



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 29 November 1989, the International Day of Solidarity was observed at United Nations Headquarters, New York, and at Geneva, Vienna and several other cities. Once again, the commemoration focused on the uprising in the occupied Palestinian territory as the latest stage in the Palestinian struggle to achieve implementation of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

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

At the meeting, statements were made by Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), President of the General Assembly; Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, Li Luye (China), President of the Security Council; Zuhdi Labib Terzi, Observer of Palestine, who read out a message from Mr. Yassir Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Daya Perera (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories; Dragoslav Pejic (Yugoslavia), representative of the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, who read out a message from Janez Drnovsek, President of the Presidency of Yugoslavia; Samir S. Shihabi (Saudi Arabia), representative of the Chairman of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, who read out a message from King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud; Mohammad A. Abulhasan (Kuwait), Chairman of the Group of Arab States; Clovis Maksoud, Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States; Jeanne Butterfield, representative of the International Co-ordinating Committee for the Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine; and Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A concluding statement was made by the Chairman.

Messages to commemorate the occasion were received from 31 heads of State, 11 heads of Government, 12 Ministers for Foreign Affairs, 4 Governments, 2 intergovernmental organizations and 2 national liberation movements. All statements and texts of messages received will be published in due course in extenso in a special bulletin prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights.

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 Office of the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations presented an exhibit in co-operation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which was displayed in the Public Lobby at United Nations Headquarters from Wednesday, 29 November to Thursday, 6 December 1989.

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

The Committee met on 8 November 1989, at which time it adopted its report to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The report contained the following recommendations:

"The year under review brought about events of momentous significance in the long history of the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain and exercise its inalienable rights. The continuing uprising of the Palestinian people against over 20 years of Israeli occupation and oppression, the proclamation of the State of Palestine, and the Palestinian peace initiative announced by President Yasser Arafat at the meetings of the forty-third session of the General Assembly held at Geneva in December 1988, have created new conditions and opportunities for concerted international action aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the problem. The growing deterioration of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, where hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and tens of thousands wounded, maimed and detained since the beginning of the intifadah, is a matter of utmost concern that imposes a moral duty on the United Nations and the international community as a whole to bring about expeditiously such a settlement, as well as to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian people under occupation.

"The Committee considers that it is incumbent upon the Security Council to take concrete and effective action to secure those goals. The Committee believes that the recommendations contained in its first report, which have been repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly by overwhelming majorities, provide a constructive programme for the implementation of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee has accordingly annexed those recommendations to the present report (annex I) and calls for urgent positive action thereon by the Security Council. The Committee further reaffirms the validity of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva in 1983, which made a valuable contribution towards the achievement of Palestinian rights. The Committee reaffirms that those 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 of the United Nations 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 reaffirms the international consensus that the Palestine Liberation Organization is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, whose participation on an equal footing is indispensable in any efforts and deliberations aimed at the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Committee welcomes the Declaration of Independence adopted by the Palestine National Council at its meeting held at Algiers on 15 November 1988, and reiterates that the proclamation of the independent Arab State of Palestine is in fulfilment of General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947. Accordingly, the Committee considers that the State of Palestine should be accorded its rightful place within the international community and the United Nations. The Committee notes the widespread international support for the Palestinian peace initiative and it deeply regrets that Israel has so far failed to respond positively to it and has continued to refuse to acknowledge the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee accordingly urges Israel to reverse its position and to join the international consensus.

"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 on the basis of the framework and elements set out in General Assembly resolution 43/176 of 15 December 1988, which has the overwhelming support of the international community. The Committee reaffirms the principles for the achievement of a comprehensive peace contained in resolution 43/176, namely: the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and from the other occupied Arab territories; guaranteeing arrangements for security of all States in the region, including those named in resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, within secure and internationally recognized boundaries; resolving the problem of the Palestine refugees in conformity with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, and subsequent relevant resolutions; dismantling the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied since 1967; guaranteeing freedom of access to Holy Places, religious buildings and sites.

"In the past year, the international consensus in favour of the convening of the Conference has clearly been further consolidated. The Committee accordingly urges the Secretary-General to do everything in his

power to ensure that active consultations are undertaken within the framework of the Security Council for that purpose. The Committee intends to continue to intensify its efforts towards that 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 his attempts to pave the way to an effective negotiating process have until now proved inconclusive, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly should call once again on the Security Council, and in particular the permanent members, to consider measures needed to convene the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, including the establishment of a preparatory committee, and to consider guarantees for security measures in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/176, and renew the mandate of the Secretary-General to continue his efforts with the parties concerned and, in consultation with the Security Council, to facilitate the convening of the Conference.

"The Committee protests in the strongest terms the intensification of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including children, particularly the liberal use of live ammunition, random beatings, raids and mass arrests, the increased use of administrative detention, deportations and collective punishment. The Committee condemns the unchecked violence by Israeli settlers. It also condemns the measures taken by the occupying Power to deprive the Palestinian population of their right to education, as well as administrative, economic and other measures taken to control all aspects of Palestinian life and to prevent the development of autonomous socio-economic structures. The Committee welcomes the action taken by Governments, non-governmental organizations and other bodies to denounce those measures, and welcomes the partial opening of schools as a result of that international pressure. The Committee recalls Security Council resolutions 636 (1989) and 641 (1989) and calls on all concerned to redouble their efforts to expose, protest and put an end to those Israeli policies and practices, which are in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. Given the grave situation created by such policies and practices, the Committee calls once again upon the Security Council to consider urgently measures needed to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. The Committee also calls for appropriate international action to alleviate the sufferings of the Palestinians living under occupation, especially women and children.

"The Committee further reasserts that the United Nations has a historical duty and responsibility to render all assistance necessary to promote the autonomous economic development of the occupied Palestinian territory in preparation for the attainment of independence in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The Committee accordingly

reiterates its call on the United Nations system, as well as on Governments and on intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to sustain and increase their economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The Committee noted with satisfaction the increased awareness and mobilization of international public opinion in support of the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of United Nations recommendations for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution of the question of Palestine. The Committee believes that its programme of regional seminars and meetings and symposia of non-governmental organizations, 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 mandates." (see Official Records of the General Assembly, 44th Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/44/35), paras. 110-118)

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

In the course of November, the following information was received by the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. "The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs", November issue. Available from P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009.
2. "WAFA Weekly Newsletter", available from the Palestine News Agency, Inc., National Press Building, Suite 1071, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20045.
3. "The NECEF Report", published by the Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada, 106 Duplex Avenue, Toronto, Canada M5P 2A7.
4. "United Holy Land Fund", newsletter. Available from P.O. Box 1981, Chicago, IL 60690.
5. "Palestine", PLO information bulletin. Fortnightly supplement of Palestine Al-Thawna, the central organ of the PLO. Published by Bisan Press and Publication Institute (Ltd.), 13 Botsan St., Nicosia, Cyprus.
6. "Palestine Perspectives", bimonthly magazine of contemporary Palestinian affairs. Available from 9522 A Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031.
7. "Israeli Mirror", fortnightly digest of news and views from the mainstream Hebrew press. Available from 21, Collingham Road, London SW5, United Kingdom.

8. "I and P", Israel and Palestine Political Report. Published monthly by Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier, 75009 Paris, France.
9. Resolution adopted by the meeting of the Indo-Arab Islamic Youth Association on the occasion of "Palestine Day" held at Hyderabad, 15 November 1989.
10. "The Intifada, the United Nations and the Non-governmental Organizations", publication by Don Betz, Chairman, International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine. Available from ICCP, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.
11. "For Solidarity", No. 4, 1989, journal of Committee for Solidarity with Peoples of Asia and Africa, Bulgaria. Available from Europe, Bulgaria, Sofia, 1040, Third of April Street.
12. "Jerusalem", monthly publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs. Available from B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

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