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### QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 8 August 1984 from the Chairman of the Committee  
on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People  
addressed to the Secretary-General

The effect of the Israeli occupation on the enjoyment of political, social, economic and cultural rights by the Palestinian people and on their prospects for development has been described in countless reports prepared by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the Committee, while taking note of certain positive aspects in those reports, remains seriously concerned about the situation of the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied Arab territories.

After studying the situation regarding human rights in the occupied territories, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories concluded, in its latest report to the General Assembly, that the Israeli policy of annexation and Jewish settlements had led to violations of the right to liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of expression and academic freedom, and that the situation continued to deteriorate (see [A/38/409](#), pp. 4 and 5).

Two reports prepared by teams of eminent international experts that have just been submitted to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session, and which will be submitted also to the General Assembly at its next session, set forth in detail the negative effects of the occupation and of the policy of Israeli settlements on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and on their right to sovereignty over their national resources ( [documents A/39/233](#) and [A/39/326](#) ). The specialized agencies of the United Nations, each in its own field of competence, have also submitted documents concerning the effect of the Israeli occupation on the situation of workers, on health conditions and on educational and cultural institutions in the occupied territories. While indicating that some of their recommendations have been implemented, these agencies have pointed out that values such as human dignity, freedom and equality, on which their standards were based, could not be given concrete form in the overall context of the occupation. Permit me to draw your attention in this connection to the reports recently prepared by the specialized agencies, which are annexed to this letter:

- I. [International Labour Organisation: report of the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories \(International Labour Conference, seventieth session, 1984\)](#).
- II. World Health Organization: report of the Special Committee of Experts appointed to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories (thirty-seventh World Health Assembly, [A37/13](#) ).
- III. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: report of the Director-General on the implementation of resolution 21 C/14.1 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories (hundred and sixteenth session of the UNESCO Executive Board, [116 EX/I6 and Corr.1](#) and [Add.1-3](#) ).

The volume of evidence accumulated in the above-mentioned documents clearly indicates that the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories are being flagrantly violated and that its situation has continued to worsen. The General Assembly, at its most recent session, in resolution 38/166 of 19 December 1983, expressed its alarm at the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 as a result of the Israeli occupation, and affirmed

that the occupation was contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. At the same time, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish its own independent State in Palestine, as well as the need to put an end to the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, in accordance with the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. In conclusion, I have the honour to request you to arrange for the text of this letter and its annexes to be circulated as a document of the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 33.

(Signed) Massamba SARRE  
Chairman of the Committee on the  
Exercise of the Inalienable Rights  
of the Palestinian People

[ANNEX I](#)

[ANNEX II](#)

[ANNEX III](#)