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

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Guenther MAUERSBERGER (German Democratic Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General;
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
- (c) Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

2. At its 2353rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1975, the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.

3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 974th and 977th to 982nd meetings, on 11 November and between 14 and 21 November 1975. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the year ending 30 June 1975; 1/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 (A/10253);
- (c) Special report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/10268);
- (d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3331 A (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 (A/10271);
- (e) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3330 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 (A/10334).

4. The Special Political Committee began its consideration of the item hearing statements by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, who introduced his report, and by the representative of Norway, Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, who introduced the report of the Working Group.

II. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

5. In the course of the consideration of the item by the Special Political Committee, four draft resolutions were submitted as set forth below.

A. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.334

6. At the 979th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.334) concerning assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 hostilities, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Canada, Denmark, India, Trinidad and Tobago and Zambia.

7. At the 981st meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see para. 15 below, draft resolution A).

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.335

8. At the 979th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the United States

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/10013).

of America introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.335) concerning assistance to Palestine refugees.

9. At the 981st meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by 79 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 15 below, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.336

10. At the 981st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Jordan introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.336), entitled "Population and refugees displaced since 1967", sponsored by Bangladesh, the Congo, Cuba, Dahomey, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Pakistan, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Guinea, Mauritania, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

11. At the 982nd meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 84 to 3 with 18 abstentions (see para. 15 below, draft resolution C). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, Swaziland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Germany (Federal Republic of), Iceland, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

D. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.337

12. At the 981st meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Yugoslavia introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.337), entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by India, New Zealand, the Philippines and the Sudan.

13. On 20 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/SPC/L.338) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

14. At the 982nd meeting, on 21 November, the Committee unanimously adopted the draft resolution (see para. 15 below, draft resolution D).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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

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

A

Assistance to persons displaced as a result of
the June 1967 hostilities

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, 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 B (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 B (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 A (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 and 3331 C (XXIX) of 17 December 1974,

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 1974 to 30 June 1975, 2/

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

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/10013).

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII), 2452 C (XXIII), 2535 C (XXIV), 2672 B (XXV), 2792 B (XXVI), 2963 B (XXVII), 3089 A (XXVIII) and 3331 C (XXIX);

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.

B

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3331 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

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 1974 to 30 June 1975, 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 by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 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 to the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued dedicated and effective efforts under difficult circumstances 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/ Ibid.

3. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report as appropriate, but no later than 1 October 1976;

4. Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the 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;

5. Notes with profound concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, this increased level of income to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the present year, and that, at presently foreseen levels of giving, deficits will recur each year;

6. 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 deficits projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

C

Population and refugees displaced since 1967

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, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C and D (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 and 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 4/ and the report of the Secretary-General of 16 September 1975, 5/

4/ Ibid.

5/ A/10253.

1. Reaffirms the right of the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes and camps in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967;
2. Deplores the refusal of the Israeli authorities to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
3. Calls once more upon Israel:
 - (a) To take immediate steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
 - (b) To desist from all measures that obstruct the return of the displaced inhabitants, including measures affecting the physical and demographic structure of the occupied territories;
4. Reiterates its call upon Israel:
 - (a) To take effective steps immediately for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed in the Gaza Strip and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation,
 - (b) To desist from further removal of refugees and destruction of their shelters;
5. Condemns Israeli military attacks on refugee camps and calls upon Israel to desist from such attacks;
6. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report to the General Assembly by the opening of the thirty-first session on Israel's compliance with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 above of the present resolution.

D

Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief
and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2964 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3090 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 and 3330 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 6/

Taking into account 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 1974 to 30 June 1975, 7/

Gravely concerned at the alarming financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, imminently endangering the essential minimum services being provided to the Palestine refugees,

Emphasizing the urgent need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present minimum level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its work;
2. Notes with appreciation the report of the Working Group;
3. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/10013).