



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/722
27 November 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
Agenda items 25, 33, 75, 116 and 118

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 25 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In view of the recent resolution of 9 November 1981 adopted by the General Assembly (36/23) on co-operation between the United Nations and the Islamic Conference, I should like to invite your attention to the resolutions of the Twelfth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (held at Baghdad from 1 to 5 June 1981) which were circulated on 12 August 1981, as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council, at the request of the Permanent Representative of Iraq (A/36/421-S/14626 and Corr.1).

I trust Your Excellency will agree that those resolutions make bizarre reading as a United Nations document. They contain, for example, repeated reference to the "Declaration of Holy Jihad" (Holy War) adopted at the Third Islamic Summit Conference (held in Saudi Arabia from 25 to 28 January 1981), and there is even a separate resolution on the subject (resolution No. 17/12-P). It is difficult to see how a call for "Holy War" against Israel can be reconciled with the United Nations Charter, under which Members of the United Nations undertake, inter alia, to settle their international disputes by peaceful means (Art. 2, para. 3) and to refrain in their international relations from the use and even threat of force (Art. 2, para. 4).

Any doubts about the interpretation to be given to "Holy War" in this context are removed by resolution No. 14/12-P on "The Islamic Office for Military

Co-ordination with Palestine", which clearly indicates the military aspect involved. Moreover, in the preamble of the resolution, reference is made not only to the "Declaration of Holy Jihad" but also to the "Islamic Programme of Action to counter the Zionist Enemy" and the "Makka Declaration", both adopted at the Third Islamic Summit in Saudi Arabia in January of this year. Examination of that "Islamic Programme" against Israel, circulated at the request of the representative of Saudi Arabia together with the other resolutions adopted at the above-mentioned Islamic Summit as document A/36/138 of 31 March 1981, reveals, among other things, a commitment on the part of Islamic States "to make use of all their military, political, economic and natural resources, including oil". All those resources are to be used not only to undermine Israel, but also against all States which extend any support whatsoever to Israel.

Moreover, it is not always immediately apparent how the resolutions of the Twelfth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers can be reconciled with the resolutions of the Security Council, the United Nations organ with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. For instance, the repeated demands for an "immediate, total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal" from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District scarcely sit well with Security Council resolution 242 (1967) which constitutes the only agreed basis for a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. But then one does not need to engage in speculation. Operative paragraph 7 in the "Islamic Programme" to which I have already referred brands Security Council resolution 242 (1967) as "inconsistent with Palestinian and Arab rights", and repudiates it as a "sound basis" for the solution of the Arab-Israel conflict.

One of the more intriguing elements in this document is to be found in the sixth preambular paragraph of resolution No. 1/12-P (A/36/421-S/14626 and Corr.1) where it is asserted that some of Israel's positions "constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the Islamic Conference". In the context of the co-operation between the United Nations and the Islamic Conference, I should be grateful if you could ascertain whether that Conference's Charter is believed to be applicable to Israel and indeed whether the passage in question is to be construed as an invitation to Israel to join the Islamic Conference.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 25, 33, 75, 116 and 118.

(Signed) Yehuda Z. BLUM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations