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

#### Resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees

#### Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 4 of its resolution 39/99 F of 14 December 1984, entitled "Resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

#### "The General Assembly

"...

"1. Regrets that resolutions 37/120 F and 38/83 F have not been implemented;

"2. Calls once again upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible and to offer the necessary resources to meet the needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the interruption by the Agency of the general ration distribution to Palestine refugees in all fields, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions;

"3. Requests the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to resume on a continuing basis the interrupted general ration distribution to Palestine refugees in all fields;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Commissioner-General, to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. It will be recalled that, prior to the adoption of resolution 37/120 F of 16 December 1982 and in response to concern expressed by members of the Special Political Committee about his decision to phase out the basic ration programme, the Commissioner-General had stated that the restoration of the programme would be possible only if enough additional funds were made available to him or if there was a change in the order of priorities among food rations, education and health. The Commissioner-General had noted that it seemed to be generally agreed that the education programme had the highest priority (see A/SPC/37/SR.32, para. 23).

3. The response to the appeals for contributions made by the General Assembly in resolutions 37/120 F, 38/83 F and 39/99 F has not been encouraging. Contributions by Governments, which had amounted to \$154 million in 1982, declined to \$141 million in 1983 and to \$136 million in 1984. The figure for 1985 will not be available until the end of the year, but it is already clear that income has been insufficient even to maintain the existing education, health and welfare programmes at desired levels. Further details relating to the Agency's financial position in 1985 and the outlook for 1986 are set out in the annual report of the Commissioner-General. 1/

4. Since the additional resources for which the General Assembly appealed have not been forthcoming, it has not been possible for the Commissioner-General to consider resuming the general distribution of basic food rations as requested in resolution 39/99 F.

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