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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE
REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ömer E. AKBEL (Turkey)

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: (a) Report of the Commissioner-General; (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; (c) Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine; (d) Report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

2. At its 200th meeting, on 21 September 1972, the General Committee decided to recommend the inclusion of the item in the agenda and its allocation to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report. At its 2037th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1972, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the General Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 829th to 842nd meetings, between 2 and 20 November. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) The report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the year ended 30 June 1972,^{1/} submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958;

(b) The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 (A/8786);

(c) The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 (A/8814);

(d) A note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2792 A (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 (A/8830);

(e) The report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 (A/8849);

(f) A note by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA containing revised budget estimates for 1972 and 1973 (A/SPC/155).

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8713).

4. The Special Political Committee began its consideration of the item on 2 November 1972 by hearing statements by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, who introduced his report, and by the representative of Norway, Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, who introduced the report of the Working Group.

5. In a letter dated 27 October 1972 (A/SPC/154) addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, the representatives of Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia requested that the Palestine Arab delegation be heard by the Committee during its consideration of the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA (item 40). In a letter dated 10 November (A/SPC/156) the representatives of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, the Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Fiji, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Yugoslavia requested that the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Arab people of Palestine, the principal party to the Palestine question, be heard by the Committee during its consideration of item 40.

6. With regard to these requests, the Committee decided at its 830th and 835th meetings, on 3 and 13 November, to authorize, in accordance with the practice established at the seven previous sessions, the persons constituting the said delegations to address the Committee, without such authorization implying recognition of the organization or delegation in question. Pursuant to this decision the Committee heard statements on behalf of those delegations during the debate.

7. In the course of its consideration of the question, the Committee received eight draft resolutions (see section II below). One of these was not pressed to a vote (see paras. 21 and 22). The texts of the other seven draft resolutions, which were put to the vote at the 841st and 842nd meetings and adopted without any change, appear in paragraph 25.

II. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.247

8. At the 834th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.247).

9. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 110^{2/} to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 25, draft resolution I A). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

^{2/} The representative of Haiti subsequently stated that if he had been present when the vote was taken he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/SR.842).

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

B. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.248

10. At the 837th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Sweden submitted a draft resolution concerning humanitarian assistance to displaced persons (A/SPC/L.248), on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

11. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 112^{3/} to none (see para. 25, draft resolution I B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania,

United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen,
Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

C. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.249

12. At the 838th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/SPC/L.249) on behalf of the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, Iran, Mexico and Sweden.

13. On 17 November 1972, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 155 of the rules of procedure, submitted to the Committee a statement (A/SPC/L.255) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

14. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a recorded vote of 112^{4/} to none (see para. 25, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda,

^{4/} Idem.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: None.

D. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.250

15. At the 839th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Somalia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.250) on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

16. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 83 to 5, with 27 abstentions (see para. 25, draft resolution I C). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Nicaragua.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Colombia, Gabon, Ghana, Haiti, Iceland,

Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Malawi, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Zaire.

E. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.251

17. At the 839th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Somalia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.251) on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

18. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 83 to 6, with 26 abstentions (see para. 25, draft resolution I D). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Israel, Nicaragua.

Abstaining: Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Central African Republic, Colombia, El Salvador, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Iceland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Malawi, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Zaire.

F. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.252

19. At the 839th meeting, on 16 November, the representative of Somalia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.252) on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia and Yugoslavia.

20. At the 841st meeting on 20 November, the draft resolution was put to the vote. The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 63 to 21, with 31 abstentions (see para. 25, draft resolution I E). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Lesotho, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Rwanda, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, Burma, Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Zaire.

G. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.253

21. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.253) on behalf of Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Afghanistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, in which it established a United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine,

"Recalling also its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, which directed the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in consultation with the parties concerned to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

"Taking note of the completion of the programme of identification and evaluation of Arab property as announced by the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in its twenty-second progress report, and of the fact that the Technical Office of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has a schedule of Arab owners and files of documents defining the location, area and other particulars of Arab property,

"Instructs the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to provide Member States upon request with copies of all documents and materials in its possession as well as in the possession of the Technical Office relating to property in Palestine."

22. At the same meeting, following an appeal by the representative of the United States, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, in which he referred to consultations in progress among the members of the Commission and the sponsors of the draft resolution, the representative of Lebanon stated that the sponsors would not press the draft resolution to a vote at that time, but requested that its text be included in the report of the Committee.

/...

H. Draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.254

23. At the 841st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the United Kingdom introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.254) concerning the enlargement of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA through the addition of Japan, on behalf of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

24. At the 842nd meeting, on the same day, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without objection (see para. 25, draft resolution I F).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

25. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine
Refugees in the Near East

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2792 A (XXVI) of 6 December 1971 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 5/

Taking note also of the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 20 March 1972, 6/

1. Notes with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8713).

6/ A/8672.

endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof and to report thereon as appropriate, but not later than 1 October 1973;

4. Directs attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's report;

5. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions to help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements;

6. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2792 B (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 7/

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-Seventh session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8713).

Taking note also of the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 20 March 1972, 8/

Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), 2535 C (XXIV), 2672 B (XXV) and 2792 B (XXVI);

2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 9/ on the effect on the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip of the continued Israeli policies and measures in the Strip,

Noting that both the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East have expressed great concern about the effect on Palestine refugees of these operations in which shelters in refugee camps were demolished and thousands of persons displaced, some of them to places outside the Gaza Strip,

Noting with regret the failure of Israel to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Deeply concerned at the continued measures by Israel which prejudice the rights of the population and the demographic composition and the status of the Gaza Strip,

1. Declares that such measures involving the physical and demographic structure in the Gaza Strip, including the destruction of refugee shelters and the forcible transfer of population, contravene the provisions of the Geneva

8/ A/8672.

9/ A/8814.

Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 10/ as well as paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 2675 (XXV) of 9 December 1970, entitled "Basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts";

2. Strongly deplores these actions by Israel;

3. Calls upon Israel to desist forthwith from all measures that affect the physical structure and the demographic composition of the Gaza Strip;

4. Calls upon Israel to take immediate and effective steps for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report as soon as possible and whenever appropriate thereafter, but in any case not later than the opening date of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, on Israel's compliance with and implementation of the present resolution.

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, and 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, calling upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who had fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 11/ of 13 September 1972 concerning the implementation of resolution 2792 E (XXVI),

Noting that the Israeli occupation authorities have persisted in changing the physical, geographic and demographic structure in the occupied territories, by the displacement of inhabitants, the destruction of towns, villages and homes, and the establishment of settlements in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 12/ as well as the pertinent United Nations resolutions,

Gravely concerned about the plight of the displaced inhabitants,

10/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

11/ A/8786.

12/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

Convinced that the plight of the displaced inhabitants could only be relieved by their speedy return to their homes and to the camps which they formerly occupied,

Emphasizing the necessity of full implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

1. Affirms the right of the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes and camps;
2. Considers that the plight of the displaced inhabitants continues since they have not yet returned to their homes and camps;
3. Expresses its grave concern for the failure of the Israeli authorities to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions;
4. Calls once more upon Israel immediately to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
5. Calls again upon Israel to desist forthwith from all measures affecting the physical, geographic and demographic structure of the occupied territories;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report in detail thereon to the General Assembly.

E

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, its resolutions 2672 C (XXV) of 8 December 1970 and 2792 D (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, in which it recognized that the people of Palestine are entitled to equal rights and self-determination in accordance with the Charter, and its resolutions 2649 (XXV) of 30 November 1970 and 2787 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, in which it recognized that the people of Palestine are entitled to the right of self-determination,

Bearing in mind the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter and more recently reaffirmed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 13/ and in the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, 14/

13/ General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV).

14/ General Assembly resolution 2734 (XXV).

1. Affirms that the people of Palestine are entitled to equal rights and self-determination, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
2. Expresses once more its grave concern that the people of Palestine have not been permitted to enjoy their inalienable rights and to exercise their right to self-determination;
3. Recognizes that full respect for and realization of the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine are indispensable for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

F

The General Assembly,

Having noted that the present membership of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, established pursuant to its resolutions 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and 720 B (VIII) of 27 November 1953, is composed of Belgium, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Noting further that it is in the general interest that other contributing countries join the Advisory Commission,

Decides to include Japan in the membership of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

II

Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 and 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 15/

Taking into account the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972, 16/

15/ A/8849.

16/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8713).

Recognizing with grave concern that the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continues to be acute, thereby endangering the already minimum services being provided to Palestine refugees,

Emphasizing the continuing need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its work;
2. Notes with appreciation the report of the Working Group;
3. Endorses the conclusion of the Working Group that further vigorous and constant fund-raising activities on behalf of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East are essential;
4. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.
