



UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/35/4387 Corr 1  
16 September 1980

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fifth session  
Item 53 of the provisional agenda\*

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

Offers of scholarships and grants for higher education  
for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 34/52 C of 23 November 1979. It includes the substance of responses by Member States and United Nations agencies to the appeal contained in that resolution as well as to those contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 and 33/112 C of 18 December 1978 received after the publication of the Secretary-General's report of 5 October 1979 (A/34/480) on the implementation of the latter resolution. By these resolutions, the Assembly appealed to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to make special allocations, scholarships and grants to Palestine refugees and invited the relevant United Nations agencies to continue to expand the inclusion, within their respective spheres of competence, of assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students. The Assembly requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to act as recipient and trustee for such special allocations and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestine refugee candidates.
2. The Government of Australia informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that, in response to resolution 32/90 F, it intended to offer scholarships to Palestine refugees for higher education studies in Australia. Subsequently, the Australian Government invited UNRWA to submit up to nine nominations of Palestine refugee candidates for six awards for tertiary studies in Australia. UNRWA is presently in the process of submitting nominations to the Australian authorities.
3. In response to resolution 34/52 C, the Government of the Sudan informed the Secretary-General that it has consistently offered 25 to 30 scholarships annually

\* A/35/150.

to Palestinian students, 65 of whom were at present studying in higher education institutions in the Sudan, and that 30 scholarships were being allocated to Palestinians for higher education studies in 1980/81. The Government of Egypt provided additional information to that contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General (see A/34/480, para. 3) concerning scholarships granted to Palestinian students for higher education in Egypt.

4. In response to resolution 33/112 C, representatives of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) had discussions with UNRWA at which it was agreed that IMCO would approach its member States and the Arab League about scholarships in the field of maritime training for Palestinians.

5. In response to resolution 34/52 C, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) informed the Secretary-General of its agreement to grant five one-year fellowships for specialized training in agricultural studies to Palestinian university graduates and that nominations had been received from the Palestine National Fund. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) advised the Secretary-General of its decision to grant three fellowships during 1980 to nominees of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for studies at the Turin International Vocational Training Centre. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) informed the Secretary-General that, following its offer of scholarships in 1979 (see A/34/480, para. 4), it had received from UNRWA nominations of 12 Palestinian refugee candidates for WIPO awards. Subsequently, WIPO announced that scholarships had been awarded to three of these candidates for short-term courses in copyright and industrial property rights. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) advised that it had taken note of resolution 34/52 C, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that it was referring the resolution to its Executive Board.

6. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA has informed the Secretary-General that UNRWA will continue to make available to prospective candidates whatever information it receives about scholarships offered by Member States and specialized agencies for which Palestine refugee students might be eligible. It also is ready to act as the recipient and trustee of special allocations and scholarships whenever such funds and scholarships are made available to it for the benefit of Palestine refugees.

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