



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 29 November 1988, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed at United Nations Headquarters, New York, at Geneva, Vienna and several other capitals. The commemoration focussed on the first anniversary of the intifadah in its historical perspective as the most recent evidence of the Palestinian struggle to achieve implementation of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

A special meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was held on Tuesday, 29 November, at Headquarters, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977. All Member States of the United Nations, specialized agencies and observers were invited to attend.

At the session statements were made by Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), Chairman of the of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Dante M. Caputo (Argentina), President of the General Assembly; Under Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed, on behalf of the Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar; Giovanni Migliuolo (Italy), President of the Security Council; Shafiq Al-Hout, Observer from the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of PLO; Daya Perera (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories; James Manzou (Zimbabwe) for the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries; Abdullah Salah (Jordan) for the Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; and Clovis Maksoud, Observer from the League of Arab States. A representative of the International Co-ordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine also spoke.

A concluding statement was made by the Chairman.

Messages to commemorate the occasion were received from 30 Heads of State, eight Heads of Government, eight Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three Governments and one intergovernmental organization. All statements and texts of messages received will be published later in extenso in a Special Bulletin prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

During the afternoon of 29 November two brief films on the uprising (intifadah) in the occupied Palestinian territories were shown in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

In further commemoration of the International Day, the Committee arranged the screening of a series of films during the week beginning 29 November, in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium.

At the request of the Committee, in still further commemoration of the International Day, the PLO prepared an exhibition which was displayed in the Public Lobby at the United Nations Headquarters from Tuesday, 29 November to Monday, 5 December.

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

The Committee met on 25 October 1988, at which time it adopted its report to the forty-third session of the General Assembly. The report included the following recommendations:

"RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE"

"The year under review was marked by the courageous uprising (the intifadah) of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories against 20 years of Israeli occupation and for the achievement of its inalienable rights. The uprising brought to a new level the understanding of the question of Palestine and support for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of this long-standing conflict among public opinion internationally and within Israel itself. The intensification of repressive measures by Israel, the occupying Power, in an effort to crush the uprising and its armed attacks against States in the region have been universally condemned and have aroused the most serious concern for the safety of the Palestinian people under occupation. The situation has given a new impetus to efforts to reach a peaceful settlement in accordance with United Nations resolutions and particularly through the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East as called for in General Assembly resolutions 38/58 C and 41/43 D.

"The Committee reaffirms that, in view of the critical situation, urgent positive action by the Security Council is required on the recommendations formulated by the Committee in its first report and those adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva in 1983, which have been repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly, and annexes them to the present report (see annexes I and II). The Committee reaffirms that these recommendations are solidly founded on fundamental and internationally accepted principles and that the recognition, attainment and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are indispensable conditions in the solution of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East. The Committee further reasserts that the Israeli evacuation of the territories occupied by force and in violation of the principles of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations is a conditio sine qua non for the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights in Palestine.

"The Committee noted the action taken by the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the light of the decision of Jordan relative to the West Bank, and the response of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to assume full responsibility to maintain as well the functioning of the administrative structure in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Committee asserts that the question of representation of the Palestinian people is definitively settled and the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Committee noted the universal demand for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and the overwhelming support for the right of the Palestinian people to establish its own independent sovereign State on Palestinian territory, voiced by participants in seminars and NGO symposia and meetings organized under the Committee's auspices, as well as by many intergovernmental organizations and Governments.

"The Committee is convinced that these important developments open the way for the Palestinian people to establish an independent Arab State in Palestine as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, which has only been implemented in part. The Committee is further convinced that the United Nations and the international community as a whole must now urgently intensify their efforts to bring this about.

"The Committee considers that it has now become imperative for the Security Council to take positive action towards the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East in accordance with the guidelines and other provisions contained in General Assembly resolutions 38/58 C and 41/43 D. That Conference remains the most comprehensive and widely accepted proposal for the attainment of a peaceful settlement. The Committee appeals to the Secretary-General to do everything in his power to ensure that active consultations are undertaken within the framework of the Security Council for this purpose. In the past year, the international consensus in favour of the convening of the Conference has clearly been consolidated. The Committee therefore intends to further intensify its efforts towards this objective, and to make it once again the focal point of its work programme in the coming year.

"Noting that the Secretary-General has reported that sufficient agreement does not exist, either among the parties directly concerned or within the Security Council, to permit the convening of the Conference, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should call once again for additional concrete and constructive efforts by all Governments, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council, for the convening of the Conference and for setting up the preparatory committee for the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/43 D; and renew the mandate of the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, to continue his efforts with a view to convening the Conference.

"Pending the attainment by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, the Committee wishes to affirm in the strongest terms the urgent need for effective measures to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories. The Committee calls on the international community, and in particular on the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to do all in their power to ensure respect for the Convention by Israel, the occupying Power. The Committee calls on the Security Council to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance by Israel with Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988). The Committee also calls upon the Security Council to act positively on the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report submitted under resolution 605 (1987) (S/19443), and in particular to make a solemn appeal to the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention that have diplomatic relations with Israel, drawing their attention to their obligation to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances and urging them to use all the means at their disposal to urge Israel to abide by and to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. The Committee also calls upon the Security Council to give positive consideration to the Secretary-General's recommendations and observations concerning other ways and means available to the international community, including physical protection, legal protection, general assistance, and protection by publicity. The Committee further calls on the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people, in close co-operation with the PLO.

"The Committee noted with satisfaction the increased awareness and mobilization of international public opinion in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of United Nations recommendations for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the Palestinian question. The Committee believes that its programme of regional seminars and NGO meetings and symposia, as well as the journalists' encounters and other informational activities sponsored by the Committee, have played a valuable role in this process, and will continue to strive to achieve maximum effectiveness in carrying out this programme and to intensify its efforts in the implementation of its mandate. (see A/43/35, paras 141-148).

III. COMMUNICATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

On 13 October 1988, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (A/43/710-S/20228) the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expressed the Committee's profound concern at the continued grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The full text of the letter is as follows:

"In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to express the Committee's profound concern at the continued grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the intensification of the policy of repression pursued by Israel against the Palestinian people, in particular by army raids on villages and refugee camps to prevent demonstrations, and by keeping the schools and universities closed. Live ammunition and plastic bullets are being used more and more frequently and have resulted in an increase in casualties. The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire has now risen to at least 302 since the beginning of the uprising in early December.

"According to Reuters, on 30 September, the Israeli authorities extended the closure of all schools and universities in the West Bank until 15 November, affecting at least 300,000 schoolchildren. It was reported that universities in the West Bank have been closed by the army since the beginning of the uprising last December. On the same day, Israeli police extended the closure of the Palestine Press Service in East Jerusalem for a year.

"According to Reuters, on 4 October 1988, the Israeli Army Chief of Staff told the Knesset Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence that the number of Palestinians wounded in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had "almost doubled" in recent weeks. He said that Israeli soldiers had wounded 267 Palestinians in the previous three weeks, compared with 137 in the preceding three-week period. On the same day, according to UPI, Israeli soldiers raided several villages in the West Bank, wounding at least 17 Palestinians by gunfire.

"On 7 October 1988, Reuters reported that four Palestinians were killed and at least 9 others wounded by gunfire in a clash that occurred when the Israeli army raided the old city of Nablus; later, 18 Palestinians were injured by gunshot in other parts of the city. The following day, according to Reuters, two residents of Nablus were killed and four others wounded by army gunfire while the city continued a strike to protest the mounting Palestinian casualties.

"The New York Times and Reuters reported that on 9 October, Israeli troops raided some 30 villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, killing two Palestinians in Yatta village and wounding 28 others at various locations.

"In view of the gravity of these events, the Committee wishes once again to express its profound concern at the repressive policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power. Further, it reiterates its appeal to the international community and all parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to take appropriate and effective action to ensure respect by Israel of the provisions of the Convention concerning the safety and protection of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. The Committee further stresses the imperative need for urgent action aimed at convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 38/58 C."

IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS REPORTED STATEMENTS BY PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFER "FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE"

The following statement was made on 15 November by the Spokesman for the Secretary-General:

"The Secretary-General has not yet seen the full text of the statements issued by the Palestine National Council in Algiers. However, on the basis of the press reports that have emerged thus far, he believes that fresh opportunities now exist for progress towards peace. The Secretary-General has consistently maintained that a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict should be based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and take fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

"The Secretary-General believes that this session of the Palestine National Council has been of the greatest significance. He feels that all concerned should now seize the opportunity to make a determined new effort to achieve a just and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East."

(See SG/SM/4219)

V. EXCERPTS FROM FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES TO THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN NEW YORK ON 3 OCTOBER 1988

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and heads of delegation of non-aligned countries to the forty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly met in New York on 3 October 1988 in order to consider and co-ordinate their views and actions on all issues of special interest to non-aligned countries on the agenda of the General Assembly.

The Ministers and heads of delegation recalled that the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held from 5 to 10 September 1988 at Nicosia, Cyprus, had assessed and analysed current developments in international political and economic affairs, and reviewed the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government held at Harare and subsequent Ministerial and other meetings of the non-aligned countries. They also noted that the Nicosia Ministerial Conference had adopted comprehensive action-oriented declarations, and that the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau had submitted a report on the state of the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Summit and subsequent meetings of the Movement.

The Ministers and heads of delegation reaffirmed their call to the United Nations to provide adequate protection to the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation. (See A/43/709.)

VI. STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ON THE PROCLAMATION OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALESTINE

On 17 November 1988, the following statement by the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, His Excellency Cde. Robert G. Mugabe, was issued at Harare:

"On behalf of the 101 members of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, I heartily welcome the historic proclamation of the State of Palestine. This is a highly commendable decision democratically taken by the dispossessed Palestinian people through the Palestine National Council. The Palestinian people hitherto denied their inalienable rights through military aggression, occupation, and various forms of political and diplomatic pressure - have now exercised their right to self determination, political independence and sovereignty over their territory.

The Movement applauds the commitment pledged by the PNC in its proclamation of the Palestinian state to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and to the universal declaration of human rights. This commitment by the PNC is clearly demonstrated by its acceptance of United Nations resolutions adopted since 1947 on the Question of Palestine, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. The Movement commends the PNC for its political will in this respect and calls upon Israel to demonstrate the same constructive spirit by recognising the right of the Palestinian people to their own independent and sovereign state. In these changed circumstances the Movement urges Israel's allies to show diplomatic flexibility by agreeing to the early convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East at which the PLO, as the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian people would participate on equal footing with the other parties to the conflict.

As the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement countries I urge all members of the Movement to seriously consider recognising the newly proclaimed state of Palestine."

VII. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON
THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL

At its conference held at Sofia (Bulgaria) from 19 to 24 September 1988, the 80th Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted the following resolution on the "Popular Uprising in the Arab Territories occupied by Israel".

**"THE POPULAR UPRISING IN THE ARAB TERRITORIES
OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL**

(adopted by 636 votes to 139, with 211 abstentions *)

"The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

"Following with deep concern the atrocities existing and continuing in the occupied Arab territories and the effects of such atrocities on innocent civilians, including the deprivation of rights and liberties inherent in the human person, and recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, including the right to form its own independent State,

"Noting the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, relating to the Palestinian question and the Israeli-Arab conflict,

- "1. Strongly reproves and denounces the flagrant daily violations, by Israel, of the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols, with regard to the treatment of the populations of occupied Arab territories, and the practices of the Israeli forces and settlers;
- "2. Calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from all Arab territories and to end its occupation of those territories, including the part of Arab Jerusalem that it has occupied since 1967, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon, to comply with the will of the international community by ceasing its repressive practices, releasing all detained or sentenced Arab patriots, and allowing all de-portees to return to their homeland;
- "3. Appeals to all parties concerned to refrain from any action violating international law and human rights, points out that the Israeli military administration bears special responsibility during the period of the military occupation, denounces and condemns the repressive and inhuman treatment by the occupying Israeli Authorities of the unarmed Palestinian people, and demands that those Authorities put an end to such treatment;
- "4. Renews its commitment to a peaceful solution to the crisis, in the firm belief that a real peace process is possible;
- "5. Underlines that the principles upon which a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict should be based are the renunciation of the use of violence as a means of solving conflicts, the security of all States and peoples in the region, which necessarily implies the right of Israel to exist within secure borders, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;

- "6. Reaffirms its support for the international peace conference, to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and involving all parties concerned, including Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the USSR and the United States of America, as well as the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and to be convened in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolutions- 242 and 338, and all other relevant UN resolutions;
- "7. Welcomes all international initiatives, particularly those of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, aiming to arrive at a confluence of views in order to solve the Palestinian question on the basis of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations;
- "8. Supports the efforts of the Palestinians to find a negotiated solution, on the basis of mutual, reciprocal and simultaneous recognition, paving the way to a just and lasting peace, and calls for the elimination of all obstacles in the way of this process;
- "9. Stresses that every effort must be made to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and calls on the international community to extend economic and humanitarian aid;
- "10. Requests the United Nations to ensure the protection and security of Palestinian citizens by placing the territories occupied by Israel under international control pending the holding of the international conference on peace in the Middle East, with a view to finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to this conflict;
- "11. Recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council establish a working group consisting of Israeli, Palestinian and other delegations to the Conference, under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
- "12. Acknowledges and accepts the proposal of the Egyptian National Group that an IFU fact-finding mission should be sent as soon as possible to the West Bank and the Gaza strip, and recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council urgently take the appropriate measures for that mission to be undertaken and for it to report back to the Council on its findings."

(See A/43/759).

Please note that full details of the vote and conclusions of the support committee to the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex, CP 438, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

VIII. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S VIOLATIONS
OF PALESTINIANS' HUMAN RIGHTS

On 3 November 1988, by a recorded vote of 130 in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States), with 16 abstentions, the General Assembly condemned Israel's violations of the human rights of the Palestinian in the occupied territories and demanded that Israel abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

"43/21. The uprising (intifadah) of the Palestinian people

"The General Assembly,

"Aware of the uprising (intifadah) of the Palestinian people since 9 December 1987 against Israeli occupation, which has received significant attention and sympathy from world public opinion,

"Deeply concerned at the alarming situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as in the other occupied Arab territories, as a result of the continued occupation by Israel, the occupying Power, and of its persistent policies and practices against the Palestinian people,

"Reaffirming that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, ^{1/} is applicable to all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem,

"Recalling its relevant resolutions as well as Security Council resolutions 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988 and 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988,

^{1/} United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

"Recognizing the need for increased support and aid for, and solidarity with the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation,

"Conscious of the urgent need to resolve the underlying problem through a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement, including a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects,

"1. Condemns Israel's persistent policies and practices violating the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and, in particular, such acts as the opening of fire by the Israeli army and settlers that result in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians, the beating and breaking of bones, the deportation of Palestinian civilians, the imposition of restrictive economic measures, the demolition of houses, collective punishment and detentions, as well as denial of access to the media;

"2. Strongly deplores the continuing disregard by Israel, the occupying Power, of the relevant decisions of the Security Council;

"3. Reaffirms that the occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories since 1967, including Jerusalem, in no way changes the legal status of those territories;

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

"5. Calls upon all the High Contracting Parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures to ensure respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the Convention in all circumstances in conformity with their obligation under article 1 thereof;

"6. Invites Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the mass communications media to continue and enhance their support for the Palestinian people;

"7. Urges the Security Council to consider the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, taking into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General; 2/

"8. Also requests the Secretary-General to examine the present situation in the occupied Palestinian territories by all means available to him and to submit periodic reports thereon, the first such report no later than 17 November 1988.

**" 45th plenary meeting
"3 November 1988**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the debate and made the following statement:

"On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to say how much we share the concerns that have led the States of the Arab Group to request the convening of this meeting devoted to the uprising in the occupied territories. On many occasions our Committee has urgently drawn the attention of the General Assembly and the Security Council to the tragic situation prevailing in the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, aimed at crushing the Palestinian uprising.

"Indeed, since December 1987, 16 letters on this subject have been addressed to the Secretary-General of our Organization and to the President of the Security Council to express the Committee's very deep concern over events in the occupied Palestinian territories, and to urge that measures be taken urgently to ensure the population's protection. At the same time, we have also asked for an intensification of efforts to find a comprehensive political solution.

"Others have raised their voices with ours against repressive measures of all kinds taken by the Israeli military authorities in the occupied territories. Thus, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the States members of the European Community, the Nordic States, the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty, the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the States members of the Caribbean Community and many Governments have expressed their concern in decisions and statements and called on Israel, the occupying Power, to respect the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"Similarly, participants in the non-governmental organizations' seminars and meetings sponsored in recent months by our Committee have been unanimous in

expressing their disquiet over the continuous deterioration of the situation and their support for the Palestinian people in the heroic struggle it is waging to exercise its right to self-determination, independence and sovereignty in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

"Among the members of non-governmental organizations and individuals who have taken part in those seminars, many have been from the occupied territories or have visited the region at various times since the beginning of the uprising. Alarming and overwhelming testimony has thus been given to the Committee that makes us better able to gauge the dimensions of the suffering endured by the population, a full account of which could not be gleaned from the information in certain media, which are restricted by military censorship and as a result of curfews.

"In the light of the information received, we know that there have been several hundreds of Palestinians killed, many young children among them, and also thousands of wounded.

"Need we now mention the measures taken by the occupying Power to brutalize and intimidate the Palestinian populations: mass arrests and mistreatment, collective punishments, closure of schools and universities, expropriations, the demolition of houses and the destruction of economic infrastructures?

"This is compounded by everything we have learned from the witnesses about what is going on out of sight of the television cameras and the accredited foreign correspondents. Frequent deadly gunfire, beatings not only of stone-throwing children but also of members of their families, food shortages created in areas subjected to lengthy curfews, taxation of food donations from abroad, the chemical contamination of crops grown in communal gardens and the existence of death squads are all practices at which the conscience revolts, that make the chances of

establishing peace in that region more remote and that violate the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

"The Committee over which I preside would like, through me, to recall here certain relevant articles of that Fourth Geneva Convention which apply particularly to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Article 27 stipulates:

"Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their person ... They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof".

"In article 32 it is stated:

"The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons".

This prohibition particularly applies to any "measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents".

"In article 33 it is stated:

"No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited".

"Article 49 stipulates:

"Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying Power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive".

"Israel claims that it is applying the Geneva Convention de facto while refusing to consider it applicable de jure in the occupied Palestinian territories, but the events of the past 10 months show that in fact Israel is violating the

Convention and has been doing so since the beginning of the occupation. One of the principal reasons for the Palestinian uprising is this constant violation.

"In the view of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, it is time that the High Contracting Parties fulfilled the obligation incumbent on them under article 1 of the Convention, which stipulates:

"The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances".

"At several meetings of non-governmental organizations organized this year under the auspices of the Committee, the participants have by a large majority requested all Governments to declare categorically that their bilateral relations with Israel would be compromised by these violations of the Geneva Convention. In its recommendations to the General Assembly, our Committee has associated itself with these urgent appeals addressed to the High Contracting Parties.

"Likewise, in his report of 21 January the Secretary-General of the United Nations recommended measures that the High Contracting Parties should take and indicated in detail the various means of protection for the population of the occupied territories which could be ensured by the international community.

"Thus the Committee could not but welcome the statement made on 26 August 1988 by the President of the Security Council, on behalf of the members of the Council, calling on the High Contracting Parties to ensure respect for the provisions of the Convention.

"Our Committee has also been heartened by the many measures taken by non-governmental organizations, trade unions and individuals, as well as by the emergency relief assistance given by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and other United Nations bodies. However,

these efforts deserve to be expanded and supported. The United Nations system, which has an immense historical responsibility with regard to the Palestinian people, should spare no efforts in its quest for effective measures for the protection of that people. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, over which I have the privilege of presiding, is grateful to the Secretary-General for the constructive role he has played in this regard and at this time wishes to encourage him to continue to do everything in his power to ensure effective protection for the Palestinian population living in the occupied territories.

"The goal of our Committee is to defuse tension, to break the cycle of violence and thus to prepare the way for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question on the basis of the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. In this regard, our Committee would like once again to reaffirm its conviction that the international community has the duty to convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Promoting peace in the Middle East requires us first to work for the convening of that Conference, in which, together with all the other parties to the conflict, the Palestine Liberation Organization should participate, since the Palestinian people has chosen it to make its voice and its aspirations heard.

"Thus the Committee, for its part, wishes once again to make an appeal to the Security Council and to all concerned or interested parties as a matter of urgency to take measures that could assist in a reconciliation of views, so that that Conference, on which such hopes are pinned, could finally be held.

(See A/43/PV.45, Pages 52-58).

IX. SECRETARY-GENERAL REGRETS DENIAL BY UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES
OF VISA APPLICATION OF PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

The following statement was made by the Spokesman for the
Secretary-General on 27 November 1988:

"The Secretary-General regrets the denial of the visa application
of Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO),
by the authorities of the United States.

"Such a decision is incompatible with the obligation of the host
country under the Headquarters agreements. If maintained, this action is
likely to complicate and render more difficult the forthcoming debates on
'the question of Palestine' and 'the situation in the Middle East' in the
current session of the General Assembly.

"This would be unfortunate at a time when, in the view of the
Secretary-General, the recent meeting of the Palestinian National Council
in Algiers provides fresh opportunities for progress towards peace in the
Middle East." (See SG/SM/4227/Rev.1).

X. GENERAL ASSEMBLY URGES UNITED STATES TO REVERSE DECISION
DENYING TO PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION CHAIRMAN
ENTRY VISA THAT WOULD ALLOW HIS PARTICIPATION IN
PALESTINE DEBATE

At its 65th plenary meeting, on 30 November 1988, by a roll call
vote of 151 in favour to two against (Israel and the United States) with one
abstention (United Kingdom), the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/48,
"Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country", which reads as
follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Article 105 of the Charter of the United Nations and the
Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America
regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, dated 26 June 1947, 1/

1/ See resolution 169 (II).

"Recalling also its resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, in which, inter alia, it invited the Palestine Liberation Organization to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer,

"Affirming the right of Member States and observers freely to designate the members of their delegation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly,

"Having been apprised that the Palestine Liberation Organization, in conformity with the usual practice, had requested through the Secretary-General an entry visa for Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to participate in the forty-third session of the General Assembly,

"Having been informed of the decision of the host country to deny the requested visa, in violation of its international legal obligations under the Agreement,

"Endorsing the opinion of the Legal Counsel of the United Nations rendered on 28 November 1988, 2/

"1. Affirms the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization freely to designate the members of its delegation to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly;

"2. Deplores the failure by the host country to approve the granting of the requested entry visa;

"3. Considers that this decision by the Government of the United States of America, the host country, constitutes a violation of the international legal obligations of the host country under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations;

"4. Urges the host country to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Agreement and to reconsider and reverse its decision;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the developments in this matter no later than 1 December 1988."

"65th plenary meeting
"30 November 1988

"2/ A/ C.6/43/7.

XI. GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDES TO CONVENE IN GENEVA FROM
13 TO 15 DECEMBER TO HOLD DEBATE ON QUESTION OF
PALESTINE AND HEAR PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION
CHAIRMAN ARAFAT

At its 67th plenary meeting, on 2 December 1988, the General Assembly, by a recorded vote of 154 in favour to 2 against (Israel and the United States) with 1 abstention (United Kingdom), deplored the host country's failure to reconsider its decision on the visa request and decided, "in the present compelling circumstances and without prejudice to normal practice", to consider the question of Palestine in plenary at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 13 to 15 December.

The text of resolution 43/49, "Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country", introduced by the representative of the United Arab Emirates, reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 43/48 of 30 November 1988, in which, inter alia, it urged the host country to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, dated 26 June 1947 1/ and to reconsider and reverse its decision to deny the visa requested for Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 1 December 1988 2/ in which it is stated that the host country informed him that it saw "no basis for changing our decision",

"Affirming the right of persons mentioned in section 11 of the Agreement to enter the United States of America without any impediment for the purpose of transit to or from the headquarters district,

"1. Deplores the failure of the host country to respond favourably to the request of the General Assembly contained in its resolution 43/48;

"2. Decides, in the present compelling circumstances and without prejudice to normal practice, to consider the question of Palestine, item 37 of the agenda of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, in plenary, at the United Nations Office at Geneva during the period from 13 to 15 December 1988;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the present resolution, and authorizes him to adjust the schedule of meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva during those days as required."

"67th plenary meeting
"2 December 1988

"1/ See resolution 169 (II).

"2/ A/43/909.

XII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

The Council of Higher Education in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, in a message addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the occasion of the opening of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, urged the international community to take action regarding the closing of six Palestinian universities in the occupied territories. Over the past nine months 17,000 college students and 2,500 faculty members, and researchers have been deprived of their academic rights.

The World Federation of Teachers' Unions in a communication dated 5 October 1988, called upon all trade union organizations to intensify their moral and material solidarity with the Palestinian people and assure the General Union of Palestinian Teachers of the unrestricted support of all teachers throughout the world.

The Palestinian Committee for Peace and Afro-Asian Solidarity in its newsletter of 1 October 1988 referred to Mr. Yasser Arafat's visit to Strasbourg, when he defined the current political orientation of the Palestinian people. As a result, the Committee requested the help of all supporters of peace and solidarity to promote the main points of a peace project which included immediate implementation of Security Council resolutions 605, 607 and 608. The newsletter also made reference to those Palestinians threatened to be deported and to a message sent to the media on that subject. The Committee, in addition, at a conference held in Washington called on peace committees to consider 10 December 1988 as a Palestinian Human Rights Day. That date coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also with the first anniversary of Intifadah. The newsletter may be obtained from B.P. 468, Tunis, Cedex 1080, Tunis.

The fourth report of the International Co-ordinating Committee on the Question of Palestine, ICCP, of 15 October 1988, entitled "The Children of Stones" contained the following appeals concerning: (i) the reopening of all educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories; (ii) prisoners; (iii) the protection of the civilian population in the occupied territories; and, (iv) political trials against Israeli-Palestinian co-operation and the repression of freedom of information. Updated information on these appeals may be obtained from the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem (telephone number Jerusalem (2) 24 1159). Also, Hanitzotg/Sharara, P.O. Box 1575 Jerusalem (telephone or fax Jerusalem (2) 22 1614). The full report of ICCP may be obtained from P.O. Box 127, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights, in its October/November newsletter issued an appeal to all international bodies, governments, human rights organizations, academic institutions, unions and individuals to intervene in order to put a limit to brutal and collective punishment practices by the Israeli occupational authorities. Of highest priority, efforts should be concentrated on the closure of Ansar III (Ketziot) detention centre, and the reopening of all academic institutions. The committee concludes its newsletter with a petition which may be obtained on contacting the Social Justice Centre of Albany, Inc., 33 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12210, telephone number 434-4037.

In its issue of 21 October Action Alert, Palestine Human Rights Campaign, jointly with the North American Co-ordinating Committee of NGO's called for massive action to be taken by sending a petition to the State Department and the Embassy of Israel in Washington in order to demand a stop to the deportation and expulsion orders of 27 Palestinians and to halt all future expulsions. It also requested every organization to take action in the case of Samiha Yousef Khalil, director of the Palestinian Family Society In' h El-Usra in El-Bireh, who is now on trial by monitoring her trial and reporting any violation of human rights or international law. Details about the campaign and a recent conference held in Chicago may be obtained from the National Office, 1 Quincy Court, 1308, 220 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

The Society of In'Ash El-Usra Bireh issued an appeal for action to protest against the closure of In'Ash El-Usra and the trial of its president Mrs. Sameeha Khalil in martial court.

Amnesty International in September and October, continued expression of concern about the high incidence of civilian deaths since 9 December 1987 due to shooting by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). Amnesty International believes there is evidence to suggest that senior Israeli officials have condoned, if not encouraged, the excessive use of live ammunition and unreasonable use of force by members of the IDF against Palestinians in the occupied territories. Material on this subject is summarized in a document entitled "Israel and the occupied territories: Update to the Use of live ammunition by members of the Israeli Defence Force", issued by Amnesty International. The same organization has summarized further material concerning the position taken by conscientious objectors since the intifadah occurred in a report entitled "Israel and the occupied territories: Conscientious objectors in Israel". Both documents may be obtained from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom.

The Portuguese Committee for Palestinian Human Rights is preparing a series of events designed to commemorate the first anniversary of the intifadah. Details will be given in the No. 5 "Children of the Stones" to be published in the first week of December. The Committee launched also an appeal of solidarity with the Palestinian people demanding that an end be put to the disrespect of the fundamental political, social, economic and cultural rights of the Palestinian people. Details of the appeal may be obtained from the Committee at Apartado 5236, 1706 Lisboa Codex, Portugal.

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 16 NOVEMBER 1988 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT OBSERVER
OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 16 November, the following Political Communiqué of the Palestine National Council and Declaration of Independence of 15 November 1988 were transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Political Communiqué

In the land of heroic Algeria and as the guest of its people and its President, Chadli Bendjedid, the Palestine National Council held its nineteenth extraordinary session - the session of the intifadah (uprising) and national independence, the session of the martyr and hero Abu Jihad - from 12 to 15 November 1988.

The session culminated in the declaration of the Palestinian State on our Palestinian land, representing the natural culmination of a valiant and tenacious popular struggle which has continued for more than 70 years and taken its toll in the immense sacrifices made by our people in its homeland, on its frontiers and in all the camps and places to which it has been dispersed.

The session was also distinguished by its dedication to the great Palestinian national uprising, one of the outstanding battle events in the history of the Palestinian people's contemporary revolution, together with our population's legendary and epic defiance in their camps both inside and outside our occupied land.

Since the very beginning of the intifadah and throughout the 12 months for which it has continued, the fundamental characteristics of our great people's uprising have been clearly manifest. It is an all-embracing popular revolution expressing the consensus agreement of the nation - its men and its women, its old people and its children, its camps, villages and cities - to reject the occupation and to fight for its defeat and elimination.

This magnificent uprising has demonstrated the deep-rooted national unity of our people and its comprehensive loyalty to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of our people - of all our people in every place where its members are gathered - both inside and outside the homeland. This has been shown by the rallying of the Palestinian masses in all their national institutions - including trade unions, vocational organizations, students, workers, farmers, women, businessmen, land owners, professionals and academics - to the intifadah, through the unified leadership of the uprising and through the popular committees which have been formed in all quarters of the cities and in the villages and camps.

The revolutionary furnace of our people and its glorious uprising, together with the continuous and creative revolutionary momentum of our revolution at all the scenes and sites of that revolution both inside and outside our homeland, have brought to nought the wagers and delusions whereby our people's enemies hoped to give a fixed and permanent character to the occupation of our Palestinian land and to consign the question of Palestine to the labyrinths of oblivion and obliteration. Behold the generations which have been bred on the purposes and principles of the Palestinian revolution and have lived through all its battles since its awakening in 1965, experiencing the heroic defiance of the Zionist invasion in 1982 and the resistance of the camps of the revolution in Lebanon against the siege of starvation and death. And behold how these generations, the sons of the Palestine Liberation Organization, affirm the vitality and continuity of that revolution and make the ground explode beneath the feet of the occupiers, proving that the battle reserves of our people are not depleted and that its deep faith is firm and profound.

Thus we see a revolutionary symphony among the children of the rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) and the children of the sacred stones, both inside and outside our occupied land.

Our people has defied all attempts by the enemy authorities to put an end to our popular revolution, despite all the authorities' ploys of terror, oppression, killing, imprisonment, expulsion, desecration of Islamic and Christian holy places, violation of the freedom of places of worship, confiscation of land, demolition of houses, perpetration of deliberate crimes of murder, unleashing of armed settlers against our villages and our camps, burning of crops, severing of water and electricity supplies, beating of women and children, use of stinging gases - leading to thousands of deaths and miscarriages - and conduct of a policy of obscurantism through the closure of schools and universities.

Our people has paid the price for this heroic defiance with the lives of hundreds of martyrs and the sufferings of tens of thousands who have been wounded, injured, detained and expelled. The ingenuity of our people has always throughout these trying times been ready to invent ways and means of battle which enhance its defiance and resistance, its ability to confront the crimes and practices of the enemy and, consequently, to continue its heroic and determined struggle.

By means of its defiance, the continuation of its revolution and the escalation of its uprising, our people has proved its determination to continue the struggle, whatever the sacrifices, to the utmost limits. It does so armed with a magnificent fighting heritage, an unbending revolutionary determination and a deep-rooted national unity which has been further and further strengthened through and around the intifadah, both inside and outside the homeland, together with its all-embracing loyalty to its national leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the adherence of our people to the objectives of defeating and eliminating the Israeli occupation and attaining its inalienable national rights to return, to exercise self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian State.

Our people has throughout this process relied on the support of the masses and forces of the Arab community, their solidarity with it and backing of it. This has been demonstrated in the broad popular Arab support received by the uprising, in the official Arab consensus expressed during the Arab Summit Conference at Algiers and the resolutions adopted at that Conference, affirming that our people is not alone in confronting the racist Fascist assault and thwarting any possibility of its isolation by the Israeli aggressors, in view of the support provided to it by the Arab community and their backing of its holy war.

In addition to this Arab solidarity, our people's revolution and the glorious uprising have enjoyed broad international endorsement, as demonstrated by the increasing understanding of the Palestinian people's cause, the growth of backing and support among the peoples and nations of the world for our just struggle and, in contrast, their condemnation of the Israeli occupation and its crimes, thus contributing to the disgrace of Israel, its increasing isolation and the isolation of its backers and supporters.

Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and those General Assembly resolutions which confirm Palestinian rights against the expulsion of Palestinians from their land, and against the repression and terror practised by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, have constituted one of the strong manifestations of international public opinion's increasing support, including that of official opinion, for our people and its representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, against the Israeli occupation and its racist Fascist practices.

General Assembly resolution 43/21 of 3 November 1988, which was adopted at a meeting devoted to the intifadah, provides further evidence that the overwhelming majority of the peoples and nations of the world oppose the occupation and support the just struggle of the Palestinian people and its inalienable right to liberation and independence. The inhuman and abhorrent crimes and practices of the occupation have given the lie to the Zionist propaganda about democracy in the Zionist entity, which has deceived international public opinion for 40 years. The true face of Israel has been made apparent: a colonialist, racist, Fascist State based on the seizure of Palestinian land, extermination of the Palestinian people and, in addition, threats, aggression and expansionism in neighbouring Arab territories.

What this means is that the occupation can no longer continue to reap its fruits at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people unless it pays the price for doing so, either in the field or at the level of international public opinion.

Apart from those Israeli democratic and progressive forces which have rejected the occupation, condemned it, and deplored its oppressive practices and measures, Jewish groups throughout the world are no longer able to continue defending Israel or to remain silent about its crimes against the Palestinian people. Many voices have been raised within these groups in calls for an end to such crimes and for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, in order to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination.

Among the gamut of results and effects at the local, Arab and international levels of our people's revolution and glorious uprising, there has been affirmation of the practical correctness of the Palestine Liberation Organization's national programme, which advocates defeat of the occupation, the right to return, self-determination and the independent State. It has also been affirmed that our people's struggle is the decisive factor in ensuring that our national rights are wrested from the claws of the occupation and that it is the authority of the popular masses, as represented by their committees, which controls the situation and confronts the occupation authority and its crumbling apparatus. It has also been affirmed that the international community is now more than ever prepared to help bring about a political settlement of the Middle East problem and the basis of that problem, the question of Palestine, and that the Israeli occupation authorities, with the United States Administration behind them, cannot maintain their policy of no response to the will of the international community, which is today agreed on the need to hold the International Peace Conference on the Middle East and to enable the Palestinian people to attain their national rights, including first and foremost the right to self-determination and to exercise its national independence in its own territory.

Accordingly, in corroboration of our people's defiance and its glorious uprising, in response to the will of our masses inside and outside the occupied homeland, and in faithful memory of those who have been killed, injured and detained, the Palestine National Council decides as follows:

1. With regard to the intensification and continuation of the uprising:

- (a) To provide all means and possibilities for the intensification of our people's uprising, at all levels and by all methods, with a view to ensuring its continuation and escalation;
- (b) To support the mass institutions and organizations in the occupied Palestinian territories;
- (c) To strengthen and develop the popular committees and the specialized cadres of the masses and the trade unions, in order to enhance their effectiveness and role, including attack groups and the popular army;
- (d) To consolidate the national unity which has displayed itself and taken root during the uprising;
- (e) To step up action at the international level with a view to securing the release of detainees, the return of those expelled and a halt to the operations of official organized repression and terror against our children, our women, our men and our institutions;
- (f) To invite the United Nations to place the occupied Palestinian territories under international supervision, in order to protect our masses and to terminate the Israeli occupation;
- (g) To call on the Palestinian masses outside the homeland to intensify and increase their support and to base such action on family solidarity;

- (h) To invite the masses, forces, institutions and Governments of the Arab community to increase their political, material and media support to the uprising;
- (i) To call on free and noble men throughout the world to stand by our masses, our revolution and our uprising in opposing the Israeli occupation, its methods of repression and organized official military Fascist terrorism, as practised by the forces of the occupation army, armed individuals and fanatic settlers against our masses, our universities, our schools, our institutions, our national economy and our Islamic and Christian holy places.

2. In the political field:

Pursuant to all the preceding remarks, the Palestine National Council - in accordance with its responsibility towards the Palestinian people, its national rights and its desire for peace, on the basis of the Declaration of Independence issued on 15 November 1988, and as an expression of the humanitarian desire to strive for the reinforcement of international détente, nuclear disarmament and the settlement of regional disputes by peaceful means - affirms the determination of the Palestine Liberation Organization to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and of its essence, the question of Palestine, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles and provisions of international legitimacy, the rules of international law, the resolutions of the United Nations - the most recent being Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) - and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, in a manner that ensures the right of the Palestinian Arab people to return, to exercise self-determination and to establish its independent national State on its national soil, while also making arrangements for the security and peace of every State in the region.

With a view to putting this affirmation into practice, the Palestine National Council insists on the following:

- (a) The need to convene an effective international conference on the subject of the Middle East problem and its essence, the question of Palestine, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict in the region, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing, with the provision that the said international conference shall be convened on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and shall guarantee the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, first and foremost among which is the right to self-determination, in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the right to self-determination of peoples, the inadmissibility of seizure of land belonging to others by means of force or military invasion, and in accordance with United Nations resolutions concerning the question of Palestine;
- (b) Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem;
- (c) Cancellation of all measures of attachment and annexation and removal of the settlements established by Israel in the Palestinian and Arab territories since the year 1967;
- (d) An endeavour to place the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under United Nations supervision for a limited period, in order to protect our people and to provide an atmosphere conducive to a successful outcome

for the international conference, the attainment of a comprehensive political settlement and the establishment of security and peace for all through mutual acceptance and satisfaction, and in order to enable the Palestinian State to exercise its effective authority over those territories;

(e) Solution of the Palestine refugee problem in accordance with United Nations resolutions on that subject;

(f) Assurance of freedom of worship and the practice of religious rites at the holy places in Palestine for adherents of all religions;

(g) The Security Council's establishment and assurance of arrangements for security and peace among all the concerned States in the region, including the Palestinian State.

The Palestine National Council confirms its previous resolutions with regard to the privileged relationship between the two fraternal peoples of Jordan and Palestine, together with the fact that the future relationship between the States of Jordan and Palestine will be established on the basis of a confederacy and of free and voluntary choice by the two fraternal peoples, in corroboration of the historical ties and vital common interests which link them.

The Palestine National Council renews its commitment to United Nations resolutions affirming the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, colonialism and racial discrimination, and their right to struggle for their independence. It once again states its rejection of terrorism in all its forms, including State terrorism, and affirms its commitment to its previous resolutions in that regard, to the resolution of the Arab Summit Conference at Algiers in 1988, to General Assembly resolutions 42/159 of 1987 and 40/61 of 1985, and to the relevant passage in the Cairo Declaration issued on 7 November 1985.

3. On the Arab and international levels:

The Palestine National Council affirms the importance of the unity of the territory, people and institutions of Lebanon and of decisive opposition to attempts to partition that territory and to divide the fraternal people of Lebanon. It also affirms the importance of the joint Arab effort to help solve the crisis in Lebanon and thus to participate in elaborating and applying the solutions which will preserve its unity. The Council also affirms the importance of recognizing the rights of Palestinian citizens in Lebanon to conduct political and media activities and to enjoy security and protection, of action against all forms of conspiracy and aggression directed against them and their right to work and to live, and of the need to establish all the conditions which ensure their ability to defend themselves and to maintain their security and protection.

The Palestine National Council also affirms its solidarity with the Lebanese Islamic national forces in their struggle against the Israeli occupation and its agents in southern Lebanon. It expresses its pride in the militant solidarity between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in opposing aggression and putting an end to the Israeli occupation of parts of the south. It further affirms the

importance of promoting that relationship between our masses and the fraternal fighting masses of Lebanon.

On this occasion, the Council salutes in admiration those of our people in the camps in Lebanon and the south of that country who are resisting aggression and standing up to the massacres, killings, starvation, destruction, air raids, bombardment and sieges being conducted by the Israeli forces, the Israeli air force and the Israeli navy against Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages, being assisted as they do so by the client forces in the region. It also salutes their rejection of the settlement conspiracy, because the homeland of Palestinians is Palestine.

The Council affirms the importance of the Iraq-Iran cease-fire decision for the attainment of lasting peace between the two countries and in the Gulf region. It calls for the intensification of efforts to ensure the successful outcome of the peace negotiations and to establish peace on a firm and stable basis, affirming on this occasion the pride of the Palestinian Arab people and of the Arab community as a whole in Iraq's fraternal defiance and its victories as it defends the eastern gate of the Arab world.

The National Council also expresses its deep pride in the backing provided by the masses of our Arab community for the struggle of our Palestinian Arab people and in their support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and the uprising of our people in the occupied homeland. It affirms the importance of strengthening the relations of struggle among the forces, parties and organizations of the Arab national liberation movement, in defence of the rights of the Arab community and its masses to liberation, progress, democracy and unity. The Council calls for the adoption of all measures which will reinforce militant unity among all parties to the Arab national liberation movement.

The Palestine National Council, in addressing its greetings and gratitude to the Arab States for their support of our people's struggle, calls upon them to honour the commitments adopted at the Algiers Summit Conference to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and its glorious uprising. In making this request, the Council expresses its great confidence that the leaders of the Arab community will continue to provide backing and support for Palestine and its people in the manner which has become familiar to us.

The Palestine National Council reaffirms the desire of the Palestine Liberation Organization to maintain Arab solidarity as a framework for the organization of efforts by the Arab community and its States to confront Israeli aggression and United States support for such aggression and to promote Arab prestige and the desired Arab role, with a view to influencing international policies in favour of Arab rights and issues.

The Palestine National Council expresses its profound gratitude to those States, forces and world organizations which support Palestinian national rights and affirms its desire to strengthen links of friendship and co-operation with its friends (the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China), the other socialist States, non-aligned countries, Islamic, African and Latin American States and other

friendly countries. The Council is pleased to note the manifestations of a positive development in the positions of certain Western European countries and Japan with respect to increased support for the rights of the Palestinian people, and backing for that people. It welcomes that development and urges the promotion of efforts to extend it.

The National Council affirms the fraternal solidarity of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization with the struggle for liberation and greater independence of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It condemns all attempts by the United States to threaten the independence of countries in Central America and to interfere in their affairs.

The Palestine National Council expresses the support and backing of the Palestine Liberation Organization for the national liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and addresses a special greeting to Nelson Mandela in his struggle against the racist Pretoria régime. It urges that the peoples of those two countries be enabled to attain their freedom and independence. The Council also expresses its support and backing for the African front-line States and its condemnation of the racist South African régime's acts of aggression against them.

As it watches with deep concern the continuing growth of Fascist forces and Israeli extremism, and the escalation of their overt calls for implementation of a policy of genocide and the individual and collective expulsion of our people from its homeland, the Council calls for the intensification of action and efforts at all levels to confront this Fascist threat. At the same time, the Council expresses its appreciation of the courageous role played by the Israeli forces for peace in their defiance and humiliation of the Fascist and racist forces and of aggression, in their support for our people's struggle and valiant uprising and in their endorsement of our people's right to exercise self-determination and to establish its independent State. The Council affirms its previous resolutions with regard to the strengthening and development of relations with those democratic forces.

The Palestine National Council also addresses an appeal to the various forums of the people of the United States to endeavour to halt the United States Administration's policy of denying the national rights of the Palestinian people, including its sacred right to self-determination. It calls upon all sectors of the United States population to work towards the adoption of policies which are consistent with international rules, conventions and resolutions on the subject of human rights and serve the desired purpose of bringing about peace in the Middle East and ensuring security for all its peoples, including the Palestinian people.

The Council entrusts the Executive Committee with the task of completing arrangements for the formation of a memorial committee in honour of the martyr and symbol, Abu Jihad, in order that the committee may begin its work immediately after the Council's session is concluded.

The Council addresses its greetings to the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to fraternal and

friendly international institutions and organizations and non-governmental organizations and to those correspondents and information media which have supported, and continue to support, our people's uprising and struggle.

The National Council, in expressing its intense anguish over the continued detention of hundreds of our people's combatants in a number of Arab countries, vehemently deplores their continued detention and calls upon those countries to put an end to this irregular situation and to release the combatants in order that they may resume their participation in the fight and in the struggle.

In conclusion, the Palestine National Council affirms its complete confidence that the justice of the Palestinian cause and of the aims for which the Palestinian people is struggling will continue to enjoy increased support from honourable and free men throughout the world. It also affirms its complete confidence in victory on the road to Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian State.

Resolution

The National Council records with the utmost pride, gratitude and recognition the consistent firm stance adopted by fraternal Algeria, its great people and its militant President, Chadli Bendjedid, in support of the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. That noble stance is based on the deep-rooted battle heritage of the revolution which claimed 1,500,000 martyrs and on Algeria's profound commitment to the Arab and Islamic cause.

The National Council, in addressing its gratitude to the people, Party, Government and President of Algeria for their hospitality to the National Council during the historic session of the intifadah, and for its provision of all the facilities which ensured the successful outcome of its work, is certain that the adoption of the National Council's historic resolutions in Algeria, the land of victorious revolution and deep commitment to the victory of Palestine, will have the most profound effect on the spirit of our militant people, the people of the intifadah, and on the hearts of all free and honourable men in our world.

Special resolution of the Palestine National Council relating to Tunisia, as proposed by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization

The Palestine National Council affirms its deep appreciation of and great pride in fraternal Tunisia, its people, Government and President, in view of the warm and brotherly way in which they have embraced the cause of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Palestine National Council addresses greetings of respect and admiration to President Zine-al-Abidine Ben Ali for his sincere and persistent efforts to support the cause of the Palestinian people, to protect the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunisian territory and to defend it in all international contexts and forums.

The Council expresses its deep gratitude and recognition to the heroic people of Tunisia, which has always co-operated with the cause of the Palestinian people, its revolution and uprising, embracing those issues within the framework of its own national cause.

Declaration of Independence

On the same terrain as God's apostolic missions to mankind and in the land of Palestine was the Palestinian Arab people brought forth. There it grew and developed, and there it created its unique human and national mode of existence in an organic, indissoluble and unbroken relationship among people, land and history.

With epic tenaciousness in terms of place and time, the people of Palestine fashioned its national identity. Its steadfast endurance in its own defence rose to preternatural levels, for despite the ambitions, covetousness and armed invasions which deprived that people of an opportunity to achieve political independence, and which were prompted by the allure of this ancient land and its crucial position on the intersecting boundaries of powerful nations and civilizations, it was the constancy with which the people adhered to the land that gave that land its identity and which imbued its people with the national spirit.

Nourished by many strains of civilization and a multitude of cultures and finding inspiration in the texts of its spiritual and historical heritage, the Palestinian Arab people has, throughout history, continued to develop its identity in an integral unity of land and people and in the footsteps of the prophets throughout this Holy Land, the invocation of praise for the Creator high atop every minaret while hymns of mercy and peace have rung out with the bells of every church and temple.

From generation unto generation, the Palestinian Arab people has not ceased its valiant defence of its homeland, and the successive rebellions of our people have been a heroic embodiment of its desire for national independence.

At a time when the modern world was fashioning its new system of values, the prevailing balance of power in the local and international arenas excluded the Palestinians from the common destiny, and it was shown once more that it was not justice alone that turned the wheels of history.

The deep injury already done the Palestinian people was therefore aggravated when a painful differentiation was made: a people deprived of independence, and one whose homeland was subjected to a new kind of foreign occupation, was exposed to an attempt to give general currency to the falsehood that Palestine was "a land without a people". Despite this falsification of history, the international community, in article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations of 1919 and in the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, recognized that the Palestinian Arab people was no different from the other Arab peoples detached from the Ottoman State and was a free and independent people.

Despite the historical injustice done to the Palestinian Arab people in its displacement and in being deprived of the right to self-determination following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 1947, which partitioned Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish State, that resolution nevertheless continues

to attach conditions to international legitimacy that guarantee the Palestinian Arab people the right to sovereignty and national independence.

The occupation of Palestinian territory and parts of other Arab territory by Israeli forces, the uprooting of the majority of Palestinians and their displacement from their homes by means of organized intimidation, and the subjection of the remainder to occupation, oppression and the destruction of the distinctive features of their national life, are a flagrant violation of the principles of legitimacy and of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions recognizing the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return and the right to self-determination, independence and sovereignty over the territory of its homeland.

In the heart of its homeland and on its periphery, in its places of exile near and far, the Palestinian Arab people has not lost its unwavering faith in its right to return nor its firm belief in its right to independence. Occupation, carnage and displacement have been unable to dispossess the Palestinians of their consciousness and their identity - their epic struggle has endured, and the formation of their national character has continued with the growing escalation of the struggle. The national will has established its political framework; and that is the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as recognized by the international community and represented in the United Nations and its institutions and in other international and regional organizations. Founding itself on a belief in inalienable rights, on the Arab national consensus and on international legitimacy, the Palestine Liberation Organization has assumed leadership in the battles of a great people fused in an exemplary national unity and in a legendary and steadfast resistance to carnage and encirclement within its homeland and outside. To the Arab national consciousness and to that of the entire world, the epic of the Palestinian resistance has manifested itself as one of the most conspicuous national liberation movements of the age.

The great popular uprising now mounting in the occupied territories, together with the legendary steadfastness of the camps within and outside the homeland, have raised mankind's grasp of the true nature of the Palestinian issue and of Palestinian national rights to a level higher than that of full and mature comprehension, have brought down the final curtain on an entire epoch of falsification and conscientious indifference and have beleaguered the official Israeli mentality, prone as it is to appeal to arguments based on mythology and to resort to intimidation in its denial of Palestinian existence.

With the uprising, with the escalation of the revolutionary struggle and with the accumulation of revolutionary experience wherever the struggle is in progress, the Palestinian conjuncture reaches a sharp historical turning point. The Palestinian Arab people asserts once more its inalienable rights and its demand to exercise those rights in its Palestinian homeland.

By virtue of the natural, historical and legal right of the Palestinian Arab people to its homeland, Palestine, and of the sacrifices of its succeeding generations in defence of the freedom and independence of that homeland,

Pursuant to the resolutions of the Arab Summit Conferences and on the basis of the international legitimacy embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations since 1947, and

Through the exercise by the Palestinian Arab people of its right to self-determination, political independence and sovereignty over its territory:

The Palestine National Council hereby declares, in the Name of God and on behalf of the Palestinian Arab people, the establishment of the State of Palestine in the land of Palestine with its capital at Jerusalem.

The State of Palestine shall be for Palestinians, wherever they may be, therein to develop their national and cultural identity and therein to enjoy full equality of rights. Their religious and political beliefs and human dignity shall therein be safeguarded under a democratic parliamentary system based on freedom of opinion and the freedom to form parties, on the heed of the majority for minority rights and the respect of minorities for majority decisions, on social justice and equality, and on non-discrimination in civil rights on grounds of race, religion or colour or as between men and women, under a Constitution ensuring the rule of law and an independent judiciary and on the basis of true fidelity to the age-old spiritual and cultural heritage of Palestine with respect to mutual tolerance, coexistence and magnanimity among religions.

The State of Palestine shall be an Arab State and shall be an integral part of the Arab nation, of its heritage and civilization and of its present endeavour for the achievement of the goals of liberation, development, democracy and unity. In affirming its commitment to the Pact of the League of Arab States and its concern for the strengthening of joint Arab action, the State of Palestine calls upon the members of the Arab nation for their assistance in achieving its de facto emergence by mobilizing their capacities and intensifying the efforts made to bring the Israeli occupation to an end.

The State of Palestine declares its commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the policy and principles of non-alignment.

The State of Palestine, in declaring that it is a peace-loving State committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, shall strive, together with all other States and peoples, for the achievement of a lasting peace based on justice and respect for rights, under which the human potential for constructive activity may flourish, mutual competition may centre on life-sustaining innovation and there is no fear for the future, since the future bears only assurance for those who have acted justly or made amends to justice.

In the context of its struggle to bring peace to a land of peace and love, the State of Palestine calls upon the United Nations, which bears a special responsibility towards the Palestinian Arab people and its homeland, and upon the peace-loving States and peoples of the world and those that cherish freedom to assist it in achieving its goals, in bringing the plight of its people to an end, in ensuring the safety and security of that people and in endeavouring to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

The State of Palestine further declares, in that connection, that it believes in the solution of international and regional problems by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions adopted by it, and that, without prejudice to its natural right to defend itself, it rejects the threat or use of force, violence and intimidation against its territorial integrity and political independence or those of any other State.

On this momentous day, the fifteenth day of November 1988, as we stand on the threshold of a new era, we bow our heads in deference and humility to the departed souls of our martyrs and the martyrs of the Arab nation who, by virtue of the pure blood shed by them, have lit the glimmer of this auspicious dawn and who have died so that the homeland might live. We lift up our hearts so that they may be filled with light from the radiance of the hallowed uprising, of the epic resistance of those in the camps, in the dispersion and in exile, and of those who have borne the banner of freedom: our children, our elders and our youth; our prisoners, detainees and wounded based on the hallowed soil and in every camp, village and city; the valiant Palestinian women, the guardians of our life and our survival and keepers of our eternal flame. To the spirits of our righteous martyrs, to the masses of our Palestinian Arab people and our Arab nation and to all free and honourable men, we give our solemn pledge to continue the struggle for an end to the occupation and the establishment of sovereignty and independence. We call upon our great people to rally to the Palestinian flag, to take pride in it and to defend it so that it shall remain forever a symbol of our freedom and dignity in a homeland that shall be forever free and the abode of a people of free men.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

"Say: 'O God, Master of the Kingdom, Thou givest the Kingdom to whom Thou wilt, and seizest the Kingdom from whom Thou wilt, Thou exaltest whom Thou wilt, and Thou abasest whom Thou wilt; in Thy hand is the good; Thou art powerful over everything ...'"

Almighty God has spoken the truth

(See A/43/827-S/20278).