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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED
ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolutions 1989/1 and 1989/2 A and B. By paragraph 12 of resolution 1988/1, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity. By paragraph 5 of resolution 1988/2 A, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale, and to report on its implementation to the Commission at its forty-sixth session. By paragraph 7 of resolution 1989/2 B, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations, and to submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

2. In accordance with the requests of the Commission, the Secretary-General brought resolutions 1989/1 and 1989/2 A and B to the attention of all Governments, by a note verbale dated 1 May 1989. The resolutions were also

brought to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council. They were also communicated to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

3. Furthermore, the resolutions were transmitted to all the specialized agencies and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States and the League of Arab States also received copies of the resolutions. In addition, the resolutions were brought to the attention of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and 24 other non-governmental organizations.

4. In response to the request of the Commission on Human Rights contained in resolutions 1989/1 and 1989/2 A, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat took steps to ensure that these resolutions would receive the widest possible publicity. Resolutions 1989/1 and 1989/2 A of the Commission on Human Rights have been made available world wide through the department's information centres. In addition, the resolutions were also circulated in the media encounters and fact-finding missions organized by the Department. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information undertook the following relevant activities:

(a) A booklet published by the Department in 1985, in describing the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, deals specifically with the human rights situation in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Arab Golan. Another booklet, published in 1986, deals generally with the question of Palestine and also covers the subject of human rights in the occupied territories. Both publications were printed in five languages and distributed world wide. Currently, revised and updated versions of both booklets are in the process of production and should be issued by the end of 1989. As soon as they are produced they will be distributed world wide;

(b) As in previous years, a press officer from the Department accompanied the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories in its trip to the Middle East and provided full coverage for its activities;

(c) Fact-finding missions to the Middle East, organized annually, bring about 10 to 15 high-level journalists from all over the world to the region, allowing them an opportunity to understand the Middle East conflict at first hand. In addition, media representatives also participate in two annual regional encounters and two series of national encounters organized by the Department. The fact-finding missions and encounters both deal comprehensively with the situation in the Middle East in general and the question of Palestine in particular, which include an assessment of the human rights conditions in the occupied territories. During 1989, regional encounters were held in Singapore for the Asia and Pacific region, and Kingston, Jamaica, for North and Latin American regions. Three series of national encounters were held in Europe, Asia and Latin America.