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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN

QUESTION



CM/793

MICROFICHE

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

On the strength of its resolution CM/482 (XXV), the OAU Council of Ministers had requested the Administrative Secretary-General to follow closely the development of the Palestinian question and make a report to the present 28th regular session of the Council of Ministers. It had also been decided by the Council of Ministers to maintain the Palestinian question as one of the priority items on the agenda of the present session.

It is, therefore, in pursuance of this resolution that the present report is being submitted to the Council by the Administrative Secretary-General.

Since the Palestinian question is at the very basis of the crisis in the Middle East, it follows that no settlement is possible without the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

It is certain that the recognition of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence and sovereignty when they return to their territory, and the thorough exercise of these rights, just as the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied in June 1967, constitute the very basis of a definite or overall solution of the Middle East problem.

By acting in a manner leading to the achievement of this objective, the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was successful to a very great extent if we take into account its generally admitted representative character and the legitimate rights of the

Palestinian people to self determination in Palestine, without any undue foreign interference, and the fact that the Palestinian problem constitutes the very basis of that of the Middle East, and that no fair durable settlement can consequently be achieved, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and its relevant resolution without finding a solution to this problem.

It should be noted that the PLO was admitted by the United Nations General Assembly as an observer. Besides, the Security Council had approved the participation of the PLO in all deliberations dealing with the Palestinian and Middle East problem just like any other non Member State of the Council. This decision was taken as a result of the active support of the African and Non-Aligned members of the Council.

The General Assembly adopted to this effect a series of important resolutions on the rights of the Palestinian people, among which the following three:

- a) Resolution 3236/29 asserting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and on return to their territory, to national independence and sovereignty.
- b) Resolution 3375/30 referring to the participation of the PLO in all deliberations and conferences tending to restore peace in the Middle East. This resolution, moreover, requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take all the necessary measures in consultation with the Chairman of the United Nations Conference for peace in the

Middle East, so as to enable the PLO to participate, together with all the other parties in the Conference.

- c) Resolution 3376/30 setting up a Committee of Twenty entrusted with the discussion and proposal of an executive programme bending to ensure the Palestinian people the exercise of their rights as mentioned in Resolution 3236/29. The General Assembly requested the Committee to submit its report and recommendations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations not later than 1 June 1976 so as to enable the latter to submit them to the Security Council. Besides, the Resolution requested the President of the Security Council to discuss the exercise of these inalienable rights, provided for in Resolution 3236/29, immediately after this date. For its part, the United Nations General Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of its 31st session so as to discuss it in the light of the decisions taken by the Security Council and of the recommendations and remarks made by the Committee of Twenty.

In actual fact, the Committee of Twenty was set up under the Chairmanship of Senegal and its members include the following African States: Guinea, Madagascar, and Sierra Leone. At the time this report is being written, the Committee of Twenty was getting ready its recommendations so as to transmit them to the Security Council through the medium of the Secretary General.

Since the American veto prevented the Security Council from adopting a Resolution about the recommendations of the Committee of Twenty, the issue was submitted to the 31st session of the General Assembly. The latter consequently approved these recommendations and asked the Committee of Twenty to pursue its task and apply its recommendations. The General Assembly has also requested the Security Council to make a fast study of the recommendations of the Committee and take the necessary steps to apply them.

Besides, in pursuance of Resolution 3375/30 requesting the participation of the PLO in all efforts, deliberations and Conferences on the Middle East and inviting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take all the necessary measures in order to guarantee the invitation of the PLO to participate in the proceedings of the Peace Conference:

- a) The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations who visited the region in March 1976 had consultations with the PLO as part of his consultations with the parties at strife in the Middle East so as to hasten the efforts to be made in order to find a solution to their problem.
- b) The Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the PLO, just as to any other party, his note of 1 April 1976 mentioned in the report on the situation in the Middle East submitted to the present session.

1 Consultations and contacts will be made by the Secretary-General - as a consequence of these principles with the parties involved in the region, so as to cope with every attempt made with a view to solving the problem and, convene at the earliest, the Peace Conference of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

In the meantime, the Israeli authorities are pursuing and intensifying their acts of repression and terrorism against the Arab people, something constituting a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians during the war. In fact these authorities are continuing to construct Israeli settlements, destroy villages, proceed to massive expulsions of the Arab people while impairing Holy Places and arresting religious leaders.

The Palestinian people in the occupied territory reacted against these measures and revolted against the occupation authorities. A general strike in the towns and villages of Transjordan was decided as a protest against Israeli measures tending to change the demographic and geographical status of Arab territories under Israeli military occupation. This question was, moreover, submitted to the Security Council which after deliberating for three

months, adopted almost unanimously (14 votes out of a total number of 15) the Resolution submitted by the African Group and that of the non-Aligned condemning the Israeli practices and requesting their immediate suspension. Nevertheless, the United States opposed their veto to this resolution, the OAU Secretary-General deplored at the time, this abuse of resorting to veto, a practice likely to encourage Israel to pursue its arbitrary and illegal measures in the occupied territory.

It is certain that in tackling this question, the Council will reaffirm as it has already done in its previous Resolutions, the principles of the Organization and will support the Palestinian people who are eagerly opposing the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities.

Besides, it is advisable to take into account, another important aspect of the question, namely the refusal of the people in the occupied territories to accept Israel attempt to spread its empire over Transjordan, Gaza and the other regions. In fact, the authorities of occupation tried to gain some grounds through their propaganda machinery by authorizing Municipal Council elections in these regions. The result fell below expectations. In fact, the Palestinian people seized this opportunity to reaffirm their attachment to the PLO by voting for the latter's candidates and partisans.

Finally Israel's obstinacy to pursue its illegal practices in occupied territories, particularly in Transjordan and Gaza and to disregard the rights of the Palestinian people will necessarily have serious repercussions on peace in the Middle East and will make extremely difficult the re-establishment of a fair and durable peace. The Israeli authorities will therefore have to assure before the whole world the serious consequences likely to result from the above situation as regards peace, security and international stability.

Besides, the Secretary General of the United Nations will visit the Middle East for talks with all the parties involved, including the PLO, with a view to convening the Geneva Conference in the course of this year.





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# Report of the Administrative Secretary-General on the Development of the Palestinian Question

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