


General Assembly Security Council

 Distr.
GENERAL

 A/43/131 ✓
S/19487
9 February 1988
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-third session
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

 SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-third year

Letter dated 9 February 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement on the Middle East made at Bonn on 8 February 1988 by the Foreign Ministers of the twelve States members of the European Community (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and the attached text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Question of Palestine" and "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander COUNT YORK

ANNEX

Statement made at Bonn on 8 February 1988 by the
Foreign Ministers of the twelve States members of
the European Community on the Middle East

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Twelve had a thorough discussion on the situation in the occupied territories and the Arab-Israeli conflict. They expressed their profound concern at the deteriorating conditions in the occupied territories.
2. The status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable. The Foreign Ministers again stressed their conviction that the only solution is by means of a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as proposed by the Twelve in their 1980 Venice Declaration and their subsequent Declarations.
3. The Twelve reaffirm their strong support for an International Peace Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with their 23 February and 13 July 1987 Declarations, as the suitable framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned. They took note of the wide support given to such a Conference and urge all parties to work for agreement on the convening of it as early as possible. The Twelve will continue to play their full part in these efforts.

In that perspective they welcome all recent efforts to inject new impetus in the search towards a negotiated settlement to the conflict.
4. Without prejudging future political solutions, the Twelve remain determined to work towards improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Community is pursuing its own development programme for these territories, has granted additional humanitarian aid to their Palestinian population and is determined to promote direct exports of agricultural and industrial products from the territories to the Community market.
5. The Twelve deplore the Israeli settlement policy in the occupied territories and the diversion of resources to these illegal settlements. They acknowledge the valuable work by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the International Committee of the Red Cross in favour of the Palestinian population in the territories and expect Israel to facilitate the task of those bodies.
6. The Twelve urge Israel fully to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and with the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. They deeply deplore the repressive measures taken by Israel, which are in violation of international law and human rights. These measures must stop.

They strongly appeal to all parties to exercise maximum restraint in order to reduce the dangerous level of tension in the occupied territories.