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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Letter dated 8 November 1978 from the Permanent Representative of
Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached statement issued by the Arab Summit Conference held at Baghdad from 2 to 5 November 1978 be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 30 and 31.

(Signed) Salah Omar AL-ALI
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Iraq to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement dated 6 November 1978 issued by the
Ninth Arab Summit Conference

1. At the behest of the Government of the Republic of Iraq and on the invitation of Marshall Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr, the Ninth Arab Summit Conference was held in Baghdad in the period from 2 to 5 November 1978.

2. The Conference deliberated in a high spirit of nationalist responsibility and common concern for the unity of Arab ranks in face of the dangers and challenges threatening the Arab nation, particularly following the developments precipitated by the signing by the Egyptian Government of the two Camp David agreements and the effect of these agreements on the Arab struggle against the Zionist aggression on the Arab nation.

3. Proceeding from the principles in which the Arab nation has full faith, based on the unity of Arab destiny, and in keeping with the traditions of joint Arab action, the Conference has affirmed the following fundamental principles:

(a) The Palestine issue is an issue of destiny, which is the crux of the conflict with the Zionist enemy. All sons of the Arab nation and all Arab countries are concerned with this issue and committed to struggle for its cause and offer all material and moral sacrifices for its sake.

The struggle for restoring the Arab rights in Palestine and occupied Arab territories is a common nationalist responsibility. All Arabs are required to participate in this, each from his own position, with military, economic, political and other capabilities.

The conflict with the Zionist enemy goes beyond the struggle of the countries whose territories were occupied in 1967 and involves the entire Arab nation in view of the military, political, economic and cultural danger which the Zionist enemy represents to the entire Arab nation, its fundamental nationalist interests, its civilization and destiny.

(b) This fact dictates to all countries of the Arab nation the need to shoulder the responsibility of participating in this struggle with all potentials at their disposal. All Arab countries should provide all form of

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support, backing and facilities to the struggle of the Palestinian resistance, in all forms of this struggle through the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside the occupied land and outside it, for the cause of liberation and restitution of the people's national rights.

These rights include repatriation - setting up of their independent state over their national soil. The Arab States are committed to preserving the Palestinian national unity and to non-interference in the internal affairs of the Palestinian nation.

(c) Commitment is affirmed to the resolutions adopted by the Arab Summit Conferences, particularly the Sixth and Seventh Conferences held in Algiers and Rabat.

(d) In pursuance of the above provisions, it must be recorded here that among the fundamental principles which must not be breached or overlooked is the impermissibility of the unilaterality of any Arab party or parties in the question of settlement of the Palestinian issue in particular, and that of the Arab-Zionist conflict in general.

(e) No solution is acceptable unless this is decided and approved by an Arab summit conference which is held for this particular purpose.

4. The Conference discussed the two agreements signed by the Egyptian Government at Camp David and agreed that they affected the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and the occupied Arab territories. These agreements have been made outside the framework of the collective Arab responsibility and are contradictory to the resolutions taken by the Arab Summit Conferences, particularly those held in Algiers and Rabat, and contradictory to the Arab League Charter and the United Nations resolutions on the Palestinian issue.

5. They do not lead to the just peace to which the Arab nation aspires, and as such the conference resolved not to agree on the two agreements and not to deal with whatever consequences may be produced thereof and to reject all related political, economic, legal and other after-effects.

6. The Conference resolved to invite the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to renounce the two agreements and not to sign the peace treaty with the enemy. The conference hopes that Egypt will return to the Arab joint action and will not conduct itself unilaterally in affairs of the Arab Zionist conflict.

7. In this respect, the Conference has adopted a number of resolutions to counter the new phase and safeguard the Arab nation's interests and objectives. This stems from the conviction that the Arab nation, in its moral and material

capabilities, is capable of standing up to the difficult circumstances and all challenges as it has through history, in that it has defended its rights and justice and its nationalist existence.

8. The Conference stressed the necessity of unifying all Arab efforts for tackling the strategic imbalance being created as a result of Egypt's walkout from the confrontation arena. The Conference resolved that Arab States should co-ordinate efforts of those Arab States capable of effective participation. It also stressed the necessity of full commitment to the rules of the Arab boycott and implementation of the boycott provisions.
9. The Conference studied means of developing Arab information services oriented outside of the Arab world so that they can better contribute to the just Arab cause.
10. The Conference decided to hold annual sessions of the Arab Summit Conference and set the month of November of each year as the date for holding the conferences to study the Arab and international situations.
11. It affirmed commitment of the Arab nation to just peace based on withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and guaranteeing the inalienable rights of the Arab Palestinian people and the setting up of their independent State on their national soil.
12. The Conference resolved to launch a large-scale international offensive to expound the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. It expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to all States which stood on the side of the Arab right.
13. The Conference expressed appreciation to the Syrian Arab Republic and to the steadfastness of its valiant army, to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and its valiant army and to the struggle of the Palestinian people and their steadfastness in the occupied land and outside it under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
14. The Conference endorsed the National Charter of Joint Action which was signed recently between Syria and Iraq and regards this Charter as an important achievement along the path of Arab solidarity.
15. It expressed high appreciation for the initiative of the fraternal Iraqi Government led by Marshall Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr, President of the Republic, for the invitation to hold the Arab Summit Conference in Baghdad in order to unify Arab ranks and organize Arab efforts to face the hazards in the present stage.
16. The Conference expressed appreciation to President Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr for the valuable efforts exerted to ensure the success of the Conference's work.