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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR
PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the Special Political Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed MAHJoubI (Morocco)

1. On 5 September, 1970, in accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 21 of resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and paragraph 8 of resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted to the General Assembly his report for the year ending 30 June 1970.^{1/} Previously, in a letter of 13 August 1970, addressed to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies (A/8040), the Secretary-General had transmitted a statement by the Commissioner-General on the financial situation of the Agency.
2. In two notes, dated respectively 2 October (A/8084) and 6 November 1970 (A/8084/Add.1), the Secretary-General transmitted to the Members of the General Assembly the text of two special reports by the Commissioner-General on operations of the Agency in Jordan.
3. At its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the question entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East: report of the Commissioner-General".

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8013).

4. The Committee considered this item at its 726th to 730th and 732nd to 743rd meetings, from 18 November to 4 December. At the 726th meeting, on 18 November, the Commissioner-General made a statement and submitted his report.

5. In a letter of 12 November (A/SPC/140), addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, the representatives of Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia requested that the Palestine Arab delegation be heard by the Committee during its consideration of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. In a letter of 23 November (A/SPC/141), the representatives of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Cuba, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, People's Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Republic, Yemen and Yugoslavia, requested that the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Arab people of Palestine, the principle party to the Palestine question, be heard by the Committee during its consideration of item 35. At the 734th meeting, it was announced that Senegal had become a signatory of the letter (A/SPC/141).

6. At the 726th and 732nd meetings, on 18 and 24 November, the Committee decided, with regard to each of the requests to participate, to authorize, in accordance with the practice established at the five previous sessions, the persons constituting the said delegations to address the Committee but without such authorization implying any recognition whatsoever of the organization or delegation in question. Pursuant to this decision statements were made on behalf of the two delegations when the Committee considered this item of its agenda.

7. At the 730th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of the United States of America submitted the following draft resolution (A/SPC/L.196):

"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, 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2154 (XXI) of

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17 November 1966, 2341 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2535-A (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

"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 1969 to 30 June 1970, 2/

"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 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 the 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 in 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 report;

"6. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect 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 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."

8. At the 738th meeting, on 1 December, the Commissioner-General made a statement on the financing of the Agency's operations.

9. At the 739th meeting, on 2 December, the representative of Sweden submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.197) sponsored by Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia. Iran became a co-sponsor. The draft resolution was worded as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, and 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

"Taking note of 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 1969 to 30 June 1970,

"Bearing in mind also the letter dated 13 August 1970 from the Secretary-General addressed to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies (A/3040),

"Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

"1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2314 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), and 2535 C (XXIV);

"2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue 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 in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

"3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously 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."

10. At the 740th meeting, on 2 December, the Secretary-General made a statement on the financing of the Agency's operations, drawing the attention of

Member States to the seriousness of the Agency's material situation. The Special Political Committee therefore decided, at the same meeting, to transmit the text of this statement to the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and to the non-governmental organizations concerned. The Chairman of the Committee, at the 733rd meeting, on 25 November, also addressed an appeal to all the Governments of the States Members of the Organization and of the entire international community, drawing their attention to the financial difficulties besetting the Agency and dangerously threatening its continued existence.

11. At the 741st meeting, on 3 December, the representative of Somalia submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.198) sponsored by Afghanistan, Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan and Somalia. Mali became a co-sponsor. The draft resolution was worded as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing that the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Recalling its resolution 2535 B (XXIV), in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine,

"Bearing in mind 'the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples' enshrined in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and more recently reaffirmed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Recognizes that the people of Palestine are entitled to 'equal rights and self-determination', in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

"2. Declares that full respect for the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine is an indispensable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.199) sponsored by Afghanistan, Mauritania, Pakistan,

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Somalia and Yugoslavia. Mali became a co-sponsor. The draft resolution was worded as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of June 1967,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, calling upon the Government of Israel 'to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities,' and 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

"Gravely concerned with the plight of the displaced persons,

"Convinced that the plight of the displaced persons could best be relieved by their speedy return to their homes and to the camps which they formerly occupied,

"Emphasizing the imperative of giving effect to its resolutions for relieving the plight of the displaced persons,

"1. Considers that the plight of the displaced persons continues unabated due to Israel's refusal to permit their return to their homes and camps;

"2. Calls once more upon the Government of Israel to take immediately and without any further delay effective steps for the return of the displaced persons;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly."

13. At the 743rd meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Somalia submitted, on behalf of the sponsors, a revised version of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.199/Rev.1), in which operative paragraph 1 had been amended to read: "Considers that the plight of the displaced persons continues since they have not been able to return to their homes and camps;".

14. At the 742nd meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Norway had, on a preliminary basis, submitted to the Committee a draft resolution, requesting that it should be given priority. This resolution, adopted by the General Assembly at its 1918th plenary meeting on 7 December [resolution 2655 (XXV)]⁷, is reproduced in part I of this report (A/8204).

15. At its 743rd meeting, on 4 December, the Committee voted on the four draft resolutions before it. The results of the votes were the following:

(a) The draft resolution submitted by the United States of America (A/SPC/L.196) was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution A).

(b) The seventeen-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.197) was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution B). The vote was taken by roll-call. The result of the vote was the following:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, People's Republic of the Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, 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: Malawi, Nicaragua, Portugal.

(c) The eight-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.198) was adopted by 46 votes to 19, with 37 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution C). The vote was taken by roll-call. The result of the vote was the following:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Rwanda, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Dahomey, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, People's Republic of the Congo, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

In a letter dated 7 December, the representative of the People's Republic of the Congo stated that it had intended to vote for the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.198) and requested that a statement to that effect should be included in the Committee's report.

(d) The six-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.199/Rev.1) was adopted by 83 votes to 7, with 12 abstentions (see paragraph 16 below, draft resolution D). The vote was taken by roll-call. The result of the vote was the following:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, People's Republic of the Congo, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, 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, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Israel, Nicaragua, Panama.

Abstaining: Brazil, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Gambia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Peru, Portugal, Togo, Uruguay.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

16. The Special Political Committee recommends that the General Assembly should adopt the following draft resolutions:

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, 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, 2341 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2535-A (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

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 1969 to 30 June 1970,^{3/}

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 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;

^{3/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8013).

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 in 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 report;

6. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect 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 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.

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B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, and 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

Taking note of 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 1969 to 30 June 1970,^{4/}

Bearing in mind also the letter dated 13 August 1970 from the Secretary-General addressed to States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies,^{5/}

Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), and 2535 C (XXIV);

2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue 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 in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously 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.

^{4/} Ibid.

^{5/} A/8040.

C

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine,

Bearing in mind the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and more recently reaffirmed in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,^{6/}

1. Recognizes that the people of Palestine are entitled to "equal rights and self-determination", in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;
2. Declares that full respect for the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine is an indispensable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

D

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, calling upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities, and 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969,

Gravely concerned with the plight of the displaced persons,

Convinced that the plight of the displaced persons could best be relieved by their speedy return to their homes and to the camps which they formerly occupied,

Emphasizing the imperative of giving effect to its resolutions for relieving the plight of the displaced persons,

^{6/} General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970.

1. Considers that the plight of the displaced persons continues since they have not been able to return to their homes and camps;
2. Calls once more upon the Government of Israel to take immediately and without any further delay effective steps for the return of the displaced persons;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly.
