



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KOUASSI (Togo)

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AGENDA ITEM 75: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN
THE NEAR EAST (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/41/L.7-L.18)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the draft resolutions pertaining to agenda item 75, which were contained in documents A/SPC/41/L.7, L.8, L.9, L.10, L.11, L.12, L.13, L.14, L.15, L.16 and L.17. He recalled that the representative of the United States had introduced draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7 at the Committee's 16th meeting on 30 October, and he drew members' attention to document A/SPC/41/L.18, which contained the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.8.
2. Mrs. CLARK (United States of America), said that her delegation wished to make a change in the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7, which should read: "Recalling its resolution 40/165 A of 16 December 1985 ...".
3. Mr. VON BARTHELD (Netherlands), introducing the draft resolution entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" (A/APC/41/L.8) on behalf of the sponsors, noted that the economic prospects of UNRWA for 1987 remained grim. The budget for 1987, which for the first time in UNRWA's history was put together on the basis of a medium-term plan, estimated that the income requirements for 1987 would not be more than 5 per cent higher than the figure for 1986, a very modest growth, especially considering the rapid increase in the Palestine refugee population.
4. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the response of Member States to the appeals of the Commissioner-General would enable UNRWA to overcome its financial problems, which had lasted too long, and that the Committee, as in previous years, would adopt draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.8 without a vote, extending the mandate of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA for a further period of one year.
5. Mr. ÖRN (Sweden) introduced on behalf of the sponsors the draft resolution entitled "Assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities" (A/SPC/41/L.9), which reaffirmed the support of the international community for efforts made by UNRWA to provide assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities. The sponsors hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.
6. Mr. KHAN (Bangladesh) introduced on behalf of the sponsors the draft resolutions entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for the Palestine refugees" (A/SPC/41/L.10), "Population and refugees displaced since 1967" (A/SPC/41/L.13), "Revenues derived from Palestine refugee properties" (A/SPC/41/L.14) and "University of Jerusalem 'Al-Quds' for Palestine refugees" (A/SPC/41/L.17).
7. Similar resolutions had already been adopted by the General Assembly in the past, but the basic problem of refugees remained unchanged and in some respects had even deteriorate. The sponsors had therefore deemed it appropriate to recall some

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(Mr. Khan, Bangladesh)

of the earlier decisions of the General Assembly. The sponsors hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolutions by an overwhelming majority. Their implementation would facilitate the functioning of UNRWA and alleviate to some extent the suffering of the Palestine refugees.

8. Mr. NAEEM MAHMUD (Pakistan) introduced on behalf of its sponsors the draft resolutions relating to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip (A/SPC/41/L.11), resumption of the ration distribution to Palestine refugees (A/SPC/41/L.12), protection of Palestine refugees (A/SPC/41/L.15) and Palestine refugees in the West Bank (A/SPC/41/L.16). After highlighting the main points of the draft resolutions, he voiced the hope that the Committee would adopt them by a very large majority. If it was to continue its humanitarian work, the Agency must be able to count upon sustained support more than ever.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no further speakers, he would take it that the Committee was ready to take a decision on draft resolutions A/SPC/41/L.7 to L.17.

10. It was so decided.

11. Mr. WATT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 States Members of the European Community in explanation of vote before the vote, wished to make three comments.

12. Firstly, although the Twelve firmly supported efforts to improve the condition of refugees in the Gaza Strip, it was their understanding of the request made in paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16 that the Commissioner-General's efforts depended upon the resources available to him.

13. Secondly, on the subject of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15, the Twelve wished to reaffirm their deep concern for the safety and security and for the juridical and human rights of all Palestine refugees. It regretted that the draft resolution, which traditionally in the past had addressed the problems of the Palestine refugees in Lebanon, should now do so in a way which did not reflect fully their present difficult circumstances, made clear in the report of the Commissioner-General. The draft resolution lacked cohesion. Furthermore, with regard to paragraph 1, the Twelve considered it important to avoid bringing into question in any way Israel's responsibility as an occupying Power for the protection of the civilian population, because it was for Israel to respect its obligations, whatever the circumstance.

14. Thirdly, the reference in the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16 to "Israel's demolition of the Palestine refugees' camps in the West Bank" was clearly contrary to the facts.

15. Mr. ÖRN (Sweden), explaining his vote before the vote, said that the Swedish Government, whose political and financial support for UNRWA had been amply demonstrated, supported most of the draft resolutions introduced but could not approve some of them. The financial situation of the Agency made the establishment of strict priorities imperative. Highest priority must be accorded to the

(Mr. Örn, Sweden)

educational and health care needs of the refugees. Without sufficient financial resources, the resumption of the ration distribution as requested categorically in draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.12 would endanger those vitally important activities. His delegation would therefore vote against the draft resolution. Furthermore, his Government would abstain on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.13, which seemed to rule out negotiations or discussions on the modalities that would enable those Palestinians who had been displaced as a result of the 1967 war to return to their homes. Sweden would also abstain on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.14, because it was its position that the right of the Palestine refugees to recover their property or to receive compensation should be dealt with in the context of a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.

16. After much hesitation and with certain reservations, Sweden had decided that it would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15, whose preamble was to some degree an improvement over the text submitted the previous year. However, it continued to consider it inappropriate that the Secretary-General should be expected, as stated in paragraph 1, to "guarantee" the safety of the refugees in situations where he had absolutely no means of doing so. Furthermore, the wording of paragraph 3 was too general. It should also be pointed out that subparagraph 6 of the preamble, which had been taken from the Commissioner-General's report, referred specifically to the situation prevailing in Lebanon.

17. Lastly, although his delegation would support draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16, it wished to point out that it interpreted the wording of paragraph 1 as a statement of Israel's responsibility for refraining from displacing and relocating Palestine refugees against their will. It added that the use of the definite article in subparagraph 6 of the preamble was misleading.

18. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7, as orally amended.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda,

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Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

19. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7, as orally amended, was adopted by 119 votes to none, with 1 abstention.
20. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.8 was adopted without a vote.
21. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.9 was adopted without a vote.
22. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.10.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

23. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.10 was adopted by 121 votes to none with 1 abstention.

24. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.11.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Costa Rica, Zaire.

25. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.11 was adopted by 117 votes to 2 with 3 abstentions.

26. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.12.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Spain.

27. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.12 was adopted by 98 votes to 20 with 4 abstentions.

28. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.13.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

29. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.13 was adopted by 97 votes to 2 with 23 abstentions.

30. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.14.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of),

Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire.

31. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.14 was adopted by 97 votes to 2 with 24 abstentions.

32. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zaire.

33. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15 was adopted by 95 votes to 2 with 24 abstentions.

34. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Cameroon, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Zaire.

35. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16 was adopted by 115 votes to 2 with 5 abstentions.

36. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.17.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname,

Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

37. Draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.17 was adopted by 120 votes to 2.

38. Mrs. CLARK (United States), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation was pleased to have had opportunity of reaffirming its support for UNRWA by co-sponsoring draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7 and by joining the consensus in favour of draft resolutions A/SPC/40/L.18 and L.19. It had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.10 because it provided for some of the needs of the refugees in a tangible manner. However, she disapproved of the extraneous reference in paragraph 5 to the university whose establishment was being envisaged in Jerusalem. The delegation of the United States had voted against draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.17 concerning that university because it was a purely political text which did not satisfy the educational requirements of the refugees.

39. The United States had voted against draft resolutions A/SPC/41/L.11 and L.13 because they were highly controversial and biased, and condemned Israel severely. It had also voted against draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.14 because it prejudged the questions of the repatriation and compensation of the refugees, which could be settled in a more satisfactory manner within the framework of negotiations between the parties concerned. The delegation of the United States resolutely supported the efforts made by the Commissioner-General to make the best possible use of UNRWA's scarce resources. Therefore, it had been unable to support the adoption of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.12, which was aimed at restricting the Commissioner-General's discretionary powers.

40. The United States had also voted against draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15 which contained an unacceptable and unilateral condemnation of Israel, in disregard of the simple truth. To engage in such futile polemics would only exacerbate the problems confronting the Agency. Moreover, a resolution making the Secretary-General responsible for guaranteeing the safety, security and rights of the Palestine refugees in the occupied territories would pose a number of legal and practical problems because it would be conducive to jurisdictional clashes.

41. The United States was unable to support paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.16 because it would preclude programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of the refugees pending the achievement of a comprehensive political settlement. It would therefore also preclude programmes for the construction of new housing for the refugees outside the existing camps, undertaken on a voluntary basis by the refugees themselves in co-ordination with UNRWA.

(Mrs. Clark, United States)

42. The overall position of the United States with regard to the draft resolutions considered, reflected its desire to see UNRWA continue its important humanitarian work pending a final solution to the problems of the region. However, there was no point in adopting draft resolutions which did not contribute in any way to the achievement of the Agency's objectives. Such texts only made the situation more difficult than it already was, prejudged matters that should be tackled through direct negotiations between the parties concerned and in some cases, effectively stood in the way of the adoption of measures that would be of direct benefit to the Palestine refugees. Lastly, it was hoped that UNRWA would be able to continue its humanitarian work and receive broad-based support from the international community.

43. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that he had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.11 although the wording of paragraph 2 was unsatisfactory. In his view, the request made to the Commissioner-General to extend all services of UNRWA to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip was meant to take into account the means available to the Agency, bearing in mind the services it provided to Palestine refugees elsewhere.

44. Austria had also voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15, which contained positive changes compared to the text of the preceding year. The wording, however, could be further improved, particularly in paragraph 3 where it would be better to speak of Palestine refugees detained "for political reasons".

45. Mr. FARTAS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions. He specified, as he did every year, that nothing in those texts could be interpreted as meaning, explicitly or implicitly, that the Libyan Government accepted the status quo imposed by force in the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7 on assistance to Palestine refugees for purely humanitarian reasons, but he wished to point out that his country had always considered the United States responsible for prolonging the situation because it supported and aided the occupiers who had usurped the Palestinian lands.

46. Mrs. LUOSTARINEN (Finland) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.11 because Finland was of the view that all UNRWA services should be extended to Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, it being understood that the existing resource limits would not be exceeded. Her country had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.15 because it was concerned about the security of the Palestine refugees and supported all measures which might improve their protection. Although she appreciated the new wording in the preamble, particularly in the sixth paragraph, she regretted the lack of balance throughout the draft resolution, which ignored the serious security problems of the Palestine refugees in Lebanon. She expressed reservations concerning paragraphs 1 and 3 because, in her view, it was not the task of the Secretary-General to guarantee the security of the refugees - a responsibility that he did not have the means to assume - and because the wording of paragraph 3 was inaccurate and altogether too general.

47. Mr. DOWER (Israel) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolutions A/SPC/41/L.7 and L.10, and had joined in the consensus on draft resolutions A/SPC/41/L.8 and L.9, but had had no alternative but to vote against draft resolutions A/SPC/41/L.11 to L.17.

48. Far from being opposed to the extension of international assistance to Palestinian Arabs, whether they were registered with UNRWA or not, his Government welcomed any increase in financial, technical, cultural and economic assistance with the sole requirement that it should be channelled through the proper and legitimate organs and be used for constructive purposes. The more that was done in that regard, the better it was for all parties concerned, and for the cause of peace and peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews. In that regard, many delegations tended to forget, for obvious political reasons, that the State of Israel had been engaged, for the past 19 years, in improving the well-being, safety and socio-economic development of the Palestinian Arabs of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district. It was proud of the results achieved.

49. What Israel rejected and opposed was the slanderous full-fledged propaganda onslaught staged against it on the patently false pretence of assessing the living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs and granting them protection and assistance. Israel rejected and opposed the political connotations and implications given to the item at the prompting of countries actively engaged in a military and diplomatic war against it. It could not condone the different criteria applied to various refugee situations, the rewriting of current history and the artificial perpetuation of refugee status and camps for exclusively political aims. Those who were most vociferous on that matter were, paradoxically, the countries which were directly responsible for the plight of the Palestinian Arabs and which for years had been stubbornly impeding world efforts to promote constructive and lasting solutions. Among the staunchest supporters of the draft resolutions were countries which gave very little to the Palestinians or which refused systematically to increase their contributions, financial or otherwise.

50. The issues at stake went well beyond the draft resolutions and the hidden intentions were more far-reaching. Behind the careful diplomatic wording was the intention to induce the world community to condone blind terrorism and relentless warfare, block the way to peace and stability and give active help to the extremists who sought to destroy two States Members of the United Nations - the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel - without any concern for the fate of the Palestinians who were still being kept in refugee camps.

51. The Palestinian Arabs should indeed be assisted and protected. They should be assisted in rejecting terror and bloodshed and should be persuaded to seek a constructive, peaceful, lasting settlement that would allow them to work hand in hand with their natural neighbours for the development and welfare of the whole region and all the peoples involved.

52. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Mongolia) said that he would have voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7 if he had been present during the voting.

53. Mr. WANG (China) said that the Chinese texts of the draft resolutions contained translation errors and inaccuracies; he hoped that they would be corrected in the final version.

54. Mr. TERZI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) thanked all the States which had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/41/L.7 and had thus decided to extend the mandate of UNRWA. He expressed horror that the refugees had not yet been repatriated and, since that was the only way to solve the problem of the refugees, the first question which should have been asked was who was opposed to the return of the Palestinians to their homes and who forced them to live in camps or dispersed throughout the world while their homes and villages were occupied by a racist entity.

55. AT the very time when the Israeli Delegation was stating that the Palestinian Arabs must be assisted and protected, the Israeli army was violating academic freedom by entering Bir Zeit University. Under those conditions, it was difficult to believe that the Israeli Government had been concerned about the security of the Palestine refugees for 19 years.

56. In fact, it was Israel which, in spite of all its speeches, was blocking a lasting solution by refusing to participate, at the invitation of the international community, in an International Peace Conference on the Middle East.

57. The CHAIRMAN reminded the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization that the debate on the question had ended and that he should, at that stage, confine himself to expressing his gratitude.

58. Mr. TERZI (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that the repatriation of the refugees and the establishment of peace constituted the sole solution to the problem of the refugees and that the State of Israel was the only stumbling-block to that process.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 75.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.