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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. This report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 36/147 F of 16 December 1981, concerning Israeli practices relating to educational institutions in the occupied territories.
2. On 16 December 1981, the Secretary-General addressed the following note to the Permanent Representative of Israel:

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 36/147 F of 16 December 1981, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Reaffirms the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"2. Condemns Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the policy of opening fire on defenceless students, causing many casualties;

"3. Condemns the systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities in the occupied Palestinian territories, restricting and impeding academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting the selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, the admission of students and the appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities, in clear contravention of the Geneva Convention;

"4. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention and rescind all actions and measures against all educational institutions and ensure the freedom of these institutions, and that it rescind immediately orders for the closure of the universities of Bir Zeit, Bethlehem and Al-Najah and facilitate the resumption of education in the above-mentioned institutions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution before the end of 1981."

"While the Secretary-General has taken note of the statements made by the representative of Israel at the 34th and 46th meetings of the Special Political Committee, held on 18 and 30 November 1981, he would be grateful, in view of his reporting obligation under the resolution, if the Permanent Representative would inform him, preferably by 28 December 1981, of the action which his Government has taken or envisages to take in regard to the implementation of the resolution."

3. On 28 December 1981, the Permanent Representative of Israel addressed to the Secretary-General the following reply:

"The Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with regard to the latter's note of 16 December 1981 in reference to General Assembly resolution 36/147 F of 16 December 1981, has the honour to communicate the following.

"No orders were issued to close the universities of Bethlehem and Al-Najah. Both universities were open and functioning at the times the General Assembly passed resolution 36/147 F on 16 December 1981, and both universities are functioning normally at the present time.

"Regarding Bir Zeit University, the Permanent Representative of Israel has nothing further to add to the remarks made on this matter by the representative of Israel at the 34th and 46th meetings of the Special Political Committee, held respectively on 18 and 30 November 1981."