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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

\* A/35/50.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Economic and Social Council invited the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system to intensify their efforts in identifying the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people. It also requested the agencies and organizations to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization with a view to establishing and implementing concrete projects to ensure the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people.
2. The Council, in its resolution 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, reiterated its earlier resolution and requested the Secretary-General to submit annual reports to the Council on the matter.
3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/133 of 14 December 1979, urged bodies of the United Nations system to take the necessary steps for the full implementation of Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII) and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council and to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.
4. This report contains information received from organizations on action taken by them in implementation of the above resolutions. Information received from other organizations at a later date will be issued as an addendum to this report.

## II. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

5. As a follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) concerning assistance to the Palestinian people, activities of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) covering the period 1979 included the projects discussed below.
6. A study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people was initiated in April 1979. The study employed two information-gathering strategies:
  - (a) Library research, including consulting the extensive literature available from official and non-official sources;
  - (b) Original research involving field surveys based on sampling.

Activities to date have used both strategies. Library research, initially concentrating on Palestine before 1948 in order to establish a base against which to evaluate the present situation, is continuing; the research for the pre-1948 period in Palestine has been completed. A technical file for the planned field surveys has also been essentially completed.

7. Furthermore, ECWA participated in the Interagency Task Force on assistance to the Palestinian people from 14 March to 11 April 1979. It contributed to

writing the final report, which was considered by the United Nations Development Programme Interagency Meeting, in which it also participated, on implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/147.

8. In the field of the integration of women in development, ECWA adopted, at its fifth session, in October 1978, the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in the ECWA region. 1/ The Regional Plan includes a chapter on the Palestinian woman as a primary priority in the region. The Plan refers to Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII) dealing with identification of needs of the Palestinian people and relevant concrete projects and proposals, as well as various activities inside and outside the occupied territories.

9. Through the assistance of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, a Training Workshop for House-mothers/Teachers/ and Administrators of As-Smoud House was held at Beirut from 14 May to 15 June 1979 in co-operation with the General Union of Palestinian Women. The Union also participated in the Voluntary Fund Workshop on National Development Planning for the Integration of Women in Development, organized by ECWA in co-operation with the Institute for Economic and Social Planning and held at Damascus, from 10 to 23 December 1979. An additional project benefiting Palestinian woman and entitled "Skill Development in Integrated Social Work for Non-Governmental Organizations" is scheduled for implementation during 1980.

10. Within the context of the preparations for the 1980 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, ECWA held a regional preparatory meeting at Damascus from 10 to 13 December 1979. Two reports, prepared by ECWA, were adopted by the meeting. They are entitled: "The social and economic conditions of the Palestinian woman inside and outside the occupied territories" (A/CONF.94/21) and "Special measures of assistance to the Palestinian woman" (A/CONF.94/4). These reports will be included in the global review and evaluation being prepared for the World Conference. Decisions of this regional meeting will also be considered by ECWA at its seventh session to be held at Baghdad in April 1980. Furthermore, and in line with the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in the ECWA region, the General Assembly, by its resolution 34/160 of 17 December 1979, decided to include in the provisional agenda of the World Conference an item entitled: "Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories:

"(a) Review of the social and economic needs of Palestinian women;

"(b) Special measures for assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories".

11. Within the context of assistance to the Palestinian people and as a follow-up to ECWA resolution 28 (III) on a census of the Palestinian Arab people, 2/

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 14 (E/1979/49), chap. III, resolution 66 (V).

2/ Ibid., Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (E/5785), chap. III.

preparatory work continued during 1979. A census expert was recruited and an advisory and a technical committee were formed. The advisory committee is discussing with the Government of Jordan the provision of the special tabulations needed from the recently conducted census in the country and will shortly be contacting the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Kuwait for the same purpose. The technical committee has completed a list of tabulations containing the core tables of the Palestinian census.

12. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), being a full member of ECWA, continued to benefit from the advisory services of the Commission and to participate in all its activities.

### III. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

13. Through the period covered by the present report, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide assistance to the Palestinian people through ongoing regional projects. One such project supports the Institute of Education, currently located at Amman, which was jointly created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in 1964 in order to provide in-service training for teachers and key education personnel serving the UNRWA/UNESCO school programme. The schools under this joint programme are located mainly in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. During the period 1977-1979 the UNESCO/UNRWA joint programme covered 320,000 students in 577 schools, 4 normal training schools, 7 professional training centres and the above-mentioned Institute. In 1972, the contribution of the Government of Switzerland for the activities of the Institute was replaced by UNDP contributions which totalled for the period 1977-1979 about \$2 million, with UNESCO as the executing agency. To date, UNDP assistance to this project has amounted to \$2.3 million, for the purpose of helping the Institute to carry out research on its audio-visual programme and to provide training to the teachers and educational personnel, mostly Palestinians, serving in UNESCO/UNRWA schools in the region. UNDP and UNESCO are discussing a follow-up project that will allow for the continuation of some UNDP support to the activities being carried out and at the same time provide services to a number of Arab countries which have been utilizing the facilities of the Institute at Amman and benefiting from the services of its staff.

14. Another regional project in this category is the Arab Maritime Transport Academy which offers training facilities to Palestinian students and others. UNDP has been requested to extend its support to the Academy in its new premises in the United Arab Emirates. Two other regional projects assisted by UNDP, which also provide training to Palestinian students, are the Institute of Statistics and the Arab Planning Institute.

15. In addition to the foregoing specific projects, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/147 of 20 December 1978 entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people", an Interagency Task Force was established by the Administrator of UNDP to undertake an initial identification of the social and

economic needs of the Palestinian people and to work out a list of national projects for meeting their needs, in conformity with resolution 33/147, and to prepare a report, including a list of national projects, for the consideration of an interagency meeting. This Task Force was composed, in addition to representatives of UNDP, of officials of ECWA, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

16. The report of the Interagency Task Force was considered at an interagency meeting held on 30 April and 1 May 1979. All agency representatives present at that meeting endorsed the report of the Task Force and expressed their appreciation of its quality and content. It was on the basis of this report, which was submitted to the Administrator, that he prepared his own report (DP/410) which was presented to the Governing Council of UNDP at its twenty-sixth session. In this report the Administrator summarized the work of the Task Force, noted the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people and, in accordance with the provision of General Assembly resolution 33/147 calling upon UNDP to provide funds for concrete projects to meet the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people, recommended 18 project proposals for approval by the Governing Council. These project proposals were selected by the Administrator according to the consultations called for in resolution 33/147 and amounted to an estimated \$3.5 million, including the contingency reserve which the Administrator proposed for financing from the UNDP Programme Reserve.

17. In its decision 79/18, 3/ the Governing Council authorized the Administrator to draw up to \$3.5 million from the Programme Reserve to finance the projects recommended for assistance to the Palestinian people; authorized the Administrator to undertake appropriate consultations in accordance with resolution 33/147, and normal UNDP procedures, with a view to the implementation of the proposed projects; and authorized the Administrator to accept funds from Governments and intergovernmental organizations for the purpose of implementing projects for assistance to the Palestinian people.

18. This decision and the report of the Governing Council (DP/410) were considered by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1979 and by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. In resolution 34/133, the General Assembly, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the action taken by the Administrator and the Governing Council of the UNDP in response to resolution 33/147 and endorsed decision 79/18 of the Governing Council on the implementation of resolution 33/147.

19. Since the adoption of decision 79/18 by the Governing Council of UNDP, the Administrator has personally conducted consultations called for in resolution 33/147 with a view to the implementation of the projects that had been identified. In addition to these consultations, UNDP has further elaborated all approved project proposals and modalities for their execution.

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3/ Ibid., 1979, Supplement No. 10 (E/1973/40), chap. XXI, sect. D.

IV. UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE  
REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

20. Since May 1950, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has been providing education, health and relief services according to eligibility for Palestine refugees and their descendants registered for assistance, who numbered 1,821,933 as of 31 December 1979. 4/

21. Although there has been no census of Palestinians, the registered refugees are more than half of the total Palestinian population living in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan and the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which constitute the Agency's area of operations. Consequently UNRWA is a major provider of education, medical services, food and welfare to the Palestinian people. These services have evolved over the years in direct response to the needs of the refugees and the Agency's financial ability to meet them. By the end of 1979, more than \$1.6 billion had been expended by UNRWA on assistance to Palestine refugees. The education services were operated in co-operation with UNESCO and the health services in co-operation with WHO.

22. The regular programmes are fully described in the annual reports of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA. (For an account of the programme in 1979, see the annual report for the period 1 July 1978-30 June 1979.) 5/ In brief, over 311,000 children received elementary and preparatory (lower secondary) education in 623 UNRWA schools; 8,667 pupils were assisted with their secondary education at local government or private schools; more than 4,600 trainees followed vocational or teacher training courses at eight UNRWA centres; 351 students were awarded scholarships for university study; modest programmes of pre-school, youth and women's activities and adult craft-training were conducted; and professional in-service training was provided for medical and educational personnel. Medical services were available to 1.5 million refugees, and supplementary feeding was provided for such vulnerable groups as young children and expectant and nursing mothers. In the camps, the Agency provided environmental sanitation and assistance with housing repairs for families in special need. Monthly basic rations of flour, rice, sugar and oil were distributed to about 830,000 refugees, and special hardship assistance was given to families in particular need. The total cost of the services in 1979 was approximately \$158.9 million. The programmes were carried out by some 16,600 employees, mostly teachers, all but a handful of whom are themselves Palestine refugees, under the direction of 113 international staff members. 6/

4/ Palestine refugees (by UNRWA definition for operational purposes) are persons whose normal residence was Palestine for a minimum of two years preceding the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948 and who, as a result of this conflict, lost both their homes and their means of livelihood. To be eligible for UNRWA assistance, refugees (and their direct descendants), must be (a) registered with UNRWA, (b) living in the area of UNRWA operations and (c) in need.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/34/13 and Corr.1).

6/ Of the international staff members, 20 are loaned by UNESCO to provide technical guidance to the education programme and 5 by WHO to provide technical guidance to the health programme.

23. The prime determinant of the ability of UNRWA to meet the needs of the refugees is the level of its financial resources. Given the funds, there are many projects which the Agency would be keen to implement. They include, for instance, expansion of the vocational training programme to equip a larger number of adolescents with the skills in growing demand in the Middle East. There is an urgent need to furnish the elementary and preparatory schools with adequate library facilities. At present, the annual average expenditure per pupil on books is a mere 15 cents, compared with the minimum world-wide standard of \$5 recommended by UNESCO. Refugees with special handicaps due to physical or mental disability or chronic illness have legitimate claims for additional assistance which UNRWA well recognizes but is impotent to meet. These are simply a few selections from a much longer listing. As the Agency has pointed out repeatedly over the years, income is insufficient to maintain even the minimum services at the established levels. In 1979 the Agency's financial difficulties were particularly acute. Despite the non-implementation of some \$26.3 million of its budget, the Agency nevertheless suffered a deficit of approximately \$12.6 million, because income received totalled only \$146.3 million against expenditures of \$158.9 million.

24. Nevertheless, within those constraints, a limited number of improvements, of a nature to enhance the efficiency with which services met refugees' needs or to enrich an existing programme, were possible.

25. In 1979, expenditure on the education programme, which accounted for more than half of the total UNRWA budget, increased by 8.7 per cent over 1978, from \$76.7 million to \$83.4 million. The major item of additional outlay was on the school education programme, which expands each year to respond to the growing school-age population. In 1978/79, the new intake included over 4,000 pupils more than in 1977/78; 241 additional teachers were appointed. Most UNRWA school buildings are already operated on a double-shift basis to cope with the numbers of pupils. Some of the buildings urgently require replacement. During the year, \$2.2 million was allocated to building 185 additional classrooms and specialist units, and an additional \$0.4 million was committed to improving facilities within the schools.

26. Health services accounted for \$25.9 million of total expenditure, or 16.3 per cent, an increase of 15.1 per cent over 1978. The quality of the medical services provided at the health centres is under continuous review. Specialized clinics are operated for the treatment of tuberculosis, diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, dermatological and rheumatic complaints and eye diseases; small clinical laboratories attached to health units were equipped to perform biochemical tests previously referred to central laboratories. Special attention was focused on the level of nutrition among infants and young children and their mothers. In response to the high prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases among small children, particularly in summer time, the Agency has, since March 1979, participated in the Gaza Strip in the development of a WHO-assisted project for the implementation of early oral rehydration therapy. Seminars were held for the proper training of UNRWA health personnel involved in this project. In camp sanitation, the Agency participated with an allocation of \$50,000 (in addition to some \$210,000 from incompleting earlier projects) in self-help projects by the refugees to construct drains and pathways in camps throughout the area of operations, to connect sewage systems to

local networks, and to continue the provision of private water connexions and latrines to those families still without them. The schemes were undertaken with the co-operation of the local municipal and governmental authorities and, in Lebanon, with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

27. The third category of service, the relief programme, involved expenditures in 1979 of \$34.6 million, compared with \$28.8 million in 1978, and accounted for 20.1 per cent of the total budget. It comprises essentially the basic ration, with very limited shelter and welfare assistance. In 1979, shortage of cash and insufficient contributions of flour necessitated a reduction in the flour component of the ration. In addition, there were shortages of other commodities due to delays in receipt of contributions in kind. The Agency continued issuing extra rations for special hardship cases in Jordan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Initially this assistance amounts to the difference between the quantity of flour issued to each ration recipient and 10 kg per month. By the end of 1979, some 28,000 persons were benefiting from the extra rations.

28. Again in 1979, the Agency's operations in Lebanon suffered extensively from local disturbances, especially those consequent to Israeli military operations against targets in southern Lebanon, which caused the repeated dislocation of some 50,000 refugees and damage to refugee shelters as well as some Agency installations. In total, some \$1.3 million in extra costs arose primarily for special feeding operations and repairs.

#### V. UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

29. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is concerned with the situation of Palestinian refugees and seeks to assist them wherever this is possible, according to its terms of reference.

30. As regards Palestinian refugees who find themselves within the area of UNRWA operations in the Middle East, UNHCR has not provided any assistance since, according to paragraph 7 (c) of the statute of the Office of the High Commissioner, his competence does not extend to persons receiving protection or assistance from another United Nations organ.

31. The Office of the High Commissioner, however, assists Palestinian refugees who are outside the area of UNRWA operations in the Middle East and who fulfil the general criteria of refugee status under the statute of UNHCR.

32. Needless to say, and bearing in mind the above, the Office of UNHCR will continue to do its utmost to extend help to Palestinian refugees.

#### VI. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

33. In addition to previous assistance reported by the Secretary-General (E/1979/61), during the course of 1979, UNICEF allocated \$100,000 from the Executive Director's Emergency Reserve for assistance described below for displaced Palestinian children and mothers within the context of the relief and rehabilitation programme in Lebanon assisted by UNICEF.

34. Assistance in the amount of \$100,000 was extended by UNICEF for various health and child-care programmes implemented by the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the General Union of Palestinian Women. It included provision of supplies and equipment, vaccines and transport for maternal and child health centres; training grants for the centres' personnel; equipment for a children's hospital; equipment, reference publications and teaching aids for nursing and midwifery schools; supplies and equipment for a sanitation and public health programme and the concerned departments of the Palestine Red Crescent Society; and supplies and equipment for kindergartens and nurseries.

#### VII. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

35. Up to the end of 1978, the World Food Programme (WFP) provided about \$3.5 million in emergency assistance to Palestinian refugees in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic through the host countries. The Programme also participated in the deliberations of the Interagency Task Force established in response to General Assembly resolution 33/147 on assistance to the Palestinian people, and instructed its field officers in the Near East to seek opportunities to co-operate with the Task Force and offer their experience and knowledge. The Interagency Task Force has since submitted its recommendations to UNDP with a list of project ideas for the benefit of Palestinian people. The Governing Council of UNDP, at its twenty-sixth session held in June 1979, has approved 18 national projects from the list, with expenditure of up to \$3.5 million. 7/

36. No direct assistance was provided by WFP to the Palestinian people in 1979, because no request was received during that year and, under its regulations, WFP responds only to specific requests from Governments. However, the contents of General Assembly resolution 34/133 have been noted for guidance.

37. Following a decision taken by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its first session, the Palestine Liberation Organization is invited to attend the sessions of the Committee in its capacity as observer.

#### VIII. UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

38. Pursuant to the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) secretariat contacted the representatives of PLO to the international organizations at Vienna and received, through his office, on 9 September 1977, technical assistance requests for the Palestinian people. These technical assistance requests, which were contained in the note by the Executive Director on Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People (ID/B/C.3/66), were recommended by the Permanent Committee at its tenth session and approved by the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session.

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7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 10 (E/1979/40), chap. XXI, sect. D, decision 79/18.

39. Pursuant to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 33/147, the Administrator of UNDP recalled that, at the January 1979 meeting of the Governing Council, he had announced his intention to convene, in co-ordination with ECWA, a meeting on this matter in February 1979. On 15 and 16 February 1979, an interagency meeting was convened at Geneva and an Interagency Task Force was established, composed of the representatives of UNDP, ECWA, UNIDO, ILO, FAO UNESCO and WHO. 8/

40. According to its terms of reference, the Interagency Task Force was to undertake an initial identification of the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people and to work out a list of notional projects for meeting their needs in conformity with the General Assembly resolution 33/147, and to prepare a report, including a list of notional projects, for the consideration of the interagency meeting. The interagency meeting also felt that the Task Force should co-ordinate with ECWA and consult and co-operate with PLO, the authorities in the Arab host countries and visit the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

41. The mission of the Task Force members took place between 3 March and 11 April 1979.

42. The representative of UNIDO reported that the Task Force undertook extensive consultations and maintained close co-ordination with ECWA throughout its work. It also held discussions with PLO and representatives of Palestinian organizations and institutions. It had useful consultations with government authorities of the three Arab host countries, that is, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

43. In its report, the Task Force regretted that it had not been possible to visit the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It expressed the hope that, in the process of following up on its recommendations, representatives of the Administrator of UNDP and of the United Nations system would be able to visit those territories.

44. The report of the Interagency Task Force was submitted to the interagency meeting which was held at Geneva on 30 April and 1 May 1979. All agency representatives present at this meeting endorsed the report of the Task Force. On the basis of the final report of the interagency meeting, the Administrator of UNDP prepared a report (DP/410), for the consideration of the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.

45. Among the project proposals recommended by the Administrator for financing, there is only one project in the industrial field, entitled "Training in industrial development", with an amount of \$175,000. No financing from the Programme Reserve of UNDP is provided for the other notional projects related to industrial development, which the Interagency Task Force had listed in its report and which had been approved by the interagency meeting, namely the following projects:

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8/ Ibid., chap. V, para. 111.

(a) Survey of manufacturing industry in the West Bank and Gaza (\$180,000) (this project was recommended by the Permanent Committee at its tenth session and approved by the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session);

(b) Feasibility study for a cement plant in the West Bank (\$18,000);

(c) Feasibility study for a canning plant for citrus fruits (\$18,000);

(d) Assistance to the plastics industry (\$18,000);

(e) Assistance to the pharmaceutical industry (\$18,000);

(f) Assistance to small-scale industries and workshops (\$72,000).

46. Brief explanations on each project prepared by the Interagency Task Force are given in paragraph 51 below.

47. However, as stated in the report of the Administrator of UNDP (DP/410, para. 16), the Administrator also expressed the hope that specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in a position to do so, would consider financing, through their own regular programmes or any available trust funds, other selected projects or parts of projects which could assist in helping to improve the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people.

48. The project approved by the UNDP Governing Council entitled "Training in industrial development" emanates from the original request of the representative of PLO to the international organizations at Vienna, which was recommended by the Permanent Committee at its tenth session and approved by the Industrial Development Board at its twelfth session. It covers the following:

(a) Six fellowships for six months each in various fields of industrial development;

(b) Twenty participants in in-plant training courses and technical meetings.

49. UNIDO has already requested UNDP headquarters to get financial authorization to implement this project. The project document is being prepared by the Training Section in close co-operation with the representative of PLO to the international organizations at Vienna.

50. Offers for fellowships in different fields of industrial development and in-plant group training programmes were also made by UNIDO to the office of the representative of PLO to the international organizations at Vienna. One nomination was received and accepted for the In-Plant Group Training Programme in the Field of Repair and Maintenance of Biomedical Electronic Equipment which was held in Hungary from 7 January to 14 March 1980. Nominations are awaited for other in-plant group training programmes.

51. The following projects in the industrial sector have been prepared by the Interagency Task Force:

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Project 25

Survey of manufacturing industry in the West Bank and Gaza

Survey of manufacturing industry since 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza including basic background information on the development since 1967, analysis of recent developments, policies and policy measures affecting manufacturing, potential for the development of manufacturing, identification and evaluation of manufacturing projects, findings and recommendations.

<u>Field</u>	<u>Man/months</u>	
1 industrial economist (macro level)	6	
1 industrial engineer (productivity)	6	
1 project evaluation (micro level)	6	
1 small-scale industries and handicrafts	6	
Industrial policies	<u>6</u>	
Man/months	30	<u>Total</u> \$180,000

Project 26

Training in industrial development

- (a) Six fellowships for six months each in various fields of industrial development;
- (b) Participation in in-plant training courses and technical meetings.

For the participation in the in-plant training courses, an estimated number of 20 participants is given.

Estimated cost for six fellowships: 36 m/m

and for 20 participants in in-plant training courses calculated for average duration of three months per training course:

Total \$178,000

Project 27

Feasibility study for a cement plant in the West Bank

which is planned with an estimated total cost of \$45 million.

One expert - 3 man/months

Total \$ 18,000

Project 28

Feasibility study on canning plant for citrus fruits

In Gaza, where citrus production is the main source of livelihood, the canning of citrus products would be very useful. In 1976, on 8,000 ha, 280,000 tons of citrus were produced of which 250,000 tons were exported and the remaining 30,000 used for local consumption. A canning plant would facilitate the proper preservation of citrus fruits and consequently facilitate the marketing.

One expert - 3 man/months

Total \$18,000

Project 29

Assistance to the plastics industry

The plastics industry in the West Bank could benefit from technical advice concerning production.

One engineer specialized in plastic - 3 man/months

Total \$18,000

Project 30

Assistance to the pharmaceutical industry

Various establishments of the pharmaceutical industry are existing in the West Bank. Technical advice concerning production and marketing would be useful.

One expert on production: 2 months

One expert on marketing: 1 month

Total \$18,000

Project 32

Assistance to small-scale industries and workshops

In the Palestinian communities in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, 33 workshops exist for the production of clothes, wooden and metal furniture, leather products and shoes, toys and folklore needlework.

Assistance in management and production, including quality control and marketing promotion, is required. Special importance should be given to the preservation of the cultural heritage of Palestinian handicrafts. The projects could be eventually organized on a regional basis including Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The following experts are required:

One expert in small-scale industries and handicrafts:

6 months

One expert in export promotion

6 months

Total \$72,000

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#### IX. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

52. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is not an operational organization and has very modest technical assistance activities, essentially in the form of short term advisory missions. However, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia at Beirut is currently discussing with the Palestine Liberation Organization possible assistance by UNEP to the Palestinian people in 1980.

#### X. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

53. During 1979 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) granted fellowships to two candidates, chosen in consultation with the PLO, for participation in a course on management of vocational training institutions and a course on training methodology at the ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin. Both fellowships were financed by technical co-operation funds from the regular budget of ILO.

54. The Organisation took part in the interagency meeting convened by the UNDP Administrator in Geneva on 15 February 1979, the aim of which was to devise methods for determining the specific economic and social needs of the Palestinian people. The Task Force organized as a result of this interagency meeting had consultations from 2 March to 10 April 1979 with government authorities in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and with PLO representatives. A report was drawn up that included five project proposals on questions falling within the competence of ILO, namely: co-operative development, social security, assistance to workers' organizations and vocational training for industry. The execution of these projects is dependent on UNDP approval and financing.

55. The ILO programme for the biennium 1980-1981 provides for granting fellowships to candidates chosen in consultation with the PLO.

56. As a follow-up to a first visit in April 1978, a mission appointed by the Director-General of the International Labour Office and headed by an Assistant-Director-General, accompanied by two staff members of ILO, visited Israel and the occupied Arab territories in Palestine, the Golan Heights and the Sinai from 25 February to 10 March 1979. The mission spent time in Israel and in the occupied Arab territories, holding a series of meetings and travelling about to study the situation of Arab workers in the occupied territories, whether employed in the territories themselves or in Israel. It had lengthy meetings with municipal representatives, union leaders, other prominent persons, workers in the occupied territories, and other representatives of civilian and military authorities and of Israeli employers' and workers' organizations.

57. As had been the case during the preceding visit, the mission paid special attention to all matters involving equality of opportunity and treatment for Arab workers in the occupied territories in the matter of employment, working conditions, social benefits and union activities. It made a number of recommendations on these questions, the results of which will be reviewed in 1980. The report of the mission was published as an annex to the report of the Director-General to the International Labour Conference at its 65th session in 1979.

## XI. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

58. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has continued to assist the Palestinian people through the Palestine Liberation Organization and, more particularly, the Palestine National Fund. This assistance has included the projects discussed below.

59. During the first half of 1979, FAO participated in the two interagency meetings organized by UNDP at Geneva on 15 and 16 February and on 30 April and 1 May, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/147. It also participated, through the assignment of a senior consultant, in the work of the mission which the interagency task force assembled by UNDP carried out from 2 March to 10 April 1979, to study the economic and social needs of the Palestinian people. This mission led to the identification and preliminary formulation of a number of technical assistance projects, several of which fall within the field of competence of FAO. Following the endorsement of the report of that mission by the UNDP Governing Council, at its twenty-sixth session, in June 1979, it is expected that at least four projects in the broad field of food and agriculture may be entrusted for execution to FAO, for a total of about \$456,000.

60. Out of the two technical co-operation projects approved at the end of 1978, one, covering the compilation and tabulation of agricultural data, for an amount of \$10,000, has been completed; the other, providing for five 12-month fellowships for specialized training in agricultural development, for an amount of \$61,000, is underway. Furthermore, a third project, intended to provide assistance in agricultural planning, was approved at the end of 1979.

61. Finally, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in its capacity as representative of the Palestinian people, was invited to attend the twentieth session of the FAO Conference, in November 1979, as well as a seminar on Rainfed Agriculture (May 1979), the sixth session of the Regional Commission on Land and Water Utilization in the Near East (May 1979), a Training Course on Home Economics Extension and Family Life Education (July 1979), the eighth session of the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics (September 1979), and the tenth session of the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East (December 1979).

## XII. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

62. The assistance provided to the Palestinian people by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) that was described in the previous report of the Secretary-General (E/1979/61/Add.1) is continuing and expanding. The following additional information is relevant.

63. After the first interagency meeting in Geneva on 15 and 16 February 1979, under UNDP auspices, UNESCO took part in the second interagency meeting, held from 30 April to 1 May 1979.

64. The UNDP Governing Council in decision 79/18 9/ authorized the UNDP Administrator to draw up to \$3.5 million to finance projects to be recommended by him. Through its continuing contacts with UNDP, UNESCO expressed its desire to be associated closely with this co-operation by the United Nations system, particularly in reviewing operational projects within its field of competence.

65. It should be pointed out that consultations with UNDP and the authorities concerned are still under way. No project has as yet reached the operational stage.

66. In response to a resolution adopted by the Conference of Arab Ministers of Education at Abu Dhabi from 7 to 14 November 1977 concerning the conclusion of a UNESCO Funds-in-Trust agreement to finance scholarships for Palestinian students, the Director-General informed the member States that the secretariat was prepared to provide the necessary assistance for its implementation. To that end the UNESCO secretariat consulted officials of Beirut University and Al Najah University (two Palestinian institutions) and reviewed with them the prospects for co-operation in that field.

Educational and cultural institutions  
in the occupied Arab territories

67. At its 108th session, from 19 September to 19 October 1979, the UNESCO Executive Board reviewed the implementation of resolutions 18 C/13.1, 19 C/15.1 and 20 C/14.1 concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories.

68. It accordingly took note of the UNESCO mission to the occupied Arab territories to supervise the operation of educational and cultural institutions in those territories. It also noted that the Israeli authorities had prevented UNESCO from sending a mission to Jerusalem.

69. In its decision 108 EX/5.1.3, the Executive Board invited the Director-General to pursue his efforts to implement the resolutions and decisions concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories and to arrange for full supervision by UNESCO of the educational and cultural institutions in all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

70. It decided to include this item in the agenda of the twenty-first session of the General Conference with a view to taking the necessary measures in that connexion.

Palestinian Open University

71. UNESCO is continuing its feasibility study of the "Palestinian Open University" project undertaken in co-operation with the Arab Fund for Economic and

9/ Ibid., chap. XXI, decision 79/18.

Social Development and the PLO. The PLO leaders have shown a keen interest in the implementation of the project. Negotiations to that end are under way.

72. A symposium on the curricula of the Open University was held in Lebanon from 28 to 30 January 1980, with the participation of a number of educators and specialists from various Arab States.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

73. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed at UNESCO headquarters on 29 November 1979. The group of representatives of Arab States to UNESCO organized the ceremony, in which representatives of other regional groups and a representative of the Director-General participated. The ceremony was followed by the inauguration at UNESCO House of an exhibition of children's drawings organized by the PLO.

Assistance provided by UNESCO under its regular budget to the  
Palestine Liberation Organization

74. The assistance provided by UNESCO in this connexion during the current biennium (1979-1980) is made up as follows:

(a) A financial contribution of \$52,100 was approved to enable 11 Palestinian students to pursue their university studies. The requests had been submitted under the 1979-1980 participation programme;

(b) Under the regular programme the following assistance has been granted:

	<u>Dollars</u>
Nine-month fellowship in journalism	3,350.00
Nine-month fellowship in town planning	3,350.00
Nine-month fellowship in anthropology	3,350.00
Nine-month fellowship in political science	2,250.00
Equipment	1,700.00
Assistance to the Palestinian Open University	15,000.00
	<hr/>
	29,000.00

Institute of Education (RAB/74/006)

75. UNESCO has been the executing agency for this UNDP-financed project since 1972. UNRWA participates in the project as a subcontractor. Phase III of the project is under way and has been extended until June 1980.

### XIII. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

76. The World Health Organization (WHO) is continuing to provide assistance to the Palestinian population in a number of different ways.

77. During 1979, visits to the territories concerned were carried out by WHO staff competent in the fields of cardiovascular diseases and mental health to study the possibilities of implementing projects in these particular programme areas. In follow-up to the recommendations put forward as a result of these visits, some action has already been taken.

78. In the field of cardiovascular diseases, WHO financed the procurement of electronic monitoring equipment for a four-bed coronary care unit. The organization is also considering the possibility of contributing to the enlargement of the project on prevention and control of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, and also to the development of a programme in comprehensive control of cardiovascular diseases including hypertension, ischaemic heart disease, congenital malformations and eventually other non-communicable diseases (diabetes, chronic rheumatoid arthritis).

79. A study was carried out on the nature and extent of mental health problems and existing mental health services, as a result of which WHO has indicated its readiness to provide assistance in the form of fellowship training, the provision of supplies and equipment, and consultant services to review the progress made in these developments. The views of the authorities concerned in this respect have been requested in order to enable some action to be taken to implement these recommendations.

80. A visit was also carried out by a public health administrator/epidemiologist with a view to expanding the previously implemented immunization programme and studying the needs regarding improved general maternal and child health care.

81. Additional funds have since been provided for the continuation of the poliomyelitis immunization programme which had been set up in 1978, and a grant was also provided for vaccine and supplies for Mantoux testing and BCG vaccinations. A vaccination project for measles was also implemented during the past year assisted by WHO in the form of funds for an information campaign and the supply of 140,000 doses of measles vaccine.

82. The organization has continued its intimate collaboration with, and support of, the various health programmes of UNRWA. In particular, within the framework of the organization's Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme, a visit was carried out in order to develop a project for application of oral rehydration therapy at both the maternal and child health centres and health clinics in a uniform manner. In this respect, seminars were held for local UNRWA personnel, detailed guide-lines were drawn up and a protocol was prepared for evaluation of the project. Organization is planned of other seminars on diarrhoeal diseases, rehydration, and breast-feeding for physicians and nursing staff with WHO providing short-term consultants and teaching material. To assist further the implementation of this project, WHO is also providing supplies of oral rehydration salts.

83. In the sphere of training, WHO is continuing its fellowship programme to provide specialized training for Palestinian para-medical staff.

84. Close collaboration has been maintained with PLO and assistance has been provided to the Palestine Red Crescent Society with the payment of salary differentials to physicians and technicians.

85. In addition to these individual activities, WHO also participated in the Interagency Task Force, established in response to General Assembly resolution 33/147, to define modalities of identification on specific economic and social needs of the Palestinian people. The Organization is prepared to support certain project proposals contained in the report of the survey carried out by the Task Force.

#### XIV. WORLD BANK

86. The articles of agreement of the World Bank require that loans be made to, or guaranteed by, member Governments. Since World Bank lending has been directed increasingly to the needs of the poorest population groups within each member country, improvement in the economic well-being of the Palestinian people residing in member countries is a matter of obvious concern to the Bank. In this regard, however, it should be pointed out that because Bank Group projects entail substantial financial commitments on the part of the borrowing Government, it is clear that decisions concerning the benefits to particular population groups, as compared to other benefits from Bank Group financing, should be made by the Governments concerned in the first instance.

87. Some of the projects which the Bank has been requested to finance in member countries where the Palestinian people reside have benefited Palestinians, although the extent of such benefits would be difficult to quantify. In some of these countries, projects already financed by the Bank Group and projects currently under preparation aim at improving living conditions in urban areas, including some areas in which Palestinian people are concentrated. As indicated previously, the Bank Group stands ready, in consultation with and at the request of member Governments concerned, to assist in the preparation and financing of development projects which meet the usual Bank Group criteria, and which would particularly benefit the Palestinian people in their countries.

#### XV. INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

88. Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) has been brought to the attention of the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund.

#### XVI. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

89. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is willing to co-operate, within its mandate, with ECWA and UNDP on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII). In accordance with a decision taken by the Assembly of ICAO, the Palestine Liberation Organization is entitled to participate as an observer in the sessions and the work of the ICAO Assembly and other international conferences convened under the auspices of ICAO and in the regional meetings dealing with matters related to its territories. In this connexion, PLO has been invited to the forthcoming twenty-third session of the Assembly of ICAO, which will be held in September and October 1980.

#### XVII. UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

90. At its February 1979 session the Executive Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) decided to grant two scholarships, to be financed by the UPU Special Fund for the 1979 financial year, by way of assistance to the Palestinian people. In pursuance of that decision, the International Bureau of UPU made arrangements to enroll the two recipients at the Institut supérieur postal arabe (ISPA) (Arab Postal College) at Damascus as from the first academic year, 1979/80. Since ISPA provides a four-year training programme, the International Bureau of UPU will in due course make arrangements to finance the two scholarships until the end of the four-year period of study.

91. The Union is willing to implement the project mentioned in document E/1979/61, concerning the training of five Palestinians for four years, once a source of funding has been found. The purpose of the project is to provide postal training to Palestinians that will prepare them to serve as professional postal administrators.

92. The Union took part in the interagency meetings organized by UNDP on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/147, with a view to identifying the social and economic needs of the Palestinian people.

#### XVIII. INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

93. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has continued its effort to assist the Palestinian people in the field of telecommunications. The activities reported during previous years have been pursued and contacts maintained through the representative of PLO at Geneva and, in the field, through the regional organizations.

94. During 1979, ITU convened a World Administrative Radio Conference concerned with the general revision of the radio regulations. The Palestine Liberation Organization was invited to participate as an observer at this conference and the interests of the Palestinian people were also assured by the presence of regional telecommunications organizations, such as the Arab Telecommunications Union, of which PLO is a full member.

95. Within the framework of the project entitled Middle East and Mediterranean telecommunication network, ITU is preparing two seminars during 1980, one on traffic engineering to be held in Turkey from 5 to 17 May, and the other on tariffs to be held in November. The Union is planning to invite Palestinian engineers working in other administrations in the area to attend these seminars. The invitation will be made through the PLO representative at Geneva and two fellowships will be provided to cover the attendance of Palestinians.

#### XIX. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

96. In the course of last year the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) initiated consultations with UNRWA in an effort to explore the possibilities of jointly approaching appropriate bodies for assistance for the training of Palestinian refugees. A meeting of senior officials of the two organizations has been arranged and it is expected that they will submit proposals which could then be considered by both IMCO and UNRWA.

97. The IMCO Council, at its forty-first session, in October 1978, decided that the liberation movements recognized, inter alia, by the League of Arab States, should be invited as observers to IMCO meetings and conferences, and requested the Secretary-General to report on this decision to the Assembly, at its eleventh regular session, in November 1979. The Assembly was invited to amend its relevant rules of procedure in order to implement this decision. Accordingly, at the invitation of the Secretary-General, the Palestine Liberation Organization was represented by observers at the eleventh session of the IMCO Assembly, from 5 to 16 November 1979. At its fourth meeting, on 6 November 1979, the Assembly adopted the necessary amendments to its rules of procedure thus implementing the Council's decision in relation to sessions of the Assembly. Likewise, the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee have also amended their rules of procedure in order to implement the Council's decision.

98. By enabling contacts between representatives of PLO and IMCO to proceed regularly and on an institutional basis, it is hoped that the above developments will open fresh opportunities for determining new ways and means of providing assistance to the Palestine people in the maritime field. Within IMCO's field of competence the Organization will seize every opportunity to make a suitable contribution in response to General Assembly resolution 34/133. In this respect, the governing organs of IMCO will be kept informed of the relevant decisions adopted by the United Nations.

#### XX. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

99. The Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has drawn the attention of the governing bodies of WIPO, at their sessions of September and October 1979, to General Assembly resolutions 33/28 C, 33/112 C and 33/147 concerning assistance to the Palestinian people.

100. The Director-General of WIPO was represented at the Interagency Meeting at Geneva held on 15 and 16 February 1979 and which was reconvened on 30 April and

1 May 1979, on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 33/147, concerning the identification of specific economic and social needs of the Palestinian people.

101. Following discussions between the International Bureau and the Permanent Observer for PLO, a fellowship was awarded in the field of copyright under the 1979 WIPO Training Programme, to an official of the Palestinian Research Centre located at Beirut.

102. As regards the WIPO Fellowships Programme for 1980, an invitation to present candidates for training in the fields of copyright and industrial property was sent to the permanent observer for PLO at Geneva.

103. The Director-General of WIPO was represented at the meeting held at Geneva on 29 November 1979, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

104. The International Bureau of WIPO has informed the Permanent Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization that it remains at his disposal for further discussions concerning the establishment and implementation of concrete projects to ensure the improvement of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, and that it looks forward to continued co-operation with PLO.

105. The International Bureau of WIPO has kept the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia informed of its activities for the benefit of the Palestinian people and has welcomed any suggestion concerning co-ordination of efforts, as mentioned in paragraph 1 of Council resolution 2100 (LXIII).

#### XXI. INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

106. Regarding assistance to Palestinian people, the representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) attended two interagency meetings held at Geneva on 15 and 16 February 1979 and on 30 April and 1 May 1979, convened in response to General Assembly resolution 33/147. The mandate of IFAD under its agreement is confined to financing agricultural development in its developing member States. Consequently, IFAD observed discussions in these meetings with due interest and concern.

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