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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE
FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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* Documents E/CN.4/1998/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1998/L.11 and addenda.

IV. QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 3rd to 5th meetings, from 17 to 18 March, concurrently with item 7 (see chap. VII), at its 6th to 10th meetings, from 18 to 20 March, and at its 20th meeting, on 27 March 1998. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 4, see annex IV to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

3. At the 3rd meeting, on 17 March 1998, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Mr. Hannu Halinen, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1998/17). At the 9th meeting, on 20 March 1998, the Special Rapporteur made his concluding remarks.

4. In the general debate on agenda item 4, statements 2/ were made by the following members of the Commission: Bangladesh (7th), Botswana (7th), Canada (8th), China (6th), Cuba (6th), India (3rd), Indonesia (4th), Japan (6th), Madagascar (6th), Malaysia (8th), Morocco (6th), Pakistan (8th), Republic of Korea (6th), Russian Federation (7th), Senegal (8th), Sudan (7th), Tunisia (on behalf of the Arab Group) (3rd), Ukraine (6th), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia) (5th), United States of America (7th).

5. The Commission heard statements by the observers for: Algeria (8th), Egypt (4th), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (8th), Israel (8th), Jordan (6th), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (8th), Norway (8th), Saudi Arabia (6th), Swaziland (8th), Syrian Arab Republic (4th), Yemen (8th). The observer for Palestine also made a statement (4th).

6. A statement was also made by the observer for the League of Arab States (4th).

7. The Commission also heard statements by the following non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International (4th), Association for World Education (4th), International Commission of Jurists (8th), International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (4th), International Save the Children Alliance (4th), Pax Christi International (4th).

8. A statement in exercise of the equivalent of the right of reply was made by the observer for Palestine (8th).

9. At its 20th meeting, on 27 March 1998, the Commission took up consideration of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 4.

Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

10. The observer for Egypt introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.3, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Malaysia subsequently joined the sponsors.

11. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the observers for Israel and Palestine.

12. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States of America.

13. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 31 votes to 1, with 20 abstentions.

The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Poland, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

14. The delegation of Venezuela later advised the Secretariat that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

15. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/1.

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

16. The observer for the Syrian Arab Republic introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.5, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Malaysia and Pakistan subsequently joined the sponsors.

17. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the observer for Israel.

18. A statement in explanation of vote before the vote was made by the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the European Union).

19. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote. At the request of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 33 votes to 1, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Venezuela.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

20. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1998/2.

Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories

21. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1998/L.7, sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,

Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Bangladesh, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, the Russian Federation and South Africa
subsequently joined the sponsors.

22. A statement in connection with the draft resolution was made by the
observer for Israel.

23. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a
vote by show of hands was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by
51 votes to 1, with no abstentions.

24. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A,
resolution 1998/3.
