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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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Twenty-Sixth Ordinary Session
Addis Ababa, February 1976

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION



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Pursuant to its Resolution CM/426(XXV), the OAU Council of Ministers requested the OAU Administrative Secretary-General to follow-up closely the development of the Palestinian question and to report to the 26th Session of the Council of Ministers. It was also decided to maintain the Palestinian question as one of the priority agenda items of the present Session of the OAU Council of Ministers.

It is thus in implementation of this Resolution that the Administrative Secretary-General is submitting the present Report to the Council.

The Palestinian question has traversed a long course towards the realization of the aspirations of the Palestinian people, since the adoption of Resolution 2336 and 3237 by the 29th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

It is thus that on the 29 October 1975, President Anwar el Sadate of the Arab Republic of Egypt took the initiative to urge the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution inviting the Palestinian Liberation Organization to attend the Geneva Conference on the same status as the other parties.

In response to the Egyptian initiative, the General Assembly on 10 November adopted Resolution 3275(30).

This Resolution invited the PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people, to take part in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East, held under the auspices of the UN on an equal footing with the other parties, by virtue of Resolution 3236 which recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and which called upon the Secretary-General to bring this to the notice of the Co-Chairman of the Peace Conference and to take every necessary measure to guarantee the invitation of PLO to participate in the deliberations of the Conference.

The Council of Ministers undoubtedly, knows the real efforts deployed by the PLO, representative of the Palestinian people, for the restoration of all the legitimate national rights of Palestinians in all fields and at all regional, international political and non political levels, just as it is very well known that OAU - guided by the very spirit of the Addis Ababa Declaration - hails this effort and supports it.

The Administrative Secretary-General has further noted that intensive efforts are currently being made for the development of the Palestinian problem to be crowned with success.

Moreover, when the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon became objects of Israeli aggression of 2 December 1975, the Security Council adopted Resolution 383 inviting the PLO to participate in the debates on an equal footing with the delegations of states. That resolution constituted a victory both for the Palestinian people as for their rights and a recognition of the legitimacy of these rights and the struggle for their restoration by the International Community.

The obvious and effective support of OAU Member States for the Palestinian cause; support which has been affirmed during the last two years, was again demonstrated during consideration of the Palestinian question at the 30th Session of the UN General Assembly which adopted Resolution 3376 setting up a Committee of Twenty on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee is charged with establishing a programme to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights as outlined in Resolution 3236 and to record every proposal made by a State or a regional organization and by the PLO.

We wish to appeal to OAU Member States to collaborate with that Committee and to assist it carry out its terms of reference.

The problem of the Palestinian people is no longer considered as a problem of refugees and it is thus that the United States' use of its veto power during consideration of the Middle East question which included the Palestinian question, at the

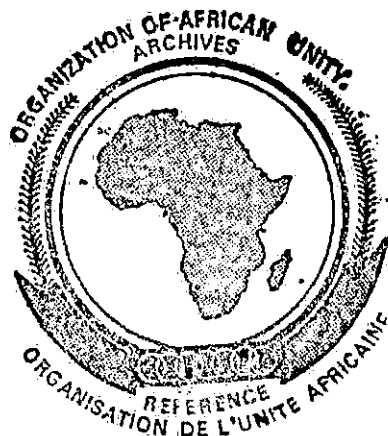
Security Council last January, was backed by an official release of the US State Department, published on 26 January 1976, acknowledging that the Palestinian question was no longer only a refugee problem but was much more profound and that the sine qua non condition for the restoration of peace in the region was a recognition of the legitimate interests and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The support of African States for the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people can be equated with the attitude of the African Continent in its struggle against racism of which Zionism is but one of its facets, in accordance with Resolution 3379(30). Furthermore, proof of close co-ordination and co-operation which exist between a Zionist State like Israel and another State whose line of conduct is apartheid, South Africa, is becoming obvious day after day.

We should like, in this in this regard, to bring to the attention of the Council of Ministers that the South African Government has recently raised its diplomatic representation in Israel to the rank of Consulate General. Moreover, as is known to the Council of Ministers, South Africa was one of the first states to recognize Israel soon after its creation, and the reciprocal interests of the two states are multiple and varied.

One of the most recent aspects of exchange and co-operation between the two states was the building of patrol boats by South Africa under Israeli licence. These boats will also be fitted with "Gabriel", Israeli missiles.

It is certain that these proofs, added to many others, establish the fact that Africa's struggle against racism is complemented by its fight against Zionism.



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