



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/40/980
5 December 1985
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

Fortieth session
Agenda items 33, 35, 38, 78 and 129

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES

Letter dated 4 December 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Information during its first extraordinary session, held at Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 23 to 25 November 1985.

I kindly request you to circulate these resolutions as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 33, 35, 38, 78 and 129.

(Signed) Ahmed Tawfik KHALIL
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers
of Information, at its first extraordinary session, held
at Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ECIM/RES.1 (I)	3
South Africa ECIM/RES.2 (I)	3
Palestine ECIM/RES.3 (I)	4
Lebanon ECIM/RES.4 (I)	5
Responsibilities of the Pan African News Agency and the African press in the struggle against <u>apartheid</u> ECIM/RES.5 (I)	5
Responsibilities of the Pan African News Agency as regards the drought situation in Africa ECIM/RES.6 (I)	6
Acts of piracy ECIM/RES.7 (I)	7
Co-operation between the International Telecommunication Union and the Pan African News Agency ECIM/RES.9 (I)	8

ECIM/RES.1 (I). RESOLUTION ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Reaffirming its previous resolution on co-operation between the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

1. Commends the sincere efforts exerted by UNESCO with a view to developing African information and the OAU African information service;
2. Invites UNESCO to intensify its efforts in assisting member States of the OAU to set up a new African information order that would be the prelude to the establishment of a new world information order that should be fairer and more balanced;
3. Calls on all member States to uphold the noble objectives of UNESCO in the service of culture, education, science and information;
4. Renews its appeal to the United States of America to resume its seat at UNESCO, which remains a universal organization;
5. Appeals to member States who threaten to quit the organization to reconsider their attitude.

ECIM/RES.2 (I). RESOLUTION ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Considering the continued brutal practices perpetrated by the racist régime of South Africa against the black population;

Considering the heroic resistance of the oppressed majority against the minority régime of Pretoria;

Underlining the escalation of the valiant resistance of the oppressed majority against the minority régime of Pretoria which has driven the latter to impose a black out of any news pertaining to the awakening of the African majority;

1. Reaffirms its condemnation of the racist régime of South Africa;
2. Condemns the policy of information black out imposed by the racist régime which seeks to conceal the criminal acts perpetrated by that régime against the indigenous citizens of South Africa;

/...

3. Hails the courage and sacrifice of the oppressed majority of South Africa in the resistance struggle;

4. Strongly condemns the execution of the poet Benjamin Moloise and urges all African thinkers and writers to deplore such a criminal act;

5. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and other Nationalists illegally held in South African jails;

6. Urges unconditional and speedy implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia, and immediate withdrawal of Pretoria Occupational Forces from Angola;

7. Calls for immediate application of mandatory sanctions against the South African racist régime, urges the international community to offer increased material and moral support to southern African liberation movements and appeals for assistance to the front-line States now bearing the brunt of Pretoria-orchestrated destabilization.

ECIM/RES.3 (I). RESOLUTION OF PALESTINE

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo, from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Reaffirming its resolution on Palestine adopted in Addis Ababa (March 1985) and expressing:

- Its serious concern over the continued occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel,
- Its strong anxiety over the intensification of the waves of arrests of citizens, the destruction of their dwellings and the continued arbitrary displacement of the Palestinian people,
- Its support of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to establish an independent and sovereign state on their own soil;

Considering the barbarous and murderous raid on the PLO headquarters and against the capital of the Republic of Tunisia, a sovereign country and founding member of the OAU;

1. Condemns the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Israel against PLO installations wherever they are found;

2. Proclaims its full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their legitimate rights, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative;

/...

3. Strongly denounces all the terrorist assaults of Israel on various Palestinian communities and particularly its savage raid on the PLO Headquarters in Tunisia;

4. Strongly condemns Israel's acts of violence and repression against the people of the occupied territories and its policy of establishing settlements;

5. Calls upon member States to intensify their support of the Palestinian rights by all possible means, including the mass media, to expose Israel's improper practices against the Palestinian people and to support the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland;

6. Reaffirms all the resolutions adopted by OAU pertaining to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem and calls for the intensification of efforts to find a just and lasting solution within the framework of an international conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, and the participation of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

ECIM/RES.4 (I). RESOLUTION ON LEBANON

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Reaffirming its resolution on Lebanon, adopted at its Third Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, particularly as regards the dangers inherent in the Lebanese situation and its impact on a comprehensive and peaceful settlement in the Middle East;

1. Urges the leaders of the conflicting Lebanese parties and communities to resume the dialogue in order to reach a final settlement to the bloody conflict that started in Lebanon 10 years ago;

2. Demands the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanese territory;

3. Underlines the necessity and importance of restoring Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

ECIM/RES.5 (I). RESOLUTION ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY AND THE AFRICAN PRESS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Considering that the visit paid by the current Chairman of OAU to the front-line States represents a decisive factor in sensitizing African and international public opinion to the permanent danger which the racist régime of

/...

South Africa poses to mankind and to the pernicious effects which its acts of aggression and destabilization have against the front-line States;

Considering the major role that African information media should play in the sensitization and explanation campaign conducted by the national liberation movements and the valiant peoples of South Africa and Namibia in their heroic struggle against the savage and inhuman domination of the Pretoria régime;

1. Urges African information media in general, and the Pan African News Agency (PANA) in particular, to include among their priority objectives, the sensitization of African and international public opinion to the glorious struggle waged by the genuine national liberation movements and the peoples of South Africa and Namibia for freedom;

2. Urges all information media and press organs of independent African countries to make a concerted effort in seeking to adopt an effective course to explain to African and international public opinion the situation in which the front-line States find themselves, as a result of the repeated acts of aggressions of the racist régime of South Africa of which they are the victims;

3. Requests member States of OAU to accredit, in the front-line country, correspondents of their respective national press agencies in order to enable Africa and all freedom-loving nations to have objective information and a clear picture of loathsome apartheid and its noxious effects on the stability of the front-line States;

4. Directs the Director General of PANA to take immediate and practical steps to assign experienced and competent journalists with the requisite equipment in southern Africa to inform Africa and the world about the struggle against apartheid.

ECIM/RES.6 (I). RESOLUTION ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
PAN AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY AS REGARDS THE
DROUGHT SITUATION IN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its first extraordinary session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Realizing the importance assigned to the mass media in Africa in the implementation of the Economic Declaration adopted by the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa and in overcoming the problem caused by recurrent drought in many African countries;

Conscious of the important role of African mass media in disseminating correct information on the drought situation in the continent;

Noting that the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government established a Special Fund to help drought-affected countries and that the success of this Fund will greatly depend on a vigorous and positive explanation of its purpose and progress;

Recognizing the role of the Pan African News Agency in the effective implementation of decisions of the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Government, especially in combating drought;

Decides:

1. That the African Ministers of Information give proper guidance to the mass media in their respective countries to disseminate correct information on the drought situation with a view to mobilizing moral and material assistance to the drought victims;
2. That the national news agencies of the member States affected by drought should send to PANA headquarters information on a regular basis on the drought situation and the efforts being made to overcome it;
3. That PANA should, as a matter of priority, send qualified and experienced correspondents to the worst affected drought countries and refugee camps in order to collect unbiased and correct information to be disseminated by PANA and through PANA by the national news agencies and the Pool of Non-Aligned Agencies;
4. That the Director General of PANA should make a report to the Inter-Governmental Council which, in turn, will report to the next ordinary session of the Conference of African Ministers of Information on the coverage made by PANA of the drought situation in Africa.

ECIM/RES.7 (I). RESOLUTION ON ACTS OF PIRACY

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Having heard the report of the Minister of Information of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the recent hijacking of the EgyptAir plane;

Feeling deep anxiety concerning mounting acts of piracy and hijacking during the past few years which involve terrorizing the innocent and gratuitous loss of life;

Having heard with great indignation news about the hijacking of an Egyptian airliner on 23 November 1985 and the consequent loss of life among unarmed and peaceful passengers;

Aware of the implications of such acts that threaten international peace and security;

1. Strongly condemns any act of piracy and abduction by land, sea or air;
2. Hails the heroism displayed by Egyptian armed forces in storming the plane and saving the lives of innocent passengers;

3. Calls upon the international community to take firm measures to combat terrorist acts in all forms and deter its perpetrations;

4. Appeals to all honest media men throughout the world to denounce and condemn such dastardly acts.

ECIM/RES.9 (I). RESOLUTION ON CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
AND THE PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY

The Conference of African Ministers of Information, meeting in its First Extraordinary Session in Cairo from 23 to 25 November 1985;

Considering the important role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the development of telecommunications in Africa;

Considering the technical assistance provided by ITU the Pan African News Agency (PANA) since its establishment;

In view of the importance of telecommunications media in the transmission and diffusion of information;

1. Expresses satisfaction at the technical co-operation that started between ITU and PANA;

2. Invites ITU to continue to bring in its technical assistance to PANA.
