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

Offers of scholarships and grants for higher education  
for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977. By that resolution the Assembly appealed to all States to make special allocations, scholarships and grants to Palestine refugees and invited relevant United Nations agencies to consider the inclusion, within their respective spheres of competence, of assistance for higher education for Palestine refugee students. The Assembly requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to act as recipient and trustee for such special allocations and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-third session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. The resolution was transmitted to all States and to the specialized agencies on 23 March and 12 May 1978, respectively. In addition, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA addressed a special appeal to all States on 31 May 1978.
3. Seven Member States, namely, Egypt, Germany, Federal Republic of, Kuwait, Poland, Sudan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia, have informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that they are already providing scholarships for higher education to Palestinians. Another, Denmark, has advised that it has scholarships available for foreign students and for which Palestine refugee students may apply.
4. Three specialized agencies, namely, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the International Telecommunication Union have informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that, independently of resolution 32/90 F, discussions have already been held with

representatives of Palestinian organizations about the provision of assistance to Palestinians to pursue higher education and technical studies by means of fellowships within these agencies' technical assistance programmes. One agency, UNESCO, referred to its long-standing involvement with UNRWA projects, one of which is UNESCO's regular provision of fellowships to UNRWA Palestinian staff for specialized training of which, for 1978, 17 were approved and 11 granted. Two of the agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, indicated that the request for assistance had been noted for consideration. In addition, a communication was received through the Chairman of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA from the Universal Postal Union, advising that, in implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, UPU envisaged organizing courses for Palestine refugees at the Higher Arab Postal Institute in Damascus and offering one or two scholarships for this or a similar course of training in postal services.

5. The Commissioner-General has advised the Secretary-General that UNRWA will make available to prospective candidates whatever information it receives about scholarships offered by States and specialized agencies for which Palestine refugee students might be eligible. It also stands ready to carry out the functions assigned to it by the General Assembly of acting as the recipient and trustee of special allocations and scholarships whenever such funds and scholarships are made available to it.

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