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GENERAL ASSEMBLY



GENERAL

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Fifth session
Agenda item 20 (b)

PALESTINE

(b) ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the Ad Hoc Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. S. P. LOPEZ (Philippines)

1. The General Assembly, at its 273rd meeting on 8 December 1949, adopted resolution 302 (IV) establishing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The resolution provided that the Director should submit an annual report to the General Assembly. Pursuant to that resolution, the Director submitted an interim report dated 6 October 1950 (A/1451 and Corr.1).

2. The General Assembly, at its 284th and 285th plenary meetings on 26 September 1950, decided to include the item "Palestine" in the agenda of the fifth session, and to refer the item to the Ad Hoc Political Committee.

3. The Ad Hoc Political Committee, at its 24th meeting on 27 October 1950, decided to take up sub-item (b) (Assistance to Palestine refugees) and sub-item (c) (Repatriation of Palestine refugees and payment of compensation due to them) of agenda item 20 independently of the other sub-items.

4. The Ad Hoc Political Committee considered sub-item (b) at its 31st to 36th meetings, inclusive, and at its 57th meeting.

5. At its 31st meeting on 1 November 1950, the Committee invited, without objection, the representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan to take his seat at the Committee table during the discussion of questions relating to Palestine. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East presented his report. His statement was circulated as document A/AC.38/4.

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6. At its 34th meeting on 6 November 1950, the Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine made a statement in connexion with the sections of the Commission's report (A/1367 and Corr.1 and Add.1.) relating to the question of refugees.

7. At its 35th meeting on 7 November 1950, a joint draft resolution (A/AC.38/L.28) was presented by France, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. This draft resolution, inter alia, noted that contributions sufficient to carry out the programme authorized in resolution 302 (IV) had not been made, and urged Governments which had not yet done so to make every effort to give voluntary contributions. It recognized that direct relief could not be terminated by 31 December 1950 as envisaged in resolution 302 (IV) and authorized the Agency to continue to furnish direct relief to refugees, estimating that approximately \$20,000,000 would be needed for this programme for the period 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952. It considered that the reintegration of the refugees into the economic life of the Near East, either by repatriation or resettlement, was essential, and instructed the Agency to establish a reintegration fund to which not less than \$30,000,000 should be contributed during the period 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952. The Secretary-General was authorized to advance funds not exceeding \$5,000,000 from the Working Capital Fund to finance operations pursuant to the resolution.

The Secretary-General and the specialized agencies were called upon to utilize to the fullest extent the Agency's facilities in co-ordinating the technical assistance programmes in the countries in which the Agency was operating. The resolution expressed appreciation of all the assistance rendered by specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and private organizations as well as of the work of the Director and staff of the Agency and the Advisory Commission.

Paragraph 8 of the joint draft resolution regarding the method of financing was left blank and the sponsors proposed that the Committee should seek advice from the Fifth Committee concerning the method of financing to be included in the draft resolution.

8. At the 36th meeting, the sponsors of the joint draft resolution accepted an amendment proposed by Pakistan (A/AC.38/L.29) to insert in paragraph 4 the words "without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of the General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948. The Committee agreed to

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request the Chairman to forward to the President of the General Assembly the amended joint draft resolution (A/AC.38/L.28/Rev.1) together with the summary records of the Committee's discussion thereof and to ask him to obtain from the Fifth Committee its advice on the method of financing the relief and reintegration programme, as well as on the financial implications of paragraph 9 of the joint draft resolution which would authorize advances from the Working Capital Fund.

9. At its 57th meeting on 27 November 1950, the Committee considered a letter (A/AC.38/L.49) from the President of the General Assembly transmitting the advice of the Fifth Committee regarding the method of financing the proposed relief and reintegration programme. The Fifth Committee had recommended the inclusion in the joint draft resolution of a paragraph (paragraph 8) providing for the appointment by the President of the General Assembly of a Negotiating Committee of seven or more members to consult during the current session of the General Assembly with Member and non-member States as to the amounts which Governments might be willing to contribute on a voluntary basis. The draft paragraph 8 also requested that, as soon as the Negotiating Committee had ascertained the extent to which Member States were willing to make contributions, all delegations should be notified by the Secretary-General in order that they might consult their Governments, and decided that, as soon as the Negotiating Committee had completed its work, the Secretary-General should at the Committee's request arrange, during the current session of the General Assembly, a meeting of Member and non-member States at which Members might commit themselves to their national contributions and the contributions of non-member States might be made known. As regards paragraph 9 of the proposed draft resolution, the Fifth Committee noted that the maximum sum likely to be available from the Working Capital Fund during July and August 1951 was estimated at \$2,500,000, and therefore hoped that the demands upon the Working Capital Fund might be limited to that amount. The Fifth Committee also called attention to the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, with which the Fifth Committee concurred, contained in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/1516).

10. The sponsors of the joint draft resolution (A/AC.38/L.28/Rev.1) accepted for inclusion in the joint draft resolution paragraph 8 as recommended by the Fifth Committee.

11. The Committee then proceeded to vote on the joint draft resolution as amended. It was adopted by a vote of 43 in favour, none against, with 6 abstentions.

12. The Ad Hoc Political Committee accordingly recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following resolution:

ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINE REFUGEES

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949,

Having examined the report of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/1451), and the report of the Secretary-General concerning United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees (A/1452),

1. Notes that contributions sufficient to carry out the programme authorized in paragraph 6 of resolution 302 (IV) have not been made, and urges Governments which have not yet done so to make every effort to make voluntary contributions in response to paragraph 13 of that resolution;
2. Recognizes that direct relief cannot be terminated as provided in paragraph 6 of resolution 302 (IV);
3. Authorizes the Agency to continue to furnish direct relief to refugees in need, and considers that for the period 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952, the equivalent of approximately \$20,000,000 will be required for direct relief to refugees who are not yet reintegrated into the economy of the Near East;
4. Considers that, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, the reintegration of the refugees into the economic life of the Near East, either by repatriation or resettlement, is essential in preparation for the time when international assistance is no longer available, and for the realization of conditions of peace and stability in the area;
5. Instructs the Agency to establish a reintegration fund which shall be utilized for projects requested by any Government in the Near East and approved by the Agency for the permanent re-establishment of refugees and their removal from relief;

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6. Considers that, for the period 1 July 1951 to 30 June 1952, not less than the equivalent of \$30,000,000 should be contributed to the Agency for the purposes set forth in paragraph 5 above;
 7. Authorizes the Agency, as circumstances permit, to transfer funds available for the current relief and works programmes, and for the relief programme provided in paragraph 3, to reintegration projects provided for in paragraph 5;
 8. Requests the President of the General Assembly to appoint a Negotiating Committee composed of seven or more members for the purpose of consulting as soon as possible during the current session of the General Assembly with Member and non-member States as to the amounts which Governments may be willing to contribute on a voluntary basis towards:
 - (i) The current programme for relief and works for the period ending 30 June 1951, bearing in mind the need for securing contributions from Member States which have not yet contributed;
 - (ii) The programme of relief and reintegration projects as provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 above for the year ending 30 June 1952;
- (a) Authorizes the Negotiating Committee to adopt procedures best suited to the accomplishment of its task, bearing in mind:
- (i) The need for securing the maximum contribution in cash;
 - (ii) The desirability of ensuring that any contribution in kind is of a nature which meets the requirements of the contemplated programmes;
 - (iii) The importance of enabling the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to plan its programmes in advance and to carry them out with funds regularly contributed;
 - (iv) The degree of assistance which can continue to be rendered by specialized agencies, non-member States and other contributors;
- (b) Requests that, as soon as the Negotiating Committee has ascertained the extent to which Member States are willing to make contributions, all delegations be notified accordingly by the Secretary-General in order that they may consult with their Governments;
- (c) Decides that, as soon as the Negotiating Committee has completed its work, the Secretary-General shall at the Committee's request arrange, during the current

session of the General Assembly, an appropriate meeting of Member and non-member States at which Members may commit themselves to their national contributions and the contributions of non-members may be made known;

9. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to advance funds deemed to be available for this purpose and not exceeding \$5,000,000 from the Working Capital Fund to finance operations pursuant to the present resolution, such sum to be repaid not later than 31 December 1951;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies to utilize to the fullest extent the Agency's facilities as a point of reference and co-ordination for technical assistance programmes in the countries in which the Agency is operating;

11. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Refugee Organization, the International Labour Organisation, and the Food and Agriculture Organization for the assistance which they have rendered, and urges them to continue to furnish all possible assistance to the Agency;

12. Commends the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the American Friends Service Committee for their invaluable services and whole-hearted co-operation in the distribution of relief supplies until those functions were taken over by the Agency;

13. Expresses its thanks to the numerous religious, charitable and humanitarian organizations whose programmes have brought much needed supplementary assistance to the Palestine refugees, and urges them to continue and expand, to the extent possible, the work which they have undertaken on behalf of the refugees;

14. Extends its appreciation and thanks to the Director and staff of the Agency and the members of the Advisory Commission for their effective and devoted work.
