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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 31/110 of 16 December 1976, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It further requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people.
2. At the 45th meeting of the Second Committee, on 17 November 1976, when the draft resolution on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was scheduled to be voted on, the Committee was informed that, if the Secretary-General were requested to prepare a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the task would be entrusted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Second Committee was further informed that while the task would present certain difficulties every effort would be made to prepare and submit the report if it were requested. Since the Secretariat had no independent source of information about the occupied territories, it would have to look to the Governments and organizations concerned to provide the necessary information to enable it to submit a report to the General Assembly at its next session (see A/C.2/31/SR.45).
3. In accordance with the statement made by the Secretary-General's representative at the Second Committee referred to above, a note verbale was sent on 16 May 1977 to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as to the permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization, drawing attention to the resolution and requesting such information as might be made available on the subject-matter of the report requested

by the General Assembly. This was followed by a second note verbale dated 21 July 1977 which requested that the necessary information be submitted by 15 August 1977.

4. Pertinent information for the report was requested from the International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, Economic Commission for Western Asia, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and from the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.

5. On 19 August 1977, the Permanent Representative of Egypt transmitted a report prepared by the Egyptian authorities. This report is reproduced in its entirety in annex I.A.

6. The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations in a note verbale dated 16 August 1977 addressed to the Secretary-General stated that the position of Israel on the subject-matter of the resolution in question was made clear by the delegate of Israel in the Second Committee on 17 November 1976, and was reflected in document A/C.2/31/SR.45, the relevant paragraphs of which (paras. 54 to 61) were attached. These paragraphs are reproduced in annex I.B.

7. The Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations, in a note verbale dated 10 August 1977, submitted a report which dealt primarily with the situation in the occupied parts of Jerusalem and requested that, in view of the various references to the Security Council resolution on the subject, the report be circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/12378). Further, the note verbale indicated that the Government of Jordan would, in due course, transmit further reports covering the situation of the rest of the occupied West Bank and the living conditions of the Palestinian refugees, in addition to those of the indigenous inhabitants. These additional reports had not been received at the time of writing this report.

8. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic transmitted the report prepared by the competent authorities of the Republic with a note verbale dated 25 July 1977. Subsequently, in a note verbale dated 23 August 1977, the Permanent Mission requested, upon instructions from its Government, that this study be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 30, 31 and 62 (A/32/189).

9. The Palestine Liberation Organization has, to date, made no information available directly to the Secretary-General. However, the statement of the FAO includes a note verbale from the Political Department of PLO to the Director-General of FAO informing him of the hardships experienced by the Palestinians within the occupied territories. This note verbale is included as part of annex II.B.

10. The Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories referred in his reply to the report submitted by the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its

thirty-first session (A/31/218), and drew attention in particular to sections IV and VI which contained information on the situation of civilians in the territories occupied by Israel. Since this report is available as a document of the General Assembly, it is not reproduced.

11. The ILO drew attention to a report on the situation of workers in the territories occupied by Israel, which was included in the report of the Director-General on the activities of the ILO in 1976, presented to the International Labour Conference at its sixty-third session (1977). 1/ Relevant sections have been excerpted therefrom and constitute annex II.A of this report.

12. A formal statement from the Director-General of FAO is included in full in annex II.B.

13. UNESCO stated that it did not have any recent information collected directly from the occupied territories. An expert mission to collect information on education and cultural life in the occupied territories is being planned and the findings will be made available in due course. UNESCO did submit, however, a copy of the report of the Director-General on the implementation of resolution 13.1, adopted by the General Conference at its eighteenth session, concerning the educational and cultural institutions in occupied Arab territories (document 19C/73, and its annex 99 EX/50). Pertinent excerpts from these documents are included in annex II C.

14. WHO stated that the Thirtieth World Health Assembly, which took place at Geneva in May 1977, had on its agenda the question of "Health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East", for which the background documentation included the progress report of the Sub-Committee of Experts set up by the Director-General to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in the Middle East (document A.30/36) and, as an annex to that document, the abbreviated annual report of the Director of Health of UNRWA for the year 1976 (document A.30/WP/1). Selected paragraphs from the latter document have been excerpted on the basis of their pertinence to the matter at hand and are transcribed in annex II.D.

15. UNICEF stated that, as it did not have projects specifically dealing with the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, it was unable to provide information relevant to the subject.

16. The statement received from UNRWA is reproduced in annex II.E.

17. The statement received from the Executive Secretary of ECWA is included in full in annex II.F.

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1/ ISBN 92-2-101724-9, pp. 47 to 59.

ANNEX I

Replies received from Member States

- A. Note verbale dated 19 August 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General containing information on living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories

/Original: Arabic/

I. Situation of the Arabs in the occupied territories

1. Ramallah prison is overfilled with citizens from the West Bank who were arrested by the Israeli authorities on charges of resisting the occupation. These authorities persist in their oppressive policy towards Arab detainees, which led those jailed in Al Khalil (Hebron) Prison to threaten to go on a hunger-strike to the death. The head of Al Khalil Municipality has appealed to the Israeli Military Governor to take measures to improve the conditions of those prisoners, and even expressed willingness to provide them with food and clothing at the expense of the Municipality.
2. The occupation authorities barred the delegations of Nablus and Ramallah from visiting the Arab Gulf States, thus raising obstacles to the idea of fraternity between the towns of the occupied territories and other Arab towns. Those authorities further banned the head of Ramallah Municipality from going to the United States, where he was due to attend the annual congress organized by the emigrants from that town, lest their colonial methods should be exposed. The occupation authorities further refused to allow the head of Nablus Municipality to travel to Rome to attend a meeting of heads of democratic municipalities.
3. The Israeli authorities levy heavy taxes on consumer goods in the occupied territories, causing a flight of Arab capital to Jordan, which in turn has contributed to a further deterioration of economic conditions.
4. Unemployment increases among the Arabs because of the Israeli designs to force Arabs to leave the occupied territories. In this respect, the occupation authorities pensioned off a large number of teachers in the West Bank. The number of citizens who left the West Bank during last year is estimated at 15,000, most of them youths who were forced to emigrate by various Israeli pressures. The population has actually declined to 681,000, compared to 854,000 before the 1967 aggression.
5. The Military Governor of the West Bank banned the establishment of any projects there under the pretext of examining their sources of financing and ascertaining that such projects were not funded by the Palestine Liberation Organization. This measure has resulted in a freezing of funds supplied by some Arab Gulf States to support the West Bank municipal councils.

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6. Israeli authorities impose exorbitant custom duties on Arab citizens when they go to visit their relatives in the occupied territories during the summer holidays. This action is meant to enrich the Israeli treasury, on the one hand, and to make life harder for Arab citizens, on the other.

7. The occupation authorities have prevented the residents of the Al Maareh area in Sinai from going near water wells. As a result, rates for fresh water soared and living conditions became even more difficult, which forced the population to leave the area.

## II. Israeli settlements in the occupied territories

1. In the field of settlement operations, the occupation authorities continue to expropriate large areas of Arab land, particularly in the Tulkrum and Jenin areas, prior to the establishment of settlements on that land. The victory of the Likud bloc has encouraged pro-settlement groups, especially the Gosh Emonim, to proceed with the establishment of settlements on Arab land. The above-mentioned group plans the establishment of 10 settlements in the West Bank over the next few months. The same group is about to set up a settlement on the Jerusalem Road. Work is under way to set up two other settlements, one on the hills of Nablus and the other in the Abul Forneh area in Nablus.

2. The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs has allocated 30 million Israeli pounds for the implementation of a new project that envisages the establishment of 110 new settlements in the Rafah area over the next 10 years.

3. The Israeli Minister of Agriculture, Ariel Sharon, announced that a team of experts from Likud had elaborated a programme for the creation of five new Israeli towns in the West Bank to accommodate 150,000 persons. The programme envisages linking these towns with Jerusalem and Tel Aviv via a network of highways. The programme further calls for the establishment of 43 industrial and agricultural settlements in the West Bank.

4. Teddy Kolek, the Mayor of occupied Jerusalem, has announced that Israel will never give up Jerusalem, whatever the solutions to be reached, nor will Jerusalem be divided again under any circumstances.

5. The Israeli Minister of State, Israel Galilee, announced that the number of settlements established since the 1967 war totalled 100, at a cost of 4 million Israeli pounds. He added that the United States had not exercised any pressure on Israel in this respect, and that the Israeli Government's decisions were not dependent upon the position of the United States.

6. The Israeli Minister of Defence, Ezra Weizmann, visited Kiryat settlement near Al Khalil and urged Israeli settlers to exert efforts to turn their settlement into a large city.

7. Rabbi Meir Kahane of Israel (a fanatical rabbi) demanded that the Israeli

Government should implement Menahim Begin's promises of considering the West Bank a liberated Israeli land, and allow the establishment of settlements there. He declared his intention to set up a settlement within the borders of Nablus.

8. The Israeli authorities proceeded to survey the land in the vicinity of Beit Amer village in Al Khalil, in preparation for the establishment of a number of settlements in that region.

9. The region of Khan Al Ahmer in the West Bank is being transformed into an industrial region. Industrial establishments are being set up, among which is a plant for sophisticated military industries that will begin production during the next few months. Moreover, 5,000 residential units are to be set up in the above-mentioned region to accommodate Jewish settlers.

10. The Israeli authorities are planning to set up a number of banks in the region of Khan Al Ahmer near the bridges connecting the West Bank and the East Bank, so that citizens would not be allowed to bring in any foreign currency and would have to change whatever currencies they might have into Israeli currency at the branches of those banks situated in the area of residence of all arrivals in the occupied territories.

B. Note verbale dated 16 August 1977 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

/Original: English/

1. The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations stated that "That resolution /General Assembly resolution 31/110 of 16 December 1976/, which was based on resolution 3 adopted at Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements on 11 June 1976, completely prejudices the issue, and leaves no room for an objective report". The Permanent Representative of Israel further stated that "The position of Israel on the subject-matter of the resolution in question was made clear by the delegate of Israel in the Second Committee on 17 November 1976 and is reflected in document A/C.2/31/SR.45, the relevant paragraphs of which (paras. 54 to 61) are attached."

2. These paragraphs are herewith quoted verbatim:

"54. Mr. ELIASHIV (Israel) said that the initiators of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.13 had singled out a so-called economic issue which could not be divorced from the complex Middle East problem as a whole. Moreover, the questions referred to in the draft resolution were being dealt with by other United Nations bodies.

"55. The first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution recalled resolution 3 of the Vancouver Conference, which referred to a so-called 'fact', namely, that 'the Palestinian people have been forced to abandon their

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indigenous homeland'. That baseless and false assertion was politically motivated and aimed at attributing to Israel exclusive responsibility for all the consequences of the continuous aggression committed by Arab States against Israel since 1948. Israel had not created the Palestinian problem. The Palestinian tragedy was a direct result of the aggression launched by the Arab States in 1948. To refer to the Israeli presence in the occupied areas since 1967 while ignoring the fact that Israel had arrived there in the course of a war of Arab making was to pervert fundamental truth. The continuation of that occupation was a direct consequence of the refusal of the Arab States to enter into negotiations with Israel to establish a firm and just peace in the area. Israel's Declaration of Independence had contained an appeal for friendship addressed to the Arab people in Israel and the neighbouring Arab States. In response, the Arab States had proclaimed war against Israel, and their armies had crossed the borders in an attempt to crush it at birth. At that time, the Arab population of Israel had been urged and incited by the Arab leadership to leave their homes and seek temporary shelter in neighbouring Arab countries. Several hundreds of thousands of Palestine Arabs had heeded those orders. In that connexion, he read out quotations from articles which had appeared in Lebanese, Jordanian and Egyptian publications and which demonstrated that those facts had been recognized and admitted by Arabs and others. The Jewish authorities on the other hand, had launched appeals to Arab residents in Israel in an attempt to prevent that flight.

"56. In view of those historical facts, the attempts of Arab spokesmen to blame others for the creation of the problem and their professed interest in the well-being of the refugees rang hollow, when those people could have become independent and self-sufficient many years ago but for the calculated opposition of the Arab States to any constructive approach. As a consequence of Arab aggression, a massive exchange of population had taken place in the Middle East. A practically equal number of Jews from the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa had come to Israel, the vast majority of them forced out of their former homes in a state of destitution. Israel had welcomed its refugees and made them an integral and vigorous part of the nation. The Arab States had left their brethren in camps so as to use them as a political weapon against Israel. Jordan had paid the price for that inhuman and short-sighted policy in September 1970, when a Palestinian Arab uprising had been suppressed in a massacre which had cost thousands of lives and destroyed thousands of human habitations. Lebanon was also paying the price in the fratricidal struggle in which that entire nation was engaged.

"57. While that terrible human tragedy was going on in Lebanon, the majority of the Palestinian Arabs in the administered areas were living in conditions of widening contact with the Israeli population on a basis of mutual human respect and dignity which, though still clouded by a lack of political definition, offered the prospect of a peaceful future. His country was fully conscious of the problem of the Palestinian Arabs and did not require persuasion or preaching on the need to solve it peacefully and honourably. Such a solution could only be achieved in the context of a genuine peace settlement in the Middle East, which his country would make every effort to

achieve. Fanciful allegations and distorted reports would not deter Israel from pursuing its positive policy of economic and social progress in the administered areas, maintaining the laws in force in the territories and conducting its administration in accordance with the relevant rules of international conventions until a just and durable peace was achieved. Objective observers, including hundreds of thousands of visitors from the Arab States, affirmed the success of that policy. There had been a real growth of an average of 18 per cent per annum in the GNP in both territories, and per capita income had increased by 80 per cent in the West Bank and by 120 per cent in Gaza in eight years. The unemployment rate had dropped from 10 per cent in the West Bank and almost 30 per cent in the Gaza Strip in 1967 to zero by June 1976. Educational facilities within the free education system in the West Bank and Gaza had been increased by 46 per cent. Over 1 billion Israeli pounds had been spent on the rehabilitation of refugees in Gaza. Construction plans to provide housing for tens of thousands of families would continue, and the area of construction in the West Bank and Gaza had expanded from 880,000 square feet in 1968 to 6.9 million square feet in 1974. The administration had spared and would spare no effort to improve the structure of the camps, instal water and electricity, prepare playgrounds, pave sidewalks and provide sewage works and other facilities. One thousand housing units were being constructed every year in both territories, and 70 million Israeli pounds had been earmarked for new schemes to provide community services such as schools, shopping centres and clinics.

"58. Israel's concern for the well-being of the Palestinian Arabs in the territories had been impugned and ridiculed by certain Arab Governments. It would appear that those Governments would rather see stagnation and misery prevail and would seek a restoration of the situation prior to 1967, when during 19 years of oppression and persecution the inhabitants of Gaza had been kept in deplorable living conditions by the Egyptian military authorities.

"59. Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the report, to consult and co-operate with the so-called 'Palestine Liberation Organization'. That request made a mockery of the United Nations Charter, since PLO was a notorious organization which made no secret of its avowed objectives of destroying Israel, a State Member of the United Nations, and depriving its people of their independence, sovereignty and self-determination. Article 19 of the PLO Covenant openly declared that the existence of the State of Israel was null and void, article 20 denied any historical links between the Jewish people and the Holy Land, and article 21 rejected any form of solution for the problem, apart in effect from the destruction of Israel. Any report produced with the co-operation of the so-called PLO would contain false assertions, such as the 'big lie', already contained in resolution 3 of the Vancouver Conference, that 'the cultural habitat has been wilfully destroyed'. Israel would not co-operate in such a vicious propaganda exercise.

"60. His delegation strongly rejected the resolutions enumerated in the preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution. Furthermore, it wished to place

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on record its firm objection to any kind of co-operation and consultation with PLO, a terror organization which pretended to speak for the Palestinians and which had brought misery, murder and assassination to the Middle East, including the terrifying human tragedy in Lebanon.

"61. Draft resolution A/C.2/31/L.13 was of a political, propagandistic nature extraneous to the Committee. It singled out an issue which could not be divorced from the complex Middle East problem. Furthermore, it ignored the responsibility of the Arab States, which could not escape the consequences of their own aggression against Israel. It was biased and one-sided. It was based on false assertions and distorted quasi-historical allegations, and it ignored the plight of Jewish communities in Arab countries. His delegation rejected it completely, hoped that those delegations which had refused to support resolution 3 in Vancouver would also reject the present resolution, and called on other delegations to do so."

- C. Note verbale dated 10 August 1977 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

/Original: English/

/The reply of Jordan was issued on 10 August 1977 under the symbol S/12378./

- D. Note verbale dated 23 August 1977 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

/Original: Arabic/English/

/The reply of the Syrian Arab Republic was issued on 25 August 1977 under the symbol A/32/189./

ANNEX II

Replies received from specialized agencies and other organs  
of the United Nations system

A. Reply submitted by the International Labour Organisation

[Original: English]

The ILO drew attention to the Director-General's report on the activities of the ILO in 1976, which was presented to the International Labour Conference at its sixty-third session (1977). a/ This report included a progress report on the study of the situation of workers in the territories occupied by Israel. The following statements are taken from this progress report, as reproduced in the report of the Director-General on the activities of the ILO in 1976:

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE  
199TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STUDY ON THE SITUATION OF  
WORKERS OF THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL

I. Opportunities for employment and vocational training

Employment

3. The aims and effects of official economic and social policy, particularly employment policy, as analysed in some of the studies, 1/ may be summarised as follows: because of an acute shortage of labour in Israel after the 1967 war the authorities suddenly reversed their earlier policy of refusing Arab workers from the occupied territories admission to Israel; recruitment was officially organised through a system of labour exchanges in the territories and was facilitated by the existence of a reserve of poor and unemployed workers; there resulted a migratory movement from the occupied territories to Israel, the number of Arab workers employed in Israel having risen from just over 10,000 in 1969 to nearly 70,000 or about 21.5 per cent

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1/ "Rapport sur la situation des travailleurs arabes dans les territoires de la Palestine occupée", in Dossier Palestine 1, Geneva (undated), pp. 63-75; "Conditions of work for Arabs under the yoke of Israeli occupation", Beirut (undated); and note on condition of Arab workers in the territories occupied after 1967, communicated to the Director-General by the Palestine Trade Union Federation (8 February 1976).

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a/ "Activities of the ILO 1976". Report of the Director-General to the International Labour Conference, 1977 (Part 2), ILO, Geneva, 1977 (ISBN 92-2-101724-9).

of the total labour force of the territories in 1974. ... The studies here quoted take the view that the fall in unemployment and the rise in purchasing power in the occupied territories have been due not to the development of the local economy but to the employment of Arab workers in Israel. Government policy, it is claimed, is having adverse consequences such as the breakdown of the occupational structure and of small-scale agriculture in the territories, the appearance on the employment market of women and of young people who have given up school, and a drain on the human resources required by the economy of the territories, which are suffering from a labour shortage. The drain on manpower is said to be accompanied by other measures such as the displacement of population, the establishment of Israeli agricultural settlements in the occupied territories and the appropriation of land, which aggravate the situation of the local population. 1/

4. As for employment itself, and in practice, some sources 2/ maintain that Arab workers in the occupied territories suffer from discrimination in access to employment and occupation. Since they do not have free choice of employment they are being channelled by the labour exchanges into particular branches and types of work. ... According to the same sources Arab workers in Israel have little security in their employment, which is dependent on the needs of the Israeli economy and on political decisions. In the event of collective mass dismissal, it is said, they stand little chance of finding new jobs in the territories, where the economy is so structured as to be unable to absorb much more labour. 3/

5. Other sources of information give a different account of the

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1/ In a communication of 8 February 1976 the Palestine Trade Union Federation mentioned, among other things, the 1971 report of the special United Nations committee set up to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories, and pointed out that that committee had not been admitted to Israel and the occupied territories. A study by the General Federation of Jordan Trade Unions (Damascus, 1973), which is appended to the above-mentioned communication, also gives information on the subject.

2/ For example, the extract from Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session (GB.196/20/2, Appendix III); the note of 5 October 1975 addressed by the Arab Labour Office to the Director-General, and the above-mentioned note communicated (8 February 1976) by the Palestine Trade Union Federation.

3/ In its note of 8 February 1976 the Palestine Trade Union Federation refers to the current difficulties of the Israeli economy (particularly in the building industry) and the threat they pose mainly to the employment of Arab workers. It considers that the mass repatriation of unemployed Arabs will cause an economic crisis in the territories, where half the national revenue comes from earnings from employment in Israel.

objectives and practical application of employment policy. 1/ According to those sources the major principles underlying that policy are the maintenance of full employment in the occupied territories and ensuring that workers from those territories in Israel enjoy the same conditions as do Israeli workers, while maintaining the integrity of the labour force in the territories. Substantial changes are alleged to have occurred since June 1967 in the volume and structure of employment.

...

7. The growth of employment opportunities in Israel, it is said, has made a great impact on the traditional distribution of labour by branch of activity. According to the statistics supplied on the distribution of the working population by branch of activity in the territories, half the workers are engaged in agriculture, and 6 per cent in the building industry, as against 20 and 50 per cent respectively in Israel. As regards access to skilled employment, it is stated that Arab workers in general have no difficulty, demand having exceeded supply for some years. In January 1975 over half the Arab workers in the building industry were skilled or semi-skilled.

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#### Vocational education and training

9. Some information is available on secondary vocational education in the territories. There is information, revealing different trends, on rates of increases in the number of pupils on the West and East banks of the Jordan between 1965-66 and 1972-73. 2/ It is also alleged that secondary commercial education is disappearing on the West bank. 3/ It is also reported that there has been a general increase in the number of pupils, teachers and schools on the West bank since the 1967 war, and in particular the organisation of courses of basic vocational education and pre-vocational training and a course

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1/ The information given below is drawn mainly from notes addressed to the Director-General by the Ministry of Labour of Israel (19 June 1975) and by the Histadrut (20 May 1975) and from a study entitled "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel" (Tel Aviv, May 1975) by the Ministry of Labour, the Executive Committee of the Histadrut and the Industrialists Federation in Israel. Use has also been made of the periodic reports of the Ministry of Defence on the territories ("Four years of military administration", 1967-71; and "The administered territories", 1971-72 and 1972-73) and a study by the Bank of Israel entitled "Economic growth in the administered areas, 1968-1973" (Jerusalem, 1975).

2/ Information supplied by the Government of Jordan to UNESCO and reproduced in paragraph 68 of the "Report of the Director-General on the situation of the national education and the cultural life of peoples in the occupied Arab territories" (UNESCO, Paris, 1974). ...

3/ Report of the Director-General of UNESCO, op. cit., para. 91.

in commercial education which in 1971 was followed by 1,800 pupils in Judea and Samaria. 1/ Vocational training schools are reported to have been established in 1973 and others to be planned. 2/

10. Differing opinions are given of the aims and the system of vocational training in the occupied territories. According to certain studies the establishment of apprenticeship centres in the territories is just one of a series of measures designed to "exploit cheap Arab labour for the benefit of the Israeli economy". 3/ In support of that charge attention is drawn to the kinds of training provided, the channelling of pupils and trainees into certain industries or trades, such as building, which, it is said, are precisely those in which there is a serious shortage of labour in Israel. Discrimination against Arabs in access to employment 4/ in Israel, it is said, is leading to a decline in their levels of skill or hampering their acquisition of job skills and experience. 5/

11. According to the authorities' own explanation of the principles underlying manpower policy in the territories, vocational training is one of its basic aims and major aspects. 6/ The information received refers to the establishment since 1968 of 20 vocational training centres in Judea and Samaria (where there were only three before 1967) and seven in the Gaza strip and Sinai (where there was only one before 1967). The centres provide training for 18 trades and between 1968 and 1975 produced a number of graduates 7/ which, it is said, accounts for about 15 per cent of the total labour force in the territories. Special programmes and efforts are reported to have been devoted to the training of young people and women, and since 1971 certificates have been issued to building workers entitling them to the lowest grade on the skilled worker scale in Israel. Apart from traditional vocational training

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1/ Ibid., para. 69; Ministry of Defence of Israel: "Four years of military administration", 1967-71, op. cit., pp. 101-102; and "The administered territories", 1971-72, op. cit., pp. 138-139, and 1972-73, p. 178.

2/ See "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel", op. cit.

3/ "Rapport sur la situation des travailleurs arabes dans les territoires de la Palestine occupée", op. cit., p. 71.

4/ See para. 4 above.

5/ Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session, and note of 5 October 1975 addressed by the Arab Labour Office to the Director-General.

6/ Note of 19 June 1975 from the Ministry of Labour to the Director-General; see also "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel", op. cit.

7/ That is: 18,582 graduates, 45 per cent of them in the building trades, 24 per cent in industrial occupations and 20 per cent in tailoring and embroidery: "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel", op. cit., Appendix A, table 4.

programmes, other forms of activity are mentioned, such as the supply of advice, technical assistance and services to Arab farmers in the territories. 1/ ...

#### Remarks

12. The information supplied by different sources on employment and vocational training concurs in some respects. In some cases, however, it is difficult to interpret or calls for clarification.

13. In short, there seems to be a need for further analysis of several problems, which in the main relate to: (a) the organisation of recruitment and free choice of employment; (b) the extent of equality of opportunity and treatment in regard to vocational guidance and training, access to employment and occupation, promotion and security in employment, and (c) more generally, policy regarding the use and development of the human resources of the occupied territories.

#### II. Wages, social benefits and working conditions

##### Situation of workers from the occupied territories employed in Israel

14. According to information from Israeli government and trade union sources, the general principle of equality in regard to wages, social benefits and working conditions for Israeli workers and Arab workers from the occupied territories in Israel has been officially proclaimed. 4/ In particular, the principle of equal pay for equal work is stated to apply not only to the gross wages paid by the employer but also to the net wages actually received by the worker. For this there are two reasons: a desire to prevent adverse effects on the employment of Israelis and a desire to protect Arab workers from exploitation. The application of the principle is closely supervised by the Israeli trade union movement. 5/ The study mentioned above on economic growth in the administered territories also refers to the difficulty of evaluating data on average wage levels in determining whether the principle is applied. 6/

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1/ See the reports of the Ministry of Defence: "Four years of military administration", 1967-71, op. cit., pp. 40, 165-6; "The administered territories", 1971-72, op. cit., pp. 60 and 240.

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4/ For example, note of 19 June 1975 from the Ministry of Labour to the Director-General; and a statement of 13 December 1972 by Mr. Moshe Dayan, former Minister of Defence, and a decision of February 1973 of the Central Committee of the Histadrut, cited in "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel", op. cit.

5/ More particularly, the special team set up by the Histadrut in co-operation with the Employment Service mainly to guide and instruct Arab workers coming to Israel (see para. 34 below).

6/ Arie Bregman: "Economic growth in the administered areas", Bank of Israel, op. cit., p. 27.

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15. According to other sources of information actual wage rates are much lower for Arab workers than for Israelis. 1/ It is alleged, in particular, that wages are paid through the authorities, who make deductions variously assessed at 33 to 40 per cent. These deductions, it is said, are paid into a special fund 2/ and are contributions to the social security system and also to the war effort. 3/ However, the Arab worker allegedly does not receive all the benefits enjoyed by the Israeli worker in return for the same deductions legally made from his wages ... on the grounds that he is not a member of the Histadrut. 4/ ...

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17. Several sources of information also refer to the residence rights and transport and housing conditions of nationals of the occupied territories who work in Israel. According to those sources 5/ Israeli regulations forbid workers from the territories to reside in Israel. Instead they must make a long arduous journey every day which adds to the duration of the working day. The cost of transport, borne by the worker himself, may amount to a quarter of his wages. Some Arab labourers, for example, from Gaza, are compelled by the distance from home to workplace and by transport conditions to live in Israel in conditions of hardship, sometimes in rest camps run by the employers.

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19. According to certain sources of information, differences in treatment may be found in Israeli undertakings. They relate, for example, to systematic assignment of Arab workers to night shifts or even discrimination in the use of plant facilities.

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1/ Note of the Arab Labour Office of 5 October 1975.

2/ According to some sources the sums deducted from wages are paid into a fund in the name of the State of Israel and between 1968 and 1974 totalled 1,090 million Israeli pounds (US \$260 million at 1973 prices) ("Conditions of work for Arabs under the yoke of Israeli occupation", op. cit.).

3/ Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session.

4/ See, for example, the note of the Arab Labour Office of 5 October 1975, "Rapport sur la situation des travailleurs arabes dans la Palestine occupée", op. cit., and the note of 8 February 1976 communicated by the Palestine Trade Union Federation.

5/ For example, the note addressed on 5 October 1975 to the Director-General by the Arab Labour Office; "Rapport sur la situation des travailleurs arabes dans la Palestine occupée", op. cit.; memorandum of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, mentioned in that report; the note of 8 February 1976 communicated by the Palestine Trade Union Federation, which refers in particular to information in Israeli newspapers; Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session.

Reference is also made to the dangers facing workers who lodge complaints about their working conditions. 1/ According to other sources only a very low percentage of Arab workers from the territories (2 per cent) is assigned to shift work, plant facilities are available to all workers without discriminations, and working conditions in any given undertaking are determined by collective agreement applicable to all workers without distinction. 2/

#### Situation of workers in the occupied territories

20. It has been said that "there is a great disparity between the wages which the Arab worker of the occupied territories receives in those territories and the wages he can earn in Israel". 3/ Available statistics show that the disparity diminished between 1969 and 1973 but remains wide. The Arab worker's daily wage was on the average 80 per cent higher in Israel than in the territories in 1969 and still 50 per cent higher in 1973. 4/ Even though there has been a large increase in nominal wages in the territories, certain sources of information point out that in real wages there has not. Any increase in the cost of living in Israel has a direct effect in the territories, where the substantial increase in prices between 1969 and 1974 hit the poorer workers particularly hard. 5/ Other sources of information indicate a rapid rise - even more rapid than in Israel - in prices in the territories, but at the same time an average yearly rate of increase in real wages higher than that recorded in Israel for Arab workers from the territories. 6/

21. Little information is available on the matter of social benefits and allowances enjoyed by workers in the territories.

22. As regards working conditions in the administered territories,

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1/ Note of 8 February 1976 of the Palestine Trade Union Federation and statement by Mr. Nasr at the Governing Body's 195th Session.

2/ Ministry of Labour in Israel, note of 19 June 1975 to the Director-General.

3/ "Rapport sur la situation des travailleurs arabes dans les territoires de la Palestine occupée", op. cit., p. 67.

4/ The Bank of Israel study on economic growth in the administered territories, table III.6, p. 37. Figures relate to net wages.

5/ "Conditions of work for Arabs under the yoke of Israeli occupation", op. cit., pp. 14-15.

6/ See the Bank of Israel study on economic growth in the administered territories, p. 13 and table III.6, p. 37.

according to information received 1/ the competent authorities are enforcing Jordanian labour law on the West bank (for example in regard to occupational safety, work disputes, hours of work, leave and so on) and Egyptian labour law in the Gaza strip. According to the same sources of information officials in the competent ministry are co-operating closely with some 400 local employees. In Judea and Samaria Arab officials continue to perform the functions prescribed under Jordanian law in regard to the supervision of working conditions.

#### Remarks

23. Initial study of remuneration and working conditions reveals certain points requiring further clarification and examination. In the main the problems relate to:

- (a) the application in practice of the principle of equal remuneration for Israeli workers and workers from the territories employed in Israel, remuneration being understood to include social benefits and various allowances and forms of compensation;
- (b) the trend of official policy in regard to residence rights, housing and the cost and conditions of transport for Arab workers employed in Israel;
- (c) the supervisory and other measures taken to ensure that Arab workers do not suffer forms of discrimination in certain undertakings in regard to working conditions; and
- (d) trends in wages in relation to the cost of living, in other working conditions and in social benefits in the occupied territories themselves.

#### III. Trade union rights

...

#### Trade union rights in the occupied territories

25. According to certain sources of information the right to organise is not respected in the occupied territories, where trade unions and occupational associations are subject to pressure and repression of various kinds. 2/ Items of information concerning, among other things, the arrest

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1/ Note of 19 June 1975 from the Israeli Ministry of Labour to the Director-General; note by the Histadrut of 18 May 1975 addressed to the Director-General; and "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel", op. cit.

2/ Note of 8 February 1976 of the Palestine Trade Union Federation. Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session, Mr. Nasr's letter of 6 March 1975 to the Director-General and note from the Arab Labour Office of 5 October 1975.

and expulsion of trade union leaders and members have been submitted to the Governing Body or addressed to the Director-General.

...

29. The Israeli Government has stated 1/ that no trade unionist is penalised or punished because of his trade union activities. ... According to an Israeli source the emergency regulations of 1945 are still in force on the West Bank since they have never been repealed by Jordan. 2/

30. In examining similar complaints submitted to it concerning the exile or arrest of members or leaders of trade unions in the territories occupied by Israel, the Committee on Freedom of Association found that the complainants had not exercised their right to submit more detailed information concerning the relationship between the above-mentioned measures and trade union activities, and the Committee was unable to carry out a more detailed examination of the complaints. 3/

...

Trade union rights of workers of the occupied territories employed in Israel

32. The salient features of trade union organisation in Israel are the unity in fact achieved by the Histadrut and the scope of its activities, which extends largely beyond the scope of trade union protection in the strict sense and includes social protection as well. 4/

33. According to some sources of information, workers of the occupied territories neither enjoy nor exercise trade union rights. Thus it has been stated that "the workers, when they come from the occupied territories to work in the other territories, are denied the protection of the Arab labour union in their home country because they are working in factories in the other part. And of course they are not protected by the trade unions in the other part because they are residents of the occupied territories." 5/ The right to join or to form a trade union is allegedly not granted to Arab workers from the

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1/ Note of 19 June 1975 to the Director-General.

2/ Meir Shamgar, Attorney-General of Israel: "The observance of international law in the administered territories", in Israel Yearbook on Human Rights, Vol. 1, 1971, pp. 262 ff.

3/ See the 114th, 122nd and 147th Reports of the Committee on Freedom of Association: Official Bulletin, Supplement, Vol. LIII, 1970, No. 2, paras. 124-141; Vol. LIV, 1971, No. 2, paras. 55-83; and GB.194/11/27, paras. 91-98.

4/ See "Social security in Israel", Histadrut, Tel Aviv, 1973, especially pp. 3, 45 and 46.

5/ Mr. Nasr's statement at the Governing Body's 195th Session.

occupied territories who are employed in Israel. 1/ It is alleged that the Israeli authorities are trying to secure Histadrut membership for Arab workers, but that such membership does not protect them against discrimination. 2/

34. According to other sources Arab workers from the administered territories who are employed in Israel enjoy freedom of association and the right to organise. They may join the Histadrut, "though understandably /they/ are under pressure not to join ...". 3/ Their eligibility for membership in the provident funds affiliated with the Histadrut is expressly provided for by a decision of February 1973 of the Central Committee. 4/ Express instructions have been given to all labour councils and workers' committees to ensure equality of treatment with regard to assistance and protection. At the level of production units the workers' interests are represented without discrimination and collective agreements are applicable to all workers without distinction. 5/ It is also reported that the Histadrut has taken special measures for the information and education of such workers. 6/ Finally, the Histadrut points out that building workers in Israel fare comparatively well because of the strength of the unions in that industry and that many Arab workers have benefited as a result since about half of them, as has been said, are employed in building in Israel.

#### Remarks

35. As regards trade union rights, a more detailed examination on the

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1/ Report on "Conditions of work for Arabs under the yoke of Israeli occupation", op. cit., p. 13. In its note of 8 February 1976 the Palestine Trade Union Federation states that at the end of 1971 the Israeli authorities considered the question of admitting Arab workers from the occupied territories to membership of the Histadrut, but that the temporary nature of Arab employment has so far prevented the taking of any decision.

2/ In the above-mentioned study by the General Federation of Jordan Trade Unions (Damascus).

3/ Statement by the General Secretary of the Histadrut in 1973, quoted in the study "Labourers from the administered territories working in Israel". op. cit. In its conclusions the study states that 8,000 workers from the administered territories who are employed in Israel have become members of the Histadrut. The study gives a similar figure for the east side of Jerusalem. (See note to para. 31.)

4/ This decision also relates to equality of remuneration and working conditions, referred to in the previous chapter.

5/ According to the reply by the Ministry of Labour to Mr. Nasr's allegations (note of 19 June 1975 to the Director-General).

6/ See the second footnote to para. 14, which refers to the establishment, in co-operation with the employment service, of a special team with mainly educational functions.

basis of further information appears to be necessary, in particular on the following points:

- (a) the precise reasons underlying any repressive measures taken with regard to leaders or members of trade unions in the occupied territories and any connection which those reasons may have with the lawful exercise of trade union freedoms and rights;
- (b) the conditions for the formation and operation of trade unions in the occupied territories both in law and in practice and their scope for action and collective bargaining;
- (c) the extent to which workers from the occupied territories who are employed in Israel enjoy equality of treatment in regard to freedom of association, the right to organise and benefits provided for under collective bargaining.

Geneva, 17 February 1976.

B. Statement by the Director-General of the Food and  
Agricultural Organization of the United Nations

/Original: English/

The following statement dated 4 August 1977 was received in the form of a letter to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs:

"In your letter dated 16 May 1977, you drew my attention to General Assembly resolution 31/110 of 16 December 1976 concerning living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and invited me to supply you, by 1 July, with any information that might be useful in the compilation of the report which the General Assembly had asked the Secretary-General to prepare.

"In my letter of 15 June 1977 I informed you that we were not yet in a position to provide very detailed information on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. However, in view of the general subject-matter and the fact that the second preambular paragraph of the General Assembly resolution also referred to the Economic and Social Council resolution 2026 (LXI) on the assistance to the Palestinian people, I considered it appropriate that the report of the Secretary-General, in response to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, could also reflect the action I had taken regarding the assistance to the Palestinian people.

"Accordingly, I informed you of the process of consultation which I had with both the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Chairman, Palestine National Fund, Palestine Liberation Organization, on action that FAO might take to assist the Palestinian people.

"I had also informed you of the emergency food aid from the World Food Programme resources which I had sanctioned for Palestinian refugees in the Lebanon and those under the care of UNRWA. I do not wish to repeat the details of this action as they have already been reported in full in the Secretary-General's report to the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Council (E/6005).

"Since writing that letter, I received a note verbale from Farouk Kaddumi, President of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization informing me of the hardships being experienced by the Palestinians within the Israeli occupied territories whose livelihood depends mainly on agriculture. As this note verbale was relevant to the Secretary-General's report, I quoted it in full in my cable to him of 15 July 1977, in the original Italian language in which it was couched together with an unofficial English translation for facility of reference. I reproduce hereunder the unofficial English translation.

'The PLO (Political Department) presents its compliments to the Food and

/...

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and wishes to inform that Organization that the Israeli occupation authorities have persisted, ever since the time of their occupation of Palestine, in varied and continuing attempts to force the sons of our Palestinian people to abandon their lands, either by the use of force or by the promulgation of unjust laws.

'Besides these inhuman and aggressive practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, which have been occurring for many years without interruption, these same authorities have now tightened the circle around the sons of our people by confiscating thousands of dunums of fertile lands owned by Palestinian citizens and by aggression against the sources of water, as has recently occurred at the aqueduct of Ein Samia, which serves more than 80 towns and villages in the regions of Ramallah and Bireh, so that the inhabitants of those areas have been deprived of water.

'Furthermore, the Israeli occupation authorities, persisting in their policy of land confiscation, have promulgated, through the Military Governor of the Gaza region, Ordinance No. 498 on the use of water resources, which compels the owners of wells, excavated by Palestinian farmers at their own expense and on their own land, to use only part of the water of such wells, thereby limiting the area of land which can benefit from these waters, leaving the remainder impossible to cultivate.

'These acts committed by the Israeli occupation authorities, are considered by us as flagrant acts of oppression against our people in the occupied territories, aimed at compelling the sons of our people to abandon their own lands, in order to requisition them afterwards through repressive laws based on the right of might.

'In registering these facts with FAO, we hope this organization will intervene in order to put an end to such criminal acts against our people and our motherland.

'PLO avails itself of this opportunity to present to FAO its best salutations and compliments. (signed) Farouk KADDUMI, President of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.'

"In the same cable I had suggested to the Secretary-General that as he had already asked the Governments of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic as well as the Palestine Liberation Organization to supply information relevant to his report, he might wish to take this note verbale also into account in compiling his report. I had also assured him that he could count on my full support in whatever action he wished to take to respond adequately to the objectives of the General Assembly resolution."

C. Reply submitted by the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

/Original: French/English/

1. The reply submitted by UNESCO states that pursuant to resolution 13.1 adopted at the eighteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Director-General submitted to the Executive Board at its ninety-ninth session a report on the implementation of this resolution concerning educational and cultural institutions in the occupied Arab territories. 1/ Subsequently, the Executive Board in its resolution 9.2 invited the Director-General to report to the General Conference at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. In his report to the nineteenth session of the General Conference (October 1976), the Director-General outlined the steps he had taken to implement 18C/resolution 13.1 concerning access to national education and culture by the population of the occupied Arab territories. 2/
3. The reply further states that in the period between the eighteenth session of the General Conference and the opening of the ninety-ninth session of the Executive Board, in order to ascertain directly the situation with regard to education and culture in the occupied Arab territories, the Director-General made a number of unsuccessful approaches to the Israeli authorities, 3/ the Israeli Government being unable to extend to UNESCO the requisite facilities.
4. In the period between the ninety-ninth session of the Executive Board and the nineteenth session of the General Conference (29 May to 25 October 1976), the Director-General continued his efforts to obtain the necessary facilities from the Israeli Government in order to implement 18C/resolution 13.1. 4/
5. Shortly before the announcement of the nineteenth session of the General Conference, the Director-General received a communication informing him of the Israeli Government's "agreement in principle" for the sending of a mission to gather information on the state of education and culture in the "territories administered by Israel", and stating further that all the necessary facilities would be extended to the representatives of the Director-General to enable them to perform their tasks. It was, however, not possible for the mission to take place until early in 1977.

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1/ 99 EX/50.

2/ 19C/73.

3/ 99 EX/50, paras. 12, 14, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29.

4/ 19C/73, paras. 16-25.

6. In view of the absence of a report reflecting an on-the-spot assessment of the functioning of educational and cultural institutions in the occupied territories, the report to the Executive Board, 5/ which forms annex I of the Director-General's report to the General Conference 6/ is confined to the communications addressed to him directly by the Governments of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, and by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the League of Arab States and the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), as well as by some Governments of Arab States concerned about the situation of historical and religious monuments in the occupied territories. Below are extracts from this document (99 EX/50) which reports information on Sinai and the Gaza Strip communicated by the Egyptian Government; on the situation on the West Bank of the Jordan communicated by Jordan, Israel, PLO and ALECSO; and on the Golan Heights communicated by the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the comments on the occupied territories as a whole which Egypt, PLO and ALECSO addressed in letters and reports to the Director-General:

"A. Information concerning Sinai and the Gaza Strip

"37. The Egyptian Government has sent the Director-General a list of the educational and cultural institutions situated in the occupied territories of Sinai and the Gaza Strip (primary schools, preparatory schools, secondary schools, a religious education institute, an agricultural training institute, vocational training centres, a teacher-training college, cinemas, public and private libraries, sports clubs, clubs for young people, magazines).

"38. With regard to the operation of the institutions and activities mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the Egyptian Government listed a number of difficulties stemming from the fact of the occupation and preventing these institutions from carrying out their work fully. The facts brought to the Director-General's attention are the following:

"39. In the schools situated in the Gaza Strip and not controlled by UNRWA/UNESCO, pupils do not have the necessary textbooks because the Israeli authorities do not allow textbooks printed in Egypt to be imported for these schools. Students must therefore make do with summaries and notes prepared for them by the teachers, though these summaries and notes are in most cases insufficient.

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5/ 99 EX/50.

6/ 19C/73.

"40. The schools in the Gaza Strip are to a large extent short of teachers. Before the occupation there was an average of one teacher for every 35 pupils; since 1971-1972 this has fallen to one teacher for every 47 pupils. Educational personnel who had been able to specialize in higher educational establishments in Egypt and who have returned to Gaza are prevented by the occupation authorities from practising their profession.

"41. Most of the teachers in the Gaza schools have received insufficient teacher training, especially those at the secondary level where the qualified staff are supplemented by, among others, student teachers from the intermediate teacher-training centre in Ramallah. Some schools have even taken on as teachers civil servants who have had no teacher training whatever.

"42. To this must be added the fact that since the buildings destroyed in 1967 have not been rebuilt, the Gaza sector is suffering from a shortage of schools and, in the schools that do exist, a shortage of classrooms. Before the occupation the average for the year 1966-1967 was 48 pupils per classroom; since 1971-1972 it has been 55 pupils per classroom.

"43. The only three cultural centres in the sector, which were in the towns of Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah, have been closed. Those three centres, each of which possessed a large library, attracted large numbers of inhabitants in the sector and served as cultural meeting places.

"44. The one commercial college at secondary level that existed in the Gaza sector has likewise been closed on the pretext that it constituted a threat to public security.

"B. Information regarding the West Bank of the Jordan

"...

"47. The Jordanian Government stated that a radio-broadcasting station used to operate under its control in Arabic at Ramallah. Since the occupation of the territory that station has formed part of the Israeli broadcasting network.

"48. While pointing out that in the present circumstances it is impossible for the Jordanian Government to obtain accurate figures and information regarding the situation and functioning of educational and cultural institutions in the occupied territories, and that in its view Unesco was in a better position to carry out such investigation work, the Jordanian Government informed the Director-General of the following:

"49. The occupation authorities have demolished several school buildings in the territories situated on the West Bank of the Jordan, including two schools at Imwas, two schools at Yalu and two schools at Beit Nuba, all within the district of Ramallah.

/...

"50. Two schools have been closed by the occupation authorities: the Institute of Business Administration at Beit-Hanina and the "Al Aqsa" girls school. As a pretext for the demolition of the latter, the occupation authorities alleged the cracks that were visible in the walls of the school. The Jordanian Government points out that the fissures in question were caused by the excavation work carried out by the occupation authorities in the vicinity of the school.

"51. A number of pupils and teachers have been interned by the occupation authorities in the territories of the West Bank or sent away from those territories.

"52. As regards the report which ALECSO has sent to the Director-General containing the conclusions of a group of experts on education in the occupied Arab territories, the following facts have been brought to the attention of Unesco:

"53. In the West Bank territory the occupation authorities have made changes in the curricula and textbooks - which used to be the same as were used in Jordan - which have altered their nature.

"54. On the pretext that most of the textbooks being used contained chapters or paragraphs that might generate hatred towards Israel in the minds of Arab pupils, these textbooks have either been banned and replaced in most cases by 'notes' and 'summaries' which are quite often poorly printed, or else modified after whole chapters or paragraphs were deleted or rewritten, particularly in textbooks of history, geography, literature and religious instruction. Many textbooks - including some which were used in the UNRWA/Unesco schools - have however been retained after a committee of international experts appointed by Unesco found that nothing in them was of such a nature as to jeopardize the spirit of international understanding. (1)

"55. The changes and alterations made in curricula and textbooks in the occupied territories of the West Bank of the Jordan tend, according to the ALECSO report, to:

- (a) create a new generation of Palestinians in whose minds the religious and national heritage will no longer exist;
- (b) weaken the links that young Palestinians have with their native land through the elimination of all reference to their past in books on sociology, the Arabic language and Islamic religion;

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(1) This question was included in the agenda of eight sessions of the Executive Board between 1967 and 1971. It gave rise to a number of decisions on the part of the Board: 77/EX/Decision 6.8; 78 EX/Decision 7.4; 82 EX/Decision 4.2.5; 83 EX/Decision 4.2.3; 84 EX/Decision 4.2.1; 85 EX/Decision 4.1.2; 87 EX/Decision 4.2.4; 88 EX/Decision 4.1.1.

- (c) weaken the spirit of resistance to the occupation, by deleting from all the textbooks poems and even expressions of a national or patriotic character;
- (d) weaken links with Jordan and everything related to Arab and Islamic unity:
  - (i) by doing away with the emblem of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the name of the Ministry of Education of that country which appeared on textbook covers, and
  - (ii) by eliminating references to the Jihad, the life of the prophet and the sacred character of the holy places.

"56. For each of the facts adduced in the report (2) the ALECSO experts have given relevant references to legislative texts, administrative decisions and book titles, and have quoted the paragraphs that have been criticized in the school textbooks.

"57. As regards the Al-Ibrahimi Mosque (Hebron), the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States considers that Israel's decision to divide the buildings of the Mosque between the Moslem and Jewish communities constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Geneva Conventions and a rejection of the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Unesco General Conference, and a serious affront to Moslem sensitivity and to the sacred character of these places of prayer.

#### "C. Jerusalem

"58. According to the ALECSO report and the communication from the Jordanian Government, the Arab educational institutions situated in the city of Jerusalem, which prior to the occupation followed the curricula in use in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, have been purely and simply brought under the general education system of the State of Israel. That system is governed by Act No. 5713 of 1953, which stipulates, according to the analysis made of it by the authors of the report, that one of the aims of public education is "to base education on the values of Jewish culture".

"59. Far from fostering the access of Arab pupils to their national culture and education, as the resolution of the Unesco General Conference prescribes, the fact of imposing Israeli curricula on Arab pupils constitutes, in the view of the ALECSO experts, a serious threat to their cultural identity, because these curricula tend to:

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(2) The ALECSO report as well as the communications received by the Director-General are at the disposal of the Executive Board.

(a) make the Arab pupils believe that Palestine was a Jewish land from remote times, persuade them to accept the expansionist intentions of the State of Israel and make them admit that such expansion is natural;

(b) constitute an affront to Arab dignity, sociologically and economically, and make their underdevelopment obvious;

(c) make Arab pupils feel that the Jewish race is superior in all respects so that they lose confidence in themselves and their people;

(d) describe Arab history as a catalogue of conquest and piracy perpetuated against the countries where the Arabs settled;

(e) inculcate and develop in the pupils the feeling of belonging to a religious denomination;

(f) deprive Arab pupils of scientific and technological culture, especially at the levels of secondary and higher education; and

(g) strip Arab pupils of the values and traditions of Arab and Islamic culture so as to undermine their feeling of belonging to the Arab nation.

"60. The ALECSO committee of experts also points out that all Arab pupils studying in schools situated in Jerusalem are obliged to do twice as much school work since, on the one hand, they must follow the official Israeli curriculum and sit for the end-of-course State examinations while, on the other, they are impelled to prepare privately for the West Bank examinations which will enable them later to enter Arab universities. This double burden is for the Arab pupils, in ALECSO's words, a cultural and educational torture which is not to be found anywhere else.

"61. With regard to the historic monuments of Jerusalem which represent an essential feature in the spiritual and cultural life of the Moslem community, the Government of Kuwait, in a communication dated 8 March 1976, expressed concern about the serious threat which it considers the excavation work undertaken by the occupation authorities is causing to a number of historic buildings of great importance, especially those housing the Arab Orphanage and the Al-Othmanya School (which constitutes the central part of the western wall of Al-Haram Ash Sharif and which is situated in the immediate vicinity of two incomparable components of that unique group, namely the Gate of Al-Kattanine and the Minaret of Quaitabay).

"62. The Government of Kuwait also reports that the Israeli authorities intend to build a new road running beside the old ramparts of Jerusalem. According to the plan which has been drawn up, this would entail the desecration of two ancient Moslem cemeteries (Bab Al-Rahma and Yusfiah).

"63. As regards the Technical High School of Jerusalem, the Jordanian

Government, in a communication dated 9 March 1976, sent a statement to the Director-General, together with photographs and a report of an Israeli expert, on the damage done to the school, which is, in the Government's view, the most important specialized Arab establishment in the city, as a result of work (excavations using dynamite and earthworks) undertaken by the Israeli authorities in the immediate vicinity of the school, where a road and an industrial complex are being built.

"64. In addition to the large and dangerous cracks in the walls of the building, the Jordanian Government has drawn the Director-General's attention to a number of facts which, in the Government's view, constitute pressures brought by the occupation authorities on the students and teaching staff of the school as part of their policy of encouraging the Arab inhabitants to leave the country. Thus the occupation authorities have refused to allow the opening of the hotel management section of the school, for which equipment and material have been available since 1967, and they have also closed the main road leading to the school.

#### "D. Golan Heights

"65. In a letter dated 18 March 1976, the Permanent Delegate of Syria to Unesco complained, on behalf of his Government, that the occupation authorities will not let the Syrian students in the territory of the Golan Heights continue their studies in Syrian universities as Arab students in the other sectors of the occupied Arab territories have been allowed to do.

"66. In calling the Director-General's attention to this prohibition and to various difficulties met with by Syrian students in the Golan Heights - such as the destruction of houses and the lack of educational and scientific facilities - the Syrian Government hoped that Unesco would intervene with the Israeli Government to put an end to this serious situation.

#### "E. Remarks concerning the occupied territories as a whole

"67. In concluding its report, the ALECSO committee of experts expresses the view that the policy followed by the occupation authorities with regard to the education of young Palestinians is contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Article 26 which states in paragraph 3 that 'Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children'.

"68. The PLO, for its part, has called the Director-General's attention to facts which it considers infringements of the Palestinians' rights to a national education. It has referred in particular to the decision of the Israeli Government to forbid Palestinians between the ages of 16 to 35 from leaving the occupied territories unless they agree to spend a period of at least six months outside those territories.

"69. Since this measure affects, among those belonging to the age group in question, the many Palestinian students enrolled with Arab universities (in which they are following correspondence courses) who leave the occupied territories every year for short periods in order to sit examinations in those universities, the PLO considers that such a measure in reality constitutes pressure which the occupation authorities are bringing to bear on the students so that they will leave the country.

"70. In the same communication, the PLO informed the Director-General that the occupation authorities are taking pupils from schools of general education and forcing them to enrol in special centres for manual work. This practice is apparently increasing and the PLO considers that it is meant to lower the cultural level of the peoples in the occupied territories in order to make them a reserve of manpower for Israeli industry."

D. Reply submitted by the World Health Organization

/Original: English/

The reply of WHO was submitted in the form of extracts from the annual report of the Director of Health of UNRWA for the year 1976, which was submitted as a document to the Thirtieth World Health Assembly. 1/ The relevant paragraphs are quoted verbatim:

"...

"14. The long civil war in Lebanon claimed many victims, Palestine refugees as well as Lebanese. Precise figures are not yet available. Many were killed, many more injured. There was also widespread displacement of refugee families, who either had been living in camps (about 50 per cent) or who had been living in towns and villages. Several camps have been partially or totally destroyed and the number of displaced refugees is estimated at 30,000. Emergency assistance in the form of mattresses, blankets, clothing, shoes, kitchen kits, food, commodities, skim milk and soap has been distributed where needed and to the extent that funds, including generous contributions from voluntary agencies, permitted. Many of the Agency's installations have been damaged or destroyed. School buildings had to be repaired and many desks, benches, textbooks and scholastic supplies replaced. This task is not yet completed. Apart from schools, other UNRWA installations must be repaired, including the Agency's central warehouse in Beirut, which was hit by rockets and seriously damaged by fire. Many of the general supplies stored there were lost and have to be replaced. The Agency is unable, in present circumstances, to estimate precisely the cost of repairs and replacement.

"CURATIVE MEDICAL SERVICES

"...

"Outpatient medical care

"16. These services were made available in 131 health centres and health points (98 UNRWA, 17 government and 16 voluntary agencies). Two new diabetes and dermatology clinics were established during the year in addition to the existing ones. Attendances for medical consultation continued almost at the same rate, except in Lebanon. In Beirut, the majority of the refugees residing in Dbayeh, Dikwaneh and Jisr el-Basha camps fled to the western sector of the city where they shared accommodation with relatives and friends or occupied deserted apartments and unfinished buildings. An emergency service was established to provide them with basic medical care services.

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1/ Health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East (A30/WP/1), 27 April 1977.

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"Outpatient dental care

"18. This consists of consultations, dental X-rays, tooth extraction and simple fillings, gum treatment and minor oral surgery. More emphasis was given to the preventive aspects of dental health and hygiene among school children and pregnant women. During the year a new dental clinic was established in New Amman Camp, east Jordan, increasing the number of dental clinics providing this service to the refugees to 21. Dental care was also improved by the provision of an additional dental unit in Jaramana Camp in Syria.

"...

"Mental health

"23. The demand for outpatient and inpatient services for mental illness continued to increase. Consequently, the Agency is giving more thought and attention to the preventive aspects of mental health.

"...

"PREVENTIVE MEDICAL SERVICES

"Epidemiology and control of communicable diseases

"...

"28. Early in July there was an outbreak of cholera in Syria, which started in the north-east district of Hasaka and soon spread to other localities. Prompt control measures were taken by the UNRWA Field Health Department in coordination with the national health authorities, particularly in refugee camps. These included chlorination of water sources, suspension of distribution of reconstituted milk and of serving fresh fruits and vegetables in the supplementary feeding centres, mass vaccination of the population at risk, and promulgation of health guidance on food and personal hygiene in Agency schools, health centres and other installations. These control measures proved effective: only two cases were reported among the refugee population in spite of the widespread nature of the epidemic, and both cases were cured. The other Fields were immediately put on the alert and the necessary precautionary measures were taken. Cholera was transmitted, however, to Jordan and later to the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip where 19, 4 and 14 cases respectively occurred among the refugees, though no fatality was reported. The situation in Lebanon remained obscure due to lack of communications, both internally and externally, as a result of the civil war. It was, however, possible to vaccinate the refugee camp population in the Tripoli area through the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to apply strict sanitary measures in these camps. No confirmed case was reported.

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"29. Compared with 1975 there was little change in the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases and dysentery in the area of operations as a whole. Typhoid and paratyphoid were further reduced from 64 cases in 1975 to 53 cases in 1976, of which 47 were reported from Syria. The incidence of infectious hepatitis, on the other hand, showed a remarkable increase in all Fields, from 596 to 1097 cases following the general trend in the area. Poliomyelitis has surprisingly reached moderate epidemic proportions in Gaza, similar to those of 1974, despite the primary and booster doses of oral polio vaccine given routinely to children below three years of age attending the Agency's child health clinics. Fifty-five cases were reported, mainly in July and August, as against only six cases in 1975. The epidemic subsided towards the end of the year. The efficacy of the vaccine and the level of protection are being investigated in an attempt to find an explanation for the outbreak. There was a substantial drop in the incidence of measles, from 2840 to 1447 which could be attributed to a more extensive immunization coverage of the children at risk. Communicable eye diseases, mainly in the form of acute conjunctivitis occurring particularly during summer months, have continued to show a modest downward trend which could, in part, be accredited to improvement of sanitary facilities in camps and health education centred on personal hygiene.

"30. Influenza showed an upward trend, mainly observed early in 1976 but resuming again late in the year, with Gaza and Syria principally accounting for the increase. While no indigenous cases of malaria were reported during the year, only two imported ones were discovered in Gaza. Newly detected cases of respiratory tuberculosis dropped from 175 last year to 141 this year. Reporting from Lebanon Field may be considered as incomplete.

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#### "Maternal and child health services

"...

"33. In the prenatal clinics, 29 006 women were registered for maternal care, which included regular health supervision and the issue of extra rations, milk and iron-folate tablets through pregnancy and the nursing period. For the 29 397 deliveries, care was provided in the homes mainly by the Agency-supervised dayahs (for 61 per cent), in UNRWA maternity centres (mainly in Gaza) by UNRWA nursing staff and in hospital for women with difficulties or increased risk. In all, five maternal deaths were reported, i.e. 0.02 per 1000 live births, while the reported still-birth rate was 10.2 per 1000 total births.

"34. A total of 85 618 children 0-3 years of age have benefited from the services provided at the 79 child health clinics.

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## "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

"43. The programme is concerned mainly with the provision of potable water supplies, sanitary disposal of solid and liquid wastes, storm water drainage and control of insect and rodent vectors of disease. A total of 651 736 refugees and displaced persons living in 63 refugee camps benefited from the programme, which has been maintained at a satisfactory level in most of the camps. However, due to prolonged civil warfare in Lebanon, the services were adversely affected. Furthermore, in the West Bank, the sanitation services continued to suffer from difficulties encountered in the recruitment of sanitation labourers. Ad hoc arrangements had to be made to prevent any serious health hazards. Due to the serious financial situation faced by the Agency throughout the year, support of the self-help camp improvement scheme had to be reduced considerably. The programme was barely maintained through a subsidy of approximately \$ 25 000 against a total requirement initially estimated at \$ 171 000. Nevertheless, with the cooperation of local authorities and the sustained participation of refugee camp communities, a number of improvements were carried out as detailed in the following paragraphs.

"44. Schemes for providing private water connexions to refugee shelters have been progressing very satisfactorily. Through a self-help programme, three camps in the West Bank have been provided with private water connexions and two camps in Gaza are to benefit from a similar programme very shortly. Municipal water supply schemes for two camps in the West Bank and three camps in Gaza are progressing steadily. The Government of Jordan has overcome the chronic water shortage of Suf camp with a newly drilled well and the Syrian Government (General Authority for Palestine Arab Refugees) is planning to drill an additional well to complete the private water connexion scheme at Khan Eshieh camp. Three camps in Lebanon and two in Syria continue to experience water shortages, but augmentation schemes for the two camps in Syria are in progress.

"45. Replacement of public latrines with private ones continued to progress satisfactorily and currently about 94 per cent of the refugee population in camps have been provided with private latrine facilities.

"46. In Syria, on completion of the construction of lateral sewers in three camps, about 75 per cent of the camp inhabitants are now served by sewerage systems. The Agency is planning to extend the sewerage facility at Dera'a camp to cover the additional shelters recently constructed by the refugees.

"47. The ongoing self-help scheme for the construction of surface drains and pavement of pathways benefited 15 camps in the West Bank, two camps in Gaza, one camp each in Jordan and Syria and a few camps in Lebanon. The scheme solves waste-water disposal problems, facilitates refuse collection, provides better access to refugee shelters and camp installations and helps in the abatement of dust and mud. Consequently it continues to be very popular

with the refugees. Efforts are being made to provide adequate support from the Agency in the form of building materials.

"48. With the provision of a scooter cart at Neirab camp for the transport of refuse, only three camps in Syria are left with mule carts; a tipper-truck is under procurement for improving the efficiency of the refuse collection services. Further improvement of garbage collection and disposal services is envisaged by the provision very shortly of additional vehicles in the Lebanon and West Bank Fields to meet the workload.

#### "NUTRITION AND SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING SERVICES

"49. The Department of Health attaches great importance to the supervision, protection and promotion of the nutritional status of the refugees. These functions are entrusted to the Nutrition and Supplementary Feeding Division. The services provided by this Division are directed particularly towards the most vulnerable groups among the refugees, namely infants, pre-school and elementary school children, pregnant and lactating women, non-hospitalized tuberculosis patients and medically recommended hardship cases. The services comprise the distribution of (a) milk, (b) midday hot meals, (c) extra dry rations and (d) vitamins. The emergency feeding programme established after the 1967 hostilities for the benefit of the displaced refugees and others affected by the conflict and its aftermath, was also maintained during 1976, but with minor changes (for details of the programme see Appendix 2).

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E. Reply submitted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

/Original: English/

1. UNRWA provides essential services to Palestine refugees in the Near East, including the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The primary task, the determination of the needs of the Palestine refugee population in the area of operations and the implementation of programmes to meet them in the fields of education, health and relief, is a continuous process. This is reflected in the Commissioner-General's annual report to the General Assembly. <sup>a/</sup> The report gives an account of the services rendered by the Agency and also forecasts in the Agency's budget the requirements to help ensure adequate living conditions for the refugees - albeit at a minimum level.
2. The 648,627 registered Palestine refugees in the occupied territories, like the other 1,057,859 living in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and East Jordan, benefit from UNRWA education, health and relief services. UNESCO and WHO respectively provide technical expertise and professional guidance for the education and training programmes and the health services (including, among others, supplementary feeding and sanitation) which are aimed at maintaining a standard at least equivalent to that established by the Arab host Governments for the indigenous population. Relief services include distribution of basic dry rations to about one half of the registered refugee population (about 324,000 in the occupied territories), limited assistance in the provision of shelter (about 272,000 registered refugees live in camps in the occupied territories), and welfare services on a small scale to hardship cases (about 14,500 in the occupied territories).
3. In 1977, UNRWA expenditure is estimated at \$134 million, approximately \$42 million of which will be spent for the occupied territories. In 1978, merely to maintain services at their present level, the Agency estimates its requirements at \$148 million, of which approximately \$46 million is for the occupied territories. These estimates take into account extrapolations of population figures which have a direct effect on education requirements and also - though not as direct - on health, relief and support services. Whether all the programmes can be executed to the full extent will depend on the receipt of sufficient voluntary contributions for the purpose. As at 30 June 1977, the shortfall of contributions against the budget for 1977 is estimated at \$16.4 million.

F. Statement submitted by the Economic Commission for Western Asia

Information obtained by ECWA indicates the following trends in these living conditions:

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<sup>a/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/32/13).

1. Land ownership and use

Large amounts of land have been reserved by the occupation authorities for various purposes, including military uses. The owners of these lands are denied access to them. Agricultural development of the occupied territories has been adversely affected. a/

2. Population movement and migration

At the beginning of the period of occupation, about 25 per cent of the population of the occupied territories left these territories. Only a small fraction of these people have returned. Controls on movement in and out of the occupied territories are strict, especially for certain groups of Palestinians. There is continued migration for economic reasons, to the rapidly developing Arab countries and to the developed countries. In addition, there has been a large number of forcible deportations, often of community leaders. b/

3. Changes in settlement patterns

During and immediately following the 1967 war, a number of villages were totally or partially destroyed. Some of these have been rebuilt, while others have not.

An important development is the establishment of new non-Palestinian settlements in the occupied territories. In a number of cases, the establishment of these settlements has been officially approved by the occupation authorities. These new settlements, in some instances, have military and strategic significance. Their establishment tends to change the character of the occupied territories. c/

4. Housing

Two trends in the housing field may be noted. One is the deliberate destruction of houses by the occupation authorities as an act of punishment. The number of houses destroyed is large.

A second trend is the construction of new housing projects reserved for non-Palestinian individuals. This has taken place especially in the area around Jerusalem. d/

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a/ Middle East International, London, May 1975, p. 22. See also Israeli Official Gazette No. 2064, 28 June 1967, pp. 2690-2691 regarding various laws on confiscation of land.

b/ United Nations General Assembly and Security Council debates for June to December 1967. Note also various reports of the United Nations Special Committee Investigating Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights in Occupied Territories, 1969-1976, Geneva.

c/ Reports of Special Committee, op. cit.

d/ Ibid. In addition note U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs. Problems of Protecting Civilians Under International Law in the Middle East Conflict, 4 April 1974, p. 36, Governmental Printing Office, Hearings.

5. Urban change

The legal status of east Jerusalem has been changed by the Government of Israel, separating this area from the "West Bank" sector of Jordan.

East Jerusalem has great religious and cultural significance, as well as being an important urban centre in the West Bank. Clearing of buildings from parts of east Jerusalem has resulted in large-scale urban change. At the same time, the construction of high-rise apartment houses has altered the environment and the character of the city.

Several of the refugee camps have also been affected by the clearing of large numbers of buildings. UNRWA reports that inadequate provision was made for the resettlement of families displaced by the process of urban clearance. e/

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e/ Israeli Official Gazette, op.cit.