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Item 37 of the preliminary list\*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 40/168)

1. The **present report** is submitted in fulfilment of the reporting responsibility conferred upon the Secretary-General in **resolutions 40/168 A to C**, which the General Assembly adopted on 16 December 1985, at its fortieth session, under the agenda item entitled "The situation in the Middle East".
2. In paragraph 11 of **resolution 40/168 A**, which deals with the search for a **solution** to the Middle East problem, and in paragraph 13 and 14 of **resolution 40/168 B**, which deals with the **Israeli policies** in the Syrian Golan Heights, the General Assembly called upon all **States** to adopt a number of **measures** concerning military, economic, diplomatic and cultural relations with **Israel**.
3. In **resolution 40/168 C**, the General Assembly deplored the transfer by some **States** of their diplomatic **missions** to Jerusalem in violation of Security Council **resolution 478 (1980)** and called once again upon those **States** to abide by the **provisions** of the relevant United Nations **resolutions**, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
4. In order to fulfil his reporting responsibility under the above-mentioned **resolutions**, the Secretary-General, on 30 January 1986, **addressed** **noteo verbales** to the Permanent Representative of **Israel** and to the Permanent Representatives of the other Member States and requested them to inform him of any **steps** that their Governments had taken or envisaged taking concerning implementation of the relevant

\* A/41/50/Rev.1.

provisions of these resolutions. The relevant parts of the replies received from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Iraq, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zimbabwe are reproduced in the annex to the present report.

5. In paragraph 14 of resolution 40/168 A, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council periodically on the development of the situation and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-first session a comprehensive report covering the developments in the Middle East in all their aspects. That report will be submitted separately as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

ANNEX

Replies received from Member States

BULGARIA

(Original : French)

[3 June 1986]

1. The **People's** Republic of Bulgaria **has been** following the situation in the Middle East **very closely and with grave concern**, as this region **has become a constant source of international** tension and insecurity owing to **Israel's incessant** aggression against the Arab peoples. **The** expansionist policy **of the** Israeli leadership **has been** responsible for the five wars in the region in the past **40 years or so**. This policy **has caused** countless casualties and **losses**, bringing untold suffering to the peoples of several Arab States **and above all to the Arab** people of Palestine, **whose** legitimate **rights** to self-determination and the establishment of **an independent State** are still **being** trampled underfoot. Israel **has occupied** Arab territories **on the West Bank of the River Jordan, and in the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon and Jerusalem, and has** set up military **settlements** there. Even the **Golan Heights** and East (Arab) Jerusalem have been annexed by Israel, **which** has proclaimed Jerusalem **as** its capital.

2. The People's Republic of Bulgaria considers Israel's acts in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, to be illegal, **in** flagrant violation of **the Geneva Convention** of 12 August 1949. They constitute a **serious** obstacle to the efforts to **secure peace in the Middle East**. It **considers** the measure and action taken **by Israel** to alter the **physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and statue** of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, **as well as the "Basic Law" that Israel has adopted**, to be null and void; it considers that **they** constitute a **flagrant** violation of the **Geneva Conventions** and must **cease**.

3. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has **always** endorsed the United Nations resolutions **and decisions** aimed at bringing **about a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict** in the Middle East, **as well as those** condemning **Israel's** acts and practices in the occupied Arab territories, particularly in **Jerusalem, and** calling on **Israel** to apply the Geneva **Conventions** and the provisions of **international** law in general.

4. **As is all too well known, Israel** shows an utter disregard for the resolutions of the Security Council. Israel's behaviour and expansionist policy are fostered by the climate of strategic co-operation with the United States of America. **It is precisely, the military, economic, political and diplomatic aid and assistance from the United States which enable Israel to perpetrate its acts of aggression against the Arab States, to annex and occupy Arab territories and to ignore both world public opinion and the United Nations resolutions on the complete and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from the territories in question. Israeli-American**

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Strategic co-operation has shown itself to be so highly co-ordinated in acts of aggression against the Arab States that it has long since taken the form of a military and political alliance. Israel's attack on Lebanon in the summer of 1982 assumes particular significance in this regard.

5. The People's Republic of Bulgaria takes a consistent position of principle on the explosive situation in the Middle East. It supports the efforts of the Arab peoples to secure a lasting peace in the region, as witness the declaration adopted in Sofia on 23 October 1985 by the Political Consultative Committee of the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty. Bulgaria considers that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the problem of the Middle East is possible only through collective efforts by all the parties concerned, on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, the realization of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own State, as well as a guarantee for all the States of the region of their right to exist and to develop independently. The practical way to achieve this is to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

6. Starting from this position of principle, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is ready as it has always been, and in its capacity as a member of the Security Council, to work actively with all countries and international organizations concerned and in particular with the United Nations to establish peace in this region. It will continue to apply all the United Nations resolutions and decisions aimed at bringing about a peaceful and equitable settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

#### CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[23 June 1986]

The policy of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is in accordance with resolutions 40/168 A to C and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which it always votes in favour of.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original: English]

[30 June 1986]

1. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has been following the dangerous developments in the Middle East with grave concern. In contravention of the relevant United Nations resolutions, Israel has been continuing to pursue its policy of annexation and aggression against the Arab countries and illegal and

anti-human practices towards the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, refusing to comply with the legitimate right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and independence. Czechoslovakia resolutely condemns such acts of State terrorism committed by Israel as the hijacking of a civilian Libyan plane early this year or the bombing of Lebanese territory. It is the conviction of the Government of Czechoslovakia that the worsening of the situation in the Middle East has been substantially fomented by the manifestations of the United States policy of neoglobalism, namely the aggressive United States attack on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the unveiled threats directed against the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic avails itself of this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis, which should include, as its central point, a solution of the Palestinian problem. It is a fundamental condition for such a settlement that an international conference be convened for that purpose under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization - the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Czechoslovakia condemns the attempts of the United States and Israel to impose upon Arab countries separate agreements which would promote the interests of the Israeli aggressor.

3. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic fully supports and strictly abides by all resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations concerning the Middle East. After the Israeli aggression of 1967 the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic suspended its diplomatic relations with the State of Israel since that time Czechoslovakia has never engaged in any bilateral, political, economic, cultural, technological or other co-operation with that State, nor does it provide to Israel any military, economic, financial, technical or other assistance that might be instrumental in the pursuit of Israel's aggressive policy directed against Arab countries. Czechoslovakia condemns the annexation of Jerusalem and does not recognize that city as the capital of the State of Israel.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

(5 May 1986)

1. The Iraqi Government considers that State parties to agreements concluded with Israel, those States that do not acknowledge Israeli occupation or recognize the annexation of the occupied territories and the merging of their economies with the Israeli economy, have become, from the practical standpoint, as though they condoned the occupation, annexation and merger referred to in United Nations resolutions and as though they agreed with the Israeli interpretation regarding the scope of those agreements.

2. Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Iraq believes that the way to deal with this illegal situation is for States parties to agreements concluded with Israel to freeze such agreements until such time as Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories or for those States to demand that Israel

affirm that **the** scope of application of **the above-mentioned agreements** does not extend to **the above-mentioned** occupied Arab **territories**.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[2 July 1986]

1. The Soviet Union fully **supports the condemnation voiced in that General Assembly resolution** of **Israel's aggression** against the Palestinian people and the Syrian Arab **Republic**, the continuation of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories and Israel's policies and practices **against the** Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories and **outside** these territories.
2. **Events in the Middle East show that** Israel is continuing its flagrant violations of international law, **the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of civilized behaviour among States. This confirms the** correctness of the conclusion expressed in that General Assembly resolution that Israel **is not a peace-loving State and is not** carrying out its obligations under **the Charter of the United Nations** which arise from its membership in the **Organization**.
3. In its resolution **40/168 A**, the General Assembly clearly indicated **the basic reasons** for the **persistence** of the dangerously explosive situation in **the Middle East**. The Soviet Union **shares the** General Assembly's conviction **that the** strategic co-operation **between the United States and Israel, the** continued supply of modern arms and materiel to Israel, augmented by substantial **economic** aid, are encouraging **Israel** to pursue its aggressive and **expansionist** policies, **have** had adverse effects on **efforts for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East** and threaten **the security of the region**.
4. In connection **with the General Assembly's** call to all States Members of the United Nations to cease all **dealings** with Israel in order totally to isolate it in all **fields, the Soviet Union** recalls that on 10 June 1967 the Soviet Government **announced** that it was breaking off diplomatic relations **with Israel because** of its aggressive **actions** against neighbouring Arab **countries**. Since then **the Soviet Union has** had no diplomatic, trade or **economic** relations **with Israel, has not** supplied Israel **with** any weapons or military equipment and **has not** acquired any from Israel.
5. The Soviet Union is firmly convinced that the only effective way to **achieve a** comprehensive and just settlement of **the Arab-Israeli** conflict is to **convene an International Conference on the Middle East** with the participation of all **the parties concerned**, including the Palestine Liberation **Organization**; such a Conference has been frequently called for **by the General Assembly**, for instance in resolution **40/168 A**. The implementation of **such** a settlement would enable the international **community, in the person of the United Nations, to change its** attitude towards Israel, **whose** practical approach to the question of respecting and **securing the** rights and interests of **the Arab** countries and peoples is precisely the **basic** obstacle to peace and stability **in the region**.

## ZIMBABWE

{Original: English1

{18 March 14861

The Republic of Zimbabwe **has** never had any **diplomatic**, trade **or cultural relations with** Israel, nor does it **purchase** from or **sell** to Israel any weapons or **related equipment**. There **are also** no ties of an economic, financial or technological nature between the Republic of Zimbabwe and Israel. It has been the consistent policy of the Government **of** the Republic of Zimbabwe to abide by all resolutions of the United Nations on this matter as on other matters and **Zimbabwe** certainly does not subscribe to **the** view that Jerusalem is **the** capital of Israel.

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