



General Assembly

Dirt,
GENERALA/43/657
30 September 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Agenda item 76UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EASTPalestine Refugees in the West BankReport of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/69 J of 2 December 1987, entitled "Palestine refugees In the Wart Bank", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Calls once again upon Israel to abandon those plans and to refrain from any action that leads to the removal and resettlement of Palestine rofugeer in thr West Bank and from the dratruction of their camps;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to keep thr matter under close supervision and to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its forty-third session, on any developments regarding this matter,"

2. On 20 January 1988, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanrnt Representative of Iaraol to the United Nations, in which, inter alia, he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under tho rrrolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of tho resolution. In his reply dated 7 July 1988, the Permanent Representative of Israel rtated as followr :

"Israel's position on this resolution has been fully set out in statements by Israel's representative to the Special Political Committee on 20 November 1984 (A/SPC/39/PV.35), on 9 November 1985 (A/SPC/40/SR.26), on 15 November 1985 (A/SPC/40/SR.34), on 28 October 1986 (A/SPC/41/SR.14) and in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/482) dated 18 August 1987."

3. The position of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA remains as set out in previous reports of the Secretary-General (see, for example, A/41/588 and A/40/615) that he would not object if refugees in the camps voluntarily sought better housing, whether by improving existing housing or moving into new housing. He would, however, strongly object if any pressure or coercion were used to make refugees move or comply with any scheme. As pointed out in earlier reports, refugees will not lose eligibility for UNRWA's services by the mere fact of relocation outside the camps. As at 30 June 1986, of the 385,634 registered refugees in the West Bank, 285,723 live outside the camps,