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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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Agenda item 22
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE
UNITED NATIONS

Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In resolution 40/170 of 17 December 1985, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps to finalize the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people requested in Assembly resolution 38/145 of 19 December 1983, to convene in 1986 a meeting of the relevant programmes, organizations, agencies, funds and organs of the United Nations system to consider economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, and to provide for the participation in the meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) the Arab host countries and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Accordingly, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of programmes, organizations, agencies, funds and organs of the United Nations system that was held at Geneva on 2 July 1986. In accordance with resolution 40/170, representatives of the PLO and of the Arab host countries participated in the meeting, as did relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

* A/41/150.

3. Representatives of the following programmes, organizations, agencies and organs of the United Nations system attended the meeting: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and Office for Special Political Questions of the United Nations Secretariat, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

4. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Commission of the European Communities, Organization of African Unity, OPEC Fund for International Development, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Islamic Development Bank.

5. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Women's International Democratic Federation, Middle East Council of Churches, World Federation of Trade Unions and World Peace Council.

6. The Director in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation acted as Chairman.

7. The meeting had before it the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/41/319-E/1986/72).

II. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

8. The main conclusions of the meeting were as follows:

(a) The meeting recognized the serious situation of the Palestinian people and the urgency of providing increased economic and social assistance to them, as well as the important role that the United Nations system could play in that regard. It agreed that assistance channelled through the various United Nations organizations should be in accordance with their various mandates and responsibilities, and should take into account the need to respond to the requirements of the Palestinian people.

(b) The meeting noted the concerns of PLO about the development of the programme of economic and social assistance called for by the General Assembly. At the same time it recognized that there were special circumstances that impeded progress. It was considered that rather than carrying out abstract or theoretical studies, the emphasis should be on developing a more systematic programme framework within which new projects and activities could be developed in the light of a better knowledge of the needs and requirements of the Palestinian people.

(c) The meeting expressed appreciation for the activities that the organizations of the United Nations system were carrying out for the benefit of the Palestinian people. Since the inception of the programme, these activities had grown and it was expected that they would be further expanded and diversified in coming years. It was also recognized that co-ordination and self-evaluation should be improved.

(d) The meeting had a useful exchange of views concerning the possibility of sending a mission to promote the development of the programme of economic and social assistance. It was noted, inter alia, that the terms of reference of the mission would need to be carefully considered in consultation with the host Governments and the PLO. It was urged that such a mission should be launched as expeditiously as possible.
