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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

### Report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting

César Augusto Silva Conference Centre

Managua, Nicaragua, 12-15 April 1983

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## I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

The continued erosion and denial of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people underscore the timeliness of the Regional Meeting of Latin America, preparatory to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, which is scheduled to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 16-27 August 1983. The States of the region, therefore, endorse the objectives of the Conference, and support the search for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine.

### I

The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting, noting that the Palestinian people have been denied their inalienable rights, affirms the position reiterated by the United Nations on the question of Palestine and recognizes:

(1) The Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination in Palestine, including the right to an independent and sovereign State, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 and repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly, more recently by its resolutions ES-7/2 of 29 July 1980 and 37/86 D and E of 10 and 20 December 1982 respectively;

(2) The inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property in Palestine, from which they have been displaced and uprooted, and the right of compensation of those choosing not to return;

(3) That action by the Security Council on the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/20 of 24 November 1976 and subsequently, is long overdue;

(4) That the attainment of the exercise of these inalienable rights is the sine qua non for a just solution of the question of Palestine and a lasting peace in the Middle East;

(5) The Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has the right to participate on an equal footing in all international conferences, organs, agencies, and endeavours of the United Nations in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions;

(6) That the continued occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza is illegal;

(7) The imperative necessity for the total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, for a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict in the Middle East;

(8) The legitimacy of the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization against foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/14 of 7 November 1977.

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## II

The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting, cognizant of the gross violation of recognized principles of international law and of the human rights of the Palestinian people, and after full and careful deliberation on the question of Palestine with a specific focus on international law:

(1) Considers the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-first session and subsequent sessions as a firm basis to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in Palestine, on recognized principles of International Law;

(2) Welcomes the Arab Peace Plan adopted at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, on 9 September 1982 as an important contribution to the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict and considers this plan as being in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations aimed at settling the Question of Palestine;

(3) Takes note that the Council of Europe on 22 March 1983 affirmed the disposition towards peace of the Arab Peace Plan;

(4) Considers that the first paragraph of decision 3.9 of the Palestine National Council held in Algeria from 14-22 February 1983, reiterating the adherence of the Palestinian people to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine, should contribute to the endeavours to attain a just solution to the question of Palestine conducive to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

(5) Recognizes that the process of enabling the Palestinian People to exercise its rights in Palestine is a significant contribution to the restoration of the rule of law in international relations;

(6) Reiterates the stipulations provided for in General Assembly resolution 181 guaranteeing to all persons equal and non-discriminatory rights in civil, political, economic and religious matters and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion, language, speech and publication, education, assembly and association;

(7) Urges the Security Council to investigate and report on the actions committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in violation of the stipulations mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(8) Expresses concern that the laws applicable in the occupied Arab territories have been totally eclipsed by a plethora of military orders that have established de facto a new legal régime in violation of The Hague Convention of 1907, and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949;

(9) Expresses concern that the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories are deprived of juridical and other kinds of protection; that they are victims of legislation based on "security" considerations, involving mass arrests, torture, destruction of houses, and the expulsion of people from their homes, which constitute flagrant violations of applicable humanitarian law;

(10) Recognizes the necessity that all Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners detained by Israel be accorded the status of prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949, if combatants, and in accordance with the Geneva Civilian's Convention of 1949 concerning civilians, if civilians;

(11) Recognizes that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the consequent transfer of parts of the Israeli civilian population into these territories constitute a breach of article 49 of the Geneva Civilian's Convention of 1949 concerning civilians, and are contrary to The Hague Convention of 1907 regarding the Laws and Customs of Land Warfare, now recognized as customary law, and constitute a serious obstacle to a just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine;

(12) Expresses concern that the exclusivist nature of Israeli law debars Palestinians from economic activity and access to national resources on Palestinian territory, in consistent violation of General Assembly resolutions on the right of the Palestinians to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources;

(13) Calls upon the Security Council to endorse the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People as a matter of utmost urgency, and to invoke all the relevant provisions provided for in the United Nations Charter to secure their rapid implementation, since up to now it has been prevented from doing so by the negative vote of one of its permanent members;

(14) Calls upon the Security Council to consider the report of the Commission established by its resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which examined the situation relating to settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, with a view to implementing its recommendations;

(15) Urges the Security Council to re-activate the above-mentioned Commission to monitor the ongoing establishment of illegal settlements and their implications for the Palestinian people's access to their natural resources;

(16) Recommends that relevant organs, bodies and agencies within the United Nations system reconsider their programmes with a view to intensifying and expanding the level of their economic, legal, educational, and health assistance to the Palestinian people as concrete measures of securing their rights;

(17) Requests the organs, bodies and agencies within the United Nations system to expand the dissemination of information on the violations of Palestinian rights and of International Law so as to increase public awareness regarding the need and the urgency of securing Palestinian rights; and thereby contributing significantly to the rule of law in international relations;

(18) Urges the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and pending the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, to undertake effective measures to guarantee safety and security and legal and human rights of the Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories;

(19) Urges the General Assembly to establish a special legal aid fund to assist Palestinians in securing their rights under occupation;

(20) Urges the Member States to take cognizance of their obligations under existing international law, in particular with regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which require States parties to respect and to ensure respect for those Conventions in all circumstances;

(21) Urges the secretariat of the Conference to prepare a study on the conditions of women and children in all the occupied territories.

### III

Accordingly, the Latin American Regional Meeting, in conformity with the traditions of struggle by Latin American peoples against foreign domination, recommends that the States of the region:

(1) Take diplomatic and other initiatives in bilateral and multilateral fora to assist greater understanding of fundamental issues under international law which pertain to the question of Palestine;

(2) Consider establishing diplomatic relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization;

(3) Participate actively and at a high level in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in support of the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people;

(4) Encourage the media and other institutions to disseminate relevant information to increase public awareness and understanding on the question of Palestine;

(5) Encourage the study of the legal aspects of the question of Palestine in the institutions of higher education throughout the region;

(6) Urge the various jurists' associations of the region to establish special investigative commissions to determine the violations of the Palestinians' legal rights and to disseminate their findings accordingly;

(7) Encourage organizations such as those of women, teachers, workers, youth and students to undertake exchanges and other programmes of joint action with their Palestinian counterparts;

(8) Encourage women's associations in particular to investigate the conditions of Palestinian women and children in all occupied territories;

(9) Encourage the formation of national committees in support of the Palestinian people;

(10) Encourage the observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

#### IV

The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting takes note of the recommendations adopted by the African Regional Preparatory Meeting held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 29 March-1 April 1983.

## II. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE MEETING

### A. Date and place of the Meeting

1. By its resolution 37/86 of 10 December 1982, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in its report (A/37/49) providing for, inter alia, the organization of five regional preparatory meetings with the aim of securing the active involvement of Governments and Member States of the various regions during the preparatory stage of the Conference and during the Conference itself.

2. In pursuance of this resolution, the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting was held at the César Augusto Silva Conference Centre in Managua, Nicaragua from 12 April to 15 April 1983.

### B. Attendance

3. The following States participated in the Meeting: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia and Venezuela.

4. The Palestine Liberation Organization participated in the Meeting as the representative of the Palestinian people, which is the principal party to the question of Palestine.

5. The following States participated as observers: Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic.

6. The following attended the Meeting as observers: (1) Economic Commission for Latin America, (2) United Nations Industrial Development Organization, (3) United Nations Children's Fund, (4) United Nations Development Programme, (5) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and (6) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The League of Arab States also participated as an observer.

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7. The following non-governmental organizations also attended the Meeting: Asociación Nacional de Educadores de Nicaragua, Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, Comité Nicaraguense de Solidaridad con los Pueblos, Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos, International Oil Working Group, Juventud Sandinista del 19 de julio, Movimiento Cubano por la Paz, Organización Continental Latinoamericana de Estudiantes (OCLAE), Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and Tribunal Antimperialista de Nuestra America (TANA).

8. A message of good wishes for the success of the Meeting was received from the Executive Secretary of the Nicaraguan Committee for Solidarity with Peoples, Eduardo Cortes M. (See annex III.)

#### C. Opening of the Meeting and election of officers

9. The Latin American Preparatory Meeting was opened on Tuesday, 12 April 1983 by the Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Mrs. Lucille Mair, who expressed the gratitude of the United Nations to the Government of Nicaragua for generously hosting the Meeting. She expressed confidence that the endeavour to find a non-violent, just and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine would strike a responsive chord in the Latin American region. She emphasized that the intellectual and juridical excellence achieved in the region makes it an appropriate choice for the examination of the legal aspects of the question of Palestine.

10. His Excellency, Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Member of the Junta for National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua, stressed his country's solidarity with the Palestinian people. He drew parallels between the justness of the causes of the Palestinian and Nicaraguan peoples and the fact that both peoples were the object of similar imperialist interests. Like the Middle East, Central America had been forced by imperialism into arenas of world tension, and the two peoples had to resort to struggle in order to attain their inalienable rights. He called for immediate efforts towards finding a solution for peace in both the Middle East and Central America. In conclusion, Dr. Mercado stressed that peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without full recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians. Similarly, the rights of the Nicaraguan people must be recognized for peace to be restored in this region of Central America. His statement is reproduced as annex I below.

11. The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, His Excellency Massamba Sarré of Senegal, referred to the recommendations of the Committee which have been reiterated in each of its reports to the General Assembly as a basis for a solution to the problems. They aimed at a peaceful solution satisfying all States and peoples of the Middle East.

12. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Zedhi Labib Terzi, stated that the Meeting in Nicaragua was taking place at a time when oppression against this nation persists with the aid of their common enemy. He expressed the confidence of his organization that the participants in



the Meeting would start a dialogue and exchange of views on the juridical aspects of the Palestine question which would facilitate the search for a just solution and ensure respect for the rights of people. Mr. Terzi emphasized the acceptance by the Palestine Liberation Organization of all the United Nations resolutions related to the question of Palestine. (See annex II.)

13. His Excellency, Ernesto Castillo, Minister of Justice of Nicaragua was elected Chairman of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting. He reviewed the events leading to the advancement of the date of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine and emphasized the need to find a solution to the conflict in the Middle East. He stressed that the work of the regional meeting should find ways to advance the cause of the Palestinian people.

14. At the same meeting, His Excellency, Oscar Oramas-Oliva of Cuba, His Excellency Cotubanamá Dipp of the Dominican Republic and His Excellency, Hernán Escudero of Ecuador were elected Vice-Chairmen and His Excellency, Cecil Stanley Pilgrim of Guyana was elected Rapporteur.

15. An open-ended Working Group was established to facilitate the work of the Meeting.

#### D. Adoption of the agenda

16. The following agenda was adopted at the opening meeting:

##### Palestine and international law

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. Comprehensive review of the question of Palestine
  - (a) The legal status of the Palestinians
  - (b) The right to self-determination
6. The rights of the Palestinians under international law
  - (a) Human rights
  - (b) Status of political detainees
  - (c) Right to national resources

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7. Recommendation for action

8. Adoption of the report

17. The Meeting had before it the following documents, which were introduced by the legal expert consultants, Prof. W. T. Mallison and Mrs. Sally Mallison:

(a) "The legal status of the Palestinian people today" which investigates the complex issue regarding the status of the Palestinian people living under various jurisdictions and provides insights into the political aspects of these problems.

(b) "The Palestinian People's Legal Right to Exercise Self-Determination" which reveals that the Palestinian struggle is deeply rooted in law because the basic rights of the Palestinian people are based on customary law and treaties.

(c) "Economic activity and access to national resources" which considers the right to natural resources of the Palestinian people.

### III. SUMMARY OF THE CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS

18. In the consideration of agenda items (5) and (6), representatives agreed on a wide range of issues and basic principles relating to the question of Palestine and to the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Meeting stressed that there could be no peace in the Middle East without the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights in Palestine. In this regard, it was agreed that Israel's continued denial of the Palestinian's fundamental rights was a flagrant violation of internationally accepted norms and principles of international law and a threat to international peace and security, and thus of concern to the entire international community. It was stressed that Israel's violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people had been persistent, gross, systematic and indiscriminate and that the violations of individual human rights had to be viewed within the larger context of the denial of the Palestinian people's very existence as a nation.

19. The recent events relating to Israel's invasion of Lebanon which culminated in the massacres of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps were considered with particular attention and were viewed as acts of genocide. The Meeting unanimously condemned Israel's policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, as well as its disregard of international law, United Nations resolutions and world public opinion. It was emphasized that the withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by it since 1967, including Jerusalem, was an absolutely essential prerequisite for solving the problem of Palestine.

20. The Meeting noted that the violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people had continued despite the important and relevant provisions of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 181 (II), 194 (III), 3236 (XXIX) and 3237 (XXIX), which have been reaffirmed by subsequent resolutions. It was stressed that Israel's intransigent policy, recently intensified, and the support

it received from other States, had placed obstacles in the way of full attainment of those rights. It was suggested that the international community should take action in accordance with the relevant provisions in the United Nations Charter in view of Israel's violation of international law to secure the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

21. The Meeting noted that these continuing violations were in contravention of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and that Israel was alone in claiming that they did not apply to the Palestinian and other Arab territories it illegally occupied. Clear examples of these violations include the policy of settlement, collective punishments, administrative detention, expulsion from and confiscation of land and water resources and the dismissal of duly elected mayors. It was suggested that States Parties of the Convention take cognizance of their obligations under it which, inter alia, requires them to respect and to ensure respect for those conventions in all circumstances.

22. The view was expressed that Israel's policy in the occupied Palestinian territories was clearly aimed at physically dispossessing the Palestinians of their land and water resources as a step towards complete annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. It was stressed that the exclusivist nature of Israeli law debars Palestinians from economic activity and access to their national resources in clear violation of the Palestinian peoples' right to permanent sovereignty over their national resources.

23. Concern was expressed regarding Israel's treatment of Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners and detainees, and Israel's refusal to grant the status of prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 to all Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners it detained.

24. Feelings of solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Palestine were expressed by a number of representatives. It was stated that some countries of the region are forced to defend their own sovereignty against similar imperialist designs, thereby strengthening this solidarity between their peoples and the Palestinians.

25. The Meeting emphasized the important role of the United Nations in resolving the question of Palestine, by intensifying its support of the Palestinian people and ensuring that the principles of the Charter and the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly were implemented. Suggestions were made regarding immediate actions which should be taken urgently by the Security Council and other United Nations organs and organizations.

26. It was stressed that United Nations General Assembly resolution 181 (II) was the only firm basis for a durable solution to the problem. It was the responsibility of the international community to ensure implementation of this resolution, which envisaged the creation of two states.

27. The Meeting listened with appreciation to an account of the work of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It was noted that the recommendations of the Committee, which had been

repeatedly endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, converged on many points with the proposal of the Twelfth Arab Summit held at Fez in September 1982 and provided a sound basis for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its rights in Palestine. It was stressed that the implementation of these recommendations could significantly contribute to the restoration of the rule of law in international relations.

28. The Meeting urged the Latin American States to participate actively and at a high level in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in support of the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Palestine.

29. An urgent need was recognized to undertake additional initiatives to intensify the dissemination of information concerning the various aspects of the question of Palestine, particularly the continued violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, with a view to increasing public awareness and mobilizing public opinion in favour of the respect for the principles of international law and the restoration of Palestinian rights. Several suggestions were made regarding actions that should be taken within the United Nations system and by the States of the region.

30. The Meeting decided to draw up its recommendations for action and to forward them to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine.

#### IV. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

31. At the concluding meeting, which was held on 15 April 1983, the Chairman of the Meeting presented draft recommendations for action as a result of the deliberations of the Working Group. After consideration the Meeting adopted these recommendations by consensus. They are reproduced in section I above.

32. The representatives of Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela indicated that the official policy of their respective Governments was reflected in the explanations of vote on resolutions relating to the items entitled "The question of Palestine" and "The situation in the Middle East". The position of their delegations with regard to the recommendations adopted by the Meeting should be interpreted accordingly.

33. The representative of Argentina expressed reservation with regard to any point in the recommendations which did not coincide with the policies of his Government as expressed by the President of Argentina at the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, March 1983.

34. The representative of Mexico wished to make reference to the explanatory comments made by his Government on the occasion of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution ES-7/2.

35. The representative of Colombia wished to record his delegation's reservation with regard to paragraph I (8) of the recommendations.

36. The representatives of Brazil and Chile indicated their delegations' reservations with regard to paragraphs I (8), II (4), the last phrase in paragraph II (13) and paragraph III (2). The representative of Chile further reserved his delegation's position with regard to paragraph I (5).

37. The Meeting then adopted the report of the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting.

38. The Meeting also adopted a motion of thanks to the Government and to the people of the Republic of Nicaragua, the text of which is reproduced in annex IV.

ANNEX I

STATEMENT BY DR. SERGIO RAMIREZ MERCADO, MEMBER OF THE JUNTA FOR  
NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION OF NICARAGUA AT THE OPENING MEETING

In welcoming, on behalf of the Government of National Reconstruction and the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional, the holding of this Latin American Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, we are inspired by a sense of duty and responsibility which derives clearly from our position as a member of the United Nations and hence as a country responsible for implementing its agreements and above all from our active solidarity with the cause and rights of the Palestinian people. From the time of the struggle of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional to the arduous and difficult years of the building of the new Nicaragua, our Revolution has been in active solidarity with the Palestinian cause, and we have identified ourselves with the cause not only because we believe it to be just and necessary and believe that it should be recognized and that the rights of the Palestinian people should prevail, but also because we have found that both Nicaragua and the Palestinian people are the object of the same imperialist interests. Both Central America and the Middle East region have been converted into hotbeds of world tension by United States imperialism to facilitate the expansion of its military interests and create geopolitical space or spaces in the world.

Nicaragua and the Palestinian people, Central America and the Middle East have been and continue to be the object and victims of this same powerful, imperialist policy which has already produced so much destruction, blood, suffering and death in that region of the world and now threatens to extend to the whole of Central America and produce a full-scale conflagration in the area. Moreover, we cannot forget that these same interests, which are contrary to the interests of the Palestinian people and to those of the people of Nicaragua and also contrary to the interests of the Arab peoples and those of the peoples of Central America, are using the same weapons to try to stem the victorious advance of these peoples to the conquest of their legitimate rights. Terrorism used as a weapon of imperialism has cut down the life of a fighter for human rights in El Salvador, comrade Marianela García Díaz, who was brutally murdered, and Commander Ana María Mérida Anaya, also murdered by these same brutal methods, just as the same murderous hand snatched away the life of Dr. Issam Sartawi at the meeting of the Socialist International which recently concluded in Portugal. We believe that this aggression is the same, since the struggle of the Palestinian people and the struggle of the people of Nicaragua have the same objectives and also the imperialist enemy is pursuing the same objectives with its terrorist methods. Thus just as in the Middle East the United States Government is using the most illegal and spurious methods to try to enforce its geopolitical and imperialist interests in that region of the world, we now see how these same methods are being applied in the Central American region, and especially in our country Nicaragua where, through the massive invasion of our national territory using former members of the Somozist guard, the United States is trying to exacerbate the tensions in the Central American region to an intolerable degree. For the sake of its so-called strategic

interests in the region, which have simply been an illegal pretext for all kinds of aggression against the peoples of Central America, the United States is reintroducing into Nicaragua the former Somozist national guard which has committed multiple genocide against our people.

These members of the Somozist guard kept the Somozist dictatorship in power for 50 years in alliance with imperialism. It is the same Somozist national guard which was established by the United States itself to effect a military occupation of Nicaragua and was left as a stabilizing force for United States interests in 1933. It was this same genocidal Somozist guard which the United States had always wanted to make the ultimate guarantee of its interests in Nicaragua, and when in the final months of the struggle to overthrow the Somozist dictatorship led by the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional it could no longer save the crumbling leadership, great efforts were made and all possible stratagems were used to ensure that the same Somozist guard did not disappear from the map and that at least some remnants of the national guard remained in Nicaragua and became the protectors of the same interests which were collapsing at that time.

The United States was not able to include the national guard in its plans to gain control of the new revolutionary power in July 1979, and since through the generosity of the Revolution no firing squads were set up in Nicaragua, the great majority of the Somozist guards were able to flee to Honduran territory or to the territory of the United States itself. The Reagan administration has reassembled and reorganized the remnants of the former genocidal army and has armed, trained, and financed them so as to send them into Nicaragua once again to commit the same kind of crimes, murders, slaughter and attacks and spread the same kind of death and destruction as in the past. These are the forces through which imperialism wishes to impose democracy in Nicaragua and re-establish the same type of democracy which Nicaragua enjoyed during 50 years of dictatorship. Through these illegal and reckless manoeuvres the Reagan administration is running the risk of unleashing a conflict of unforeseeable proportions in Central America, and perhaps its ultimate aspiration is to create the conditions in the Central American region for a new Lebanon and a new Beirut and thus reproduce all the horrors of Sabra and Shatila; and to incite a regional war in Central America from which no country would escape since it would be a war without frontiers. In the face of this insanity and this incredible madness, our Revolution and our people are trying to insure that sobriety prevails at all times. Currently we are fighting against an extremely powerful enemy, an enemy which is prepared to use all economic, financial, political and military resources to try to quash our revolutionary project and nullify the immense efforts that our people are making for the transformation of Nicaragua and for national reconstruction. Although we are defending ourselves with all our strength in the military field and we are sure that we will be able to overcome this or any other type of aggression, our efforts are aimed at finding an immediate course of peace, and as Mrs. Mair noted in her opening statement at this meeting, we believe and are sure that an immediate course for achieving peace in Central America will serve as an example for seeking another course for achieving peace in the Middle East and immediately re-establishing the rights of the Palestinian people.

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Thus at this very time our Government is receiving here at Managua the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama who are on a mission of peace and are members of the group of countries known as Contadora Group. We are explaining to them in detail our wishes and our desire for peace. We do not recognize any right of the Reagan Government to invade our territory with the Somozist guards or any right to arm, train and finance them; consequently the presence of these genocidal guards in our territory and the supply and financing of the guards by the United States Government are in no way negotiable for Nicaragua.

Just as they are not negotiable, similarly this aspect cannot be compared with any other situation of conflict in Central America. The United States aggression against Nicaragua is a strictly bilateral matter. The conflict arises for Nicaragua with the United States Government and since the United States Government is using the territory of Honduras for its operations of invasion and aggression against our country and our territory, we also have to have bilateral discussions with Honduras.

Nicaragua, however, is not in conflict with any other country of Central America or the Caribbean or Latin America. It is in conflict with the Government of the United States because the United States Government, through its aggressive attitude, has provoked this conflict. We want a dialogue and a discussion in this final search for peace on the basis of equality and as a worthy, free and sovereign nation, and this is the only possible basis for a dialogue which can produce concrete results. We welcome this meeting on the rights of the Palestinian people at a difficult time for Nicaragua and for Central America. We do not believe that the situation of these countries can best be solved through war and a more dramatic and widespread regional conflict. We believe in peace, we believe in a peaceful solution, and we will make all possible efforts to ensure that such a peaceful solution is found. But just as we are convinced that no solution can be found to the Palestinian conflict and the Middle East conflict without full respect for and guarantee of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, similarly we do not believe that any solution can be found in Central America without taking into account in the first instance the inalienable rights of the people of Nicaragua, our country, and our Revolution. This is the recognition that we require in the first instance.

On behalf of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the leadership of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional we welcome you and express our hope that the deliberations of this meeting will have every success and above all that the cause of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights will prevail.



## ANNEX II

STATEMENT BY MR. ZEHDI LABIB TERZI, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AT THE OPENING MEETING

On behalf of Chairman Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and on behalf of the Palestinian people, I wish, at the outset of this historic meeting of Latin American and Caribbean countries in preparation for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, scheduled to be held in Paris next August, I wish to salute the Latin American and Caribbean States participating here. We welcome the representatives of the non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations.

We meet in "tierra libre de Nicaragua", the land of the hero Sandino, at a time when oppression against this nation, an aggression against this nation, against the brotherly Nicaraguan people, persists, with the aid of our common enemy - and with the technical advice and material support of the racist régime in occupied Palestine - the Israeli Zionists. The role of the administration in Washington in the destabilization of the Middle East as well as in Latin and Central America is obvious and of public knowledge.

We meet at a time when the same mad dogs are committing heinous crimes, mass murders and individual assassinations of patriots, of freedom fighters, of champions of peace and, just to name a couple, Comandante Ana Maria and Issam Sartawi. To the Nicaraguan people and to the Frente Sandinista and to the Government of national reconstruction, the gratitude and solidarity of our Palestinian people and its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The inauguration of the Preparatory Meeting by Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of Government of National Reconstruction can be viewed as an augur to this meeting. The participation of the Latin American and Caribbean States is reassuring and brings good tidings to the success of the International Conference in Paris next August. We are gratified that the Nicaraguan delegation is under the leadership of Dr. Ernesto Castillo, Minister of Justice, a most appropriate designation for this meeting.

We wish to register our appreciation of the contribution by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, under the most able chairmanship of our brother, Ambassador Massamba Sarré, the Permanent Representative of a great African people and State, the Senegal. At this time, we would also like to recognize with profound appreciation, the hard work and dedication of you, Mrs. Lucille Mair, the Secretary-General for the International Conference, and the Secretariat who have been working with extreme concern and discipline to make the difficult tasks result fruitfully for all concern.

A special word of thanks and appreciation to our good friends, the learned professors, Tom and Sally Mallison, who I am confident will contribute extensively and with profound knowledge and expertise in the legal and juridical aspects of the

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question of Palestine, and the rights of individual human beings as well as the inalienable rights of peoples.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries have produced great liberators - Simon Bolivar, San Martin, Sucre and O'Higgins, but as significantly, they have enriched the world of jurisprudence, jurists and justice. One can only remember the words of Benito Juarez, who laid the basis and principle "el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz".

In these times of turmoil and imperialist expansionist aggressions in Latin American and Caribbean nations, the nations here are standing fast defending their sovereignty and economic and political independence in order to safeguard and protect the welfare of their peoples and to advance it. It was in January of this year and in this very same hall that the non-aligned countries issued the historic Managua Declaration. The reference to the involvement of Israel, adverse as it is, in the affairs of the peoples of this continent is of extreme significance to the Palestinian people.

This meeting, in our perception, will address itself to the specific issues on the agenda, namely legal aspects, and we trust that this course will, by necessity, lead this meeting to set the proper course to ensure justice to the Palestinian people and to redress the injustice that has caused so many wars which continue to constitute a threat, not only to the Palestinians and other peoples in the area, but to international peace and security.

The Secretariat has prepared for the meeting some draft documents which should help in the direction of our deliberations. We are confident that the distinguished and learned participants will not hesitate to start a dialogue and an exchange of views and opinions on these juridical aspects of the Palestine question. Again, I repeat, this will facilitate the search for a just solution and justice for the Palestinian people and a commitment to respect and ensure respect for the rights of peoples. We are fully aware of the other equally important factors - real politics, economic and strategic interests - facts - but at the very roots, justice stands as the solid ground and prerequisite for peace and development. In Nicaragua libre, this is the year they call, "Año de la lucha por la Paz y la Soberanía". Let us recognize that we all share their objectives.

The Palestinians are confronting a serious challenge since the expressed aim of the Zionist colonizer is not only to exploit the Palestinian people, but to completely eliminate him as a national, political and human entity.

You have witnessed the genocidal aims of the Zionist movement. What happened last summer is the attempted fulfilment of the Israeli aim to liquidate the Palestinian people, to seize our land, and to disrupt the process of building regional unity, stability and peace.

You have shared together with us the cruelty and barbarity of the genocidal attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese civilians this past summer. You have seen the false pretenses used by the Israelis to launch an unequalled invasion into the sovereign territory of a neighbouring State. With American collusion and

co-operation and all types of American support, the beautiful land of Lebanon became the testing ground of the most lethal, destructive and sophisticated instruments of death ever witnessed in the modern world. Palestinians and Lebanese suffered wounds heretofore unknown by any peoples in the world.

After 60,000 dead and wounded, 700,000 displaced, 17,000 prisoners taken and denied prisoner-of-war status, the United States rewarded the Israelis for their inhumanity with a grant of \$2.73 billion for 1983 and an additional \$470 million on top of the original grant. Over \$7.5 million per day will be bestowed upon the criminals to further expand their war machine.

You have shared with us the horror of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. For many peoples of the world, this was the first time that they had witnessed such a cold-blooded massacre of the Palestinian people. But for us, it was another, but undoubtedly one of the most extensive and gruesome, massacres against our people. The history of the Zionist movement is replete with the horrible details of massacres against the Palestinian people. On 9 April 1948, the Stern gang perpetrated a massacre of 243 unarmed villagers in Dir Yassin, thereby instilling a panic and forcing the Palestinians to flee their homeland. The Suez crisis began the same day as the Israeli massacre of villagers in Kafr Kassim. Whenever the Israelis fail to break the will of the Palestinian people, they resort to genocide.

If any one of you has any doubt that the question of Palestine has become a question of genocide of the Palestinian people, let us share with you the most recent horrifying news of the occupied Palestinian homeland. From Jenin in the north to Hebron in the south, schoolchildren by the hundreds have been poisoned - their water supply contaminated by Israeli settlers. Most shocking, and again, remember genocide, medical tests taken on some of the 1,500 schoolgirls suffering from this poisoning, have shown that this poison will permanently sterilize them. This crime has prompted the Director of the International Committee of the Red Cross to demand that a full-fledged inquiry be conducted.

As you know, and as we have been informed, the objectives of the Conference are twofold. Firstly, it is designed to increase the awareness of the facts related to the question of Palestine, and, more importantly, to win support for effective measures to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights to self-determination, to return to their homeland, and to establish, in Palestine, its independent State. The Palestine Liberation Organization has declared its acceptance of all United Nations resolutions related to the question of Palestine. We have also declared our support for the unanimously adopted resolutions from the Fez Arab Summit meeting, embodied in the Arab peace plan, which we truly consider as a basis for a just and comprehensive settlement of the problem. Careful reading of the plan reveals its feasibility, its fundamentally just basis, and its historical continuity and concurrence with the resolutions of the United Nations, and particularly the programme of implementation recommended by the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and recommendations which have been endorsed on many occasions by the United Nations General Assembly. The Palestine Liberation Organization has enjoyed support given by the non-aligned nations to this plan, the Arab peace plan, and we are sure that these same members will solidify their support with concrete measures to facilitate

the implementation of that plan, and we trust that this meeting will express its support for that plan. Today, we express our appreciation to all States represented here and make known our optimism that this meeting will serve in a very significant way to prepare all nations for assuming the tasks laid out for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held next August in Paris.

Finally, I wish to thank you also for demonstrating your condemnation of the crime committed against our people and your observance of silence in memory of one of the martyrs of the cause of peace, Issam Sartawi.

ANNEX III

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE NICARAGUAN COMMITTEE  
FOR SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLES

Please accept the fraternal greetings of the Executive Secretary of the Nicaraguan Committee for Solidarity with Peoples (CNSP).

The Nicaraguan Committee for Solidarity with Peoples (CNSP) conveys to you and the members, delegates and observers at the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, to be held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 11-15 April, our gratitude and our best wishes for success.

We express our horror at the murder of Doctor Issam Sartawi, on 10 April, while he was attending the meeting of the Socialist International.

In expectation of the best results of the meeting, I send fraternal greetings.

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ANNEX IV

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA

The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine:

Expresses its sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the courageous people of Nicaragua and their Government of National Reconstruction for their warm and friendly welcome, which has greatly contributed to the success of the meeting,

Expresses appreciation for the resolute and illuminating statement made at the meeting by Dr. Sergio Ramírez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, reaffirming the determination of the Nicaraguan people and Government to confront all threats of intervention and hostile acts, to welcome genuine and constructive initiatives for peace in the region, and to defend the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to have their own State,

Wishes to express its satisfaction with the excellent conduct of the work of the meeting by its Chairman, the Minister of Justice, Dr. Ernesto Castillo, and the fraternal and hospitable atmosphere which prevailed during the debates at the meeting,

Expresses appreciation for the facilities made available to delegations, and particularly for the efforts made by the Nicaraguan authorities and personnel,

Expresses its satisfaction at having been able to meet in the land of Augusto César Sandino, Hero of America, and having had an opportunity to see at close hand the enormous efforts that are being made by the Nicaraguan people, under the leadership of the Government of National Reconstruction and the FSLN, to affirm the sovereignty, independence and prosperity of Nicaragua,

Stresses, lastly, its confidence and optimism that the statements made and the recommendations adopted at this meeting will make a decisive contribution to the success of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held in Paris in August this year so as to strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian people and promote international peace and security.

ANNEX V

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Participating States

ARGENTINA

H.E. Marcelino CHUBURU LASTRA  
Ambassador

Mr. Gustavo Luis BEGUET  
Second Secretary  
Argentinian Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

BARBADOS

H.E. Mr. Harley MOSELEY  
Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Ms. Sonja WELCH  
First Secretary  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BRAZIL

Mr. Luiz Fernando NAZARETH  
Minister

Mr. Joaquim Whitaker SALLES  
First Secretary  
Brazilian Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

CHILE

Mr. Eduardo VEGA BEZANILLA  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Chilean Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

COLOMBIA

H.E. Mr. Fernando NAVAS DE BRIGA  
Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the  
Republic of Nicaragua

CUBA

H.E. Mr. Oscar ORAMAS OLIVA  
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Alberto VELAZCO  
Director of North Africa and Middle East  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Mireya GARCIA SALVADOR  
Specialist in International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

H.E. Mr. Cotubanamá DIPP  
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Rafael CORDERO DIAZ  
Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the  
Republic of Nicaragua

ECUADOR

Mr. Hernán ESCUDERO  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

GRENADA

H.E. Mr. Caldwell TAYLOR  
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Ms. Merle COLLINS  
Director of the Political Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GUYANA

H.E. Mr. Cecil Stanley PILGRIM  
Ambassador of the Republic of Guyana to the  
Republic of Cuba

Mr. Ian FRASER  
Second Secretary  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

HONDURAS

H.E. Dr. Héctor Alfonso PINEDA LOPEZ  
Ambassador

Mr. Julio GARCIA-ORDÓÑEZ  
Counsellor  
Honduran Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

JAMAICA

H.E. Mr. Louis H. BOOTHE  
Ambassador of Jamaica to the Republic of Nicaragua

Mr. Stafford NEIL  
Minister Counsellor  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Mr. Raymond WOLFE  
Assistant Director  
Political Division  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



MEXICO

H.E. Mr. Augusto GOMEZ VILLANUEVA  
Ambassador

Mr. Luciano JOUBLANC MONTAÑO  
Minister

Mr. Luis MACIAS CARDONE  
First Secretary  
Mexican Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

NICARAGUA

Dr. Ernesto CASTILLO MARTINEZ  
Minister of Justice

Dr. Alejandro BENDAÑA RODRIGUEZ  
Assistant Director-General of Foreign Policy for  
Multinational Affairs

Alternates

Mr. Mario CASTELLON DUARTE  
Chief, United Nations Department

Ms. Daisy MONCADA  
Counsellor  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Ms. Dora ZELEDON ZELEDON  
Chief, Asia, Africa and Middle East Dept., a.i.

Dr. Angela GROSS  
Chief, Department of Human Rights

Mr. Ernesto ALOMA SANCHEZ  
Chief, Department of Non-Alignment

Advisers

Mr. Chester SIMPSON  
Officer, United Nations Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Reynaldo LOPEZ  
Member of the State Council

Mr. José Luis VILLAVICENCIO  
Member of the State Council

PANAMA

Mr. Benjamín OREJUELA PONCE  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Panamanian Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua

- PERU  
Mr. Sergio KOSTRITSKY  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Embassy of the Republic of Peru to the Republic  
of Nicaragua
- Mr. Alberto FERNANDEZ PRADA FRANCO  
Second Secretary  
Embassy of the Republic of Peru to the Republic  
of Nicaragua
- SAINT LUCIA  
Mr. Charles S. FLEMING  
Counsellor  
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- VENEZUELA  
H.E. Mr. José Rafael ZAPATA LUIGI  
Ambassador of the Republic of Venezuela to the  
Republic of Nicaragua
- Ms. Elsa BOCHECIAMPE CROVATI  
Minister Counsellor  
Ministry of Foreign Relations
- B. States represented by observers
- EGYPT  
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Aly KAMEL  
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the  
Republic of El Salvador
- Mr. Ramzy YACOUT ALLAM  
Counsellor  
Egyptian Embassy to the Republic of El Salvador
- GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
H.E. Mr. Gerald MOCKEL  
Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic to the  
Republic of Nicaragua
- ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
Mr. Alireza SHIRMOHAMADI  
Chargé d'Affaires  
Iranian Embassy to the Republic of Nicaragua
- LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA  
Mr. Mohamed AREBI  
Embassy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya
- SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
H.E. Mr. Mohamed NAJDI AL JAZZAR  
Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the  
Republic of Cuba

C. Palestine Liberation Organization

H.E. Mr. Marwan TAHBUB

Ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the Republic of Nicaragua

Mr. Ibrahim BORINI

First Secretary

Embassy of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the Republic of Nicaragua

Ms. Deena ABU-LUGHOD

Adviser to the Permanent Observer to the United Nations

D. United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA)

Mr. Oscar ZAMORA

United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization (UNIDO)

Ms. Magdalena SAVARAIN  
Principal Adviser

E. United Nations bodies

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Jaime BALCAZAR  
Resident Representative/Co-ordinator

Ms. Antonina VIVAS  
Assistant Resident Representative

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mr. Feci DAMASO  
Deputy Regional Representative

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Mr. Nicolás GARCIA MORENA  
Project Officer

F. United Nations councils, commissions and committees

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable  
Rights of the Palestinian People

H.E. Mr. Massamba SARRE  
Chairman

Mr. Zehdi TERZI

Mr. Wolfgang BUSCH

G. United Nations specialized agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Carlos Antonio CARRASCO  
Principal Technical Adviser

H. Intergovernmental organizations

League of Arab States

Mr. Mohamed KHALOUT

I. Non-governmental organizations

Asociación Nacional de Educadores de Nicaragua

Mr. José Luis VILLAVICENCIO

Central de Trabajadores de Cuba

Mr. Rolando OLIVAR

Comité Nicaraguense de Solidaridad con  
los Pueblos

Mr. Leonardo J. SEDILES  
Ms. Rosa Elvira REYES  
Mr. Eduardo José MONTOYA

Federación de Mujeres Cubanos

Ms Dora CARCAÑO  
Ms. Elena P. PEREZ

Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos

Mr. Reynaldo GONZALEZ RIVERA

International Oil Working Group

Mr. Luis PRADO

Juventud Sandinista de 19 de julio

Mr. Reynaldo Antonio PAYAN LEIVA

Movimiento Cubano por la Paz

Ms. Nora F. GOPAR BENITEZ

Organización Continental Latinoamericana de  
Estudiantes (OCLAE)

Mr. Ricardo Antonio SAMANIEGO  
GONZALEZ

Organización de Solidaridad con los Pueblos  
de Africa, Asia y America Latina (OSPAAAL)

Ms. Irene Esther RUIZ

Tribunal Antimperialista de Nuestra America  
(TANA)

Mr. Oswaldo ZUNIGA CANALES  
Mr. Freddy BALZAN

J. Consultants

Dr. Sally V. MALLISON  
Research Associate  
International and Comparative Law Program  
George Washington University

Dr. W. Thomas MALLISON  
Professor of Law and Director  
International and Comparative Law Program  
George Washington University

K. Secretariat of the International Conference on the  
Question of Palestine

Mrs. Lucille MAIR, Secretary-General of the Conference

Ms. Rasil BASU, Principal Officer, Secretariat of the Conference

Mr. Armando DUQUE, Secretary of the Meeting

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