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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MATHIAS (Portugal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 53: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/35/L.3)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL (A/35/13)
- (b) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (A/35/526)
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1. Mr. ADHANI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wished to express its condolences to the Government and people of Algeria in connexion with the tragic event which had recently taken place in that country.

2. The report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA dealt with one of the most serious problems threatening peace and security in the Near East and the entire world. His delegation expressed concern and regret that no solution had been found to the fundamental problem of restoring to the Palestinian people its inalienable rights, including the right to return to its homeland, the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent sovereign State in its own territory. The situation of the Palestinian refugees was all the more deplorable in view of the dreadful living conditions which they had to endure and the constant decline in the number of services provided by UNRWA. The situation of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories was especially alarming because of the barbarous treatment to which they were subjected by the Israeli occupation forces. The occupation of Arab lands since 1967 had caused an even greater exodus of Palestinian refugees. The mandate of UNRWA should be extended in order to provide assistance to the new wave of refugees. Israel had not only displaced Palestinians from their homeland and persecuted them in camps, but had also committed acts of blatant aggression against Palestinian refugee camps in northern and southern Lebanon.

3. His delegation expressed profound concern that none of the United Nations resolutions on Palestine and related matters had been implemented. Furthermore, Israel, instead of complying with the will of the international community, constantly defied United Nations resolutions and the Organization as a whole. The responsibility for the refugee problem lay squarely on the shoulders of the Zionist leaders, who had usurped the Palestinian homeland and had systematically expelled the Palestinian people from their territory by terrorist acts. The claim made by the representatives of the Zionist entity that the Arab countries were responsible for the situation of the Palestinian refugees was blatantly hypocritical.

(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

4. The United Nations, by adopting a resolution providing for the establishment of the Zionist entity, had played a decisive role in the tragedy of the Palestinian people. The United States and the other Western countries which gave political, military and economic support to Israel, were contributing to the deterioration of the refugee situation by enabling the Zionist entity to practise its expansionist policies and ignore the will of the international community. The United Nations and those countries, therefore, must provide more assistance to the Palestinian refugees.
5. His delegation objected to the fact that the Commissioner-General had submitted his draft report to the Israeli authorities in spite of the illegal nature of their occupation. Furthermore, he was categorically opposed to any discrimination in the provision of services to Palestinian refugees on the basis of their place of residence. The report of the Commissioner-General failed to mention any measures taken in response to aggression committed by Israeli authorities against the officials of UNRWA schools and institutions and the refusal of those authorities to accept textbooks approved by UNESCO and permit UNESCO representatives to visit Gaza.
6. For several years, in the debate on that question, reference had been made to the reduction of services and the elimination of activities owing to the Agency's deteriorating financial situation. It was time for the international community to carry out its responsibility with regard to the Palestinian refugee problem and find a radical and permanent solution to the financial difficulties facing the Agency. Although UNRWA had been set up in accordance with a General Assembly resolution, its budget was entirely dependent on voluntary contributions, not mandatory contributions paid by Member States to the regular budget of the United Nations. The colonialist forces had consequently been able to exert political and financial pressure on the Agency and dictate its policy. The efforts of the United States to limit the effectiveness of the Agency marked the first step towards the ultimate disbanding of the Agency in order to force the Arab host countries, particularly Jordan and Syria, to assume full responsibility for the refugees. UNRWA services had already been reduced to a minimum and must not be reduced any more.
7. Syria was a small developing country with limited resources and was unable to assume an increased burden as a result of reductions in UNRWA programmes. His country could not accept the proposal of the Commissioner-General to close down UNRWA schools, and it rejected any discrimination between Palestinian refugees in Syria, Jordan, Transjordan and Gaza. That proposal would produce further difficulties in an already unstable region, and would in effect reward the Zionist aggressor, rather than punish him for his illegal acts.
8. Since the United Nations was financing peace-keeping operations in different parts of the world, it should assume responsibility for the financial viability of the Agency since UNRWA activities constituted in certain ways a peace-keeping operation. The Arab countries, especially the host countries for Palestinian refugees, were not responsible for financing UNRWA operations or any solutions designed to remedy the chronic deficit of the Agency. His delegation categorically

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(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

rejected the suggestion made by the Commissioner-General that the host countries should assume responsibilities which were normally those of the Agency. The Arab countries had spared no effort in lending assistance to their Palestinian brethren and firmly rejected any policy which would force the Palestinians to settle outside their own country. Their plight was further aggravated by the fact that they had been deprived of the use of their property.

9. The voluntary contributions made by certain States to finance UNRWA operations were minimal compared with the financial assistance granted to Israel. The United States contribution to UNRWA had remained at the same level for the past three years in spite of the 35 per cent decrease in the value of its contribution, which in any case amounted to less than 2 per cent of the financial assistance which it provided to Israel. The best solution to the chronic difficulties of the Agency would be to make the UNRWA budget an integral part of the regular budget of the United Nations or to establish an additional budget in which all Member States would participate on the basis of the scale of assessments for the regular budget. In that regard, he supported the proposal made at the previous session that the Secretary-General should undertake a study of the feasibility of incorporating the Agency's budget in the regular budget of the United Nations and of the financial implications which that would involve.

10. The growing intransigence of Israel resulting from the Camp David Accords showed that its claims of peaceful intentions were not sincere and were only designed to mislead public opinion. In order to achieve a global and lasting peace in the Near East, Israel must withdraw its troops from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and must restore to the Palestinian people its inalienable rights, especially the right to return to its homeland and the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State in its own territory.

11. Lastly, his delegation reiterated its support for the humanitarian work of UNRWA and its readiness to co-operate with the Commissioner-General in order to ensure the success of the Agency's undertakings.

12. Mr. PETREE (United States of America) noted with concern that, while the number of Palestinian refugees requiring health care and education was increasing, UNRWA again faced a serious deficit which would require it to cut back or eliminate important programmes if contributions did not reach well beyond their current level.

13. The United States was committed to the ongoing negotiations in the Camp David framework, aimed at a comprehensive peace in which legitimate Palestinian rights could be realized. In the meantime, it would continue to give full support to the essential programmes of the Agency. The entire international community had a responsibility to carry out UNRWA's indispensable humanitarian mission. Since the creation of the Agency, the United States had contributed well over \$800 million to it. It believed that other concerned Governments, particularly Governments in the area which were clearly in a position to do so, should increase their contributions. His Government pledged continued support for the Agency and called on all nations of the world to do the same.

(Mr. Petree, United States)

14. His delegation was pleased to introduce draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.3 calling for the renewal of UNRWA's mandate, with the full support of the international community; and he urged its unanimous adoption.
15. Mr. KAPAPULA (Zambia) said that the Commissioner-General's report (A/35/13) was a catalogue of human suffering. The Agency's mandate must be renewed for as long as the purpose of its creation existed. The international community had a duty to support the operations of UNRWA. The refugee problem was an international problem and was not confined to States in a particular area. Three decades after the creation of UNRWA to cope with an emergency situation, the numbers of Palestine refugees had substantially increased with the Israeli occupation of Arab territories by force in its wars of aggression. The Israelis were continuing their brutal repression in attempts to colonize the Arab territories, and Palestinians were being compelled to emigrate and thereby create living space for Israelis under the notorious settlement policy. The situation had been compounded by the fact that Israel did not permit Palestinians to return to their homeland, in flagrant violation of international law which guaranteed the right of return. Since the Palestinian question was the core of the Middle East crisis, Zambia appealed to the international community to close its ranks to help the Palestinians recover their rights - a process which must include the PLO, which itself was a product of Palestinian resistance.
16. Zambia had been host to thousands of refugees since its accession to independence and was committed to help other human beings in need wherever they might be. His country pledged its full support for the refugees being cared for by UNRWA, who needed all the international material support they could obtain. The only verbal support they required should be aimed at removing the root causes of their plight.
17. Mr. EL-JEAAN (Kuwait) deplored the inability of the international community to ensure implementation of its repeated resolutions reaffirming the Palestinian's right to return home or to receive compensation for their property if they preferred; and he condemned Israel's obstinate refusal to implement those resolutions. The Zionists had become past masters at expelling the Palestinians from their territory and occupying their lands, and were flouting the most elementary human rights and principles of international law. That increased the international community's responsibility to the Palestinian refugees, who still hoped not only to return to their homes and property but also to live in a State of their own. The happiest day for that people, known for their pride and dignity, would be when they no longer had to live on charity. It was frustrating to note that, owing to international inaction, 45 per cent of those refugees were living at subsistence levels. Since the international community was incapable of compelling Israel to fulfil its responsibility to the refugees, all States must join together to make up the deficit in UNRWA's budget so that it could continue its vital services to the refugees.
18. Kuwait, in addition to making a substantial annual contribution, had always responded to appeals for additional funds and in 1980 had contributed \$1 million in

(Mr. El-Jeaan, Kuwait)

addition to its initial contribution of \$600,000. He regretted that that fact had not been mentioned in the Commissioner-General's report (A/35/13). Kuwait had also welcomed a large proportion of the Palestinian people, which it allowed to benefit from education and health services and from the economic progress of Kuwait, so that the refugees concerned needed no assistance from UNRWA. His country did not feel it necessary to boast of its direct and indirect assistance to the Palestinian refugees, since it considered it had a duty to help all its Palestinian brothers.

19. Kuwait was in favour of renewing the mandate of the Agency and strongly opposed any reduction in its vital services to the refugees, even if the only solution was for the expenses to be met out of the regular budget of the United Nations. It was unthinkable that the refugees should be deprived of essential services at a time when Israel was enjoying the fruit of its illegal activities, supported by the United States which had given over \$1,000 million in assistance to Israel over the years. By giving that material and military assistance, the United States was contributing to the genocide of the Palestinian people.

20. Kuwait also hoped that the headquarters of the Agency would be able to return to the area in which the refugees were concentrated, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/112 A, so that it might ascertain the needs of the refugees and avoid unnecessary expenditure.

21. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Zionist representative had once more made the type of mendacious statement to which the Committee had become accustomed over the past 30 years. Similar lies had also been contained in the statements by representatives of the South African racist régime since 1947. His delegation hoped that the day was not far off when the Zionist entity's position in the United Nations would be the same as that of South Africa.

22. The Zionist representative's claim that zionism was a movement of national liberation was not surprising since the representatives of the South African régime had likewise claimed that the policies of apartheid and separate development would lead to development and peace. In addition to General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which determined that zionism was a form of racism, General Assembly resolution 34/104 spoke explicitly of the racist nature of zionism, as did resolutions of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Discrimination held at Geneva in 1978 and the decisions of the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women recently held at Copenhagen. In addition, many other United Nations resolutions referring to racial discrimination had condemned such discrimination both in South Africa and in the Zionist entity. However, it would be interesting to know to what liberation movement the Zionist representative was referring. Was it a movement which expelled the true inhabitants of the country, destroyed their homes and killed innocent bystanders? Could the Zionist representative be referring to the activities of Haganah and the Stern Gang?

23. The Jewish emigrés had not gone to Israel as a consequence of the 1948 war, as claimed by the representative of the Zionist entity. Jewish emigration had been planned for over 100 years and was a definite Zionist policy described in the

(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

memoirs of Herzl and Rabin. The Zionist representative knew better than anyone else how Jews had been brought from Iraq and other Arab countries in accordance with a Zionist plot, with the collaboration of the United Kingdom Government. All knew the identity of the agents who had been sent to throw bombs at Jews in Baghdad and Basra in order to oblige them to leave the country.

24. The representative of the Zionist entity had also said that the Arab armies had invaded Israel, and that the plight of the Palestine refugees had been a consequence of that invasion. It should, however, be remembered who had been the initiator of the 1948 aggression, who had invaded the territories of the Arab States in 1956, who had committed a further aggression in 1967, and who had annexed the City of Jerusalem and the West Bank.

25. Mr. SHAMMA (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement made by the representative of Israel at the previous meeting of the Committee contained the same false accusations that had been repeated for three decades - namely, that the cause of the problem of the Palestinian refugees had been the "invasion of Israel" by Arab armies on 15 May 1948. Moreover, that statement had contained no proposals for a solution to the refugee problem; instead, the representative of Israel had apologetically stated that wars created such problems which must be solved by the host countries, thus absolving the aggressor of any responsibility in that connexion. The Israeli representative had also twisted the logic and practicality of making peace with the Arabs.

26. The representative of Jordan, after reviewing the period between 29 November 1947 and 14 May 1948, reminded members that, on the very day when General Assembly resolution 181 (II) containing the plan of partition had been adopted, Zionist gangs had turned their terrorism from the British towards the unarmed Palestinian Arabs. The aim of that terrorism had been, first, to ensure Jewish hegemony over the Palestinian Arab inhabitants within the borders of the suggested Jewish State and, second, to extend the borders of that State to include as much land as possible - if not all of Palestine - before the British withdrawal on 14 May 1948 and before any Arab soldier set foot on the soil of Palestine. To summarize the situation in Palestine at that time, he quoted from an article written on 3 October 1960 by William Zuckerman, editor of the Jewish Newsletter, to the effect that the flight of the Palestine Arabs, which had created the Arab refugee problem, had not been a spontaneous act nor had it been due entirely to the propaganda of the Arab leaders, as the Zionists had claimed; it had been a coldly calculated plan executed by the Irgun with the knowledge of the Haganah and the Jewish Agency of that time.

27. He also quoted from a book entitled Ropes of Sand written by Wilbur Crane, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency. In a foot-note on page 353, the author described the terrorist character of the Zionists before and after the establishment of Israel. The atrocities he described had, according to the author, surpassed any others in the entire history of the conflict between the Arabs and the Jews and had led to the flight of the Arabs from Palestine. Moreover, the raiding of defenceless Arab villages and the revenge killings had been concealed in false reports to the Israeli Government. The author described such atrocities right up to 1978.

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(Mr. Shamma, Jordan)

28. Representatives of Israel had frequently asserted that the Palestine Arabs had fled because the Arab leaders had told them to do so. However, that fabrication had been exposed by author Erskine B. Childers, who had written in The Spectator of 12 May 1961 that no primary evidence of such evacuation orders had ever been produced: no dates, names, radio stations or texts of the messages allegedly broadcast by Arab radio stations had ever been provided. In 1958, as a guest of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the author had personally asked to be shown such proof, but he had never received it. Moreover, the British Broadcasting Corporation had monitored all Middle Eastern broadcasts throughout 1948: during that time, there had been no order, appeal or suggestion about evacuation from any Arab radio station inside or outside Palestine.

29. There had however been appeals, even flat orders, to civilians in Palestine to stay where they were. For example, on 4 April 1948 and on 24 April 1948, dates on which large numbers of people had begun to flee from their homes, Mr. Childers stated that even Jewish broadcasts had mentioned Arab appeals to citizens to stay put, but there had not been even a hint of any Arab evacuation order.

30. With regard to the second assertion made by the representative of Israel that wars tended to create refugee problems, he quoted from an article written by the well-known Jewish thinker, Erich Fromm, in the Jewish Newsletter of 19 May 1958. In that article Fromm had written that, while it was often said that the Arabs had left the country voluntarily and thus bore the responsibility for losing their property, it was a principle of general international law that no citizens lost their property or their rights of citizenship; the Arabs in Israel had a stronger de facto right to citizenship than the Jews, according to the author.

31. The CHAIRMAN reminded members of the Committee that their first statements made in exercise of the right of reply must be limited to 10 minutes.

32. Mr. RAHMAN (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the argument that the Arab States had rejected resolutions 181 (II) and 194 (III) did not exempt Israel from implementing them. The General Assembly and other United Nations bodies had adopted over 250 resolutions which Israel had defied and refused to implement, including the resolutions referring to the annexation of Jerusalem and calling on Israel to permit the return of Palestine officials. Israel had long been urging Zionist organizations throughout the world to attack the United Nations; that was confirmed by recent advertisements in The New York Times which were sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and constituted an attack against the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations.

33. The Zionist movement was based on the three basic principles that anti-Semitism was innate in mankind, that the Jews were chosen people and that God had given them the Promised Land. On those grounds Israel rejected the existence or rights of the Palestinian people and was unwilling to deal with the Palestinian people as such. Citing a recent comment in the Knesset that the Camp David Accords were not a document of peace but a declaration of war, he said that peace was not a slogan but a state of mind and could exist only when everyone without distinction lived a productive life in full enjoyment of their rights.



34. Mr. JOARDER (Bangladesh), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, objected to the suggestion that the problem of the Palestinian refugees could be settled peacefully were it not for the attitude of the Arab leaders. A refugee was universally recognized as a person driven out of his country to one which was not his own. The Palestinian refugees temporarily sheltering in Arab countries did not wish to reside there; their only desire was to return to their own homeland.

35. There was, conversely, no Jewish refugee problem: Israel had passed the Law of Return in 1950 making Israel a homeland for all Jews so that Jewish settlers there could on no account be considered as refugees.

36. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, attributed the flight of over 120,000 Jews seeking refuge in Israel to the acts of persecution and atrocity committed against the Jewish people in Baghdad and Basra between 1933 and 1948. He claimed that the reverse exodus of Arabs from Palestine had been provoked by the Arab leaders, and quoted an article published in the Amman EL Ordun in April 1953 which stated that Arab leaders had been responsible for exaggerating Jewish crimes and thereby encouraging the flight of refugees from Palestine. He also cited two interviews given by King Hussein of Jordan in January 1960 and June 1966 respectively, in which the King had blamed the Arab leaders for criminal irresponsibility in regard to the Arab problem and failure to plan for a future solution, and had rejected the Arab policy that the Palestinian refugees should stay in their camps behind barbed wire - a policy aimed at transforming the problem to one of international magnitude with a view to collecting donations from the United Nations.

37. Mr. BENCHEKROUM (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation would be amplifying its views on the problem at a later stage but wished to stress that there was nothing in common between the Palestinian refugee situation and the Jewish refugee situation except that both groups suffered from menace and terror. There were two distinct refugee situations involved - the situation of those who had been chased out of Palestine and the situation of those who had been made to enter it to take the former's place. The Jewish immigrants from Morocco had not left in order to seek refuge; they had been urged to migrate to Israel and leave their property by Zionist pressure groups which had resorted to force to make those unwilling to do so join the exodus.

38. Mr. HAMMAD (United Arab Emirates), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that even if the Palestinian refugees had fled at the instigation of their leaders, they still had the right to return to their homeland, a right recognized by the international community yet still withheld by Israel. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed the right of every person to leave his home and to return to his home, and every resolution on the subject by the General Assembly had reaffirmed that right. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 194 (III), the General Assembly had resolved that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for loss of or damage to property. There was no basis for Israel to be absolved of its responsibility to implement that resolution, which was mandatory.

(Mr. Harmad, United Arab Emirates)

39. Operative paragraphs 1 and 4 of the draft resolution just submitted by the United States of America also referred to the absolute right of the refugees to be repatriated and compensated.

40. Mr. SHAMIA (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his Government had frequently made its position clear in regard to the Camp David Accords. The road to peace did not pass through Israeli claims that the question of Jerusalem was not negotiable or that Jews had every right to settle on West Bank land. It lay in seeking a solution to the problem of Palestine with the full participation of all parties concerned. Israel could start that process by direct dialogue with the representatives of the Palestinian people, the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

41. Mr. MUSSAIN (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Jews had in fact enjoyed a high level of social, financial and political standing in Iraq, until they had become the victims of the Zionist international plot. The Iraqi Minister of Finance had been a Jew, and all the financial and trading activities in Iraq had been under the influence of the Jewish colony, which had, moreover, enjoyed respect and privileged connexions.

42. The assertion by the representative of Israel that Rashid Ali al-Kailani and other Iraqi leaders had been Nazis was a lie as well as a wanton attack against that nationalist leader, who had taken up arms in opposition to the British plan to establish a Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab nation.

43. With regard to the remark made by the representative of Israel concerning the Jews who had been executed in the square of Baghdad, he stressed that all those executed, whatever their religion, had been plotting with the Zionist entity against the Iraqi State.

44. As to the article about the Kurdish population published in The New York Times on 29 September 1980, he noted that what Menachem Begin had actually said in that connexion had been that Israel had been providing aid to the Barazani forces in the north of Iraq since 1965 and that such aid had been increased under Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Golda Meir. It had been terminated when the last Israeli adviser had left. Moreover, Mr. Barazani had been supported by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Shah of Iran, as well as by Israel.

45. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said, in connexion with a remark made by the representative of Jordan, that he had quoted from comments made by King Hussein not in 1950 but rather in 1960 and 1966.

46. In reply to the comments made by the representative of Morocco concerning the two-way flow of refugees, he drew attention to the United Nations publication entitled Trends and characteristics of international migration since 1950. 1/ On page 1, that publication referred to the fact that about 700,000 Palestinian Arabs

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1/ ST/ESA/SER.A/64, United Nations publication Sales No. F.78.XIII.5.

(Mr. Ramin, Israel)

had left the territory which currently constituted the State of Israel, while a large proportion of the Jewish population of the Arab States of Asia and Northern Africa had moved to Israel. Moreover, on page 53 of the same publication, it was stated that about 578,000 Jewish immigrants from Arabic-speaking nations had been received by Israel during the period 1948-1972. He pointed out that, on pages 49 to 51, the Palestinians had been included in the migration of Jordanians and that both Palestinian Arabs and Jewish refugees had been dealt with under the heading entitled "Refugee movements and population transfers" (p. 52).

47. In connexion with the comments made by the representative of Iraq, he pointed out that, as everyone knew, the two major export items of Iraq were petroleum and fabrications.

48. Mr. EL-SAID (Egypt), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, drew attention to the fact that the legal, political and historical aspects of agenda item 53 were clearly defined. Moreover, the purpose of the debate on that item was to consider the report of the Commissioner-General and its implications as well as Israel's failure to comply with United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestine refugees.

49. His delegation felt that all the attempts being made to go beyond that framework were not helpful; it had always sought to help to resolve that problem on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, with a view to achieving a just and lasting settlement in accordance with international law.

50. Delegations casting aspersions should examine the facts. For example, the repeated remarks by the representative of Jordan in connexion with the recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank by the parties to the peace process were deliberately vicious and distorted. It was important to maintain at least a minimum of accuracy in every statement. All members of the Committee were representatives of sovereign States, and no one was entitled to speak on behalf of another State, or to spread false, groundless allegations, while claiming that such allegations represented the position of others.

51. Mr. RAHMAN (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement made by the representative of the Government of Menachem Begin had been designed to make people believe that the establishment of the State of Israel had been a historical accident. He reminded members of the Committee that the decision to create a Zionist national homeland in Palestine had been taken at the first congress of the Zionist Movement in 1897. Since that time, every legal and illegal method had been used to bring Jews there. With regard to the supposed exchange of population, he asked whether human beings were exchangeable commodities and whether the parties concerned had been asked whether they wished to be exchanged. Since that had not been the case, the Palestinian people were clearly being treated as commodities, in flagrant violation of the right of peoples to their homes and their property.

52. Mr. HAMEED (United Arab Emirates), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the study of the trends and characteristics of international migration to which the representative of Israel had referred was not authoritative; it represented the views of the author, rather than those of the international community of States. The intent of the international community in that connexion was reflected in the countless resolutions adopted by all States which affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homes.

53. If, hypothetically, the Palestinians had left their homes voluntarily, on what moral grounds could Israel prevent them from returning, - for example, on the basis of what provision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Clearly, Israel had no answer to that question.

54. Mr. RAHIN (Israel), speaking on a point of order, reminded members of the Committee that each delegation was entitled to only two interventions in exercise of the right of reply.

55. Mr. HAMEED (United Arab Emirates) said that the point of order raised by the representative of Israel was out of order.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK (continued)

56. The CHAIRMAN said that meetings of the Committee were scheduled for the morning and afternoon of 20 October, for the afternoons of 21 and 22 October, and for the mornings of 23 and 24 October. He expressed the hope that the discussion on agenda item 53 could be concluded on 21 October and that the relevant draft resolutions could be put to a vote on 22 October. He requested that any additional draft resolutions should be submitted by 1 p.m. on 20 October at the latest.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.