



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8204 and add.1  
4 December 1970  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Twenty-fifth session  
Agenda item 35

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

Report of the Special Political Committee (part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed MAHJOUBI (Morocco)

1. In the course of the Special Political Committee's discussion of agenda item 35, which began on 18 November 1970, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East made a statement, on 1 December, at the 738th meeting concerning the Agency's financial situation.
2. At the 740th meeting, on 2 December, the Secretary-General made a statement on the financing of the Agency's operations. The purpose of the statements by the Commissioner-General and the Secretary-General was to draw the attention of the States Members of the United Nations to the gravity of the Agency's financial situation. The Special Political Committee accordingly decided, at that meeting, to request the Secretary-General to transmit the text of his statement to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies, and also to the non-governmental organizations concerned.
3. At the 742nd meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Norway submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.200), the text of which appears in paragraph 6 of this report. He requested that the draft should be given priority over the other draft resolutions before the Committee.
4. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the Norwegian draft resolution (A/SPC/L.200), which was adopted by 85 votes to none, with 9 abstentions (see paragraph 6).

5. The Special Political Committee decided to continue consideration of the item on its agenda. In the meantime, it felt that this report should be submitted to the General Assembly as a matter of urgency.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

6. The Special Political Committee recommended that the General Assembly should adopt the following draft resolution:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine  
refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period 1 July 1969-30 June 1970,<sup>1/</sup>

Noting with grave concern the acute financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and its serious implications for the future work of the Agency,

Bearing in mind the appeal made by the Secretary-General on 2 December 1970 at the 740th meeting of the Special Political Committee as well as the appeal made by the Chairman of the Special Political Committee on 25 November 1970 at the 733rd meeting of the Committee, and taking into account the suggestions concerning possible means of securing additional income made in the course of the debate,

1. Decides to establish a Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, consisting of nine Member States, to study all aspects regarding the financing of the Agency;

2. Requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to designate the Member States which will compose the Working Group;

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/8013).

3. Requests the Working Group, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to present an interim report to the General Assembly not later than 14 December 1970 containing its recommendations on possible measures to be taken to prevent the reduction of the Agency's services in 1971;

4. Also requests the Working Group, in the interval between the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly, to assist, as appropriate, the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in reaching solutions to the problems posed by the Agency's financial crisis;

5. Further requests the Working Group, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the specialized agencies, to present a comprehensive report on all aspects of the financing of the Agency to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

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