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LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 1979 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE
RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ADDRESSED TO
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People have authorized me, as Chairman of that Committee, to call your attention to the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolution 33/28, adopted on 7 December 1978.

In paragraph 8 of its resolution 33/28 A, the General Assembly once again urges the Security Council to consider and take as soon as possible a decision on the recommendations endorsed by the Assembly in its resolutions 31/20, 32/40 and 33/28. Those resolutions have, moreover, received the approval of our Organization as providing the basis for any solution to the problem of Palestine.

In a letter dated 18 January 1978 (S/12531) which I addressed to the President of the Security Council, I informed the members of the Council of the principles which inspired and guided the members of the Committee in formulating those recommendations. However, for whatever purpose it may serve, I take this opportunity to repeat them:

- (a) The question of Palestine is at the heart of the Middle East problem, and, consequently, the Committee stresses its belief that no solution in the Middle East can be envisaged which does not fully take into account the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.
- (b) The legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and property and to achieve self-determination, national independence and sovereignty are endorsed by the Committee in the conviction that the full implementation of these rights will contribute decisively to a comprehensive and final settlement of the Middle East crisis.
- (c) The participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with other parties, on the basis of General Assembly resolutions 3236 (XXIX) and 3375 (XXX), is indispensable in all efforts, deliberations and conferences on the Middle East which are held under the auspices of the United Nations.
- (d) The Committee recalls the fundamental principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and stresses the consequent obligation for complete and speedy evacuation of any territory so occupied.

I am convinced that you will spare no effort, as President of the Security Council, to ensure respect for these fundamental principles in any effort aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

I should also like to draw your attention to paragraph 9 of resolution 33/28 A, in which the General Assembly authorizes and requests the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, in the event that the Security Council fails to consider or to take a decision on those recommendations by 1 June 1979, to consider that situation and to make the suggestions it deems appropriate.

Furthermore, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 33/28 B, the Assembly requests the Committee to keep the situation relating to the question of Palestine under review and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or to the Security Council, as may be appropriate.

The Committee is profoundly convinced that concrete action by the Security Council on the basis of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations would without any doubt lead to the achievement of tangible progress towards a solution to the question of Palestine. The members of the Committee accordingly believe that the impasse currently prevailing in the region, characterized by the absence of any initiative that might lead to peace, and the prolongation of the illegal occupation of Arab territories are in no way conducive to the avoidance of new confrontations. Moreover, in the Committee's view, that impasse could lead only to an aggravation of the threat to international peace and security.

The Committee is therefore of the view that the need for concrete action by the Security Council is becoming increasingly urgent. It is especially so in view of the recent illegal measures taken by the Israeli Government for the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, measures which are scarcely conducive to a climate favouring the search for a peaceful solution in the region. The Committee notes that the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories violates the principles of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. What is more, such measures by the Israeli Government are in blatant contradiction to the spirit and letter of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on Palestine, in which the international community has not only condemned the illegal nature of such measures but has also drawn attention to the threat to international peace and security posed by the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

In the light of all the above considerations, the Committee, in keeping with the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolutions on Palestine, considers it important that the Security Council should take practical measures with a view to implementing the Committee's recommendations.

Please find attached those recommendations, which are contained in the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.*

* General Assembly, Official Records, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/33/35).

The Committee is convinced that the members of the Security Council will wish to re-examine those recommendations in accordance with the wish expressed by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Médoune FALL
Chairman of the Committee on
the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of
the Palestinian People
