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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission
for Palestine

Note by the Secretary-General

The thirtieth report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, covering the period from 30 September 1975 to 30 September 1976, the text of which is attached to the present note, was transmitted by the Chairman of the Commission by letter of 30 September 1976 for communication to the States Members of the United Nations in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 512 (VI) of 26 January 1952 and paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 3419 B (XXX) of 8 December 1975.

ANNEX

Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission
for Palestine

1. In paragraph 3 of resolution 3419 B (XXX) of 8 December 1975, the General Assembly noted with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine had been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requested the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof and to report thereon as appropriate, but no later than 1 October 1976. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. In its twenty-fourth a/ and twenty-fifth b/ reports, covering the periods from 24 December 1965 to 30 September 1966 and from 1 October 1966 to 30 September 1967, the Commission responded to earlier requests by the General Assembly in its resolutions 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965 and 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, in connexion with the implementation of paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III). In those reports the Commission noted that examination of various ways in which it might be possible to intensify its efforts with any prospect of advancing matters towards the implementation of paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III) had compelled the conclusion that all the ways envisaged presupposed substantial changes in the situation. The events which had occurred in 1967 and thereafter complicated an already very complex problem. Although the Commission had noted a certain improvement in the situation during the year 1974-1975, the past year has not produced similar progress toward a final settlement.

3. In the course of 1972, in response to formal requests from interested parties, and after consultation with the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, the Commission decided that these interested parties could have access to certain documents c/ of the Commission with the understanding that the recipient Governments will continue to treat valuation figures contained therein on a confidential basis. Copies of such documents would be furnished on the understanding that any expenses shall be borne by the delegation concerned.

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 32, document A/6451.

b/ Ibid., Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 34, document A/6846.

- c/ (i) Microfilms of land registers received from the Mandatory Government;
(ii) RP-1 forms (identification of property parcels including individual valuation figures);
(iii) Index of owners' names (which provides means of direct reference to the holdings recorded in the name of each owner).

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4. In accordance with the Commission's decision to make available to the interested parties upon request copies of certain documents and materials in its possession, and in pursuance of such a request by Egypt, the duplication work was undertaken and completed in June 1974, at which time copies of the relevant set of documents were transmitted to the Permanent Mission of Egypt. On 31 May 1974, the Commission received a request from Jordan for copies of the same set of documents and the Commission agreed that the Permanent Mission of Jordan be supplied also with the same set of documents as Egypt. These were subsequently supplied to Jordan. The Commission also agreed to supply the Permanent Mission of Egypt a second set of microfilm copies of these documents at the Mission's expense. Egypt received this second set of copies in March and May 1975.

5. In accordance with a decision taken by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at its ninth meeting on 30 March 1976, the Chairman of that Committee, by a letter dated 31 March 1976, requested the Secretary-General to invite members of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to communicate to it their views and observations on those aspects of the Commission's work which they considered useful for the work of the Committee.

6. In reply to the Chairman's letter, the Secretary-General, by a letter dated 30 April 1976, transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People a statement summarizing the work of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine from its inception to date. In his letter, the Secretary-General stated that the summary had been checked for accuracy by members of the Commission. Subsequently, this summary was issued as a document of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/AC.183/4).

7. In response to a further request from the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People "to obtain from the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, an inventory of Arab property in Israel and the territories occupied by Israel", the Commission decided that it had no objection to that Committee, being an organ of the United Nations, having access to the following documents in its possession:

- (a) Microfilms of land registers received from the Mandatory Government;
- (b) RP-1 forms (identification of property parcels including individual valuation figures);
- (c) Index of owners' names (which provides means of direct reference to the holdings recorded in the name of each owner).

8. The Commission notes that the periods covered by its two previous reports (1974 and 1975) were marked by intensive diplomatic activity directed towards a Middle East settlement which could lead to a just and lasting peace in the area. This momentum was not maintained during the past year, owing in part to the recent developments in the area. Accordingly, the circumstances governing the possibilities open to the Commission have remained up to now essentially unchanged. The Commission, however, hopes that the situation in the region will improve considerably in the near future, enabling it to carry forward its work more vigorously.