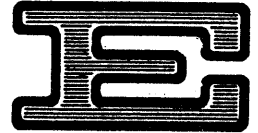




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Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda

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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE COMMISSION**

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

(VIII) Commission resolution 141 (XII) on the general study of
the economic and social situation and potential of the
Palestinian people

(VIII) Resolution 141 (XII) on the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian people

1. The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) adopted at its second session on 9 May 1975 resolution 12 (II) on preparing a general study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia. At its third session, the Commission adopted resolution 27 (III) on arrangements to carry out the study.

2. In implementation of the above resolutions the secretariat, on 14 April 1981 entrusted TEAM, the Arab Engineering and Management Consultancy Firm, with the carrying out of the study, which comprised about 2,000 pages in addition to a summary which was one of the documents presented to the ECWA tenth session in 1983 under the title of "final report on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people in the region of Western Asia". (E/ECWA/166/Add.1).

3. Following deliberations at its tenth session ECWA adopted resolution 123 (X) which provided for the formation of a seven-member sub-committee* to redraft the study. The sub-committee was composed of representatives of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Saudi Arabia. The sub-committee met during the period from 27 June to 3 August 1983 and redrafted the summary. The intention was to present it to the International Conference on the Question of Palestine which was held in Geneva in August 1983. However, it was decided before the Conference not to present it.

4. By resolution 121 (XI), adopted at the eleventh session of the ECWA held from 22 to 26 April 1984, the Commission decided to refer to member States the complete study together with its summary for comments and observations and requested that the sub-committee established pursuant to resolution 123 (X) meet to discuss such comments. However, the sub-committee was not convened for technical reasons.

5. The twelfth session of ECWA, held from 20 to 25 April 1985, adopted resolution 141 (XII) in which the Commission:

(a) Decides to refer the study to the secretariat for revision with the participation of the PLO and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and any other members that wish to participate, it being understood that the observations made or those that might be communicated up to the end of June 1985 will be taken into account;

(b) Also decides that the sub-committee shall begin its work within not more than one month after 25 April 1985 and that it is to complete the task entrusted to it by the end of August 1985 at the latest;

* Hereinafter referred to as the sub-committee.

(c) Requests the Executive Secretary to invite members to an intergovernmental meeting of the Economic Commission for Western Asia at a time no later than the end of October 1985 to approve the study."

6. In pursuance of the above resolution, ESCWA formed a working group of experts to review the study. The observations made were distributed to the members of the sub-committee.

7. The sub-committee referred to in resolution 141(XII) convened from 30 June to 8 September 1985 and was attended by representatives of Egypt, Jordan, the PLO and the working group formed by ESCWA secretariat. It met to amend and revise the study, and prepared a report (document E/ECWA/85/IG.1/3)

8. In its report, the sub-committee recommended that the Inter-governmental Meeting approve the "Summary of the social and economic conditions and potential of the Palestinian Arab People." In preparing the Summary, the sub-committee took into consideration all remarks and observations submitted on the original study. The sub-committee also recommended the approval of those parts of the study which it had reviewed. It also recommended another study on the economic conditions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under occupation and a thorough review and revision of the study entitled "Demographic, economic and social changes in Palestine during the British mandate".

9. The Inter-Governmental Meeting was convened from 28 to 31 October 1985 and was attended by representatives of Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Qatar and Yemen.

10. The Meeting considered the report prepared by the sub-committee, and at its closing session on 31 October 1985, adopted a resolution endorsing document E/ECWA/85/IG.1/WP.1 entitled "Summary of the general study of the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian People". It recommended its publication and distribution on the widest scale possible. It also approved parts of the study and recommended that they be published by ESCWA in proper technical form as resources became available. The recommendations of the inter-governmental Meeting are brought to the attention of the thirteenth session of ESCWA for approval.

11. In its report (E/ECWA/85/IG.1/4) the Inter-Governmental Meeting also recommends the following:

(a) Full release of social, economic and demographic data on Palestinians, by all States, particularly the ESCWA countries;

(b) Conducting a population census of the Palestinian Arab People in all the countries they are residing in, including the occupied territories. If a comprehensive census were not possible, alternative activities should be undertaken to collect statistical data on the widest scale possible in the ESCWA countries, with the co-operation of the host countries and the PLO;

(c) Establishing a data-bank for the Palestinian Arab People at the United Nations, to be an international focal point for following up the movements of the Palestinian people and registering their vital statistics;

(d) Establishing a registry in the United Nations for registering the land and other properties owned by Palestinians as well as the cultural heritage, inside Palestine;

(e) Calling upon ESCWA to co-operate with the PLO in enhancing the capabilities of the PLO Central Statistical Bureau in order to be able to cope with monitoring the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian People;

(f) Adopting measures for enhancing the capabilities of the PLO in the field of studying the social and economic problems of the Palestinian People and in registration, research and planning;

(g) Urging all ESCWA and other countries to continue an intensive study of the prevailing conditions in the occupied territories, especially with reference to the establishment of Israeli settlements, Jewish migration, Israeli economic exploitation of Palestinian manpower and the social, health and education services in the occupied lands.

10. The Inter-Governmental Meeting believes that the gloomy and tragic picture depicted by the study indicates that the factors and conditions under which the Palestinian Arab People are living are basically due to the fact that they are a people driven out of their homeland, and deprived of their land and their basic economic infrastructures. Consequently, the injustice inflicted upon them cannot be ended except by official and international assertion of their identity, by implementation of the United Nations resolutions, and by fulfilment of their inalienable right to self-determination and to establish an independent State on their soil and homeland.

