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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR
PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Letter dated 4 June 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to recall to Your Excellency's attention a message dated 23 May 1979 which I sent to you and which, at the request of the Arab Group, I requested be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly to all Member States under the item on the Palestine refugees (A/34/281, annex).

Inasmuch as the said communication accurately depicted the plight of the Palestine refugees and the impending threat to their three-year cycle of preparatory education and the basic subsistence, within the next few weeks, if the \$36 million deficit was not met, the said communication remains substantively correct.

It is, however, deeply regretted that the wording of the communication may have given rise to confusion as to where responsibility lies in the failure of the United Nations to shoulder its full responsibilities to the victimized Palestinian refugees, as well as to the over-burdened host Governments.

I would be remiss in my duty if I did not clarify the confusion which has arisen inadvertently, in consequence of a generalized formulation. Knowing full well the ceaseless efforts, numerous appeals to Member States as well as the deep commitment which Your Excellency personally and officially holds towards the Palestine refugees, my Government deems it its solemn duty to acknowledge and highly commend Your Excellency's incessant efforts on behalf of the Palestine refugees. The commendation should likewise be expressed to Your Excellency's assistants, both at Headquarters and in the field, who have done so much, with so little, for so many, over the years.

* A/34/50.

If there is a stark failure in shouldering the full responsibilities towards the Palestine refugees, and such failure is self-evident, it is attributable to States Members of the United Nations.

Needless to state that it is the Member States which give or withhold adequate contributions; it is the Member States which decide on the scale of priorities in the allocation of funding. The executive branch of the United Nations, under the leadership of Your Excellency, can do no more than the Member States are willing to enable you to do.

The Jordan Mission as well as the other Arab Missions which requested the circulation of the original communication of 23 May 1979 wish to reiterate that they hold Your Excellency in full confidence and highest esteem.

At the same time they feel it their duty to make a further appeal, on behalf of the Palestine refugees, to the esteemed States Members of the United Nations, with a view to averting a further dislocation in the already tragic situation of those refugees, who are in the trust of the world Organization, pending their repatriation to their ancestral homeland in Palestine.

I have the honour to request Your Excellency to have this communication circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 50 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Hazem NUSEIBEH
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
