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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 18 May 1970 from the Deputy Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to send Your Excellency herewith a copy of the joint communiqué of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 23 to 25 March 1970.

Since my Government believes that the above-mentioned communiqué is of the utmost importance in connexion with the situation in the Middle East, may I request Your Excellency to kindly have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamil M. BAROODY
Ambassador

* Also issued under the symbol S/9808.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

In accordance with the Declaration of the Rabat Islamic Summit Conference, adopted on 25 September 1969,^{1/} the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers met in Jeddah from the 15th to the 17th of Moharram 1390 A.H. (23-25 March 1970) with the participation of the following States:

Kingdom of Afghanistan, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of Indonesia, Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of the Niger, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Somali Democratic Republic, Democratic Republic of the Sudan, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, United Arab Republic and Yemen Arab Republic.

Representatives of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, the League of Arab States and the Palestine Liberation Organization participated as observers.

The Conference elected His Excellency Al-Sayed Omar Al-Sakkaf, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as its Chairman. The representative of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Ahmadou Karim Gaye, and the representative of the Somali Democratic Republic, H.E. Mr. Omar Arteh Ghalib, were designated as Rapporteur and Secretary, respectively.

His Majesty King Faisal Bin Abdel Aziz, in his inaugural address, outlined the Conference's task and expressed the hope that it would achieve positive results.

The delegations expressed their thanks to His Majesty and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their gracious hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made for the Conference.

As decided at Rabat, the Conference had on its agenda the following two items:

(1) To examine the results of the joint action, undertaken on the international level by the participating States, pertaining to the decisions of the Declaration of the Rabat Islamic Summit Conference;

^{1/} A/7692.

(2) To consider the subject of establishing a permanent secretariat to act as liaison among the States participating in the Conference and to co-ordinate their activities.

In the course of the general debate, the delegations submitted detailed clarifications of the actions taken by their respective Governments in accordance with the decisions of the Declaration of the Rabat Islamic Summit Conference.

The Conference recalled the violation of the sanctity of Masjid Al-Aqsa, one of humanity's most Holy Places, and the acts of destruction and sacrilege still perpetrated by the Israeli military occupation of the Holy City of Jerusalem, thereby exacerbating tension in the Middle East and arousing the denunciation of people throughout the world.

The Conference considered the deteriorating situation in the Middle East arising from the Israeli aggression on Arab countries in June 1967 and also the repeated military assaults launched by Israel against the Arab countries, causing the destruction of towns, villages and Holy Places, and killing innocent civilians, including women and children.

The Conference also noted that Israel had been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations for its aggression and atrocities. It condemns Israel's intransigence and refusal to comply with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

It also condemns Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied territories and to rescind the measures aimed at the annexation of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the change of its status.

The Conference renews the determination expressed by the Rabat Islamic Summit Conference to reject any solution of the problem of Palestine which would deny Jerusalem the status it enjoyed before 5 June 1967.

The Conference:

- Reaffirms the rights of the Palestinian people to struggle for the liberation of their homeland and the restoration of their rights;
- Calls upon participating States to support the Palestinian people politically, materially and morally, in their fight for liberation, and to facilitate the establishment of representations of the Palestine Liberation Movement in the Islamic countries;

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- Decides to designate the 21st of August of every year (the day of the arson of Masjid Al-Aqsa) a Day of Solidarity with the struggle of the people of Palestine;

- Calls upon the participating States to take action on the international level for the benefit of the people of Palestine and their just struggle for the liberation of their usurped homeland and of the Holy Places;

- Denounces the Zionist movement as a racial, aggressive and expansionist movement contradictory to all human ideals and a permanent threat to world peace.

The Conference persists in urging the Security Council to bear its responsibilities by taking stringent measures to secure respect for its resolutions on Masjid Al-Aqsa, Jerusalem, and the situation in the Middle East. The Conference decides also that the Islamic States should undertake collective efforts to induce the adoption of a decisive action by the United Nations in this respect.

It urges all States, particularly France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to intensify their efforts with the object of securing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the territories occupied since the war of June 1967.

It calls upon all participating States to take all measures they deem appropriate to intensify the support of Arab Governments and peoples in their struggle to achieve the evacuation of the Israeli forces from their territories and the restoration of the usurped rights of the Palestinians.

The Conference was cognizant of the need for enlightening world public opinion as to the misleading Zionist propaganda and the Israeli expansionist designs and urged each participating State to adopt appropriate measures in that respect at the earliest time.

The Conference urges solidarity of all Islamic States against the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the territories of adjacent countries. It also urges that all necessary efforts be expended to develop economic, financial and cultural co-operation among the Islamic States as the only effective means to foil and contain Israel's attempts to infiltrate these States.

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The Conference reaffirmed that the participating Governments should continue to consult together with a view to promoting among themselves close co-operation and mutual assistance in the economic, technological, scientific, cultural and spiritual fields, inspired by the eternal teachings of Islam, in the interests of Muslims and humanity at large.

The Conference decides to meet once a year for the following purposes:

- (a) To review the progress achieved through the implementation of its resolutions;
- (b) To discuss matters of common interest and make recommendations for joint action;
- (c) To fix the date and place of Islamic Summit Conferences.

The Conference also decided the following:

- (a) To establish a secretariat with the following functions:
 - (i) To act as a liaison among the member States;
 - (ii) To follow up the implementation of the resolutions taken by the Conference, particularly those dealing with the Palestinian problem;
 - (iii) To prepare and organize the sessions of the Conference.
- (b) The secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary appointed for a two-year period by the Conference of Foreign Ministers. Malaysia is to select the first to hold this position.
- (c) The expenses incurred in the administration and the activities of the secretariat shall be borne by the member States.
- (d) Jeddah shall be the Headquarters of the secretariat, pending the liberation of Jerusalem.

The Conference decides that the next meeting will be held in Pakistan in the course of this year, on a date to be agreed upon with Pakistan.
