



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

UN LIBRARY

A/37/470
S/15418,
22 September 1982

SEP 28 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UN/SA COLLECTION

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Thirty-seventh session
Items 31 and 34 of the provisional agenda*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-seventh year

Letter dated 20 September 1982 from the Permanent Representative of
Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to express the Movement's outrage and revulsion at the atrocious, large-scale, genocidal massacre in the Shatila and Sabra Palestinian Refugee camps in West Beirut.

This tragedy which parallels the worst horrors perpetrated during the Second World War must forever remain a blot on the conscience of mankind. It is, moreover, a direct consequence of Israel's invasion of Lebanon which had already caused the killing of thousands of unarmed civilians, including women and children.

The non-aligned countries strongly condemn Israel's persistent policy of expansion and aggression and demand that Israel withdraw totally and unconditionally from all of Lebanon and all the Palestinian and other Arab territories illegally occupied.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has always maintained that the question of Palestine and the Middle East conflict can be settled only in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Such a settlement, under the United Nations auspices, must be just, comprehensive and lasting and should ensure the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian and the other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and enable the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, to exercise their inalienable rights,

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including the right to return, to exercise self-determination, to implement national independence and to establish an independent and sovereign State in Palestine.

The responsibility of the United Nations in this regard is evident.

Once again we wish to stress the responsibility of the Security Council to address and resolve the question of Palestine and the Middle East so that such crimes and tragedies could be avoided. We urge the Security Council to take immediate and positive action against Israel to compel it to comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 31 and 34 of the provisional agenda, and the Security Council.

(Signed) Raúl ROA-KOURI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
