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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY  
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdullah KAMIL (Indonesia)

1. On 15 September 1967, in accordance with the request made in paragraph 21 of resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, paragraph 8 of resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958 and paragraph 10 of resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 of the General Assembly, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) submitted to the General Assembly his report for the year ending 30 June 1967.<sup>1/</sup>
2. In accordance with the request made in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine submitted its twenty-fifth progress report (A/6846) to the General Assembly on 30 September 1967.
3. At its 1564th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1967, the General Assembly acting on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.
4. The Special Political Committee considered the question at its 584th to 594th meetings, from 11 to 16 December 1967.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/6713).

5. At the 584th meeting, on 11 December, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA made a statement at the invitation of the Chairman. Subsequently, in accordance with a decision taken by the Committee, the statement was circulated as a Committee document (A/SPC/121).

6. In a letter dated 8 December (A/SPC/119), addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, the representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia requested that "the Palestine Arab delegation" be heard by the Committee during the deliberations on the item. In a letter dated 11 December (A/SPC/120), the representatives of Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, the United Arab Republic and Yemen also requested that "the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Arab people of Palestine, the principal party to the Palestine question" be heard by the Committee during its deliberation of item 34. At the 585th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee decided, in respect of both requests for participation and in accordance with the practice established at the previous two sessions, to authorize the persons constituting the said delegations to speak in the Committee, without such authorization signifying recognition of the organizations. In accordance with this decision, various statements were made on behalf of the said delegations in the course of the Committee's debate on the item.

7. On 14 December, the United States of America submitted draft resolution (A/SPC/L.155) according to which the General Assembly, after recalling a series of past resolutions on the subject and noting the annual report of the Commissioner-General, would: (1) note with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) had not been effected, that no substantial progress had been made in the programme endorsed in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continued to be a matter of serious concern; (2) express its thanks to the Commissioner-General and the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees; (3) direct the Commissioner-General of the United Nations

Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue his efforts in taking such measures, including rectification of the relief rolls, as to assure, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the most equitable distribution of relief based on need; (4) note with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine had been unable to find a means to achieve progress on the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and request the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof; (5) direct attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's reports; (6) note with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General in collecting additional contributions to help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continued to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements; (7) call upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and, therefore, urge non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions.

8. On 14 December, Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.156 and Add.1), according to which the General Assembly, recalling resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 15 September 1967 (A/6797), taking note also of the Commissioner-General's report for the period 1 July 1966 to 30 June 1967,<sup>2/</sup> and concerned about the continued human suffering as a result of the recent hostilities in the Middle East, would: (1) reaffirm its resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967; (2) endorse, bearing in mind the objectives of the above-mentioned resolution, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

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2/ Ibid.

Refugees in the Near East to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who were at present displaced and were in need of immediate assistance as a result of the recent hostilities; (3) appeal to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to make special contributions for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

9. Also on 15 December, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Somalia submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.157), according to which the Assembly, considering that the Palestine Arab refugees were entitled to their property and to the income derived from their property in conformity with the principles of justice and equity and recalling its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, which had directed the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in consultation with the parties concerned to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees, would:

- (1) request the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps to have a custodian appointed to protect and administer Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to receive income derived therefrom on behalf of the rightful owners;
- (2) call upon the Governments concerned to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General to make the task and functioning of the custodian effective;
- (3) request the custodian to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session on the fulfilment of his tasks.

10. At the 594th meeting, on 16 December, the Committee voted on the various proposals before it.

11. The United States draft resolution (A/SPC/L.155) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 99 to none, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Congo (Brazzaville), Israel.

12. The nineteen-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/156 and Add.1) was adopted by a vote of 102 to none, with 1 abstention.

13. The five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.157) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 42 to 38, with 24 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Gambia, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia.

14. The representative of Cyprus stated that had he been present during the voting, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.157).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

15. The Special Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, 393 (V) and 394 (V) of 2 and 14 December 1950, 512 (VI) and 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952, 614 (VII) of 6 November 1952, 720 (VIII) of 27 November 1953, 818 (IX) of 4 December 1954, 916 (X) of 3 December 1955, 1018 (XI) of 28 February 1957, 1191 (XII) of 12 December 1957, 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, 1456 (XIV) of 9 December 1959, 1604 (XV) of 21 April 1961, 1725 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 1856 (XVII) of 20 December 1962, 1912 (XVIII) of 3 December 1963, 2002 (XIX) of 10 February 1965 and 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, and 2154 (XXI) of 18 November 1966,

Noting the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1966 to 30 June 1967,<sup>3/</sup>

1. Notes with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed

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<sup>3/</sup> Ibid.

in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Directs the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue his efforts in taking such measures, including rectification of the relief rolls, as to assure, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the most equitable distribution of relief based on need;

4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was unable to find a means to achieve progress on the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof;

5. Directs attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's reports;

6. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General in collecting additional contributions to help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements;

7. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and, therefore, urges non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 15 September 1967,<sup>4/</sup>

Taking note also of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1966 to 30 June 1967,<sup>5/</sup>

Concerned about the continued human suffering as a result of the recent hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967;

2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of that resolution, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and are in serious need of immediate assistance as a result of the recent hostilities;

3. Appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to make special contributions for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

C

The General Assembly,

Considering that the Palestine Arab refugees are entitled to their property and to the income derived from their property in conformity with the principles of justice and equity,

Recalling its resolution 394 (V) of 14 December 1950, by which it directed the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, in consultation with the

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4/ A/6797.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/6713).



parties concerned, to prescribe measures for the protection of the rights, property and interests of the Palestine Arab refugees,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps to have a custodian appointed to protect and administer Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to receive the income derived therefrom on behalf of the rightful owners;

2. Calls upon the Governments concerned to render all facilities and assistance to the Secretary-General to make the task and functioning of the custodian effective;

3. Requests the custodian to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session on the fulfilment of his tasks.

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