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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-eighth session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

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

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-seventh session the Commission on Human Rights adopted on 11 February 1981 resolutions 1 A and B (XXXVII). By paragraph 19 of resolution 1 A (XXXVII) the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and the international humanitarian organizations and to give it the widest possible publicity, and to report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session. By paragraph 6 of resolution 1 B (XXXVII) the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, the regional intergovernmental organizations, the international humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations.
2. In accordance with the request of the Commission the Secretary-General brought resolutions 1 A and B (XXXVII) to the attention of all Governments, by note verbale dated 16 June 1981. The resolutions were also brought to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council in document A/36/344-S/14567. They were communicated to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People by letters dated 16 June 1981.
3. Furthermore, the resolutions were transmitted to all the specialized agencies and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, and the League of Arab States were also sent copies of the resolutions.
4. In response to the request of the Commission on Human Rights the Department of Public Information took steps to ensure that resolution 1 A (XXXVII) would receive the widest possible publicity.
5. Resolution 1 A (XXXVII) was given full coverage in press releases, both in English and French, and the text was made available to the information media. Subsequent discussions on the subject in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly were also fully covered in press releases.

6. The May 1981 issue of the United Nations chronicle reported extensively on the adoption of the resolution.

7. Extensive coverage was provided on film, still photographs and radio newscasts and programmes of General Assembly and Security Council meetings related to the subject. The Committee on Palestinian Rights, the Commission on Human Rights conference in Geneva and the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people were also covered. The subject was also emphasized in the radio programme "the Week at the United Nations" with global distribution, as well as regionally targeted programmes for the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

8. The 60 United Nations information centres were instructed to publicize all resolutions on Palestinian questions, including resolution 1 A (XXXVII) of the Human Rights Commission. They were urged to undertake a publicity campaign on 30 November 1981 (International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people) and so far 21 centres have reported on measures taken in that regard.

9. Information material, bulletins and special studies on the subject were distributed by the centres to the press, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. The centres were also informed of statements made by the Secretary-General and other United Nations officials in connection with Solidarity Day.

10. A special non-governmental organization briefing was given and a film depicting the life of refugees in Jordan was shown in connection with the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people. In addition all relevant documentation and publications were made available to representatives of over 350 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department of Public Information.

11. In response to over 400 inquiries, the public at large was provided with relevant information with special attention devoted to requests for information on the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories.