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Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Organization}}$

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

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Letter dated 26 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, to transmit herewith the text of the final communique adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Kuala Lumpur from 24 to 27 Rabuil Awal 1421 H (27-30 June 2000) (see annex)*.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 29, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50, 53, 54, 56, 62, 63, 72, 76, 79, 85, 88, 91, 98, 100, 101, 104, 105, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 116, 117, 159 and 161, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hasmy **Agam** Ambassador Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 July from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

[Original: Arabic, English and French)

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The Question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict.

26. The Conference issued the Appeal of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, attached to this Communique.

27. The Conference reaffirmed that the question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine is the foremost Islamic cause. It expressed its full solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization in its just struggle to end Israeli occupation, ensure the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland Palestine and enable them to exercise their full sovereignty, build their national institutions on national soil, Palestine, and regain their inalienable national rights, including the right of return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish their own independent State on national soil, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

28. The Conference called on Member States to continue to consolidate their solidarity with the Palestinian people, support their just and legitimate struggle to end Israeli occupation and achieve all their objectives of freedom and independence.

29. The Conference affirmed its support for the peace process in the Middle East and the implementation of all the agreements, commitments and pledges concluded through that process between the concerned parties in accordance with the principles up on which the Madrid Peace Conference was based pursuant to the UN Charter and resolutions, in particular UN Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425, and the land-for-peace principle, all of which provide for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders.

30. The Conference emphasized that Al-Quds Al-Sharif forms an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and whatever applies to the rest of the occupied territories also applies to it, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly. The Conference called on the international community to put an end to all measures and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif aimed at altering its geographic and demographic set up, desecrating holy Islamic and Christian places with a view of judaizing them. The Conference called for combined efforts to restore the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif to Palestinian sovereignty as capital of the State of Palestine.

31. The Conference also called on the international community, particularly the co-sponsors of the peace process, to exert pressure on Israel to comply with the resolutions of international legality and to implement the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly including Resolution ES 10/6 of 25 February 1999 which called for ending construction of the new settlement in Jabal Abu Ghuneim and any other settlement activity, including the extension of existing settlements, the construction of roads of containment, the expropriation of lands near the-settlements and all other activities which constitute a violation of international resolutions. The Conference called on member States to make every effort- to .bring the UN General Assembly to take the necessary measures pursuant to the "United for Peace" resolution should Israel fail to comply with those resolutions.

32. The Conference requested the UN Security Council to revive the International Committee on Supervision and Control to prevent colonization in the city of AI-CDs and other occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, pursuant to resolution 446, and called for continued efforts and contacts at world level to ensure the implementation of the resolutions of international legality, in particular UN Security Council resolution 465 (1980) which considered the settlements as illegal and requested the dismantlement of existing settlements.

33. The Conference urged the international community and all states that provide economic and financial assistance for Israel, in particular the United States of America and the European Union States, as well as international donor institutions and funds, to stop their assistance which Israel uses to carry out its colonialist settlement schemes in the occupied Arab territories, in occupied Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan, and to boycott the products and goods of such settlements in the occupied territories, in pursuance of the resolutions of international legality considering that these products and goods originate from illegal settlements.

34. The Conference underlined that Israel's violation of the principles and underpinnings of the peace process, reneging on the commitments, pledges and agreements concluded within this process, and procrastination and evasion at implementation level, have seriously undermined the peace process. The Conference held the Israeli Government wholly responsible for this state of affairs.

35. The Conference called for continued efforts to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the UN resolutions pertaining to the return of the displaced, particularly resolution 237 of 1976.

36. The Conference called on the United Nations to send a "Fact-finding Mission" to investigate the status of Palestinian lands and possessions, their uses and revenues, and the violations of their ownership and utilization rights to obtain full copies of all land and property registers, documents and maps held by the Israeli administration; to make every effort to ensure the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 43/57 of 6 December 1988 on the proceeds of Palestinian refugees' possessions, which provide that "the (Secretary General) should take appropriate steps, in consultation with the UN Conciliation Committee on Palestine, to protect and administer Arab possessions, landed property and other assets as well as Arab ownership rights in Israel; and to institute a fund for collecting revenues on behalf of their owners". The Conference also called on the United Nations to appoint a permanent trustee for such properties, who shall report periodically to the United Nations on the status of the properties and ensure their protection until the return of their owners.

37. The Conference called on all states in the world to recognize the State of Palestine upon its proclamation in the Palestinian territories and provide the Palestinian people with all forms of assistance so they can exercise their sovereignty on their soil in accordance with the resolutions of international legality. The Conference also urged all states to extend their support to the State of Palestine to enable it to gain full membership in the United Nations, and take part in the Millennium Meeting of World Leaders due to be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000.

38. The Conference called on Islamic States which had taken Steps towards establishing relations with Israel within the framework of the peace process, to reconsider such relations including the closure of missions and offices until Israel complies with UN resolutions, implements the commitments, pledges and agreements it concluded with the parties concerned with the peace process, in accordance with the principles of the Madrid Conference, the Oslo Agreement, the other agreements concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the pledges and commitments reached with Arab parties during the peace talks on all other tracks.

39. The Conference called for action by the United Nations and other international organizations and forums to force Israel to release the detainees, return the deportees, put an end to collective punishments, to the confiscation of land and property and to the demolition of houses, and refrain from any act likely to endanger life and the environment in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

40. The Conference called for a more effective participation of the United Nations in ensuring the success of the peace process in the Middle East and reaffirmed the established and continued and responsibility of the United Nations toward the Palestinian question until a just and comprehensive solution of all its aspects is reached.

41. The Conference also urged all concerned states and parties to support the international programme or economic, social and cultural development in the Palestinian territories; provide the approved assistance to enable the Palestinian people build their national economy; extend support to their national institutions and enable the Palestinians to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

42. The Conference called on the International Community and the Security Council to force Israel to comply with UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 487(1981), to accede to the treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and implement the resolutions of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

43. The Conference affirmed the continuous responsibility of UNRWA to carry out its mission in favour of all Palestinians wherever they may be, called on the Conciliation Committee to cooperate with UNRWA and the concerned states in organizing an exhaustive census of Palestinian refugees and their properties, and to formulate a comprehensive conception for resolving their problems on the basis -of their rights to return to their homeland Palestine, pursuant to UN Resolution 194, The Conference also invited all states to extend further support to the agency to enable it to finance its budget and continues to provide the services assigned to it.

44. The Conference commended the remarkable efforts made by the Al-Quds Committee under the Chairmanship of His Majesty the late Hassan II of Morocco and continuation of its mission in the service of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif under the Chairmanship of His Majesty Mohammed VI, the Sovereign of Kingdom of Morocco. The conference affirmed all the decisions made at the meetings of this Committee, in particular its Seventh Session held in Casablanca on 4-5 Rabii II, 1419 H (29-30 July 1999), and urged QIC Member States to act accordingly.

45. The Conference called on Member States, Islamic financing institutions, banks, funds, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Companies, individuals and businessmen to extend generous assistance to "Bait-Mal Al-Quds" and to the Al-Quds Fund, and to organize fund-raising campaigns on the popular level in favour of the Agency and the Fund to enable them to implement the projects adopted in support of the resistance of the Palestinian people in the Holy City.

46. The Conference welcomed the basic agreement concluded between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Vatican on 15 February 2000 and which considers that any unilateral decision or action such as altering the distinctive character of Al-Quds and its legal status is morally and legally unacceptable.

47. The Conference condemned Israel's initiative to hold the sixty-sixth meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in the year 2000, in the occupied city of Al-Quds, in total contravention with the resolutions of international legality on the city of Al-Quds. The Conference called on library organizations, institutions and associations to boycott that meeting and to participate in the Conference of Library organizations due to be held in Cairo on 12 August 2000. It also called for boycott of the annual symposium of the International Archives Council scheduled for 2001 also in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

48. The Conference expressed its thanks to His Highness Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, for his generous donation towards financing the documentary film on Al-Quds which has recently been completed, and invited Member States to ensure the projection of this film through their mass media.

49. The Conference lauded the steadfastness of the Syrian Arab citizens of the Golan against occupation and strongly condemned Israel's noncompliance with UN Security Council resolution 497 (1981). It affirmed that Israel's decision to impose its laws and rule on the occupied Syrian Golan is illegal, null and void, and totally illegitimate. The Conference condemned Israel for continuing to alter the legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its demographic and institutional structure. It reaffirmed the applicability of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian in Time of War to the occupied Syrian Golan The Conference also condemned Israel's repeated threats directed against Syrian,- aimed at -aggravating tension in the region and wrecking the peace process. It called for Israel total withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines.

50. The Conference strongly condemned Israel for its continuing occupation of expanses of land inside the internationally recognized Lebanese borders, including the Shebaa Farms, in contravention to the provision of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

51. The Conference affirmed Lebanon's right to recover every inch of its occupied territory and the right of the Lebanese people to resist Israel occupation by every available means until the complete liberation of Lebanese territories including the Shebaa Farms.

52. The Conference requested the international community to take all necessary measures to compel Israel to set free all the Lebanese prisoners, kidnapped nationals who have been detained as hostages in Israeli prisons, in contravention of the provision of international law, the universal declaration of human rights, the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention and the 1907 Convention of The Hague. It urged Member state and international organizations to put pressure on the Israeli Government to bring to allow the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organization to visit the Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons on a regular and periodical basis, submit report on their conditions and provide them with health care and humanitarian assistance.

^{*} The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.