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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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HUMAN RIGHTS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-first year

Note verbale dated 23 January 1986 from the Permanent Mission of
Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him herewith the text of the final communiqué of the tenth session of the Al-Quds Committee, held at Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 21 and 22 January 1986, and requests him to have it circulated as an official document of

the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference", "Question of Palestine", "The situation in the Middle East", "Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations", "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories", "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees", "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights", "Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance" and "International Covenants on Human Rights", and of the Security Council.

ANNEX

Final communiqué of the tenth session of the Al-Quds Committee,
held at Marrakesh, Morocco, on 21 and 22 January 1986

The tenth session of the Al-Quds Committee was held at Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10 and 11 Jumada I, 1406 (21 and 22 January 1986), at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Chairman of the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, and pursuant to a request made by Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The Al-Quds Committee was invited to consider the dangers facing the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque since a number of members of the Israeli Knesset, under the protection of the Israeli police, intruded into the Mosque in order to mark out areas of worship reserved for Jews.

Participants in the session included the Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Mr. Yasser Arafat, as well as delegations of States members of the Al-Quds Committee. The Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran were absent.

The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference also participated in the session.

In the opening statement, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, reviewed the situation concerning the City of Al-Quds al-Sharif and the Palestinian cause, highlighting the dangers confronting the Holy Al-Quds Mosque, which was the target of repeated acts of aggression, like other Islamic and Christian Holy Places in the Holy City. His Majesty reaffirmed the need for the Islamic countries to intensify their efforts to ensure that the Holy City and its inhabitants had the practical means of strengthening their resistance and preserving their land and the Holy Places.

His Majesty issued an appeal to the Syrian Arab Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO to close ranks, since the fate of Al-Quds should transcend all political and personal considerations.

His Majesty informed the Committee of his decision to have the Holy Al-Quds Mosque guarded by Moroccans. He also proposed that the kings, heads of State and emirs of the Islamic countries should sign a public communiqué to be addressed to His Holiness the Pope, the permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, requesting them to circulate the communiqué among Member States and the international authorities, so that they would assume their responsibilities with a view to preventing a religious war of unpredictable scope and consequences.

Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, then took the floor and thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for the welcome initiative of convening the session of the Al-Quds Committee and for his prompt response to the recent developments. Chairman Arafat warned the Committee about the ambitions of the Zionist entity, whose repeated acts of aggression were aimed at destroying the Al-Aqsa Mosque and building the temple of Solomon upon its ruins, as part of a premeditated plan to conceal the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City and destroy the Christian and Islamic Holy Places. The Chairman of the PLO expressed confidence that the Committee would adopt measures commensurate with the developments and the challenges that were virtually humiliating the Arab and Muslim world and even the Christian world.

The Committee heard a statement by His Excellency Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who referred to the importance of the session in the light of the present situation, and launched an appeal for increased support from the Islamic world for the resistance of the Palestinian people, who were struggling in the occupied territories to preserve the Arab and Islamic character of the Holy City. The Secretary-General of the Organization also urged the Committee to request the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities fully, adopt measures that would deter the Zionist enemy from resorting to such practices, and call upon it to abide by international resolutions on the subject.

The heads of delegation who took the floor thanked His Majesty King Hassan II for his initiative in convening the Committee and stated their positions regarding the dangerous development of the situation and the challenge to the cause of Al-Quds al-Sharif. They reaffirmed the need to provide any assistance likely to strengthen the resistance of the inhabitants of the Holy City and of the occupied territories, so as to help them remain on their land and in the Holy Places and to block Zionist machinations and pressure aimed at chasing them away. The heads of delegation also appealed to the Committee to adopt practical resolutions and establish a body to follow up their implementation.

The Committee endorsed the proposal made by His Majesty King Hassan II that the next session should be held in April 1986 with a view to considering progress made in the implementation of the resolutions.

The Committee considered it indispensable to continue implementing the resolutions relating to the City of Al-Quds adopted at previous Islamic conferences, particularly the resolution adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference (session on Palestine and Al-Quds) concerning all forms of jihad.

The Committee focused on the two working papers submitted by the delegations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of Palestine. After the ensuing exchange of views, a small drafting committee was formed to prepare the text of the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee recommended:

That the principle of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people should be strengthened by, on the one hand, putting an end to differences and conflicts between Islamic States and, on the other hand, devoting all efforts and Islamic potential to the liberation of the first of the kiblans and the third holy sanctuary;

That the sermon at the prayer service on Friday, 20 Jumada I, 1406 H (31 January 1986) should be devoted to the denunciation in all mosques of the Zionist plans and practices aimed at destroying the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, Judaizing the Holy City and changing its Arab and Muslim character;

That on Monday, 23 Jumada I, 1406 H (3 February 1986) work should stop for a specific length of time throughout the Muslim world as a protest against Zionist violations of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Holy Mosque of Abraham at Hebron (Al-Haram al-Ibrahimi), and as an expression of solidarity on the part of the Islamic Ummah with the Palestinian population of occupied Palestine in their valiant resistance effort to safeguard their homeland and their Holy Places;

That, pursuant to the Committee's proposal as approved by His Majesty King Hassan II, contact should be established with the Holy See, the Orthodox Church and the other authorities of the Christian religions, with a view to adopting a clear and effective proposal in response to the Zionist violations in the City of Al-Quds al-Sharif and in occupied Palestine;

That His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, should be entrusted with the task of sending a letter to the heads of State of the permanent members of the Security Council, to the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, to the Chairman of OAU and to the current Chairman of the European Economic Community, reporting Israel's continuing criminal and Zionist acts of aggression in the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif, at Hebron and in the occupied towns and regions of Palestine, stressing the growing seriousness of the situation, which poses a dangerous threat to international peace and security, and requesting those countries to put pressure on the Israeli authorities to end such acts of aggression and abide by the relevant international resolutions;

That the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should be instructed to contact the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of OAU and the Director-General of UNESCO and request them to make every effort to bring to an end Israeli practices and violations of the Holy Places in occupied Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds al-Sharif;

That, on the suggestion of His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Islamic Conference and Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, an appeal signed by the heads of State of the Islamic countries should be addressed to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, His Holiness the Pope and the international authorities. The appeal would contain a warning about the inherent risk posed by the continuing Zionist violations of the Islamic and Christian Holy Places in Palestine, particularly in the Holy City of Al-Quds and at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and

the risk created by the failure to recognize the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people - a serious challenge to the Faithful throughout the world. It would point out that such policies of aggression provoke hatred and conflict between the followers of the divine religions, which could pose a threat to international peace and security;

That effective support should continue to be given to the struggle of the Palestinian people at all levels, political, military and economic, and at the level of information, in order to enable it to resist on its land and in its homeland with greater firmness and to oppose more effectively the Zionist occupation and the racist, oppressive and colonialist practices in occupied Palestine, in particular in the Holy City of Al-Quds al-Sharif;

That the Islamic States should be asked to accelerate the reconstitution of the capital of the Al-Quds Fund and its Waqf, in implementation of the pertinent resolutions, in order to permit payment of the scheduled amount of aid to support the resistance and struggle of the Palestinian people;

That an appeal should be launched for voluntary contributions among the Muslim population in order to strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and that the municipal administrations of Islamic capitals should be urged to give financial support to the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif, the capital of Palestine;

That support should be given to the joint efforts of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Jordanian Government to safeguard the Holy Places of Islam in occupied Palestine, particularly in Al-Quds al-Sharif, in order to permit the reconstruction, maintenance and protection of the Holy Mosque. Tribute was paid, in that regard, to the efforts made by the Minister for Awqaf and Religious Affairs and for the Islamic Holy Places;

That the implementation of the Islamic boycott of the Israeli enemy should be ensured in all the Islamic countries;

That a certain number of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries members of the Al-Quds al-Sharif Committee and the Secretary-General of the Committee should be enabled to participate in the deliberations of the Security Council concerning Israeli violations of the holy sanctuary of Al-Quds and Al-Haram al-Ibrahimi, in Hebron, in order to express the unified Islamic position on that situation;

That a sub-committee of the Al-Quds Committee should be established with the mandate of visiting all the Islamic countries in order to draw up programmes of action for the implementation of all the Islamic resolutions concerning the cause of Al-Quds and Palestine. The sub-committee would be answerable to the Al-Quds Committee;

That the General Secretariat should be asked to inform member countries of the resolutions adopted by the Committee, in particular operative paragraphs 2, 3, 10 and 11, and to submit a report to the Committee at its next session.

In concluding its work, the Committee expressed its deep gratitude and sincere thanks to its Chairman, His Majesty King Hassan II, who is making sustained efforts in the Arab, Islamic and international arenas in defence of the rights of the Palestinian people and working for the restoration of Al-Quds al-Sharif to Arab and Islamic sovereignty.

The members of the Committee also expressed their thanks and gratitude to the Moroccan people for the warm welcome accorded them and the generous hospitality extended to them.
