



DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

February 1991

Volume XIV, No. 2

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT FIRST MEETING IN 1991 OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE: STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	1
II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ...	3
III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT REPORTS TO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ON HIS VISIT TO OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, ISRAEL AND JORDAN	5
IV. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES INCLUDING PALESTINE AND THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION	7
V. EXCERPT FROM PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AT CAIRO ON 16 FEBRUARY 1991 BY A MEETING OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL, THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND EGYPT	15
VI. EXCERPT FROM CLOSING STATEMENT OF JOINT MEETING OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES ATTENDING THE FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND THE NINETEENTH CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OF THE MEMBER STATES CHAIRING THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE HELD AT CAIRO, ON 21 FEBRUARY 1991	15
VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION	17

I. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT FIRST MEETING IN 1991
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE: STATEMENT BY THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 6 February 1991, the Committee unanimously re-elected H.E. Mrs. Absa Claude Diallo (Senegal) as Chairman, H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada (Cuba) as Vice-Chairman, and H.E. Mr. Alexander Borg Olivier (Malta) as Rapporteur.

The Committee also decided to re-establish its open-ended working group under the chairmanship of Mr. Borg Olivier and the vice-chairmanship of Mr. Dinesh Kumar Jain (India).

At the same meeting, the Committee welcomed the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, which had become a member of the Committee in accordance with a General Assembly decision to fill the seat left vacant by the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany.

After congratulating the Chairman and other members of the Bureau on their re-election, the Secretary-General said that, although the world was today preoccupied with the Persian Gulf crisis, attention should not be diverted from the Palestinian problem, which remained the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, touching directly or indirectly millions of people and many countries.

He said the international community generally agreed that a just and durable solution of the conflict should be based on Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since June 1967, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States of the region and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries and a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem based on recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. In that context, the question of Jerusalem was of primordial importance.

He said mounting violence, expulsions and acts of repression in the West Bank and Gaza had aggravated an already tragic situation, and the intifadah, now in its fourth year, reflected the Palestinian people's rejection of the Israeli occupation.

The Secretary-General recalled that, in a report to the Security Council on 31 October 1990, he had noted measures that

the international community could take to assure the protection of Palestinian civilians. The Council, on 20 December 1990, had deplored the decision of Israel to resume expulsion of Palestinian civilians from the territories and had asked the parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to see to it that Israel, as the occupying Power, fulfilled its obligations under the Convention. The Council had also asked him, in cooperation with the International Committee of the red Cross, to pursue the idea put forward in his report of convening a meeting of those parties to examine measures that might be taken.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the protection of the Palestinian civilians under the occupation remained a grave preoccupation of the international community and he would do everything in his power, with the means available, to carry out the tasks given to him. He continued to believe, however, that the application of those measures would not suffice to put an end to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, which had an essentially political character and called for a negotiated solution.

It was encouraging to note, he said, that in a statement made through their President on 20 December 1990, the members of the Security Council had reaffirmed their support for a negotiating process in which all concerned parties would participate, and which would lead to a just and durable solution to the conflict. The Council members agreed that an international conference, at an appropriate time and properly structured, should facilitate a settlement, but there was no unanimity as to when would be the appropriate time.

The Council members further took the view that the Arab-Israeli conflict was unique and must be addressed independently, on its merits. In that connection, he had decided to name a special representative for the Middle East during the coming weeks in order to assist an active negotiating process to promote peace in that region of the world. Before making his choice, he would consult with the interested parties as well as with the members of the Security Council.

For its part, he continued, the General Assembly, in a resolution adopted by an increased majority, had on 6 December 1990 again called for the convening of the international conference and had asked him to pursue efforts toward that end. He would spare no effort to carry out the responsibilities given to him.

He went on to say that the efforts of the Committee, since its creation in 1975, had greatly contributed to mobilizing public opinion and the support of Governments for a just solution. He referred in that connection to such activities as regional colloquia and seminars of non-governmental organizations with the participation of Palestinians, Israelis and experts from all parts of the world, as well as to the preparation of studies and information bulletins which contributed to better understanding of the question of Palestine. (see GA/PAL/510)

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

On 6 February 1991, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General (see A/45/915-S/22207), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People stated the following:

"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 indignation at the stepped-up and expanded use of collective punishment by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory since the beginning of the war in the Gulf.

"In my letter to you dated 14 January 1991 (A/45/925-S/22073), I drew your attention to the growing dangers faced by the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory and I expressed concern at the possible tragic repercussions of a war in the Gulf for their safety and protection.

"According to The New York Times and The Christian Science Monitor of 31 January 1991, the approximately 1.7 million Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory have been under a very strict 24-hour curfew since the beginning of hostilities on 16 January 1991. The curfew, which in effect amounts to placing the population of the occupied territory, including parts of East Jerusalem, under house arrest, is the longest period of complete confinement that has been imposed, since 1967. Every few days, in different locations, the army lifts the curfew for only an hour or two. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian men are required to remain in their homes even during these short breaks.

"The Christian Science Monitor quoted the chief spokesman of the Israeli Army, Brigadier General Nachman Shai, as saying 'If there is reason to believe that the Palestinians are not going to demonstrate and disrupt our activities, we'll probably lift the curfew. But for the time being, the decision is to keep the curfew as it is.'

"According to the above-mentioned newspapers and Al-Haq, a West Bank association affiliated with the International Commission of Jurists, the severe hardships caused by the curfew have reached a critical stage. With food running out, crops rotting in the fields, and workers unable to earn a living, the situation in the occupied territory is becoming desperate. The food distribution programmes of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East have been disrupted, with particularly grave implications for the very large refugee population in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the continued curfew has seriously hampered ongoing and preventive health-care services. Punishment for curfew violators is said to be severe and there are reports that civilians have been shot for merely standing in the doorways of their homes. Fines of several hundred dollars have been imposed and numerous cases of beatings, the use of tear-gas and arbitrary arrests have been reported. The fact that the Palestinian people has been virtually isolated from the outside world and that representatives of human rights organizations, journalists and other observers have not been granted passes during the curfew has caused great concern.

"The imposition of this inhuman and continued curfew on the entire Palestinian population of the occupied Palestinian territory has served only to increase the feeling of vulnerability of the Palestinians and their fear for their very existence. By taking such measures, Israel, the occupying Power, is arrogantly violating its legal obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, particularly articles 39 and 55 of the Convention. There is clearly an urgent need to make Israel comply with the provisions of Security Council resolution 681 (1990), in which the Council urges the Government of Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention, of 1949, to all the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the said Convention.

"As reported by The New York Times on 30 January 1991, the Israeli authorities arrested Professor Sari Nusseibeh,

'one of the West Bank's most senior political leaders', accusing him of spying for Iraq. The authorities sentenced him to six months of administrative detention (reduced by the Court to three), which means that they are not bound to issue official legal charges and that Mr. Nusseibeh is not entitled to a trial. Even Israelis of the political left complained that if the Government had compelling evidence against Mr. Nusseibeh, then he should be put on trial. Palestinian leaders in the occupied Palestinian territory contended that the charge of espionage was 'trumped up.'

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People wishes once again to express its condemnation of this policy and these repressive practices by Israel and reaffirm the imperative and urgent need to ensure effective protection for the Palestinians living under the occupation. The Committee appeals urgently to you and all concerned to take immediately all necessary action to bring about the lifting of the curfew and ensure the safety and protection of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem."

III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT REPORTS TO PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ON HIS VISIT TO OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, ISRAEL AND JORDAN

At its 176th meeting on 22 February 1991, the President of the General Assembly, Guido de Marco (Malta), addressed the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People concerning his 3 to 7 January visit to the occupied Arab territories, Israel and Jordan.

He said he visited the occupied Palestinian territories under the responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). During the visit, he realized that the human dimension of Palestinian refugees was an international issue involving human rights. He had also visited Jordan. During meetings with various leaders and individuals, he had raised fundamental issues, including the convening of a Middle East peace conference. He felt his direct observations had given him valuable experience to bring to the Arab-Israeli question.

He said he had met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who said his Government was prepared to discuss the situation, although there had been no indication of plans to consult with Palestinian representatives. Mr. Levy had stressed that any

conference on the Middle East situation should not be aimed at judging a particular State but at ensuring the right of people in the area to live in peace with their neighbours.

The president noted that recent demographic changes in Israel and the occupied territories had affected the Palestinians. Those Israelis who had recently arrived from other countries were a factor in those changes. He and the Foreign Minister had discussed UNRWA's mandate, and Mr. Levy had maintained that in administering the occupied territories, Israelis had acted with humanity and respect for international law. Mr. Levy had described Israel as the only democracy in the region.

He said that during his visit to areas under UNRWA's mandate in Gaza and the West Bank, he had observed the very tense situation in those territories. In hospitals he visited, he had met with people suffering from bullet wounds from various incidents and had interviewed medical personnel. Palestinian individuals had expressed to him their strong objection to curfews and had showed him their demolished houses. Such encounters had been "very illuminating", he said.

Regarding the Kuwaiti situation, the President stressed that no linkage existed between the Palestinian problem and the war in the Gulf. Kuwait had not been occupied in order to liberate the Palestinian people, he said, but for other well-known reasons. The situation could be considered "parallel" but not "linked" he added.

He said he had also met with the Mayors of the Israeli cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, whom he described as "people of wisdom". They both sought peace and realized that the future for Israel, Palestine and Jordan was in three States that would be closely linked for their economic survival.

The Assembly President said he had also had long discussions with leading Palestinian personalities in Gaza and the West Bank, among them women activists. Many people he had met with had been under the impression that the United Nations was supporting them only with paper resolutions, and that the Organization maintained double standards regarding Palestinian concerns.

Palestinians expected the United Nations to convene a peace conference on the Middle East and attached great importance to it, he said. They believed the conference was the only possibility of finding a just solution to the problem in the region. He had told them that he also supported holding such a conference.

He also strongly believed that the Israelis were a long-suffering people and that both peoples deserved sympathy. While Israelis believed that their State was in danger, he said, the Palestinians had no State at all.

He said Jordan was "giving much, but receiving little in return", and was facing great problems. He recognized that the situation of the Palestinian refugees in Jordan was different from that of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Prospects for peace in the region appeared to be few for the moment, he said. He called for more active involvement by the United Nations. He felt it important to put opposite sides together for negotiations, as the future lay not in attempts to eliminate one State or another, but to bring together two Semitic people. (see GA/PAL/512)

IV. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES INCLUDING PALESTINE AND THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

The Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, adopted the following resolutions. Final edited texts will appear in the report on the forty-seventh session, which will be published in due course.

1991/1. Question of violations of human rights in occupied Palestine

A

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Guided by the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and the provisions of the First Protocol annexed to it, and the Hague Convention IV of

1907, as well as the principles of international law affirmed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 3 (I) of 13 February 1946, 95 (I) of 11 December 1946, 260 A (III) of 9 December 1948 and 2391 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968,

Recalling Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 252 (1968) of 25 May 1968, 267 (1969) of 3 July 1969, 298 (1971) of 25 September 1971, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 471 (1980) of 5 June 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, 607 (1988) of 5 January 1988, 608 (1988) of 14 January 1988, and 672 (1990) of 12 October 1990,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions on Israeli violations of human rights in occupied Palestine, since 1967 and until now,

Taking note of the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied territories which it has presented to the General Assembly since 1968, and in particular its report of 1990 (A/45/576),

Expressing its deep concern at the contents of the report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Amos Wako, regarding execution by summary means or indiscriminate execution, in document E/CN.4/1990/22, and what is committed by Israel in this respect,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the subject,

1. Condemns the policies and practices of Israel, which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel with military force, including Jerusalem, and, in particular, such acts as the opening of fire by the Israeli army and settlers against Palestinian civilians that result in killing and wounding them, as has happened continuously since the eruption of the Palestinian people's intifadah against Israeli military occupation, as took place in the massacres of 20 May 1990 in Rishon Letzion and in the Al-Aqsa Mosque on 8 October 1990, the imposition of restrictive economic measures, the demolition of houses, the ransacking of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, collective punishment, arbitrary and administrative detention of thousands of Palestinians, the confiscation of the property of the inhabitants, including their bank accounts, the expropriation of land, the prevention of travel, the closure of universities and schools, the perpetration of crimes of torture in prisons and detention centres, and the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory;

2. Affirms the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation by all means, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as has been expressed by the Palestinian people in their brave intifadah since December 1987;

3. Calls once more upon Israel to desist from all forms of violations of human rights in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories and to respect the principles of international law, and its commitments to the provisions of the Charter;

4. Calls upon Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other occupied Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the Commission on Human Rights in this regard;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale, and to report on its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session;

6. Further requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that deal with the conditions in which the population of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories is living;

7. Decides to consider the question at its forty-eighth session as a matter of priority.

B

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981, 592 (1986) of 8 December 1986, and 605 (1987) of 22 December 1987, as well as all its previous resolutions on the application of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel and the refusal of Israel to abide by those Conventions,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions relative to the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to

the occupied Palestinian territory and the necessity of Israel abiding by its provisions,

Recalling the decisions of the International Committee of the Red Cross in respect of the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

Recalling the different appeals and statements of the International Committee of the Red Cross which point to the continuing Israeli violations of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and which call upon those authorities to respect the provisions of the Convention and abide by them,

Taking into account that the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention undertake, in accordance with article 1 thereof, to respect, and ensure respect for, the Convention in all circumstances,

1. Reaffirms that the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War is applicable to all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and calls upon Israel to comply with its international commitments and to respect the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and to apply it in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

2. Urges once more all States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to make every effort to ensure the Israeli occupation authorities' respect for and compliance with, the provisions of that Convention in all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and to undertake the necessary practical measures to ensure the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation in accordance with the provisions of the first article and relevant articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

3. Strongly condemns once more Israel's refusal to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention to Palestine and the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and to their inhabitants, and Israel's policies of ill-treatment and torture of Palestinian detainees and prisoners in Israeli prisons and concentration camps, and its continued deliberate disregard for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in contravention of the

resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights;

4. Strongly condemns Israel for its grave violations of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, for its continuation of a policy of deportation of Palestinian citizens and their expulsion outside their homeland as recently happened to the Palestinian citizens Imad Khaled Al-Alami, Fadel Khaled Zuheir Al-Zaamout, Mustafa Yusef Abdallah Al-Lidawi and Mustafa Ahmed Jamil Al-Qanouh, and calls upon Israel to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights which provide for their return to their homeland, and to desist forthwith from this policy;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session;

6. Decides to consider the question at its forty-eighth session as a matter of high priority.

28th meeting
15 February 1991

1991/6. Situation in occupied Palestine

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, as well as all other resolutions which confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination without external interference and to establish their independent State on their national soil, especially resolution 37/86 of 20 December 1982,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1865 (LVI) and 1866 (LVI) of 17 May 1974,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions in this regard,

Bearing in mind the reports and recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,

Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern at Israel's persistence in preventing the Palestinian people by force from enjoying their inalienable rights, in particular their right to self-determination, in defiance of the principles of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community, which has affirmed that in its different resolutions,

Recalling that military aggression by the forces of any State against the territory of another State constitutes an offence against the peace and security of mankind,

Expressing its grave concern that no just solution has been achieved to the problem of Palestine, which constitutes the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict,

Reiterating its grave concern at the military, economic and political support given by some States to Israel, which encourages and supports Israel in its aggressive and expansionist policies and its continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories,

1. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation of Palestine constitutes a gross violation of human rights and an offence against the peace and security of mankind;

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference and the establishment of their independent sovereign State on their national soil in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly since 1947;

3. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, Palestine, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and subsequent relevant resolutions;

4. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to recover their rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with relevant United Nations resolutions, and affirms that the

intifadah of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation since 8 December 1987 is a form of legitimate resistance against the Israeli military occupation of Palestine and an expression of the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation and an affirmation of their unshakeable desire for liberation and for the exercise of their inalienable national rights on their national soil;

5. Reaffirms its support for the call to convene an effective international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, and to guarantee the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, in particular, their right to self-determination;

6. Strongly condemns Israel for its continued occupation of the Palestinian territories, which constitutes the main obstacle to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national rights, foremost of which is their right to free self-determination on their national soil;

7. Calls upon Israel to comply with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and to withdraw from the Palestinian and other Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

8. Urges all States, United Nations organs, Specialized agencies and other international organizations to extend their support and assistance to the Palestinian people through their representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in their struggle to recover their rights and to liberate their land from Israeli occupation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its forty-eighth session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the present resolution;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Government of Israel with a view of its implementation, and to report on the extent of achieving that to the Commission at its forty-eighth session;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session, as a matter of high priority, the item "The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation" and to consider, in the context of this item, the situation in occupied Palestine.

28th meeting
15 February 1991

1991/3. Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

Recalling that, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to leave any country including his own and to return to his country,

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

Recalling resolution 1990/1 of 16 February 1990,

Gravely concerned at the large scale establishment of settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories by the Israeli Government which is liable to change the physical character and the demographic composition of the Occupied Territories,

1. Reaffirms that the installation of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and constitutes a violation of the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

2. Regrets that the Israeli Government did not comply with the provisions of resolution 1990/1 adopted by the 46th session of the Commission on Human Rights on 16 February 1990;

3. Urges the Government of Israel to abstain from installing settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories.

28th meeting
15 February 1991

**V. EXCERPT FROM PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AT CAIRO ON
16 FEBRUARY 1991 BY A MEETING OF THE MINISTERS FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE GULF
COOPERATION COUNCIL, THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
AND EGYPT**

The Ministers discussed the question of Palestine and the extent and character of the negative impact made by the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait on this central issue for the Arab States. In this context, they reaffirmed the following:

1. The continued adherence of their countries to their national and historical commitment to ensuring the inalienable national rights to the Palestinian people, including its right to exercise self-determination and to establish its State on its national soil.

2. The maintenance of their commitment to strive for the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict leading to Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. (see A/45/957-S/22244)

**VI. EXCERPT FROM CLOSING STATEMENT OF JOINT MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES ATTENDING THE
FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND THE NINETEENTH
CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OF THE
MEMBER STATES CHAIRING THE STANDING COMMITTEES
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE HELD
AT CAIRO ON 21 FEBRUARY 1991**

The meeting reaffirmed all the resolutions of the Islamic summits and the conferences of Islamic Foreign Ministers, concerning Palestine, and also re-emphasized the following facts:

Their States, which had made tremendous sacrifices and had provided ongoing moral, political and diplomatic support, in spite of all the challenges and obstacles, affirmed their continuing support for the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people living under occupation.

The member States affirmed their Islamic and historic commitment to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the latter's inalienable right to exercise self-determination and to establish its State on its national soil.

Their commitment to the quest for a peaceful, just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine outweighed any other consideration within the context of an international peace conference. (see A/46/94-S/22256)

**VII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:
ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION**

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

1. ICCP Newsletter No. 31, available from: the International Co-ordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, 150 route de Ferney, Case postale 2100, Ch-1211 Genève 2, Switzerland.
2. Breaking the Siege, newsletter of the Middle East Justice Network: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA 02238, United States of America.
3. NAJDA Newsletter, quarterly publication of women concerned about the Middle East. Available from: P.O. Box 7152, Berkeley, CA 94707, United States of America.
4. Al-Fajr, Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly. Available from: P.O. Box 19315, Jerusalem; or, 16 Crowell Street, Hempstead, N.Y. 11550, United States of America.
5. Medical Aid for Palestinians, emergency appeal for medical supplies. Contributions should be made to MAP, 9 Cavendish Square, London W1M 9DD, United Kingdom.
6. Jerusalem, publication of Palestine Committee for NGOs. Available from: B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.
7. Israel and Palestine Political Report, available from: Magelan, 5 rue Cardinal Mercier 75009, Paris, France.
8. Palestine, fortnightly supplement of Palestine Al-Thawra, available from: 13 Botsari Street, Nicosia, Cyprus.
9. The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, monthly commentary available from: P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States of America.
10. ASA News, quarterly publication of the Asian Students' Association. Available from: ASA, 511 Nathan Road 1/F, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

- - - - -