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

Letter dated 10 June 1975 from the Chairman of the Working Group
on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to the Secretary-General

In accordance with a decision taken by the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East at its 42nd meeting, on 9 June 1975, I have the honour to transmit to you, for the attention of the General Assembly, a statement issued by me on this date on behalf of the Working Group.

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Osman OLCAY
Chairman
of the Working Group on the
Financing of the United Nations Relief
and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
in the Near East

* A/10000.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 10 June 1975 by the Chairman of the Working Group
on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) shares fully the grave concern expressed by the Secretary-General in his statement issued today (A/10114) regarding the acute financial crisis now facing UNRWA. As the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA have said, the budget deficit is huge (\$30,000,000 in a budget of \$125,000,000).

The financial situation is now so critical that, unless additional substantial contributions are forthcoming, there will be no alternative to a reduction or suspension of UNRWA's services for the second half of 1975, in order to avoid a collapse of the programme. Such a development would cause serious repercussions; it could well add a new element of instability and discord to a very tense situation.

To avoid what could be tragic developments, the Working Group, which under the authority of General Assembly resolution 3330 (XXIX) shares with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General the responsibility for ensuring the adequate financing of UNRWA, strongly supports the appeal of the Secretary-General for immediate action by the international community to maintain the work of UNRWA with the necessary financial contributions. We believe the international community can and should do no less.
