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**ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE
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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM



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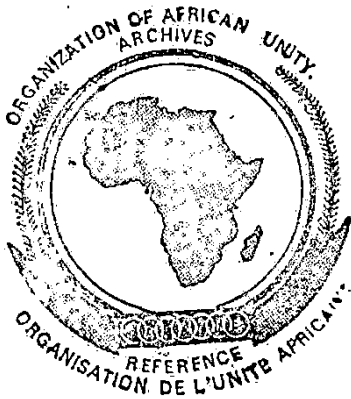
REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM

1. Since the Administrative Secretary General's report to the Council of Ministers at its 29th Ordinary Session in Libreville -Gabon (from 23 to -29 June 1977), this period has witnessed wide-ranging international developments and activities aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and at countering endeavours to freeze the situation, to impede peace, and to continue the occupation of Arab territories.
2. In the autumn of 1977 contacts were made, at high level, between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United States of America to prepare for the Geneva Conference, and to resume its meetings with the participation of representatives of the Palestinian people in order to reach a just and durable peace, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions which all African Countries support.
3. A American - Soviet Communiqué was issued in October 1977, in which the two countries, co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, defined their respective positions. The communiqué referred to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.
4. Israel rejected all these initiatives and persisted in its intransigence ; denying the Palestinian people their rights and the right of their representatives to participate in all negotiations aiming at reaching a just and peaceful settlement, thus jeopardizing any prospects for the resumption of Geneva peace conference.

5. In an endeavour to break the deadlock into which the situation in the Middle East was developing and forestall the grave consequences implied for the future of the region, and international peace and security, His Excellency Mohammed Anouar El Sadate, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt visited Israel where he made an important statement before the Israel Knesseth in the 20th November 1977, in which he stressed the impossibility of reaching peace so long as Arab territories continued to be occupied and the rights of the Palestinian people are denied. Then the Egyptian President proposed the following peace principles: -

- a) Ending the Israel occupation of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.
- b) Recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination including their right to set up their own state.
- c) The right of all countries in the region to live in peace within secure and guaranteed boundaries through the adoption of suitable and agreed security measures regarding the international boundaries, in addition to appropriate international guarantees.
- d) A commitment of all the countries of the region to administer relations between themselves in accordance with the aims and principles of the United Nations.
- d) Ending the existing state of war in the Middle East.

6. The initiative of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt however gave rise to a most resolute hostility on the part of a certain member of Arab countries: Algeria, Irak, Libya, Syria, Yemen and the PLO, which met in Tripoli and strongly condemned the Egyptian initiative and constituted a "Steadfastness Front" in order to impede the development of the initiative.
7. At any rate the Cairo Preparatory Conference for the Geneva Peace Conference was then held; Two Committees, one political and one military were also convened in a bid to complete these preparations.
8. Israel, however, persisted in its position based on refusing to recognise the rights of the Palestinian people and to withdraw to the 1967 lines and international boundaries, thus violating the principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition and occupation of land through war.
9. Israel's increasing intransigence was reflected in its refusal to apply Security Council resolution 242 to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, considering them as Israeli territories. Israel, moreover, proceeded in its policy of building settlements in the occupied Arab territories in violation of international Treaties, the principles of international Law and the United Nations Charter, and hence confirming its expansionist designs.
10. Israel's intransigence has been ascertained by its refusal to issue a declaration on the basic principles for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region based on the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of International Law.



11. Consequently, Israel is to be held fully responsible for the failure to achieve any progress towards the desired peace.
12. The African countries who are faced with an Israel aggression perpetrated against an African country and supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people for the right to self-determination because that decolonization and the elimination of consequences of foreign occupation are but one issue against one enemy and an un-holy alliance of countries seeking domination and expansion at the expense of the rights and future of peoples. African countries and people could clearly find an eloquent example of defiance in the continued co-operation between Israel and South Africa in all spheres.
13. The situation continues to be extremely grave as a result of the Israeli stand, and necessitates the continued efforts of OAU and a confirmation of the support of Member States the rights of the Palestinian people, in order to counter the negative Israeli attitude which aims at continuing occupation of the Arab territories and denying the rights of the Palestinian people.

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