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**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE**  
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**held on**  
**Friday, 2 December 1983**  
**at 3 p.m.**  
**New York**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. STARCEVIC (Yugoslavia)

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**Distr. GENERAL**  
**A/SPC/38/SR.44**  
**12 December 1983**  
**ENGLISH**  
**ORIGINAL: SPANISH**

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. BERNARDO ZULETA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Bernardo Zuleta, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Law of the Sea.

AGENDA ITEM 73: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/38/L.13, L.14/Rev.1, L.15-L.17, L.18/Rev.1, L.19-L.24, L.27/Rev.1 and L.44)

1. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1, A/SPC/38/L.21 and A/SPC/38/L.22 concerning the miserable situation of the displaced Palestinians living in refugee camps. He drew attention to the operative paragraphs of the draft resolutions and pointed out that they were based on previous resolutions.

2. Mr. ALI SHAH (Pakistan) introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/38/L.19, L.20, L.23 and L.24 and observed that the first draft resolution referred to the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip and reiterated the demand that Israel should desist from the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip and from the destruction of their shelters. That demand was necessary in view of the alarming reports received from the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that Israel was persisting in contravention of its obligations under international law, in its policy of demolishing, on punitive grounds, shelters occupied by refugee families.

3. Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20 regretted that resolution 37/120 F of 16 December 1982, which had received 121 positive votes, had not been implemented and called upon all Governments to offer the necessary resources for the general ration distribution to Palestine refugees.

4. Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 concentrated on the protection of the Palestinian refugees who had been experiencing enormous sufferings as a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The efforts of UNRWA to protect and assist the refugees were being hampered by Israeli interference. It was therefore of the utmost importance for the draft resolution to be adopted by an overwhelming majority, as had been the case of a similar resolution adopted the previous year.

5. The last draft resolution his delegation wished to introduce was contained in document A/SPC/38/L.24 and had been necessitated by the alarming reports that Israel was planning to remove and resettle the Palestinian refugees of the West Bank and to destroy their camps. Such measures constituted a violation of their inalienable right of return, which had been recognized by the General

(Mr. Ali Shah, Pakistan)

Assembly in paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III). He drew attention to paragraph 1 of the draft resolution and pointed out that the measures it referred to might have grave consequences. It was feared that those policies were part of a calculated Israeli plan to squeeze the Palestinian refugees into areas near the Jordan River and then, in a massive strike, to push them across the frontier, thereby creating instability in Jordan.

6. Mr. HAMADNEH (Jordan) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.27/Rev.1 concerning the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees and drew attention to its main operative paragraphs.

7. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) suggested, as an oral amendment, that, in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1, the words "the territories occupied by Israel since 1967" should be changed to read "the territories occupied by Israel in 1967".

8. Mr. GREGORIADES (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 10 member States of the European Community, said that those States would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.13, which they fully supported. In their opinion, all Member States should respond voluntarily and to the extent of their means to the Commissioner-General's appeal and should contribute in a fair and proportional manner to the Agency's financing.

9. By the same token, they would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.14/Rev.1 concerning the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and fully agreed with the conclusions contained in the Working Group's report.

10. Responding to the educational needs of the Palestine refugees was another matter which attracted the attention and enjoyed the support of the members of the European Community and, accordingly, they would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1.

11. With regard to draft resolutions A/SPC/38/L.20, L.22 and L.23, the 10 member States of the European Community wished to draw attention once again to the issues they had raised the previous year in connection with the corresponding resolutions.

12. In general, the 10 member States of the European Community believed that the importance of Israel's responsibility, as the occupying Power, for protecting the civilian population should not be mitigated.

13. Mr. DE GEER (Sweden) said that his Government had given sufficient proof of its political and financial support for UNRWA. Sweden supported most of the draft resolutions concerning agenda item 73 but wished briefly to express the reasons why it could not support them all.

14. He observed that the Agency's financial situation required the setting of strict priorities. The previous year, the Commissioner-General had decided to grant the highest priority to educational and health needs and to helping the

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(Mr. de Geer, Sweden)

destitute. Without sufficient financial resources, the resumption of the ration distribution requested in draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20 would endanger those vitally important activities. Because of the categorical way in which the request was currently formulated, the Commissioner-General would not be able to maintain the necessary order of priority, based on his own discretion, and his delegation therefore felt obliged to vote against that proposal.

15. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.21, his Government supported the right of the Palestinians displaced by the war of 1967 to return to their homes. However, the draft resolution seemed to rule out the possibility of initiating negotiations or holding a discussion on the terms of repatriation. Therefore, his delegation would abstain in the vote on that draft resolution.

16. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.22, his delegation supported in principle the idea that the Palestine refugees were entitled to their property and to compensation for it. However, it considered that the settlement of property claims should not be approached in isolation but in the context of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict. Consequently, his delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.22.

17. Lastly, his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 in order to demonstrate its deep concern for the security and legal and human rights of the Palestine refugees. However, it considered that it was not the responsibility of the Secretary-General to guarantee the security of the refugees, since he had not the means to do so; that responsibility lay with the occupying Power. On the other hand, his delegation supported the appeal to the Secretary-General to do everything in his power to promote the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution.

18. Mr. BURAYZAT (Jordan) said that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20 because of the great importance and urgency which Jordan attached to the resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees. He also wished to reject some of the options suggested by the Commissioner-General for the distribution of rations and, in doing so, to reaffirm the decision of the Palestine refugees which had also rejected those options.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.13.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar,

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Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.13 was adopted by 113 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

19. The CHAIRMAN suggested that draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.14/Rev.1 should be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.14/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

20. The CHAIRMAN suggested that draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.15 should be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.15 was adopted without a vote.

21. The CHAIRMAN asked if the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1 considered the proposal made by Lebanon acceptable.

22. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) said that he had consulted the other sponsors of the draft resolution and that, for the purposes of the draft resolution and without creating a precedent, the sponsors were prepared to replace the word "since" by the word "in" after the words "occupied by Israel" in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1, as orally amended.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary,

Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.18/Rev.1, as amended, was adopted by 114 votes to none, with one abstention.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.19.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.19 was adopted by 114 votes to 2, with no abstentions.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Portugal, Spain.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20 was adopted by 92 votes to 19, with 3 abstentions.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.21.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal,

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Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** Israel, United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.21 was adopted by 97 votes to 2, with 17 abstentions.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.22.

**In favour:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Against:** Israel, United States of America.

**Abstaining:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.22 was adopted by 97 votes to 2, with 19 abstentions.



A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 was adopted by 103 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.24.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden,

Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.24 was adopted by 116 votes to 2.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.27/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

Draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.27/Rev.1 was adopted by 116 votes to 2.

23. Mr. HUMFREY (United Kingdom) said that the representative of Greece had already spoken in explanation of vote on behalf of the 10 States members of the European Community, including the United Kingdom, but that he would like to make some additional comments on behalf of his Government on draft resolutions A/SPC/38/L.24 and L.27/Rev.1, which had just been adopted.

(Mr. Humfrey, United Kingdom)

24. The United Kingdom had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.24 because it supported its general thrust regarding the settlements plan which had just been announced in Israel. Nevertheless, his delegation had reservations regarding the wording of the third preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1, as it understood that the Israeli Cabinet had not yet given official approval to the plan. His delegation would also have preferred that paragraph 1 of the resolution should affirm in more concrete terms the responsibility of Israel to abstain from transferring and resettling Palestinian refugees against their will.
25. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.27/Rev.1 and, in so doing, had welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/386) as well as the findings of the group of experts contained in that document.
26. Mr. EZHOFARI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all the resolutions under item 73 but would like to register its reservations regarding any direct or indirect reference which might imply the legitimacy of the Zionist occupation of Palestine.
27. Mr. MAKITALO (Finland) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 in order to demonstrate its strong support for all viable measures to improve the protection of Palestine refugees. Nevertheless, he expressed grave doubts concerning the practical aspects and effectiveness of the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 7 of the draft resolution.
28. Mr. GIAMBRUNO (Uruguay) expressed reservations with regard to the wording of paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 because the functions which would be entrusted to the Secretary-General did not fall within his competence, but were part of the obligations of the occupying Power under the Geneva Convention of 1949. If that paragraph had been put to a separate vote, his delegation would have abstained.
29. Mr. LOGOGLU (Turkey) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20, as it had done with respect to the other draft resolutions, but viewed the request made in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution to resume on a continuing basis the interrupted general ration distribution to Palestine refugees in all fields in the context of an increase in contributions to the regular budget of UNRWA or new contributions to the Agency so that that provision could be implemented.
30. Mr. DAVIS (United States of America) said that his delegation had been pleased to reaffirm once again its commitment to UNRWA by introducing draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.13 and voting in favour of it. It had also been pleased to join in the traditional consensus in the Committee on the draft resolutions concerning the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (A/SPC/38/L.14) and assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities (A/SPC/38/L.15).

(Mr. Davis, United States)

31. His delegation had also voted in favour of the draft resolution on offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for the Palestine refugees (A/SPC/38/L.18), because the draft resolution provided a practical approach for meeting some of the educational needs of the refugees. Nevertheless, his delegation could not conceal its disappointment at the fact that the sponsors of the draft resolution had considered it necessary to include in paragraph 5 a reference to the proposed University of Jerusalem (Al-Quds), to which his country was opposed. For that reason, his delegation wished to make it clear that its support for the draft resolution did not include the reference to the proposed University of Jerusalem.

32. He had voted against draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.27 on the University of Jerusalem, because it was not a very reasonable or practical approach for meeting the educational needs of the Palestine refugees. His delegation's doubts with regard to that purely political draft resolution had been confirmed by the revised version which had been put to a vote at the current meeting. Apparently the sponsors had dissociated themselves from the last report of the Secretary-General on the proposed University of Jerusalem, in which a group of professional educators had had the "audacity" to consider the draft resolution in a serious and practical manner.

33. His delegation still opposed the draft resolutions on the Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip (A/SPC/38/L.19) and on the population and refugees displaced since 1967 (A/SPC/38/L.21), because it felt that they were simplistic and biased and condemned Israel in a severe manner. He also opposed draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.22 because it prejudged the questions concerning the repatriation of the refugees and their compensation, which should be settled through negotiations between the parties concerned.

34. His Government supported the Commissioner-General's efforts to make the most effective use of the funds contributed to the Agency. In particular, his delegation favoured the gradual elimination of the general ration distribution and did not support the efforts of the Committee reflected in draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20 to limit the Commissioner-General's discretionary powers in that regard. For that reason, the United States had voted against draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.20.

35. The United States had also been unable to support draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23. He pointed out that the United Nations Legal Counsel had stated the previous year in the Committee that if the Secretary-General was entrusted with the task of guaranteeing the security and rights of the refugees in the occupied territories, practical and legal problems would arise with regard to jurisdiction. Furthermore, the draft resolution made Israel solely responsible for the damage inflicted on UNRWA facilities in Lebanon without attempting to identify other responsible parties as, for example, had been the case with the recent fighting in the refugee camps in and around Tripoli. Furthermore, the draft resolution called only upon Israel to release the detained UNRWA employees, ignoring the fact, as stated in document A/C.5/38/17/Add.1, that other States in the region - Jordan,

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(Mr. Davis, United States)

Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic - were also currently holding UNRWA employees in detention. Moreover, the paragraph in question did not take account of the recent announcement by Israel concerning the release of UNRWA employees detained in southern Lebanon. Nevertheless, the decision not to submit draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.25 implied that the steps taken by Israel had not gone totally unnoticed.

36. The Committee had before it a new draft resolution on Palestine refugees in the West Bank (A/SPC/38/L.24). That draft resolution referred to reports that Israel planned to remove and resettle the Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and destroy their camps, and called upon Israel to abandon such plans. But the draft resolution went even further: it called upon Israel to refrain from the removal and from any action that might lead to the removal and resettlement of Palestine refugees in the West Bank and from the destruction of their camps. That draft resolution was designed to eliminate any programme which might attempt to improve the quality of life of the refugees until an overall political solution was found, which could include new housing for the refugees outside existing camps even if such measures were based on the voluntary consent of the refugees themselves and were co-ordinated by UNRWA. Israel was the only country which had been called upon to take such steps since no other country which sheltered Palestine refugees had been requested to do so. His country could not support that draft resolution.

37. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Peru) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions on item 73, he wished to express a reservation with regard to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.23 on "protection of Palestine refugees", since his delegation considered that the responsibility and the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General in that paragraph were not very practical and were questionable from the legal point of view.

38. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) expressed gratitude to all the Member States which had voted in favour of the draft resolutions on item 73 and said that their adoption was a demonstration of the firm support of the international community for the rights of the Palestinians, particularly the right of the Palestinian people to return to Palestine.

39. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the consideration of item 73.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.