian uprising; to promote an awareness of the jihad of the Palestinian people; to exert all possible efforts with official and information quarters in non-member countries to denounce racist Israeli crimes; to organize an international campaign of opinion to condemn Israel and expose its practices and designs.

The Conference affirmed the necessity of exerting intensive efforts by its members to force Israel to respect United Nations resolutions aimed at the establishment of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds al-Sharif, and the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab peoples, including their right to return, self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on their national soil, with Al-Quds as their capital, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

The Conference reaffirmed its resolutions, including the most recent resolutions adopted by the Fifth Islamic Summit in Kuwait, that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which possesses the exclusive right to represent them and to participate, on their behalf, independently and on an equal footing, in all conferences and activities relating to the question of Palestine.

The Conference stressed the need for sustained efforts in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace through the convening of an effective International Conference on Peace in the Middle East vested with powers under the aegis of the United Nations to be conveyed by the United Nations Secretary-General and to be held with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with the other parties concerned, this being the appropriate approach for achieving a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement that guarantees the recovery of the occupied Palestinian and the Arab territories and the solution of the Palestinian question in all its aspects and safeguards the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

The Conference adopted a resolution reaffirming that the Israeli decision to annex the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration is null and void and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions and the principles of international law. It condemned Israeli efforts to change the legal status of the occupied Golan Heights, its demographic composition and structure. It called for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Israel to force Israel to rescind its decision.

The Conference saluted with admiration and pride the Arab people in Palestine, the Golan and South Lebanon for their heroic and valiant resistance inside the Arab Occupied territories. It expressed appreciation to all peace-loving people, Governments, international bodies, organizations and personalities who have condemned the terroristic and oppressive Israeli measures and have exposed such measures before world public opinion. The Conference expressed appreciation for the support afforded by the Islamic States to the struggle and also called for encouraging popular initiatives designed to provide assistance to the struggle and also extend its scope. It condemned any attempt at containing, aborting and halting the uprising in order to introduce partial and defeatist solutions and requested the Security Council to shoulder its full responsibility in respect of the violations by the Israeli occupationist authorities of the Geneva of 1949 and their persistence in committing war crimes such as murder, torture, inhuman treatment, exile, deportation, detention, expulsion and displacement of Arab citizens. The Conference requested the General Secretariat to monitor and follow up the serious violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities, which constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, and bring them to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order that reports on them are circulated as documents of the General Assembly.

The Conference condemned the Israeli enemy's continued occupation of Lebanese territory and the inhuman practices in the occupied territories, including terrorism and forced emigration in order eventually to annex the territories. It paid tribute to the national Lebanese resistance against the Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon and in the western Beq'aa and called upon the United Nations to compel Israel to implement Security Council resolutions regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory to internationally recognized borders and respect for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Conference condemned the agreement concluded between the United States and Israel on strategic alliance in November 1981, and the unlimited United States supplies of sophisticated weaponry and equipment to the Zionist entity. The Conference considered that this alliance has strengthened the aggressive nature of the Tel Aviv expansionist régime and hindered efforts aimed at bringing about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, in addition to constituting a threat to the security of Islamic countries.

The Conference denounced the decision taken by the United States to close both the Palestine Liberation Organization Information Office in Washington and the office of its Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, which was an effort to deprive the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights to submit through the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative, their just cause to the international community. The Conference also considered the decision to be a blatant violation of the Headquarters Agreement signed between the United States and the United Nations. The Conference expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure compliance of the Headquarters Agreement by the United States in order to prevent the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization in New York.

The Conference declared that Israel is not a peace-loving State and it has reneged on its commitments set forth in General Assembly resolution 273 (III) of 11 May 1949 by virtue of which it became a member of the United Nations. It emphasized the need to reject the credentials submitted by the Israeli delegation to attend the various sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Conference expressed deep concern at Israeli nuclear armament, which poses a threat to the security of the region and called upon the international community to condemn Israel for refusing to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, to abandon its policy of possessing nuclear weapons and for consistently refusing to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution 484 (1981) and the resolution of the General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) calling upon it to subject all of its nuclear installations to IAEA safeguards. The Conference condemned the collusion between Israel and South Africa in the sphere of nuclear armament and reaffirmed the determination of member States to continue their co-operation at all international forums to compel Israel to abide by international resolutions. It requested the Conference on Disarmament to speed up the conclusion of an international convention on banning military acts of aggression against existing nuclear installations.

The Conference regretted the resumption, by some States, of their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy as being contrary to the resolutions of the Islamic Conference and those of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It requested States that had resumed their diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their decision. Similarly, it appealed to States that intend to resume or establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy to reconsider their position.

The Conference decided to maintain co-operation and co-ordination between the military commands of the Islamic States and the Palestine Liberation Organization with a view to supporting the holy jihad and the just struggle of the Palestinian people to free their occupied homeland and to liberate the holy Mosque of Al-Aqsa and the holy city of Al-Quds.

The Conference called upon the member States to enforce the provisions of Islamic boycott of the Israeli enemy and to endorse the principles of boycott.

The Conference endorsed the plans and programmes of the Islamic Expert Committee on ways of countering the dangers of Zionist colonialist settlement in Palestine and to enable the Palestinian people to remain steadfast on the soil of their occupied homeland and to recover their inalienable national rights.

The Conference decided to support and strengthen the efforts made by the Committee on Monitoring the Moves of the Zionist Enemy, in implementation of its approved plans and programmes to counteract the attempts of the Zionist enemy to break out of its isolation.

The Conference called upon all the Islamic States to assist in reaching the target of the capital of the Al-Quds Fund and its waqf, amounting to 100 million dollars respectively, and requested them to settle their statutory contributions to the Fund and the waqf.

The Conference decided that all Islamic States should continue to issue the Palestinian stamp on a permanent basis as long as the question of Palestine and the Holy City of Al-Quds remains unresolved and to remit the proceeds to the Palestinian Welfare Society.

The Conference decided that the unified course in the history and geography of Palestine should be taught as a mandatory subject at all levels of school education in all Islamic States.

The Conference affirmed its commitment to implement the Islamic Programme of Action to Confront the Zionist Enemy adopted by the Third Islamic Summit and to consider the question of Palestine and Al-Quds al-Sharif as the paramount cause of Islam and the Muslims. It condemned the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities and their continuous aggression against the holy places, particularly the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. It reaffirmed its determination to preserve the Islamic and Arab character of the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif and to restore it to Arab sovereignty. The Conference rejected the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif and to consider the decision as illegal, null and void. It praised the stand taken by the Holy See on the issue of Al-Quds al-Sharif and called upon member States to maintain contacts with the Holy See and other Christian religious institutions in order to adopt a unified Islamic-Christian stand on Al-Quds al-Sharif. It called upon the member States to promote public awareness of the question of Al-Quds al-Sharif and Palestine, especially in the United States and Western Europe. It also called on member States to declare twinning of their capitals with Al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of Palestine, in order to enhance Islamic solidarity with t.he Palestinian

The Conference called upon all member States to commit themselves to the implementation of all decisions and recommendations of the Al-Quds Committee, including those adopted at its extraordinary session held at Ifrane, Kingdom of Morocco, on 5 January 1988.

[...]

The Conference called upon all States, particularly nuclear-weapon States, to respond positively to the proposals for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and condemned the collusion between the Zionist entity and the racist South African régime in the development of nuclear weapons, which obstruct the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. It reaffirmed the determination of member States to take measures to prevent nuclear proliferation, welcomed the decision of the States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to work towards the realization of South-East Asia as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and requested all member States to co-operate at the United Nations and other relevant international forums to promote the establishment of such zones in Africa., the Middle East and South Africa.

[...]
