



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIALLO (Guinea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST' (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/13)
- (b) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/39/575)
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE (continued) (A/39/455)
- (d) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/372, 375, 411, 457, 464 and Add.1, 528 and 538)

1. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that his delegation had requested to speak either first or second in the debate on agenda item 75, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It had understood that it would speak second, and that that would be at the beginning of the Committee's 12th meeting. It had therefore been perplexed to find that a number of delegations had spoken at the 11th meeting, contrary to the understanding that had been reached with the Secretary of the Committee.

2. The report of the Commissioner-General (A/39/13), as well as giving information of an administrative and financial nature on the Agency's operations, described Israeli actions directed against its installations and property and against the Palestinian people. Paragraph 32 of the report contained a list of the serious incidents that had occurred in south Lebanon in the past year. Outside the occupied areas, Palestine refugees were also subject to attack by the Fascist enemy, and heavy casualties had been sustained in the Israeli air-raid on Wavell camp in Baalbek, as described in paragraph 8 of the report. In occupied Palestine, shelters had been demolished in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and collective punishments imposed, and it was clear that the occupation authorities were implementing a policy aimed at transforming the refugee camps into mass detention centres in the manner of the Nazis.

3. The practices of the occupation authorities affecting education, the basic field of activity of the Agency, included the closing of the Kalandia Vocational Training Center for 48 days and of the Kalandia Girls' School for 60 days. High fences had been erected around the schools, thereby transforming them into mass detention centers. A number of 11-year-old pupils had been tortured by the neo-Nazi troops at a school in the Gaza Strip.

4. In the area of social services, a number of youth centres and training centres for dressmaking and embroidery in the refugee camps had been closed.

5. With regard to the health situation, the changing demography of the refugee population had led to a higher incidence of the degenerative diseases, notably diabetes mellitus.

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, PLO)

6. The occupation authorities had continued to arrest and detain Agency staff, a number of whom had been removed from Lebanon to Israel, contrary to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The occupation authorities had never compensated the Agency for the loss and damage caused to its property and facilities.

7. It could be seen from the report that the occupation authorities were persisting in their policies of demolishing the camps of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine and occupied south Lebanon and of harassing the Palestinian people in order to make it leave those areas and thereby liquidate the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian people, which had often in the past rebuilt its camps, would not allow neo-nazism to destroy its spirit of resistance and would achieve its inalienable national rights.

8. The Fascist enemy had learned nothing from experience or from previous wars. The closing of all the schools and the transformation of all the camps into one large prison camp would only increase the insistence of the Palestinian people on forcing the arrogant enemy to concede its rights. The Palestinian people, now 4.5 million strong, stood by the Palestine Liberation Organization and daily taught the enemy the only lesson it could understand, on escalation of the armed struggle against the invaders until their expulsion from the country and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.

9. The entire world supported the Palestinian people and the justice of its cause. The racist Fascist Zionists, represented by Begin, Sharon, Kahane, Eitan, Peres and others, belonged to the restricted and internationally isolated world of nazism. For that reason, victory would ultimately belong to the Palestinian people.

10. There were a number of questions to which the Commissioner-General's report had not addressed itself. It could be asked why, 35 years after the establishment of the Agency and the displacement of the Palestinian people, no solution had been found to the issue; who was responsible for that; whether there was a just solution; and what was the just solution. The Commissioner-General had informed the Committee in paragraph 6 of the foreword to his report that, from the very outset, the mandate of UNRWA had been linked to the political dimension of the Palestine question. In hundreds of resolutions, the United Nations had determined that a just political solution to the question consisted of the achievement of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people to return to its homeland, to exercise its right to self-determination and to establish an independent national State in the land of Palestine. The most recent such resolution to seek a just political solution was General Assembly resolution 38/58 C welcoming the call for convening an International Peace Conference on the Middle East in which all parties to the conflict would take part, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing and with equal rights. It was because of the rejection by Israel and the United States of America of the international will and United Nations resolutions that political solution to the Palestinian problem had not been found.

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, PLO)

11. In his foreword, the Commissioner-General had stated that UNRWA promoted stability in the Middle East. An examination of events in the Middle East since 1949 would point to a conclusion entirely at variance with that. The Palestine refugee problem had been caused by the imperialist Zionist assault on the region and the policies and practices of the racist Zionist creed concerning the expulsion of the Palestinian Arabs from their homeland and the building of a purely Jewish society. Only the removal of the causes of the present situation would be conducive to political stability in the region, and that could be done by eliminating Zionism and its practices and implementing paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

12. In a number of places, the report made reference to "the Israeli Defence Force" and to "the Israeli authorities" in occupied Palestine and the occupied areas of Lebanon. Such a nomenclature was inaccurate and improper since Israel was the occupying Power in those areas, as the report itself had acknowledged. The proper nomenclature should therefore be used, namely "the occupation forces" and "the Israeli occupation authorities".

13. His delegation had reservations about the manner in which information was presented in the report. The last sentence of paragraph 7 read: "During this operation, the Lebanese arrested 35 refugees, of whom 31 were released almost immediately". Paragraph 188 of the report contained information on a military action carried out by the occupation authorities in Ein el-Hilweh camp, which had been described by many observers as a major operation in which about 1,500 Israeli soldiers and 150 vehicles had taken part and in which, according to estimates made available to PLO by representatives of the Agency itself, dozens of Palestinians had been killed and wounded and hundreds arrested. No mention had been made in paragraph 188 of those detainees, none of whom had been released immediately. There seemed to be two different methods of presenting information in the report. No mention had been made of the hundreds or even thousands of cases of the arrest and detention of Palestinians in the past year by the Israeli occupation authorities in the camps, towns and villages of occupied Palestine and south Lebanon.

14. His delegation wished to place on record its appreciation of the Agency's success in issuing individual registration cards to about 20 per cent of the Palestine refugees registered with it, as stated in paragraph 125 of the Commissioner-General's report. That had been done in implementation of General Assembly resolution 37/120 I requesting the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Commissioner-General, to issue identification cards to all Palestine refugees. His delegation hoped that all the obstacles to the issuance of cards to all other registered refugees would be removed as soon as possible. There was nothing to prevent the immediate issuance of cards to Palestinians wherever they might be, particularly in occupied Palestine.

15. Israel persisted in its non-compliance with General Assembly resolution 38/83 K calling for the establishment of a University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees under the aegis of the United Nations. His delegation valued

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, PLO)

the courage and frankness of the report of the Secretary-General on the matter (A/39/528) in ascribing to Israel responsibility for the non-implementation of the resolution.

16. In the report of the Secretary-General on population and refugees displaced since 1967 (A/39/411) there was a glaring contradiction between the figures provided by Israel in paragraph 3 and by the Agency in paragraph 4. It could, in any case, be inferred that Israel was refusing to allow displaced persons to return to the Palestinian areas that it had occupied in 1967.

17. The figures contained in the report of the Secretary-General on Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip (A/39/457) indicated the horrifying extremes to which the occupation authorities had gone in demolishing Palestinian camps and shelters there. It was unbelievable that, given the circumstances of the occupation, Palestine refugees should voluntarily decide to have their camps and shelters demolished. Israel's goals were clear, namely the destruction of the camps as a daily reminder to Israel and the world of the crimes committed against the Palestinian people and of the fact that that people had a homeland to which it had a right to return. Israel had refused to allow Palestinians living in overcrowded shelters to make use of those left vacant by relocation and had demolished them. The purported humanitarian motives of the enemy were therefore non-existent. Improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people consisted of allowing it to return to its homeland to establish its independent State.

18. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on Palestine refugees in the West Bank (A/39/372), his delegation once again warned the Commissioner-General against falling into the trap of believing that refugees could voluntarily accept the demolition of their camps and homes, given the repressive circumstances of the occupation.

19. It was clear from the report of the Secretary-General on revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties (A/39/464) that the Zionist enemy had once again refused to implement the relevant resolution.

20. His delegation would like to thank all States, specialized agencies and other bodies that had supported Agency projects providing services to the Palestinian people. It was the racist Zionist enemy that should meet all the costs and bear all the consequences of its crimes against the Palestinian people.

21. Mr. TALLERAAS (Norway) said that his delegation had noted the difficulties encountered by UNRWA in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and regretted the interference with its operations. All parties must respect the immunity of UNRWA facilities and employees must co-operate fully and must support the Agency's activities.

22. His delegation was pleased to note that the Commissioner-General expected to be able to maintain services through to the end of 1984 without any serious reductions by deferring non-cash items, by the non-implementation of such items as

(Mr. Talleraas, Norway)

maintenance of facilities and by drawing down cash reserves. In the absence of further contributions, the shortfall for 1984 was expected to be \$54.2 million. It should be recognized that deferring maintenance could be dangerous and, in the long run, uneconomical, and that reducing cash funds might severely limit the Agency's future scope of action. Since it was a matter of great importance that the services and activities of UNRWA should not be further reduced, the endeavour must be made to secure sufficient financial support for 1985.

23. In its report (A/39/575), the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA had pointed out that the economic prospects for 1985 were grim. Net cash requirements had been estimated at \$225 million, some \$60 million more than had been received in 1984.

24. As an indication of the importance it attached to UNRWA activities, his Government had made a special contribution in May 1984 of \$630,000 in addition to its regular contribution of some \$7 million. His Government would continue its support at that level through 1985 and the exact amount would be announced at the upcoming pledging conference.

25. The financing of UNRWA was the responsibility of the entire international community. It was necessary to broaden participation in its financing in order to solve the Agency's financial problems and create a more secure economic basis for its operations. Norway supported the appeal of the Commissioner-General to all countries to pay their fair share and was ready to do its part.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.