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## REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the  
occupied Arab territoriesReport of the Secretary-General

1. The question of sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories has been engaging the attention of the General Assembly since its twenty-seventh session (resolution 3005 (XXVII)), and at its twenty-ninth session it adopted resolution 3336 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it requested the Secretary-General to "prepare a report on the adverse economic effects on the Arab States and peoples, resulting from repeated Israeli aggression and continued occupation of their territories, to be submitted to its thirtieth session". At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/32/204) submitted in response to resolution 31/186 of 21 December 1976, and adopted resolution 32/161, in which it noted that the report did not cover all pertinent losses which it proceeded to outline in paragraph 2 of that resolution. The question was taken up again by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session when, in resolution 34/136 of 14 December 1979, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to its thirty-fifth session a report which took into consideration the provisions of paragraph 2 of resolution 32/161. The request was repeated in resolution 35/110 of 5 December 1980.
2. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/648), adopted resolution 36/173 of 17 December 1981, in which it requested the Secretary-General, among other things, to submit to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session a comprehensive report on permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and proposals for follow-up and implementation.
3. With a view to gathering the information required for the above report, a note verbale was addressed to the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon

and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the Permanent Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Relevant information was requested by 31 August 1982 at the latest. Letters were also addressed to the specialized agencies and organs and units of the United Nations which could provide relevant information on this subject.

4. A reply, dated 8 September 1982, has been received from the Permanent Representative of Israel who stated that his Government's position on the resolutions pertaining to the subject of permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Arab territories had been outlined in his note verbale of 3 August 1981 (see A/36/648, appendix VII).

5. Replies have been received from the Syrian Arab Republic dated 17 September 1981 and 8 October 1982. Both letters address themselves to the overall results of the occupation of the Golan Heights. The latter, in particular, contains, *inter alia*, the following information with regard to the financial effects of the Israeli occupation of the Golan (subparagraph 2 (c) of the Mission's note of 17 September 1981)

"the financial losses to the State budget totalled LS 3,525 million, on the average, for the period from 1967 to mid-1981, an average of LS 235 million a year. To this should be added the amount of LS 235 million for the past year from mid-1981 to mid-1982, making an overall total of LS 3,760 million".

6. The United Nations Development Programme referred to the decisions of its Governing Council, 79/18 of June 1979 and 82/13 of June 1982, which provided for the initiation and later continuation of a new Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People, designed to help meet their economic and social needs through a series of development projects implemented largely in the occupied territories. The United Nations Children's Fund furnished information on assistance being provided to Palestinian mothers and children in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as part of the programme approved by its Executive Board at its 1980 session. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, while referring to the services it is providing in the fields of education, health and relief, stated that its mandate did not give UNRWA authority to deal with the question of permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied territories. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations provided information on assistance that is being given to the Palestinian people in pursuance of the Economic and Social Council resolutions 2026 (LXI) and 2100 (LXIII) as part of the programme of technical assistance approved by the Governing Council of UNDP. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization provided information on actions taken by it for the protection of cultural property in Jerusalem.

7. In addition to the above, certain data concerning the occupied Arab territories are also published in various official documents. However, the information available proved insufficient for the preparation of a comprehensive report which would add appreciably to the information contained in the report on the subject submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session (A/36/648) and the relevant sections of the report contained in document A/37/238.

In particular, the lack of access to the territories prevented the collection of information regarding the effects of developments that took place there during the last 12 months. These developments included the extension of Israeli law to the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and certain administrative measures taken in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

8. In these circumstances, the Secretary-General has not been in a position to complete the comprehensive report requested by the General Assembly. Every effort will be made to prepare such a report in time for submission to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, together with the report on "the implications, under international law of the United Nations resolutions on permanent sovereignty over natural resources, on the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and on the obligations of Israel concerning its conduct in these territories" called for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 36/173.

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