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Items 24, 29, 30, 36, 37, 40, 48, 64,
72, 73, 96, 104, 110, 130 and 137 of
the preliminary list*

**CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE**

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

**THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY**

**POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

**THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE
ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT**

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

**COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY**

**IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION
OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO
SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE
GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS
WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-third year

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED
WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN
STATES
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 31 May 1988 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the text of the message issued on 29 May 1988 by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, and His Excellency Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the occasion of their current summit in Moscow (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 24, 29, 30, 36, 37, 40, 48, 64, 72, 73, 96, 104, 110, 130 and 137 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Text of the message issued on 29 May 1988 from the Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Fifth session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference addressed to the President of the United States of America and to the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the occasion of their summit in Moscow

In addressing myself to you today, I recall with satisfaction the concern and interest with which you received the message I addressed to you in December 1987 on the occasion of your previous summit meeting.

The exchange of views on historic occasions is a means of forging the bonds of friendship and co-operation which, it is our hope, will continue to grow stronger and broader in scope with time.

Your bilateral meetings have become a source of hope for the peoples of the world who aspire to more peace and progress, and earnestly desire to raise their standard of living and to place science in the service of mankind.

My message is dictated by the responsibility with which the Islamic world has honoured me in entrusting to me the Chairmanship of the Fifth session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. In it, while confirming the content of my previous message, I confine myself to the new developments that have occurred since the last summit meeting, take note with satisfaction of what has been achieved and state my hope for further achievements.

While these meetings have facilitated progress towards the limitation of the nuclear weapons which have made science into an instrument of destruction and transformed mankind's hopes into fears, the satisfaction with which the Islamic world and we ourselves welcome this progress extends, over and above the military and political dimension, to the human dimension in its oneness, globality and universality. It is by emphasizing this dimension that the two major Powers can reconcile their positions, release enormous resources, reduce the risks of confrontation and broaden the scope of co-operation to encompass all problems of the natural and human environment and the hopes of the whole of mankind that the trees of brotherhood and co-operation will spread their shade over the road of life.

We are aware, too, that your meeting deals also with human rights and regional problems, and this indicates a concern to emphasize human dignity and peace. Dignity, indeed, is the crowning goal, the purpose of mankind and of peace. It is through these two doors, the doors of justice and of peace, that the Palestinian uprising comes to take its place in your talks.

What the Palestinians are enduring in their land and the land of their ancestors is a striking example of the violation of human rights and of the threat to peace.

Man is man wherever he finds himself. His rights are guaranteed everywhere. They constitute the point of convergence between religions and international agreements. Given the conviction that human life is one, there can be no difference between a man and his neighbour.

Having endured patiently for 40 years without the slightest hope of a just peace emerging, the Palestinians have found only the stones with which their land is strewn to use as a means of asserting their rights and demonstrating their rejection of Israeli oppression.

The Israeli entity has deluded itself into thinking that it can, through its continued repressive practices, uproot the Palestinians from their land, wipe their history from the memory of new Palestinian generations and from the world's memory. This uprising, which is a revolt against oppression, has come as a reminder that the Palestinians' rights cannot be stifled, and confirms every day their single-minded devotion to their just cause. Thanks to the stubborn resistance and the sacrifices of those participating in it, the uprising has created a new reality which has reaffirmed the existence and dynamism of the Palestinian people at the regional and world levels.

We wish to pay sincere tribute to the international press, which has made the Palestinian's determination known to the world at large. It is our hope that your bilateral meeting will prompt the Israeli entity to recognize this renewed determination and that its leaders will abandon the dogmatism which prevents them from moving with the current of history as it flows ever onward.

With respect to the conflict dividing Afghanistan, the Soviet Union has taken an unprecedented step by establishing a time-table for withdrawal. We hope your two States will contribute to the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and will help that country avoid domestic conflicts in order that it may devote itself to nation-building and development. We wonder what is the difference between the Afghan mujaheddin and the Palestinian mujaheddin? Both peoples have a historical and inalienable right to their homeland. Their presence in their lands since time immemorial is the best illustration of this. Both peoples have refused to accept the fait accompli and have created a new reality.

It is our earnest hope that human rights will be increasingly respected, that you will help those who have been deprived of them to regain them, and that you will contribute to putting an end to aggression.

The Iran-Iraq war has been going on for years, with all that that entails in loss of human life, waste of resources and material damage. Despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 598 (1987), this war has widened its scope on land, at sea and in the skies. No resolution, however valid, can be adopted without provision being made for measures to apply it and without the ground being prepared for its application. Your meeting gives us grounds for hope in this respect, too.

Lebanon remains prey to confrontation, and its people continues to be rent asunder by the clan warfare and by outside influences. Its towns have been transformed into a battlefield. Murders, destruction, and the protection and

export of terrorism have become daily realities. The force of hatred has cast everything which symbolizes national unity to the bottom of the abyss.

In terms of their populations, the major Powers are an eloquent example of diversity in unity. Their experience can help Lebanon, indeed all the countries of the Middle East, arrive at a form of peaceful co-existence between doctrines and religions in a context of national unity, mutual respect and good-neighbourliness, in order that they may at last come to know prosperity again after being drained by wars and factionalism.

I cannot close my statement without referring to the fate of our other brothers subjected to the same oppression as that experienced by the Palestinians: I mean the peoples of South Africa and Namibia who aspire to justice in their lands and to equality in dignity and respect for human rights.

The potential for solving the world's problems such as limitation of nuclear weapons, and the success of the efforts to settle regional problems such as that in Afghanistan, broaden the field for hope and are the focus of the oppressed peoples, developing countries and advanced countries concerned to strengthen peace, security and international co-operation, whose benefits are felt by all.

In Islam, peace is one of the names of God.

Peace is one of the values proclaimed by the prophets, taught by religions and consecrated by international agreements and organizations.

It is to strengthen peace that you have met together, and it is in the name of peace that I write to you. I pray Almighty God to help us all along this path.

Accept, Sirs, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Jaber Al-Ahmad AL-SABAH
Emir of Kuwait
Chairman of the Fifth session
of the Organization of the
Islamic Conference

