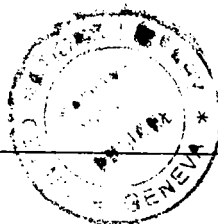




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## REPORT OF THE WEST ASIAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING

Sharjah Continental Hotel  
Sharjah, United Arab Emirates  
25-29 April 1983

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## I. DECISIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEETING

1. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 25 to 29 April 1983, viewing the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with grave concern, is convinced that the unprecedented urgency of the situation makes an early solution to the question of Palestine imperative. The West Asian States therefore welcome the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 16 to 27 August 1983, whose objectives and timeliness are underscored by the current situation. The West Asian States, geographically and historically the most closely affected by the question of Palestine, which they perceive as the core of the conflict in the Middle East, are agreed that no effort should be spared in striving for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Meeting, therefore, recognizes:

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

(b) 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 to compensation for those choosing not to do so;

(c) 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.

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

(e) That the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has the right to participate on an equal footing in all international conferences held by the United Nations, in all the organs and agencies belonging to the United Nations and in all efforts undertaken by the Organization in conformity with its relevant resolutions;

(f) That the continued occupation by Israel of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza and of the other Arab territories, and its refusal to apply the provisions of the Hague regulations of 1907, are illegal and contrary to the provisions of international law;

(g) The imperative need for total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the territories that it is occupying in the West Bank and Gaza and from the other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, with a view to the achievement of a comprehensive and just solution to the conflict in the Middle East;

(h) 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.

2. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, considering all aspects of the question of Palestine and in particular the long struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their national rights, including the right to establish an independent State in Palestine, deems action on this question to be a matter of the utmost urgency and therefore emphatically recommends that the international community should:

(a) Be alert to the great importance of the time factor in solving the question of Palestine;

(b) Intensify efforts, individually and collectively, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital and, to this end, use all available means to secure the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all territories occupied by it since 1967, including Jerusalem, as an indispensable step towards the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East;

(c) Urge States which have not recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people to accord such recognition;

(d) Continue to adhere to all the resolutions of the United Nations and its specialized agencies which reject Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and its declaration of that city as its capital;

(e) Consider the Arab peace plan adopted at the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez, Morocco, on 9 September 1982 as a constructive contribution to the search for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict and as being in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations aimed at settling the question of Palestine;

(f) Consider the position adopted by the Palestine National Council at its meeting in Algiers, reiterating its adherence to the principles of the United Nations, to its Charter and to its resolutions affirming the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, as a constructive contribution to the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East;

(g) Consider the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which were endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-first session and at subsequent

sessions and which are, moreover, consistent with efforts to obtain peace and a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine as a sound basis on which to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights in Palestine;

(h) Take into consideration, with appreciation, the decisions of the Organization of African Unity, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the question of Palestine;

(i) Encourage Western European and North American States, through bilateral and multilateral contacts, to adopt the position outlined in the statement of the Council of Europe of 22 March 1983, which considered the Arab peace plan and the results of the work of the Palestine National Council as a positive step towards the establishment of peace in the Middle East;

(j) Call upon States and regional economic organizations which maintain economic relations with Israel to review those relations and the agreements governing them in the light of Israeli statements to the effect that the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, constitute an integral part of Israel;

(k) Seek to prevent Zionist activity aimed at encouraging the migration of Jews from their countries of origin to the occupied Arab territories and their establishment in the illegal colonial settlements in those territories;

(l) Undertake joint Islamic, Christian and non-Zionist Jewish efforts to protect the Holy Places and to put an end to their desecration by Israel;

(m) Appeal to non-governmental organizations and professional and popular associations to intensify their efforts to support the rights of the Palestinian people in every possible way;

(n) Appeal to the world press, to recognized associations of journalists and writers and to other mass media to increase their dissemination of factual information on the question of Palestine.

3. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, viewing with grave concern the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, where Israel is more than ever before continuing to violate the Palestinians' fundamental rights by expropriating and annexing their land, establishing colonial settlements thereon and taking possession of their water resources, recommends that the States Members of the United Nations should:

(a) Call upon the Security Council to adopt and ensure the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(b) Urge the Security Council to impose military and economic sanctions on Israel, in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to inducing it to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories;

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(c) Call upon the Security Council to consider the reports of the Commission established under resolution 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, which examined the situation concerning colonial settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, with a view to the implementation of its recommendations; call, likewise, upon the Security Council to re-activate the above-mentioned Commission to monitor the ongoing establishment and expansion of colonial settlements and their implications for the Palestinian people's access to their natural resources and to take the necessary steps to end Israel's colonial settlement policy and its use of force against the population of the Palestinian and Arab territories;

(d) Appeal to the Security Council to initiate action to compel Israel to lift its restrictions on water use and well drilling by Palestinian farmers and to terminate its diversion of West Bank water resources into the Israeli water grid system;

(e) Strive for the adoption of international measures to compel Israel to implement in the West Bank and Gaza the provisions of the Hague regulations of 1907 concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, in the light of Security Council resolution 465 (1980);

(f) Call upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, 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 take effective measures to guarantee the safety and security and the legal and human rights of the Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories;

(g) Emphasize the need for the Agency to continue to provide its services to the Palestinians without any decrease or diminution;

(h) Take the necessary steps to invalidate and counter the measures and practices applied by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, including the expropriation and annexation of land and property and the alteration of the demographic, geographic and historical features therein.

4. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, fully aware of the present adverse social, economic and cultural conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon, and being desirous of achieving immediate solutions to their problems, further urges the United Nations and the appropriate organs in the United Nations system to:

(a) Initiate a comprehensive census of the Palestinian people as an additional and reliable means of identifying their particular needs for housing, health, education, employment, etc.;

(b) Examine and promote ways and means to enable the Palestinian people to exercise sovereignty over their national resources, particularly their water resources, in a manner conducive to their development and so as to ensure the supply of adequate quantities of water through the drilling of new water wells,

without any Israeli interference, and to prevent Israel from exploiting such wells for its own purposes and wasting the water and other resources of the occupied territories;

(c) Establish as a matter of urgency adequate, effective, and equitably distributed health facilities incorporating supportive, preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services which will enable the Palestinians living in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the victims of Israeli aggression against Lebanon during 1982, to lead a socially and economically productive life;

(d) Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to set up within UNCTAD a special economic unit to monitor and investigate the policies of the Israeli occupation authorities hampering the economic development of the occupied Palestinian territories, in particular the agricultural sector;

(e) Co-operate, with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme, in the promotion and development of a healthy environment, with particular emphasis on safe water supplies, waste disposal, prevention of air pollution and control of vectors causing disease to man and animal;

(f) Request international agencies and organizations to report to the United Nations General Assembly, individually or jointly, on their activities relating to the social, economic and cultural needs of the Palestinian people;

(g) Urge the United Nations Development Programme to convene inter-agency meetings and to establish a task-force under the aegis of UNDP, to assess the progress and effectiveness of technical co-operation activities that have taken place since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/147 and to consider the possibility of developing and expanding them;

(h) Support the development and expansion of Palestinian educational and research institutions at all levels, particularly in the occupied territories, through the provision of research grants for Palestinians, the allocation of funds to support productive educational projects and the granting of scholarships to train Palestinian manpower and, most important, join international educational institutions in protesting against the repeated closure of schools and universities, which constitutes a form of collective punishment; call upon UNESCO to reactivate its plan to establish a Palestinian Open University, in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, with a specific deadline for its implementation, in order to provide the Palestinians with specialized higher education in their areas of residence;

(i) Consider and develop ways and means to support the development and expansion of manufacturing industries and agricultural production conducive to the establishment of a diversified production system in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip capable of providing ample job opportunities in the local economy for the Palestinian labour force;

(j) Consider and develop ways and means to prevent Israel from dumping its products in the occupied territories and also to prevent it from restricting the right of the local business community to export to any destination and import from any source with which its members may wish to deal;

(k) Support the establishment of local financial and other economic institutions capable of mobilizing domestic resources and guiding their development; intensify efforts to create appropriate indigenous financial institutions in the occupied territories, so that remittances and savings of Palestinians can be devoted to indigenous Palestinian development and prevented from being absorbed into the Israeli financial system; and further, take measures to ensure that the remittances of Palestinians abroad and Palestinian export earnings do not serve to support the Israeli balance of payments;

(l) Consider appropriate policies and measures to protect the integrity of the Palestinian family under conditions of disruption, particularly in the light of the renewed dispersion resulting from the aggression against Lebanon;

(m) Expand and promote the administration of social services to meet the needs of displaced Palestinians;

(n) Endeavour to increase awareness by the international community of the economic and social burdens borne by the Palestinian people as a result of the continued Israeli occupation of Arab territories, with special emphasis on the adverse effects of this occupation on the economic development of the West Asian region as a whole. This effort should include the establishment of a United Nations inter-agency body with the task of collecting information and conducting investigations, which would receive funds-in-trust for the establishment of a data bank for that purpose and also for the purpose of meeting other requirements relating to research into Palestinian issues and to the monitoring of the Palestinian development process and which would be empowered to publish its findings;

(o) Maintain and strengthen the resources of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the various United Nations bodies with regard to matters pertaining to the economic and social development of the Palestinians, for the purpose of strengthening and expanding their activities in this field;

(p) Study ways and means for the promotion of agricultural and industrial production in the occupied territories and for the achievement of economic integration between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by:

- (i) Providing loans and assistance for all Arab farmers in the occupied territories, in order to enable them to exploit their lands and increase crop productivity;
- (ii) Promoting and encouraging the establishment of consumer industries for which raw materials are available in the occupied territories, with a view to the creation of a kind of economic independence;



- (iii) Encouraging the external marketing of Arab agricultural produce from the occupied territories, with a view to the promotion of agriculture in the occupied homeland;

- (q) Organize meetings, symposia and seminars on topics within their terms of reference and relating to specific problems of the Palestinian people.

5. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, convinced of the importance of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, from 16 to 27 August 1983:

- (a) Welcomes the recommendations for action adopted by the African Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 29 March to 1 April 1983, and by the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Managua, Nicaragua, from 12 to 15 April 1983;

- (b) Urges all States Members of the United Nations to participate in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at the ministerial level.

6. The Meeting also adopted resolutions on Lebanon and on the war between Iraq and Iran, as follows:

(a) Resolution on Lebanon

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting expresses its grave concern at the situation in Lebanon arising from Israel's aggression against that country and the continuation of that aggression.

The Meeting considers these Israeli actions in Lebanon as constituting a threat to international peace and security.

The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting therefore requests the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate measures in order to compel Israel to implement the resolutions of the Security Council demanding the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from Lebanese territory.

The Meeting also expresses its support and backing for the legitimate authority in Lebanon in its effort to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and restore its independence and its territorial and institutional integrity.

(b) Resolution on the war between Iraq and Iran

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, considering that the war between Iraq and Iran is dissipating the human energies and economic resources of the two countries and that its continuation is having adverse effects on the countries of the region and on the question of Palestine and the course of the Palestinian struggle to regain Palestinian rights, is convinced of the need for action to bring this war to an end without any delay, and calls upon the international community to redouble its efforts and to do its utmost to restore peace to the region.

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

### A. Date and place of the Meeting

7. 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 contained 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.

8. Pursuant to this resolution, and at the invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting was held at the Continental Hotel in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from 25 to 29 April 1983.

### B. Attendance

9. The following States participated in the Meeting: Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The following States were represented by observers: Cuba and Malaysia.

10. 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.

11. Representatives of the following groups attended the Meeting:

(a) Units of the United Nations Secretariat: the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

(b) United Nations bodies: the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(c) The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people;

(d) Specialized agencies of the United Nations: the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO);

(e) Intergovernmental organizations: the Co-operative Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC);

(f) Non-governmental organizations: the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, the Arab Town Organization, the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce and the Union of Arab Jurists.

C. Opening of the Meeting and election of the bureau

12. The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting was opened on Monday, 25 April 1983, by Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine. She expressed the appreciation of the United Nations to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for generously hosting the Meeting. She stressed that the agenda of this Meeting, focusing on the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people and on the status of Jerusalem, was extremely relevant to the region of West Asia. She expressed confidence that the will and the resources of this region could assist in finding new solutions that would lead to security, peace and justice in the region.

13. His Highness, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah, Shaikh Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, addressing the opening Meeting, stressed the importance of holding it on Arab soil and of the attendance of Arab States which shared the hopes of the Palestinians. He emphasized that the campaigns of extermination to which the Palestinian people had been constantly exposed since their displacement from their homeland in 1948 and, in particular, the events in Lebanon, were tragic expressions of the vicious nature of Zionist aggression which was unfortunately supported by a major Power. He expressed the conviction that the international community would undertake sincere, diligent and constructive efforts to assist the Palestinian people to recover their rights and regain their homeland. He reaffirmed the resolve of the United Arab Emirates to employ all of its resources to ensure the achievement of a just and honourable solution based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, and support for the restoration of Palestinian rights.

14. The representative of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Mr. Zehdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations, referred to the recommendations of the Committee which had been endorsed by the General Assembly as a firm basis for a just and durable solution to the problem. The endorsement and the implementation of those recommendations by the Security Council could have prevented Israel from pursuing its expansionist policy and repressive measures against the Palestinian Arab people. In spite of the almost universal acceptance of the underlying principles of the recommendations, the intransigence of Israel had proved to be an insurmountable barrier to the attainment of the just aspirations of the Palestinian people.

15. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Attar, emphasized that the aspects of the economic and social conditions of the Palestinians which were on the agenda of this Meeting should be discussed against the background of the political dimensions of the question of Palestine. Reviewing the position of the United Nations on the question of Palestine, he stressed that the Middle East conflict of which the Palestinian

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question was the core, was aggravating the dangers threatening international peace and security and draining material and human resources that could be used to meet the economic and social requirements of the region. Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories, particularly the establishment and continuous expansion of settlements and the unlawful exploitation of the natural wealth, resources and population of these territories were aimed at altering the Palestinian Arab identity of both the land and the population. These policies and practices which had been condemned by the United Nations were in contravention of the will of the international community and of Israel's commitments under international law.

16. The representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Mr. Shafik Al-Hout, emphasized the impossibility of separating Palestinian destiny from Arab destiny since they were interlinked by the question of peace and war, social progress and development in the region. He expressed confidence that the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, in accordance with its stated objectives, would contribute to the search for peace in the region. He appealed to the nations of the world to be aware of Israel's expansionist desires, especially in view of the obvious preparations for a thrust into Syrian territory, which would aggravate the threat to international peace and security.

17. His Excellency, Rashid Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, was elected Chairman of the West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting. He stressed that the Zionist entity, as a foreign implant, was continuing to defy world opinion and with the help of its supporters was frustrating attempts to resolve a simple elementary issue. Israel had tried to sabotage the objectives of the Twelfth Arab Summit Conference held at Fez and had blocked the path to peace on which the Arabs had embarked. It was ironic and regrettable that international pressure was being exerted on the Palestine Liberation Organization to force a solution of the issue. Greater awareness of the political and humanitarian aspects of the question of Palestine was absolutely relevant to world peace and progress.

18. At the same Meeting, Mr. Shafik Al-Hout of the Palestine Liberation Organization and His Excellency Mr. Mohamad Al-Khawi of the Yemen Arab Republic were elected Vice-Chairmen, and His Excellency Mr. Wissam Al-Zahawie of Iraq was elected Rapporteur.

19. A working group was established to facilitate the drafting of the recommendations.

#### D. Adoption of the agenda

20. The following agenda was adopted at the opening Meeting:

##### Economic, civil, social and cultural conditions of Palestinians

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of officers

3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. General overview of the economic, civil, social and cultural conditions of Palestinians
6. Prospects for the future
7. Status of Jerusalem
8. Recommendations for action
9. Adoption of the report.

21. The Meeting had before it the following reports which were introduced by expert consultants.

(a) "An overview of the economic and social situation of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia", which analyses Palestinian society, its people and its institutions in a socio-historical context revealing the forces that have gone into shaping the Palestinian communities since 1948;

(b) "Economic activity and access to national resources", which considers the right of the Palestinian people to permanent sovereignty over its national resources;

(c) "Is an independent Palestinian State economically viable?", which examines economic arrangements under which an independent Palestinian State would be capable of satisfying its citizens' aspirations and of sustaining itself without giving rise to undue foreign dependence or to severe economic imbalances.

(d) "Status of Jerusalem", which examines the position reflected in United Nations resolutions.

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

22. When the agenda items were discussed, representatives agreed on a wide range of issues and basic principles relating to the question of Palestine. It was stressed that the economic, social and cultural conditions of the Palestinians should be considered against the background of the political components of this problem. The Meeting agreed that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East required the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights in Palestine including the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State in conformity with the provision of United Nations resolutions. The continued occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the total disregard of the Palestinians' fundamental rights had made the Palestinian issue one of the most acute problems of our time requiring an urgent resolution on the basis of internationally recognized principles. The

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Meeting stressed the urgency of resolving the problem of Palestine. It regarded the time factor as critical since each day's delay saw Israel further consolidating its position in the occupied territories and increasing the obstacles to peace.

23. Despite repeated reiteration and reaffirmation by the United Nations of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, they continued to be violated and their realization frustrated by Israel in defiance of world public opinion and in violation of international law. Until these rights were attained the Palestinian people would strive to regain them by all means at their disposal.

24. It was consistently maintained that failure to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions would only exacerbate the regional instability and present an ever-increasing threat to the Arab nations and to international peace and security. The Security Council, therefore, was urged to apply sanctions against Israel to compel it to withdraw from all occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

25. The Israeli aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people and the wanton massacre of Palestinian civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps gave ample proof of Israel's determination to resort to genocide in order to achieve its expansionist aims. It was stressed that Israel's violation of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people had to be viewed within the context of the denial of the Palestinian people's very existence as a nation. It was observed that Israel was waging a total war to obliterate Palestinian efforts to assert their rights, and among the most sinister aspects of its policy was the deliberate suppression of Palestinian institutions by Israel.

26. The Meeting unanimously condemned Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories as a step towards complete annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, in the wake of the illegal annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights and of the city of Jerusalem. The establishment and continued expansion of colonial settlements as well as the exploitation of the natural and human resources of the occupied territories were revealed as aimed at altering the Palestinian Arab identity of both the land and the population and creating a new geographic and demographic situation in contravention of the Geneva Conventions.

27. The means used to put these policies into effect range from military force to deprivation of resources and economic pressure. These means were constantly intensified and made more sophisticated. Agricultural strangulation through deprivation of water was evident. The strategy was obviously intended to drive out the Arab population, as were the tactics of confiscation of lands, the imposition of collective punishment and the practice of torture. Israel's criminal acts perpetrated against the Holy Places in Jerusalem as well as the process of judaization of the economic and juridical systems in the occupied territories were unanimously condemned.

28. A persistent feature had been Israel's effort to eradicate almost all manifestations of Palestinian national existence. Israel's ability to employ highly developed technology in its efforts to displace and subjugate the Palestinians had facilitated economic domination over them - a domination that had

significantly increased the seriousness of the more traditional forms of denial of human rights. This deprivation of human rights was amply documented by specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations. Many specific examples of these violations, especially with regard to access to national resources, were provided by the representatives of Economic Commission for Western Asia, International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, and United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Several suggestions were made to assist the Palestinian people to protect and develop their economic, civil, social and cultural living conditions. A specific proposal to establish an international fund to facilitate the agricultural and economic development of the West Bank and Gaza was received with great interest.

29. The Meeting discussed how, through the physical dispossession of their land and water resources, the Palestinian Arab inhabitants, both in the occupied territories and in Israel itself, were facing the prospect of having their culture eroded by the imposition of discriminatory practices, particularly the repeated and arbitrary closure of educational institutions. It was suggested that the United Nations and the specialized agencies should take action to stop these practices and to assist in preserving Palestinian culture.

30. Specific reference was made to the wide-ranging responsibilities of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in the political, economic, social and cultural fields. It was noted that the Palestine Liberation Organization provided a political platform as well as an infrastructure for the socio-economic development of its people. The United Nations agencies were urged to continue and to intensify their assistance to the cultural, educational and health activities of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its affiliated associations.

31. On the question of Jerusalem, Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem and to transfer its capital to that city was condemned. The Meeting referred to the universal condemnation by the international community and the universal declaration that this action should be considered null and void. The attempt by the occupying Power unilaterally to impose a juridical status on the Holy City, unique in its religious and universalist character, was held to be a direct violation of international law with implications well beyond the issue of Palestinian rights. Israeli practices were regarded as one of the most serious and insurmountable obstacles to the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine.

32. It was suggested that to enhance its effectiveness in safeguarding the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the international community should be unswerving in its commitment to the realization of those rights, should give moral and material assistance to the Palestinian people in its just struggle and should evoke the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter to compel Israel to adhere to internationally accepted principles of international law and to the resolutions of the United Nations.

33. 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 decisions of the Twelfth Arab Summit held at Fez in September 1982 and provided a sound basis on which to enable the Palestinian people to exercise its rights in Palestine. It was stressed that the implementation of these recommendations could significantly contribute to the cause of peace and security.

34. The Meeting, recalling that the United Nations Conference on Namibia was being held in Paris, sent a message in support of the Namibian people's struggle for independence and self-determination. The text of the message is annexed to the present report.

35. The Meeting decided to forward its recommendations to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine.

#### IV. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

36. At the concluding Meeting, which was held on 28 April 1983, the Chairman of the Meeting presented draft recommendations for action as a result of the deliberations of the Working Group. After due consideration the Meeting adopted these recommendations by consensus. They are reproduced in section I above.

37. The Meeting then adopted the report of the West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting.

38. The Meeting also adopted a motion of thanks to the Government and the people of the United Arab Emirates, the text of which is reproduced in annex VIII.



Annex I

ADDRESS BY HIS HIGHNESS, MEMBER OF SUPREME COUNCIL, RULER OF SHARJAH,  
SHEIKH SULTAN BIN MOHAMAD AL-QASIMI

It is a pleasure for me to attend the opening of this important regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held in Paris this summer. It is also an honour for the United Arab Emirates to host this Meeting whose work is devoted to one of the most important questions that have given rise to world-wide concern during the last three decades of this century.

I believe this to be a particularly important preparatory Meeting since it is being held on Arab soil and attended by Arab States which share the hopes of the Palestinians and, like them, have also been victims of the international conspiracy which drove them from their homes and prevented them from exercising their natural right to live in a secure, free and independent homeland.

You are all aware of the manner in which the Palestinian people have been constantly exposed to campaigns of extermination since their displacement from their homeland in 1948, campaigns in which all sorts of weapons have been employed with a view to their physical and psychological destruction and which have not hesitated even to poison children at school. The events in Lebanon and, in particular, in Beirut last summer possibly offer the most cogent proof of the terrible tragedy to which the Palestinian people are exposed and which has shocked the conscience of the world in all parts of the globe. Those events are a tragic expression of the vicious nature of Zionist aggression which is unfortunately supported by a major Power on which the countries of the third world had long pinned their hopes for the achievement of international peace and progress.

Although some may regard the Arab and international situation as currently favourable for action to dispose of this question and to forever silence the voice of this people by dispersing their forces and depriving them of their capacity of resistance, we hold the view that this people, who have succeeded in resisting Zionist occupation and barbarity during the last few decades, deserve to recover their rights and regain their homeland. We are also convinced that the international community will inevitably realize these facts and that sincere, diligent and constructive efforts must produce results.

We are certain that peace will not be achieved in this region until justice triumphs and legitimate rights are restored to those legally entitled thereto.

Wishing to be as brief as possible, I would merely like to reaffirm the resolve of the United Arab Emirates to employ all of its political and economic resources with a view to ensuring the triumph of truth and the achievement of a just and honourable solution based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories, the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, and support for the Palestinian people in the realization of their just rights.

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I wish your Meeting success in the formulation of its recommendations which will constitute a positive contribution to the achievement of a just and lasting solution to this difficult question.

In conclusion, I welcome you to the United Arab Emirates, hoping that you will have a pleasant stay among us and wishing your Meeting a successful and fruitful outcome.

Annex IISTATEMENT BY MR. ZEHDI L. TERZI, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On behalf of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People I wish to extend to the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates our sincere gratitude for allowing us the privilege of meeting here today to discuss a question - the Question of Palestine - which has for many years engaged the attention of the Committee. The modern facilities which have been provided, the warm welcome we have received and the obvious interest in the question together ensure that our deliberations will be fruitful, and leave us confident that we shall make a valuable contribution towards the search for a just and lasting solution to the problem that we are meeting here to discuss.

As you are aware, this is one of a series of regional preparatory meetings aimed at making positive contributions to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine which the General Assembly of the United Nations has decided to hold at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in August this year. Each of those meetings will reflect the preoccupations of its region and that region's interest in the problem which is recognized by the international community as one that vitally affects the interests of the world community as a whole and is an ever-present threat to international peace and security.

But clearly, and not surprisingly, the deliberations at this Meeting and the recommendations that it will make will be watched with more than special interest. Here, we are in the region most intimately connected with the problem. It is the region which has had to bear the brunt of the international community's inability to find a just and durable solution to the problem. It is the region with most at stake, where the day-to-day lives of the people are seriously affected by events which we do not seem to be able to control, and by the injustice done to the Palestinian people. If, therefore, the problem affects the entire international community, the people whom you represent are even more vitally affected and have a greater stake in a just solution.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has for the past seven years exerted every effort to make a contribution to the solution of the problem.

In 1967 it drew up a set of recommendations based on resolutions of the United Nations no less than on the principles of justice and morality. The impartiality and objectivity of those recommendations cannot be questioned. I take this opportunity to thank all those present here for the support the Committee has always received from the States in this region, particularly in its attempts to see that those recommendations were implemented. Yet in spite of the fact that those recommendations have been repeatedly endorsed by the General Assembly they have not been implemented mainly because of the inability of the Security Council to take any decisive action due to the negative vote of a permanent member.

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However, the failure to implement those recommendations in no way diminishes their validity. They were and remain a firm basis for the establishment of a just and durable solution to the problem. It is the Committee's hope that this Meeting will keep those recommendations in mind in the formulation of any programme of action to be discussed at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine for it is clear that they do provide an answer to this intractable question and, had they been acted upon earlier, Israel would not have been able to pursue its expansionist policy and its repressive measures against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, nor would it have committed its aggression against Lebanon and the tragedy that occurred in Lebanon last summer, particularly the crime of genocide at the camps of Sabra and Shatila, would never have taken place, nor would the other individual tragedies which take place with relentless regularity.

The validity of the Committee's recommendations is recognized not only by the repeated endorsement of the United Nations General Assembly but by the fact that their main provisions have been repeated in all the more acceptable proposals that have been put forward in recent months.

The principles on which the Committee's recommendations were based are well-known. They are principles that every State present here recognizes, accepts and reiterates as the backbone of any solution that will ultimately emerge from the endeavours of the international community. It is now almost universally accepted that the question of Palestine is at the core of the problem in the Middle East and no solution can be envisaged which does not take full account of the aspirations of the Palestinian people. Those aspirations are the inalienable rights which no people can be denied: the right to return to their homes and to achieve self-determination, national independence and sovereignty in their own State in Palestine. Just as important is the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with other parties in all efforts, deliberations and conferences in the Middle East which are held under the auspices of the United Nations, together with the principle accepted by the entire international community - the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Acceptance of that latter principle imposes on Israel the obligation to evacuate speedily, forthwith and unconditionally any territory it has acquired by force.

The acceptance of these principles - and they have been accepted by an overwhelming majority of the international community - means automatic acceptance of our objective which is that the Palestinian people should be entitled to exercise its inalienable rights in its own independent State in Palestine. This is a right which we are glad to note was recently endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In spite of the near universal acceptance of this premise, however, the intransigence of Israel has proved hitherto to be an insurmountable barrier to the attainment of the just aspirations of the Palestinian people. Israel's defiance of world public opinion and blatant violations of international law have unfortunately been permitted to continue. Those policies have been and are the true obstacles to peace. This in a nutshell, is what brings us here together today. This, in short, is the *raison d'être* of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine.

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We are all deeply conscious of the urgent need to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the problem of Palestine. While this urgency has always existed, recent developments have greatly increased the importance of the time factor. Each day's delay permits Israel to further tighten its grip on the illegally occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and to carry out its policy of annexation, thereby posing a serious threat to international peace and security. It is the Committee's hope that the Meeting will be moved by this sense of urgency.

The Committee looks forward to the contribution that will be made by this Meeting. It is the Committee's hope that this region, which is geographically and historically most closely connected with the problem, will speak out with one voice against the injustice that is being done to the Palestinian people and that it will bring to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine to be held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in August this year both a sense of determination to end that injustice and concrete and pragmatic suggestions to achieve that objective.

Annex III

ADDRESS BY DR. MOHAMED SAID AL-ATTAR, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF  
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

I wish to take this opportunity to express due gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for its dedicated efforts in organizing and hosting this Meeting and for all the facilities it has so generously made available in order to make this a fruitful and productive Meeting.

Likewise, at the beginning of this address, I wish to express deep appreciation to Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, and to her staff in the secretariat, for their tireless efforts in preparing for this Meeting as well as for previous and subsequent meetings on this question. We also thank her for co-operation with the Economic Commission for Western Asia and for the exchange of views that we have had on certain aspects relating to this Meeting.

We are meeting today in the city of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates to deliberate on the question of Palestine in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/9086. As you know, this Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine is one of a series of regional meetings to pave the way for a review of all aspects of the question of Palestine to be discussed at the International Conference scheduled to be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in August of this year.

The fact that this Meeting is being held in the United Arab Emirates, which devotes special attention in its internal and external policies to the question of Palestine and the Palestinian people, gives it a special significance within the framework of the other regional meetings. Moreover, the participating delegations represent the countries of Western Asia and the region of the Middle East. The Palestinian question, as you all know, lies at the very heart of this region's aspirations for peace and security. Ever since the Israeli invasion of the Arab territories in 1967, the Arab rulers and heads of State in the region have stressed that the Middle East conflict, centred around the Palestinian problem, is aggravating the dangers threatening international peace and security and draining away material and human resources that could be used to meet the economic and social development requirements of the region.

This fact is reflected not only in the positions adopted by the political leaders of this region, but also in the United Nations resolutions emanating from the Security Council and the General Assembly and in the recommendations of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People which were adopted by the General Assembly. The fact that the Palestinian question is the focal point of the Middle East conflict has been reiterated almost every year in General Assembly resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 37/86 which emphasizes that the question of Palestine is the core of the Middle East conflict and that no solution can be envisaged for this problem that does not take into consideration the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. It also

expresses the conviction of the General Assembly that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be established only through a just solution to the problem of Palestine.

One of the objectives of the regional meetings and the International Conference on the Question of Palestine is to heighten awareness by the international community of the underlying causes of this question with a view to making a contribution towards the achievement of a just solution. In this context I feel that I should draw attention to two facts.

First, our contemporary society is witnessing a host of contradictions. In the field of knowledge and information, for example, no other historical era can claim superiority over ours with regard to its wealth of knowledge on the cosmos, human societies and peoples and their present and even future conditions. Parallel to this vast and thorough knowledge is the capacity of our contemporary society to ignore, or at times, even deny some facts and realities. This is not the place to elaborate on the causes of this situation or to single out examples from the international scene but I would like to emphasize that the question of Palestine represents one of the flagrant examples of such contradiction.

Secondly, the problems pertaining to peoples in our contemporary world are multidimensional, interrelated and interacting so that it is impossible to disentangle one aspect from another regardless of how hard one may attempt through analysis or identification. We all know from international experience and by sheer logic that peace is indivisible. Therefore, aspects of the economic and social conditions which are on the agenda of this Meeting should be discussed against a background of the political components of this problem. I would like to refer, very briefly, to the political basis of the problem as identified in the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly during its deliberations on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East. The salient points in these resolutions can be summarized as follows:

(1) A just solution to the question of Palestine can be achieved only on the basis of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland and their properties in Palestine, from which they were expelled and dispossessed, and including their right to self-determination without external interference, their right to national independence and the establishment of their own independent sovereign State.

(2) The importance of the basic principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and the consequent need for the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

(3) The future of the Palestinian people cannot be discussed in their absence; hence the invitation to the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in all efforts, deliberations and conferences pertaining to the Middle East which are conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, on an equal footing with other parties.

In defiance of these principles and of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and its organizations, Israel persists in violating the decisions of the international community and in ignoring its commitments within the framework of international law, especially the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in its capacity as the occupying Power in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel is continuing its occupation of these Palestinian territories with ever-increasing severity. Its expansionist designs on Arab territory are demonstrated by its annexation of the Golan Heights and of Jerusalem, which has been declared the eternal capital of Israel, and by the invasion of Lebanon and its continued occupation of the southern part of that country. The suffering caused by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to both the Palestinian and the Lebanese people is known to you all, as are the obstacles with which Israel is attempting to obstruct the termination of its occupation of Lebanese territory, its attempts to link the Lebanese economy to its own, and the conditions it is stipulating in relation to the so-called security measures for its borders. Israel has persistently refused to admit into the Occupied Territories the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories. It has also denied entry to other committees established by specialized agencies of the United Nations.

In various resolutions, and in its adoption of the recommendations of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned Israeli measures designed to alter the legal status, the geographic characteristics and the demographic composition of those territories including the legal status and the distinctive cultural and religious position enjoyed by Jerusalem. The General Assembly has also affirmed that all such measures adopted by Israel are null and void and that they pose a serious obstacle to an equitable and lasting peace in the Middle East.

In effect, the greatest threat to the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip lies in the measures adopted by Israel with a view to the unlawful exploitation of the natural wealth, resources and population of these territories for the purpose of altering the Palestinian Arab identity of both the land and the population. These practices and measures, which were condemned in United Nations resolutions, aim at altering the geographic features of Arab territory through the establishment and continuous expansion of settlements on private and public Arab lands, the relocation of outsiders to these lands, the eviction, deportation, expulsion, banishment and dispossession of Arab residents, denying their right to return, confiscating and expropriating private and public Arab property, and destroying and demolishing Arab dwellings. Through such material demolition of the character of the land and of the population, Israel seeks to undermine the Palestinian identity of those territories and to create a new geographic and demographic situation. Some studies indicate that, from 1967 to 1982, 126 Israeli settlements were established in the West Bank and 21 in the Gaza Strip and that it is planned to establish dozens of other settlements in the course of the next few years. Moreover, the number of settlers in the occupied territories is expected to reach 100,000 and, according to some estimates, in 1980 the area covered by settlements amounted to about 49 per cent of the West Bank and approximately 19 per cent of the total area of the Gaza Strip.



Apart from its continued occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel has employed various ways and means in an attempt to disrupt the organic unity between the Palestinian people and their land. Its objective is to usurp the land which is considered a prerequisite and a necessary instrument for the material development of the Palestinian people in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce and construction. It also serves as a medium for social and cultural development in fields such as education, services and the arts.

The policies and economic measures adopted by Israel bolster its attempts to obliterate the Palestinian identity of the occupied territories. These policies aim to link the economy of those territories to that of Israel, thereby turning it into a subordinate economy. If we take Israel's policy towards Arab labour in the occupied territories as an example, we observe an increasing tendency towards the absorption of the Palestinian labour force into the Israeli labour market. Some studies indicate that the absorption rate of the Palestinian labour force is about 43 per cent in the Gaza Strip and 30 per cent in the West Bank, with an average rate of around 35 per cent for the occupied territories. One document of the International Labour Organisation states that Palestinian labourers are employed in the Israeli economic sector at the lower end of the employment ladder, especially in seasonal and menial jobs that do not attract the Israeli labour force.

Israel attempts to lure Arab labourers from the occupied territories into economic activities within Israel and it may offer them higher wages than those earned in the occupied territories. This has led to a manpower shortage in the occupied territories themselves, particularly in the agricultural sector. This in turn has given rise to an escalation in the wages of agricultural labourers, increased costs of agricultural production and a resulting neglect of land which, in several cases, has been left uncultivated. This situation has weakened the resistance of the Palestinian farmer in the face of pressures designed to force him to sell his land. Moreover, leaving the land uncultivated has provided the Israeli authorities with a pretext to confiscate it. Other studies show a considerable change in the rate of employment in the agricultural sector of the occupied territories. The agricultural labour force in the West Bank comprised around 24 per cent of the total labour force in 1966; this figure dropped to around 10 per cent in 1973 and 7 per cent in 1980. In the Gaza Strip the figures were 36 per cent, 33 per cent and 15 per cent respectively. In other words, the size of the agricultural labour force during the period 1969-1980 dropped to half the figure for the base year.

Manufacturing is also dominated by the Israeli economy; apart from industries related to construction material and oils, no progress has been made in this field. The growth in these two industries came in response to increasing needs in the Israeli economy.

With regards to cultural and sociological distortions, UNESCO's resolutions condemning Israel's adulteration of Arab history in school curricula, its repeated obstruction of the course of studies in schools and universities, the plundering of Arab archeological monuments and its attempts to obliterate the historical character of the city of Jerusalem and to judaize its features and institutions are matters well known to the international community. I shall not dwell on this issue

in detail, but I would like to emphasize that it represents one of a series of measures through which Israel is attempting to eradicate Palestinian identity and existence in the occupied territories in all its aspects: geographic, historic and cultural. This disregard of denial of Palestinian existence in the occupied territories underlies Israel's claim to a historic right to those territories. For Israel the concept of self-determination, which does not embody the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, is interpreted as relating to the people and not to the land. Israel thereby affirms its objective of destroying the organic relationship between the people and their material and natural base on the land. One of the contradictions characterizing our contemporary society is the attempt by Israel and other countries to ignore the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people which are recognized by the international community as a whole, both within and outside the framework of the United Nations. These are the rights of a people whose number within the outside the occupied territories exceeds 4 million. As specified in one of the studies presented to this Meeting, the Palestinian people have retained their national characteristics and identity despite their exposure throughout the course of over 35 years to dispersion and different adversities. Furthermore, in their struggle to regain their legitimate national rights, these people are led by the Palestine Liberation Organization with its political, economic, social and cultural institutions. The PLO is also observer at the United Nations and a full member of the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

This distinguished gathering is called upon to make effective recommendations with four major objectives. First, the awareness of the risks involved in the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory must be increased with a view to bringing about its termination as an essential element for the achievement of lasting and just solution to the problem of Palestine and the Middle East. The termination of Israeli occupation would remove a serious obstacle to international peace and security in the region and would enable its countries to mobilize their efforts and resources for economic and social development and for the welfare of their people.

Second, the international community at various levels and in various fields must be urged to work for implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations pertaining to the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East and to enable the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its legitimate representative, to determine their own destiny and regain their legitimate rights. Issues of priority within these efforts include putting an immediate end to the establishment of settlements or the expansion of those already established in the occupied territories, and halting mass expulsions of the population and alteration of the geographic and demographic features of the occupied territories, including the city of Jerusalem.

Third, a climate and potential conditions must be created in which the Palestinian people, both within and outside the occupied territories would be able to meet their basic living requirements, maintain their identity and character, and increase the efficiency of their various national institutions so that they can continue to use various ways and means, in accordance with the Charter and the principles of the United Nations, to attain their legitimate rights to national independence, sovereignty, and return to their homeland and property.

Fourth, in view of the fact that the role and actions of Israel, which has been described in resolutions adopted at the last session of the General Assembly as a non-peace-loving nation, have both directly and indirectly impeded and frustrated a great number of developmental plans and programmes in the region, it should be stressed by this Meeting that Israel's refusal to abide by General Assembly resolutions represents the greatest obstacle to the furtherance of economic and social development in the region. In fact, Israel's actions and conduct in the region can be considered an antithetical to developmental efforts, detrimental to their objectives and programmes and prejudicial to the achievement of regional co-operation and economic integration among the countries of the region.

In conclusion, I wish to inform you that the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Western Asia is undertaking a number of studies related to the question of Palestine in accordance with the resolutions of the Commission. It has recently completed studies on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people and their prospects for the future. These studies will be presented to the tenth session of the Commission early in May. In this context, I would like to reaffirm that the Economic Commission for Western Asia will do its utmost, within its means and its terms of reference, to contribute to the efforts of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine. The question is of particular interest to ECWA because the Palestine Liberation Organization is a full member of the Commission, and also in the light of ECWA's concern with problems and issues relating to development and co-operation in the region.

In conclusion, I wish your Meeting every success in its work and hope that your deliberations and recommendations will form a successful link in the chain of efforts aimed at establishing a lasting and just peace in this region.

Annex IV

ADDRESS BY MR. SHAFIK AL-HOUT, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

I would like to begin by expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Ruler, the Government and the people of the United Arab Emirates for their generous hosting of this Meeting and for all the efforts that they have made and the facilities that they have provided with a view to making our stay a pleasant one and ensuring a useful and effective outcome of our work.

I also naturally take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election to direct the work of this Meeting. We are all convinced that, under your wise direction and effective leadership, we will achieve positive results in the course of our work.

I must also thank Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, and all her colleagues and staff for their efforts in preparing for this Meeting together with previous and subsequent related Meetings prior to the International Conference to be held in Paris in August of this year. I am also grateful to the Economic Commission for Western Asia and all those who contributed their views or provided information and statistics with the aim of furthering the Palestinian cause by shedding light on facts and events which are often liable to be hidden or kept secret.

This Regional Meeting, held in the city of Sharjah, comes after two previous meetings, at Arusha in Tanzania and at Managua, the capital of Nicaragua. The particular significance of this Meeting lies in the fact that it is being held in an Arab State which, as we all know, is extremely concerned with all Arab national causes and primarily, of course, with the central and fundamental Arab cause, namely the question of Palestine.

In the same way as all other Arab countries, the United Arab Emirates have adopted a position not only of solidarity with the people and the cause of Palestine but also of direct involvement in this question since it is impossible to separate the destiny of Palestine from the Arab destiny as a whole throughout the Arab World from the shores of the Atlantic to the coasts of the Gulf.

All of the delegations participating in this Meeting represent States that are well aware of the extent and profundity of the crucial relationship between the future of Palestine and their own regional destinies, particularly with regard to the question of war and peace and its effect on all aspects of development, progress and social evolution. This is the reason for the repeated mention in all United Nations resolutions of the fact that the question of Palestine lies at the heart of the problem of the Middle East and constitutes the core of the current conflict therein. This is also the reason for the international recognition of the impossibility of conceiving any solution to this problem of putting an end to this conflict until the Palestinian people are able to exercise their inalienable rights, primarily their divine right to self-determination, national independence,

the establishment of their independent State, and their return to their homes and property. This is most clearly proved by the series of wars witnessed in this region since the establishment of Israel 35 years ago. Lasting peace will remain an illusion until a just solution is found. The achievement of such a solution is being obstructed only by Israel with the support of the United States of America which is providing it with every means of military superiority and with political backing aimed at perpetuating its policy of expansion and aggression in total disregard of international law and resolutions.

When the General Assembly of the United Nations decided to hold an International Conference on the Question of Palestine, the purpose of this decision was to make intensive and diligent efforts to deepen international awareness of the various aspects of the question of Palestine, to increase the stock of knowledge concerning the facts of this question, and to reveal the manner in which Israeli and Zionist policies and practices are challenging all of the values, ideals, laws and principles recognized and accepted by the international community.

In an age in which no secret in the cosmos, in the bowels of the earth, or in the depths of the oceans remains inaccessible to modern knowledge, research and discovery, it is absurd that we should find ourselves in pressing and urgent need to expand all of these endeavours in order to uncover something that is visible and obvious and to discuss something that is self-evident and incontestable.

The matter with which we are concerned is not one of ignorance but rather of disregard of the facts and an attempt to mislead public opinion by concealing, distorting, falsifying or denying the consistency of such facts.

Can there be any one in this entire world who is still unaware that there is an Arab people which for countless centuries has been known as the Palestinian people?

Can there be any one in this entire world who is still unaware that every people has a homeland from which it derives its name and origin and all its consequent inherited and acquired rights? Who can therefore deny the existence of a land called Palestine without jeopardizing his intellectual reputation or his humanitarian conscience?

Can there be any one in this entire world who is still unaware of the fact that no authority or force has ever been able to publicly deny the right of any people to self-determination as is currently the case with regard to the position of the United States of America and Israel vis-à-vis the Palestinian people, without thereby condemning themselves and their own right to self-determination and challenging the time-honoured humanitarian heritage of the international community?

These are self-evident principles that are not debated or contested by any open-minded person.

However, we are presently concerned with details of the countless violations committed by Israel against the people and land of Palestine. Since this particular Meeting is concerned with economic and social implications as one aspect

of the Palestinian problem, we will attempt to focus on this aspect without, however, losing sight of the fundamental fact that the root of the problem, and consequently its solution, are to be found in its political aspect, i.e. the problem of a usurped homeland and a displaced people which can be solved only by recovery of the homeland and the return thereto of its indigenous population in free and sovereign control of their destiny. This has been affirmed in all the resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and in all the formulas based on principles of truth and justice with a view to ensuring peace and stability; those very resolutions which Israel is persistently disputing and disregarding or attempting to evade by resorting to the United States veto when such matters are raised in the Security Council.

With regard to the socio-economic aspect of the problem of Palestine we have before us a number of important papers and studies whose authors deserve our gratitude and appreciation. I refer in particular to the study prepared by the Arab engineering and managerial experts who, inspite of the numerous difficulties and obstacles encountered, were able to give a picture of the current economic and social tragedy facing the Palestinians both within their occupied homeland and in the places of their exile and dispersion.

I do not propose to quote the contents of this and other studies. However, I would like to say that, despite the importance of their contents, these reports nevertheless adopt an academic approach to the facts and are devoid of the emotional aspect under which people are treated as human beings rather than mere digits on a ration card, numbers on the uniform of a prisoner, or lines on a graph.

There are at this very moment tens of thousands of our people who are living under the shadow of a daily tragedy that accompanies them from the cradle to the grave.

From the cradle, since Palestinians are born without their mothers knowing on which documents and which birth certificate they should be registered and Palestinians die or are martyred without their relatives being able to bury them in the place of their choice in accordance with their testaments or wishes.

In their occupied homeland Palestinians are suffering on all fronts; their lands are usurped, their water is stolen and they are denied access to employment except in rare cases where they are offered the lowest wages in an attempt to drive them to despair and induce them to abandon their homeland to the invader and occupier.

They also suffer when in exile. The application for refugee identity papers is a long process and, if such papers are eventually acquired, their renewal is also a long process. Even when renewed, the refugee finds that his previous residence permit on his former document has been cancelled and, in order to revalidate the permit, he must meet several conditions, the least of which is departure from the country in which he is residing. Where should he go? No one cares.

Palestinians are also faced with problems of work permits. The issue of such

permits is likewise subject to various conditions which are not laid down in any law; everything depends on prevailing moods and circumstances.

There is also the problem of education. Thousands of Palestinian students who complete their primary education have difficulty in gaining access to the secondary stage even if they have the money required to pay the fees. Those who succeed in overcoming the obstacles impeding secondary education eventually have to face the problems of higher education. In this connection it should be remembered that, given the unnatural circumstances of the Palestinians, education is the sole passport which enables them to escape from the tragedy and torment of the refugee camps and to find an opportunity for a better life.

Instead of diminishing with the passage of time and the attempts of the Palestinians to overcome them, these sufferings, which began with the establishment of Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian people, have only been aggravated as a result of the wars and disasters that followed the tragedy of 1948. Any one who reads the studies submitted to this Meeting will have no difficulty in understanding the events subsequent to the war in 1979 and, more recently, the war in Lebanon in which more than half of the territory of the Lebanese Republic was invaded and more than four cities and dozens of villages and Palestinian camps were destroyed.

In Lebanon we are facing a catastrophe which is more cruel and acute than any of the disasters that we have so far experienced. Enemy forces are in control of the destiny of more than 100,000 Palestinians remaining after the slaughter, wounding or detention of 80,000 of our people. There is no need for us to repeat what was already pointed out at the Arusha Meeting when the international news media was dominated by reports of the conspiracy to poison and sterilize our female school children. In this connection, however, I feel obliged to indicate that the report requested from the World Health Organization concerning these crimes has not yet been issued.

Through our political work and our sincere endeavours to contribute towards the achievement of an equitable political solution, we at this Meeting feel that we are engaged in an alarming race against a variety of orchestrated wars and explosive situations since Israel, with clearly expansionist intentions in Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and in persistent and total disregard of all the human and national rights of the Palestinian people, is currently preparing to launch a new war against Syria with a view to creating a new situation conducive to the establishment of its empire from the Nile to the Euphrates.

From this tribune we appeal to all the States and peoples of the world to take note of the dangers arising from Israel's racist and expansionist policy, lest we slide into a situation that may lead the entire region, not to say the entire world, into the holocaust of a war with unpredictable consequences.

In this respect this Meeting, together with subsequent meetings in preparation for the International Conference at Paris, assumes particular significance with regard to the mobilization of international public opinion in order to avoid a

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catastrophe and find a just solution conducive to the establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

In conclusion, I hope that you will allow me to communicate to you, on behalf of our leadership under the direction of Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee, our greetings and hopes that the work of this Meeting will be crowned with success so that the entire world will become aware of the true situation of the Palestinians, particularly in our occupied homeland in which it is extremely difficult to establish facts in view of the fascist Zionist attitude which is attempting to draw a veil over the eyes of mankind.



Annex V

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. RASHID ABDULLAH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

I would like to begin by welcoming you all to the United Arab Emirates and wishing your Meeting every success in the adoption of recommendations for the promotion of the Palestinian cause at the international level and for the formulation of just and lasting solutions to this question that has caused so much suffering and affliction to the Palestinian people in particular and to the region of the Middle East and the world in general.

I also wish to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me Chairman of the Meeting.

We are meeting today to review the economic, social and cultural conditions of the Palestinian people.

These conditions, which are painfully obvious to every one, have been the subject of many detailed studies some of which will be presented to this Meeting. Consequently, there is no need for me to elaborate on this subject although I would like to stress that these distressing circumstances and inhumane conditions that the Palestinian people are currently experiencing are clearly the results of the historic international conspiracy against Palestine. It is a regrettable historical fact that the Zionist wish to establish a national home for the Jews coincided with the international colonialist desire to establish in the region of the Middle East an advanced military base that would be linked culturally, socially, militarily and economically with the colonial powers. It is on this basis that the racist State of Israel was established on Palestinian soil under circumstances of which we are all aware.

Today it is blatantly obvious that Israel is not a State in the legal sense of the term since, in effect, it is a military base playing the role of a policeman assigned to guard colonialist strategic interests. Hence, the conditions from which the Palestinian people have been suffering since 1948 could also be imposed on any other people in the region.

Events in recent years have shown that the racist Zionist ideology can not accept peaceful coexistence since its aggressive nature is incompatible with peace. We have all seen how, in the face of Israeli obstinacy, the international endeavours made by the United Nations and numerous other parties have failed to bring peace to the region. In spite of the international and regional orientation towards peace after the war in 1973, a decade has passed without the establishment of such peace and this is entirely due to Israel's persistent obstructionist attitude.

It is ironic that international pressures are being brought to bear on the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is the victim, rather than on Israel, which is the aggressor. It is regrettable that the Palestinians are being called

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upon to make concessions at a time when, so much having been taken from them, they have nothing left to give.

Israel used the pretext of peace and security to carry out its military and terrorist operations against the Palestinian people and the Arab States. The false nature of this pretext was revealed when all the Arab States, meeting at the Fez Summit, agreed to put forward the Arab peace plan which is characterized by an extraordinary degree of objectivity. Israel's only response has been an attempt to torpedo this plan with the help of its strategic relations with the colonial powers. From the very outset Israel announced its rejection of the Arab peace plan and the seven members of the committee established by the Fez Summit Conference to explain the Arab plan to the permanent members of the Security Council found their task impeded by numerous difficulties.

In our opinion the human sufferings of the Palestinian people constitute a fundamental factor in the political situation pertaining to Palestine and the region of the Middle East. These sufferings have exceeded all the conceivable bounds of imagination and Zionist aggression has extended to all spheres, even including the most sacred sanctuaries of this people. The sanctity of the Al Aqsa Mosque has been desecrated on numerous occasions and other Palestinian mosques, schools and private property have also been the regular victims of aggression. Palestinian schools and universities are constantly being raided and closed down.

The deliberate attempt to poison school girls, as reported by the international news agencies, provides ample testimony of Zionist barbarity. Furthermore, far from attempting to conceal the situation regarding settlements, Israel is openly boasting about their establishment and emphasizing its determination to pursue the settlement policy. Given the fact that those settlements today cover an area of more than 40 per cent of the total land on the West Bank, it is not difficult to imagine the potential situation in 10 years' time when there will probably be no room left for the Palestinians in the occupied territories even under the difficult living conditions that they are currently experiencing.

It is impossible to speak on this question without referring to a notorious aspect that is still fresh in every one's mind, namely the hideous crime constituted by the air, land and sea aggression against Lebanon in which, for a period of three months, the most sophisticated weaponry was used against the Lebanese people and the Palestinians residing in that country. The Lebanese and Palestinian peoples are still suffering from the effects of that aggression since Israel, under the pretext of protecting the security of its northern borders from guerrilla attacks, is adamantly refusing to withdraw from the Lebanese territory that it occupied by force of arms. We now have a situation in which Israel is attempting to impose conditions which, apart from prejudicing the sovereignty of Lebanon, would also restrict that country's freedom as an independent State. Moreover, Israel is interfering quite openly in Lebanon's internal affairs, thereby clearly illustrating the aggressive nature of the Zionist entity.

The massacres at Sabra and Shatila will undoubtedly remain an alarming nightmare during the last decades of the twentieth century when the world is witnessing the full development of civilization.

While wishing to be as brief as possible, I would like to re-emphasize the fundamental fact that the matter we are discussing is an integral part of a wider issue. The sufferings of the Palestinian people will end only when that people recovers its rights and establishes its independent State in which it can live in freedom and independence. From this tribune we call upon all States to refrain from exerting pressure on the Palestinians and to help them to achieve security and stability on their own soil within their homeland.

Once again I would like to welcome you all, wishing your Meeting every success and hoping that you will have a pleasant stay among us in the United Arab Emirates.

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Annex VI

MESSAGE FROM THE WEST ASIAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON NAMIBIA

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting, assembled at Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, conveys its wishes for the success of the United Nations Conference on Namibia. The Meeting expresses its support to and solidarity with the Namibian people struggling for the implementation of their right to national independence and self-determination. The Meeting recognizes that the people of Namibia are struggling against a régime whose racist nature and colonialist policy are similar to those of the Zionist régime which has usurped the land of Palestine, together with other Arab territories, and denied the inalienable human and national rights of the Palestinian people. The Meeting condemns the close co-operation between the two racist régimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine and reaffirms its resolve to stand fast in the face of that co-operation based on aggression.

Annex VII

CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN, H.E. RASHID ABDULLAH

In the name of God the Merciful the Compassionate

Madam Secretary-General of the Conference,  
Heads and members of the delegations,  
Sisters and brothers,

The United Arab Emirates welcomed the opportunity to host this Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine because of its deep-rooted belief in the justice of the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their right to establish their independent State on their national soil.

I wish to stress the firm position of my country's Government, headed by His Highness Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan, in support of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which it regards as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The important recommendations which we have arrived at are an indication of the solidarity of the Arab States of West Asia with the Palestinian cause, which they regard as their primary issue, and of their support for it. I wish also to stress the importance of these recommendations to be submitted to the Paris Conference, because they present objective principles that have been carefully considered by these States, which are more affected by and more aware of this issue. We believe, furthermore, that, if the International Conference adopts these recommendations, they will, unquestionably, be an important factor in establishing peace in the Middle East region and in helping the Palestinian people to mitigate their suffering and to improve their economic, civil, social and cultural conditions.

In conclusion, I express gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Sultan ibn Mohamad Al-Qasimi for opening this Meeting and for according it his patronage. At the conclusion of this Meeting, I express my great gratitude to Mrs. Lucille Mair, Secretary-General of the Conference, for her painstaking efforts and her active contribution to the success of this Meeting. I wish also to commend the positive spirit and sincere co-operation shown by the heads of participating delegations and by representatives of international and non-governmental organizations. I wish also to thank all the security guards and members of the Secretariat who have contributed to the success of this Meeting and to all those working with the press and other information media.

I thank you all. May peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

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Annex VIII

MOTION OF THANKS

The West Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting expresses its great gratitude to the people and Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this Meeting and for their organizational and preparatory work which has led to the success of this Meeting. It expresses its gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and to His Highness Sheikh Sultan ibn Mohamad Al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, who has accorded this Meeting special patronage.

It also thanks the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Rashid Abdullah, for his wise and firm guidance of the work of the Meeting, in his capacity as elected Chairman.

It also expresses its appreciation for the attitudes of the people and Government of the United Arab Emirates in support of the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people for the achievement of their established and inalienable rights on the soil of their homeland, Palestine, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative.

Annex IX

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Participating States

BAHRAIN

H.E. Mr. Salman AL SABBAGH, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Jaber SULAYBIKH, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

DEMOCRATIC YEMEN

Mr. Ali Aidroos YEHIA, Ambassador of Democratic Yemen in Kuwait, Chairman of the Delegation of Democratic Yemen

Mr. Hamed OBADI, Deputy Director of International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Saleh HUDNA, Deputy Director of Arab Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

EGYPT

H.E. Dr. Taha FARNAWANY, Ambassador, Director of Palestinian Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Fathalla EL DALEI, Ambassador, Chief of the Interests Section of Egypt in the United Arab Emirates

IRAQ

H.E. Mr. Wissam AL ZAHAWIE, Ambassador, Director-General, International Organizations and Conference Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Asaad GOUTHANI, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Adnan HILMI, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

JORDAN

H.E. Mr. Saleh KABARITI, Ambassador, Director of the Department of International Organizations, Conference Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Talal HASAN, Consul-General in Dubai

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KUWAIT

H.E. Mr. Qasim Omar ALYAGOUT, Ambassador of Kuwait to the United Arab Emirates

Mr. Sabah Khalid H. ALSABAH, Second Secretary, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

LEBANON

H.E. Mr. Mahmoud HAMMOUD, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United Arab Emirates

OMAN

Mr. Saif AL-MASKERY, Chief Assistant of Arab Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Aqil MUQABIL, Desk Officer of the Middle East in Arab Affairs

QATAR

H.E. Mr. Hamad ALHAJIRI, Ambassador of Qatar to the United Arab Emirates

Mr. Abdulla AL-KHATER, First Secretary, Qatar Embassy, United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohamed Al Fatih SOLIMAN

SAUDI ARABIA

H.E. Mr. Saleh AL-FOUZAN, Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

SYRIA

H.E. Mr. Mohamed KABOUR, Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

H.E. Rashid ABDULLAH, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Abdul Rahman AL-JARWAN, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Dr. Ali HUMAIDAN, Director of Legal and Research Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mohamed Hussain AL-SHAALY, Director of Arab Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mohamed SAMHAN, Director of International Organizations and Conference Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Saeed HABIB, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



YEMEN

H.E. Mr. Mohamad AL-KHAWI, Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

Mr. Slah AL-NASHAD

Mr. Hussein ATEIFA

B. Palestine Liberation Organization

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

Mr. Shafik AL-HOUT  
Representative in Lebanon

Mr. Asad AL-SHARIF  
Representative in United Arab  
Emirates

Mr. Hussain SAIDOUN  
Representative in United Arab  
Emirates

Ms. Deena ABU-LUGHOD  
Adviser to the Permanent Observer  
to the United Nations

C. United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)

Mr. Mohamed AL-ATTAR  
Executive Secretary

Mr. George HADDAD  
Chief, Programme Planning and  
Co-ordination

United Nations Conference on Trade and  
Development (UNCTAD)

Prof. Peter G. SADLER  
Expert

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Dr. W. SHERIF  
Deputy Director  
ROWA - Kuwait

United Nations Industrial Development  
Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Aksit KAYALAR  
Senior Industrial Development  
Officer, Co-ordinator for  
Arab States

D. United Nations bodies

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

Mr. Abdel Mawla SOLH  
Deputy Regional Representative for  
the Middle East

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Dr. François REMY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Akram QURSHA  
Resident Representative,  
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Subhi GEADAH  
Administrative Officer,  
United Arab Emirates

E. United Nations councils, commissions and committees

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

Mr. Zehdi TERZI  
Permanent Observer of the  
Palestine Liberation Organization  
to the United Nations

Mr. Boris TARASYUK  
Second Secretary, Permanent  
Mission of the Ukrainian Soviet  
Socialist Republic to the  
United Nations

F. United Nations specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Mr. Claude ROSSILLION  
Director, Equality of Rights  
Branch

Mr. Mohamed Elwi EL-DEFRAWI  
ILO Representative, Kuwait

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. Kamal A. SABET  
Deputy Regional Representative  
for the Near East

United Nations Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Mohamed EL-SHIBINY  
Regional Representative in the  
Arab States of the Gulf

World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. Omer Imama Hag OMER  
Regional Adviser  
Regional Office for the Eastern  
Mediterranean  
Alexandria, Egypt

G. Intergovernmental organizations

Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

H.E. Mr. Ishrat AZIZ  
Ambassador of India to the  
United Arab Emirates

Mr. Divyabh MANCHANDA  
Second Secretary, Embassy of  
India, United Arab Emirates

League of Arab States

Dr. Muhammad EL-FARRA  
Under-Secretary

Mr. Mustafa Hussam EL-DIN  
Adviser

Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

Mr. Nabil MAROUF  
Head of Jerusalem and Palestine  
Department in OIC in Jeddah

Co-operation Council for the Arab States  
of The Gulf

Dr. Abdul Karim HAMADI  
Adviser to the Secretary-General  
of the Council

Mr. Rashid AL-GUHRABI

H. Non-governmental organizations

Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation

Mr. Asim Omer ELRAYAH

Arab Town Organisation

Dr. Salem Y. KESWANI

Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce

Mr. Muhammad Waddah DAJANI

Union of Arab Jurists

Mr. Khalifa AL-MUHAIRI

Mr. Mohamed ABDOOLI

Mr. Amin AL-HAJRI

Mr. Mohamed ALMANA

Mr. Mohammed ALSALEH

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I. Consultants

Dr. Abdul Hadi KHALAF

Dr. Atif KUBRUSI

Dr. François REMY

Prof. Peter G. SADLER

J. 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. Nubar HOVSEPIAN, Secretary of the Meeting, Secretariat of the Conference

Mr. Yogaraj YOGASUNDRAM, Chief, Division for Palestinian Rights

Ms. Leonora KRACHT, Secretary of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable  
Rights of the Palestinian People

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