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PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AGAINST COLONIALISM, RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, FOREIGN AGGRESSION AND OCCUPATION, AND ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN DOMINATION

The situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/123. The report attempts to summarize new developments on the subject and to review major recent initiatives undertaken by the United Nations for the assistance of women and children living under <u>apartheid</u> and in the occupied Arab territories.

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INTRODUCTION

- 1. The present report of the Secretary-General has been prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/123 of 4 May 1982 by which the Council approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women as recommended by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session.
- 2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 23 of the annex to its resolution 34/24 of 15 November 1979, had requested that "a study ... be prepared in 1981 by the Commission on the Status of Women on the situation of women and children living under the racist minority régimes in southern Africa, especially under the apartheid régime, and of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories".
- 3. Substantial information on those subjects was subsequently submitted to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980. 1/
- 4. At its twenty-ninth session, the Commission on the Status of Women had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the question (E/CN.6/1982/10), referring to the Conference reports for information.
 - I. REVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVING UNDER THE RACIST MINORITY REGIMES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY UNDER THE APARTHEID REGIME

A. Background

- 5. The issue of the situation of women and children living under the <u>apartheid</u> régimes in South Africa and Namibia has been the subject of a number of resolutions adopted by the international community, in the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies. The United Nations, aware of its special responsibility towards the oppressed people in South Africa and Namibia, has repeatedly drawn attention to the special problems faced by women under the <u>apartheid</u> régime and has recommended action both at the international and national levels.
- 6. The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, adopted resolution 33/189 of 29 January 1979, by which it decided to include in the agenda of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, the item "Effects of apartheid on women in southern Africa", with particular reference to "(a) review of the situation" and "(b) special measures for assistance to women in southern Africa".
- 7. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of the annex to resolution 34/24, stated that "the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be held in 1980, should contribute to the struggle

against racism, racial discrimination and <u>apartheid</u> by recommending the adoption of other measures aimed at ensuring the active participation of women in the struggle against these evils".

- The issue of the situation of women and children living under apartheid was discussed at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, based on four reports prepared by the World Conference secretariat: report on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa and Namibia (A/CONF.94/7/Rev.1), report on measures of assistance for women in southern Africa (A/CONF.94/6/Rev.1), report on the effects of apartheid on the employment of women in South Africa and a history of the role of women in the trade unions (A/CONF.94/BP/16), report on the role of women in the struggle for liberation in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa (A/CONF.94/5) as well as a summary report of the Helsinki and Montreal seminars on women and apartheid (A/CONF.94/BP/17). As a result, the Conference adopted resolution 45, in which it urged "all organizations of the United Nations system, Governments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, women's and anti-apartheid groups, non-governmental organizations and other groups to give the highest priority to the questions of measures of assistance to women in South Africa and Namibia during the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women". 2/ The Conference endorsed the comprehensive programme for measures of assistance for women in South Africa and Namibia as contained in document A/CONF.94/6.
- 9. In its Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 3/ the World Conference called for solidarity campaigns with women struggling against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and for national independence and liberation, to give women all possible assistance, including support from agencies of the United Nations system as well as other organizations and "legal, humanitarian, moral and political assistance to women inside South Africa and Namibia persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation and practices and to their families and to women in refugee camps". 4/
- 10. The General Assembly, in resolution 35/206 N of 16 December 1980, endorsed the recommendations of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. It encouraged women's organizations to proclaim an International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia and requested the Special Committee against Apartheid and its Task Force on Women and Children "to promote and monitor the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women".
- 11. By its resolution 36/172 K of 17 December 1981, the General Assembly invited "all Governments and organizations to observe 9 August annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia", encouraged the Special Committee against Apartheid to intensify activities in support of women and children oppressed by apartheid, and authorized it to organize conferences, seminars and missions for that purpose. It requested the Secretary-General "to ensure the closest co-operation by the Centre against Apartheid and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as well as the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, with a view to maximum publicity for the plight of women and children under apartheid and their struggle for national liberation".

- 12. The Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session, adopted resolution 1982/24 of 4 May 1982, by which it supported General Assembly resolution 36/172 K. In addition, the Council appealed "to all Governments to make generous contributions to the various funds for southern Africa, including the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa". The Council welcomed "the decision of the Special Committee against Apartheid to organize, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia, an international conference on women and apartheid, to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982".
- 13. The present chapter is based mainly on information gathered from United Nations documents. Although a large number of United Nations publications on apartheid have been issued since 1980, only a few of them relate to the situation of women and children under apartheid.
- 14. The present report emphasizes the situation of black women and children. The black population in South Africa represents the majority of the population. It should be stressed that other groups, such as "Coloureds" and Asian people, are seriously affected by apartheid laws and practices as well.
- 15. With respect to Namibia, reference is made to the report on social conditions in Namibia (A/CONF.120/5), prepared by the United Nations Council for Namibia for the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence, held in Paris from 25 to 29 April 1983.

B. Political and social aspects of the situation

1. Political aspects

- 16. The political situation in South Africa during the past two years has been characterized by the further development of organized resistance by all segments of the black population, including women and children, by increased repression by the apartheid régime, the propagation of so-called "reforms" by the South African régime to divide the oppressed people and the rejection of those "reforms" by men and women affected by the apartheid policies. 5/
- 17. For political purposes inside and outside the country, the régime proposed some constitutional changes, which, in essence, are designed to maintain the white minority domination and exploitation. The President's Council, that is, a body which has been in existence since January 1981 and on which blacks and in consequence black women are not represented, recommended that Coloureds and Asians but not blacks be given some kind of representation in the Parliament. The Parliament would consist of three chambers, for Whites, Coloureds and Asians. Elections for the legislature would be done by means of separate voters' rolls. Bills would have to be passed by the Joint Committees of the three chambers by consensus before they are tabled in the Parliament. Furthermore, memberships in the Parliament and cabinet would be on a proportional basis, ensuring white domination. This "reform" proposal excluded 80 per cent of South Africa's

population from representation. The régime debated measures that would give urban blacks only some rights in their local affairs, at what is called "the third level of government". This so-called dispensation has been strongly opposed by the black population and not the least by black women who are deprived of adequate representation (A/AC.115/SR.526).

(a) Policy of "bantustanization"

- 18. South Africa continues its policy of "bantustanization" by removing black Africans, mostly women and children, into squatter camps, the so-called self-governing homelands (now termed "national states" by the African régime) based on the "immigration laws" (Admission of Aliens to the Republic Act). On 4 December 1981, South Africa declared the bantustan of Ciskei as an "independent homeland"; Ciskei became the fourth homeland to be given such "independence". On 15 December 1981, the Security Council issued a statement condemning "the purported proclamation of the 'independence' of the Ciskei" and declaring it "totally invalid". The Council also declared that South Africa's proclamation was "designed to divide and dispossess the African people and establish client-states under its domination in order to perpetuate apartheid". It called upon all Governments to deny any form of recognition to the so-called "independent bantustans", to refrain from having any dealings with them, and to reject travel documents issued by them". 6/
- 19. As citizens of independent "homelands", blacks lose the right to a South African passport. They receive a passport of the "homeland", which restricts their freedom of movement in and outside the country. "Pass laws" and the tightening of movement from the "homelands" multiplied the problems of black women.

(b) Oppressive laws and practices

- 20. Political suppression of non-white men and women in South Africa is effected through a network of oppressive laws.
- 21. A new bill, entitled the "Orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill", also known as the Influx Bill, was introduced to Parliament in June 1982. It is intended to replace the Urban Areas Act of 1945 and control the lives of urban Africans more stringently. The new "pass laws" would grant extraordinary powers to the authorities summarily to remove African settlements and prohibit unauthorized Africans from staying in white areas overnight. The proposals allow blacks to visit urban areas during the day provided they are carrying a reference (passbook or a "homeland" travel document; without a document they will be subject to arrest). "If found at work without permission, they and their employer will be subject to fines or imprisonment. Without a permit to be there, any Black found in a street, in a house, in a Black township or in a house in a White suburb inside an urban area, between 22:00 hours and 05:00 hours, will be arrested." 7/ Since most black women living in white urban areas have been working in the service sector without a working permit, they are affected most severely by the new Bill.
- 22. New security laws were promulgated in 1982 against trade union leaders. The Intimidation Act, No. 72 of 1982, which makes it a crime to put pressure on anyone

"to assume or abandon a particular standpoint", is likely to affect community campaigns held in solidarity with black trade unions. The Act has already been used in recent strikes in Durban when unionists, including women, were charged under that Act. It provides for a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail. The Internal Security Act of 1982 (No. 74 of 1982), which came into force on 2 July 1982, retained the harshest provisions of the then existing security laws, such as detentions without trial. 8/

- 23. The continuing increase in industrial disputes and strikes was answered by further repressive action against workers and trade unionists throughout 1982. The South African régime continued with political trials based on arbitrary security laws, imposing severe sentences on opponents of apartheid. It took, among others, hundreds of trade unionists, including women, to court. On 1 December, the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid issued a statement denouncing the arrests of a large number of trade union, student and other leaders. Over 30 trade unionists were detained, including Mrs. Emma Mashinini, General Secretary of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union. 9/ In the second half of 1981, 30,534 male and 7,265 female Africans were arrested by police for offences relating to reference books and influx control.
- 24. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights had repeatedly reported on the situation of black women and children, in connection with the intensified repression by the apartheid régime. A witness, Mrs. P. Preston, reported to the Working Group about the treatment in police cells and described conditions at Pollsmor and Pretoria Central Prisons where many of those arrested women are taken. Previous reports of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts have described conditions in detention for black women, who have been interrogated, tortured and sexually assaulted. According to further information available to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, women continue to feature on every list of persons detained without trial under the arbitrary security laws. 10/

(c) Struggle of women in southern Africa against apartheid

- 25. Resistance to <u>apartheid</u> has grown during the past years. Men and women of all segments of the population expressed their opposition to <u>apartheid</u>. The representatives of the women's section of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) reported at the International Conference at Brussels that women were uniting everywhere and "fighting with determination against pass laws and influx control, against the rise in cost of bread, mealie meal, meat, paraffin, rent, electricity and transport. They send deputations, demonstrate boycott buses. They fight eviction, forced mass removals and resettlements. They refuse to live in huts or hiding in bushes. When their children fight for free and equal education, they stand with them". 11/ The Women's Federation of South Africa organized meetings particularly against unacceptable rent increases and forced population removals.
- 26. In August 1982, women all over South Africa commemorated the twenty-sixth anniversary of the great march of women on 9 August 1956 against the pass laws. 12/ In the last few years, democratic white women have increasingly participated in the black women's struggle against apartheid.

- 27. By the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Act, No. 94 (1979) (A/CONF.119/13, para. 57), unions with black members became eligible for registration. The new legislation provides a mechanism of control and brings black unions under official surveillance. However, the independent black trade union movement grew in impressive numbers and has become a vehicle for achieving wider social and political goals. 13/ General workers unions, organizing mainly in the service sector, have drawn many women into the trade union movement in recent years.
- 28. Women in trade unions in South Africa have supported the struggle of black women workers by denouncing <u>apartheid</u> against women workers, supporting sanctions against the South African minority régime, discouraging loans to the South African Government, and opposing the activities of transnational corporations which provide arms to the South African régime. They fight for higher wages, equal opportunities for work and equal wages.
- 29. Despite the fact that labour laws severely restrict the right to strike and make "illegal" strikes a crime, a number of strikes has increased considerably. Some 92,842 workers and 297 companies were involved in strikes in 1981. A total of 84,706 of them were Africans and the rest were Coloureds and Asians. Large strikes took place in the sugar, metal, clothing and automobile industries and concerned mainly wage demands, dismissals of workers and union recognition. 14/
- 30. Women participated in strikes for higher wages and better conditions in Eveready, Port Elizabeth, Rainbow Chicken Factories in Worcester and Hammerdale, Fattis and Monis and Sea Harvest Fish Factory in Saldanha Bay, Fruit Growers' Co-operatives in Cores and Grabouw, Heldenburg Meat Products, and Textile Factories in East London. 15/
- 31. The success of women's struggle against <u>apartheid</u> is hampered by the activities of transnational corporations and their increased military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa. More than 1,000 subsidiaries are active in the military field in that country. "Such colloboration, in flagrant violation of United Nations resolutions and the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council, rendered substantial support to the <u>apartheid</u> régime and enabled it to pursue its policy of oppression inside South Africa and Namibia" (A/AC.115/SR.512).

2. Social aspects

32. Discriminatory laws and practices continue to govern the daily lives of South Africans affected by <u>apartheid</u>, particularly those of women.

(a) Living conditions

33. Owing to the migrant labour policies in South Africa, most families are disrupted as a matter of course. Those families very rarely live together as husband, wife and children. Men are compelled to seek employment in "white" territories, leaving their families behind. Women have to shoulder the responsibility for the children and their household. Because of this situation, women suffer tremendous emotional stress in addition to economic hardships

- (A/CONF.119/12). The number of blacks in "white" areas is reported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as having increased from 7.25 million (1970) to 9.5 million (1980); the total black population resident in the "homelands" increased from 4.7 million in 1960 to 11.33 million in 1980. 16/
- 34. For all Africans "there is an enormous shortage of housing, 17,000 houses are needed immediately in the urban areas and a further 260,000 in the rural areas". 17/
- 35. Housing provided for Africans in towns is reported to be "inadequate, lacking running water or electricity. The housing is usually overcrowded and sparse having a negative impact on Africans who have to live there". 18/ ILO, in its special report, 1983, stated that the conditions of black women in the "homelands" have not changed within the last eight years.
- 36. In principle, "an African woman is not entitled to the tenancy of a house in a black residential area. If a woman, living legally with her husband in a family dwelling, becomes widowed, divorced or separated, she is not entitled to assume the tenancy of her home. A recent concession does, however, allow a widowed or deserted mother of dependent children the right to occupy her home if the official concerned regards her as a fit person to do so". 19/

(b) Health

- 37. Medical services in South Africa for non-whites are inadequate. Only 5 per cent of all available doctors are practising in rural areas where 60 per cent of the total population live, mostly women and children. Their services cannot be extended to the vast majority of those who need them. The poor living conditions cause epidemics in the African communities. As reported by the Special Committee against Apartheid, "the polio epidemic spread within the second quarter of the current year, with the highest incidence in Gazankulu, South-East Transvaal, where 200 children were being treated at mid-July and a number of others had died, and the so-called 'independent homeland' of Venda". 20/
- 38. Lack of government hospitals in the "homelands" leaves the residents dependent on native cures, which do not always prove useful (A/CONF.119/12, chap. III). A witness described her experience as a nurse at the King Edward III hospital, the second largest hospital in South Africa, as being "overcrowded and understaffed, so that women admitted in labour had to be hastened out of their beds immediately after childbirth to make room for the next patient. Some 20,000 babies are delivered there a year. Infant mortality is so high that 'women aim for 10 children if they want to bring up five'. ... the majority of patients treated in the hospital suffered from preventable illnesses, such as kwashiorkor, bronchial pneumonia and measles. Among women patients the rates of hypertension, accidental haemorrhaging and eclampsia high blood pressure accompanied by fits are very high as a direct result of poor antenatal care and poor nutrition" (E/CN.4/1497, para. 21).
- 39. In the Onvermagt Camp, for example, which was set up during 1979, the population is estimated to be more than 120,000. Its health facilities were compared with those of Houghton, one of Johannesburg's suburbs. Some

- 1,900 children die before the age of four. 21/ The average death rate is 20 people a week.
- 40. In November 1981, the Director-General of the Department of Health of South Africa stated that South Africa's population growth was continuing at a high level. He gave evidence to the Science Committee of the President's Council, stating that the existence of whites, Coloureds and Asians will be seriously threatened by the black population's uncontrolled growth. He advised that strong action be taken to reduce black people by 30 to 60 million in 60 years time. In March 1982, the Government of South Africa Family Planning Policy had lowered fertility rates from 46 to 25 per 1,000 Coloured people, and 44 to 36 per 1,000 Africans; sterilizations were carried out on 1,081 black people, 800 of them men. 22/

(c) Education

- 41. The education policies of the <u>apartheid</u> régime in South Africa restrict black African children to inferior education and training which hampers their mental and psychological development. Although both sexes suffer from the poor education system, the rate of school attendance is lower among African girls than boys and more boys graduate than girls. 23/
- 42. As far as access to education is concerned, little has changed in the last few years. Education became free in 1981 but not compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 16. "... it remains segregated by official policy which places responsibility for education administration on the racially based 'second-tier' authorities". 24/
- 43. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights reported that "shortages of school places prevent many children receiving education: in Kwazulu 900 children were turned away because of lack of places; and in the East Rand township of Tembisa hundreds of pupils had received no lessons three weeks after the beginning of term because of shortages of teachers and class-rooms" (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 64).
- 44. In January 1982 new regulations were enacted which impose limits on the admission of black pupils into schools. Pupils over 20 years of age are no longer admitted to the final year (standard 10), pupils over 18 years of age are not admitted to standard 8, without the permission of the (black) Department of Education and Training. "The effect of the regulations was to exclude thousands of pupils who would have other wise been admitted. Pretexts of shortages of school equipment and overcrowding of buildings were also causes of complaint in many areas." 25/
- 45. The inadequate education system towards black pupils was illustrated in a report by the National Manpower Commission, published in 1982. This report reveals that "more than half of the 622,000 black pupils who left school in 1981 did so before they had learned to read and write properly". 26/

(d) Employment

- 46. As ILO stated in its report, the situation of the African woman has not changed within the last eight years. To the exploitation as a black and as a woman, "a third role in which she is at a disadvantage should be added, that of the black woman as a worker". 27/
- 47. African women make up a large proportion of the unemployed. According to a 1982 report by ANC, 70 per cent of the rural female population in southern Africa is unemployed. 28/
- 48. Employment opportunities are generally restricted to the two sectors with the lowest pay and the greatest exploitation: agriculture and the industries set up in the "border areas". Thus, about 80 to 90 per cent of the economically active women work on farms as domestic workers; the rest work in the border industries which are not subjected to the wage determination safeguards and agreements that apply in the rest of South Africa. 29/
- 49. The Special Committee against Apartheid stated that three decades after the introduction of the policy of bantustanization "only 13 per cent of the income of bantustans is generated internally, and the bantustans can absorb only 28 per cent of the labour force that they generated annually. The cumulative result of growing large-scale unemployment and very limited resources in bantustans is increasing poverty and starvation leading to search for work in white areas". 30/
- 50. As a result of the Wiehahn Commission on Labour Legislation, which affects women as workers, the Wage Act, 1957, has been amended to prohibit the use of sex or marital status as a basis for differing wage rates within industrial agreements or Wage Board determinations in certain unorganized sectors. In addition, the restrictions on overtime work by women were lifted to bring them into line with men and the restriction on the employment of women on night work after 1800 hours was removed "in the interests of the optimum utilization of manpower". The Government rejected recommendations that the period of pre-confinement leave be extended from four to six weeks, that termination of employment on the grounds of pregnancy be prohibited and that employers be required to reinstate female employees at the end of an approved absence from work due to pregnancy". 31/

(i) Women industrial workers

- 51. The effects of influx control exclude most African women from employment in the industrial sector. According to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights, "there are still relatively few African women in industrial jobs some 70,000 out of a total of 214,000 women production workers of all races" (E/CN.4/1497, para. 43).
- 52. A witness before the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights reported that African women working in factories are working in exactly the same conditions as men but the average African woman earned only half the wage of her male counterpart (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 37).

(ii) Women domestic workers

- 53. Domestic service accounts for 38 per cent of all employed African women. Africans comprise 88.9 per cent of all domestic workers in South Africa and of these, 88.4 per cent are women. 32/
- 54. Domestic workers are not protected by any legislation concerning working hours and minimum wages which applies to other workers in factories, shops, offices and mines. 33/ The Domestic Workers' Employees Project had established that domestic workers in the cities work from 10 to 11 hours daily, between 55 and 65 hours a week. Many employers are reluctant to give their servants paid leave. They have no official maternity leave and no workmen's compensation (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 27). A recent survey revealed that "full-time wages for domestic workers averaged R59 in the cities and R43 in rural areas; and that part-time or daily wages were R5.70 in the cities and R3.40 in rural areas" (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 31).
- 55. The National Manpower Commission announced that it would hold an inquiry to establish minimum working conditions for farm and domestic workers. Several organizations concerned with domestic workers have made recommendations relating to wages and hours of work. The Domestic Workers and Salesladies Association of Port Elizabeth recommended: "a minimum monthly wage of R110 for a full-time worker; R10 a day for daily workers or R5 for a half-day; a 44-hour week or 8-hour day; 12 days' sick leave; and one month's paid annual leave". Employers quoted figures of R40 to R60 as being a reasonable monthly wage for full-time domestic servants, claiming that "in-kind extras", such as room, food and overalls, would bring the value of wages up to around R110. They complained that they could not afford to pay higher wages. It is known on the other hand that "they can afford to give their kids R100 in pocket money" (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 26).

(iii) <u>Women farm-workers</u>

- 56. Agriculture is the second largest employer of black women in southern Africa. According to the information available to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights, "approximately one third of economically active African women work in the agricultural sector" (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 33).
- 57. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights identified "farmworkers as the most heavily exploited group in South Africa". It stated that "women constitute the majority of these casual workers and are paid the lowest wages" (E/CN.4/1497, para. 41).
- 58. A group of independent researchers studying farm labour conditions found that "labourers worked 12-14 hours a day with no overtime or leave pay; that when they lost their job they lost their house; that one family earned only R180 a year from the mother's and father's joint wages; that women made R1 from three days of washing; and that workers who earned R20 a month (or 9 cents an hour) had to work for one and a half days before they could afford a tin of corned beef at trading store prices" (E/CN.4/1983/38, para. 34).
- 59. Only a minority of women has access to land and fewer still are able to produce sufficient food to feed themselves. Wages and conditions of work are reported to be considerably below those in the urban areas.

C. Activities to promote awareness of the plight of women and children under apartheid

- 60. The Special Committee against Apartheid, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia, has organized or co-sponsored international, regional and national conferences to promote broader awareness of the plight of women and children under apartheid and to promote world-wide concerted action to assist them.
- 61. On 11 August 1981, the Special Committee against Apartheid held a solemn meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia, in memory of "the historic demonstration of South African women against the pass laws in Pretoria on 9 August 1956". It decided to establish an International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia. 34/
- 62. In the following years, in 1982 and 1983, the Special Committee against Apartheid continued to observe 9 August as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women of South Africa and Namibia. Solemn meetings were also held at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna.
- 63. Members of the ANC women's section, from various parts of southern Africa, met at Luanda, from 10 to 14 September 1981, to review the current situation in their struggle, both inside and outside southern Africa, particularly in regard to children and their young parents who had left the country since 1976.
- 64. The International Conference on Women and <u>Apartheid</u>, held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982, attended by 300 persons, including representatives of relevant United Nations organs and other intergovernmental organizations, front-line States, States invited by the Special Committee, national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations, and anti-<u>apartheid</u> movements, trade unions, churches and development associations, reviewed the situation in southern Africa, with particular reference to the repression of women in South Africa and Namibia and their participation in the struggle for national liberation (A/AC.115/L.571 and Corr.1).
- 65. The Conference adopted a Declaration (A/AC.115/L.571, para. 35) in which it, inter alia, pledged further assistance for relevant projects in support of women and children under apartheid.
- 66. In co-operation with the Government of the Philippines, the Special Committee against Apartheid organized the Asian Regional Conference on Action against Apartheid at Manila from 24 to 26 May 1982, at which it called on the Governments to intensify all forms of assistance to women and children, who suffer most (A/AC.115/L.573).
- 67. The Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva from 1 to 12 August 1983 to review and evaluate the activities undertaken to achieve the goals and objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at the national, regional and international levels and to

implement the Programme of Action adopted by the First World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1978, adopted a Declaration in which it, inter alia, emphasized the need to end discrimination against women. 35/

D. Assistance to women and children living under the apartheid régime in southern Africa

- 68. In compliance with the pertinent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, United Nations organs have taken action to intensify their assistance to women and children under apartheid.
- 69. The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established by the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 2054 B (XX) of 15 December 1965, is made up of voluntary contributions from States, organizations and individuals, and is used for grants to voluntary organizations, Governments of host countries of refugees from South Africa and other appropriate bodies for legal assistance to persons persecuted under the repressive and discriminatory legislation of South Africa, relief to such persons and their dependants, education of such persons and their dependants, and relief for refugees from South Africa (A/35/509, para. 1).
- 70. In 1980, the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa reviewed "the contribution of the Trust Fund in ensuring provision of legal assistance to all those persecuted", including women and children, "under repressive and discriminatory legislation, as well as humanitarian assistance to all dependants in need". The direct contributions from Governments and the public, supplemented by grants from the Trust Fund, have enabled voluntary agencies to provide legal assistance to persons detained under the so-called security legislation, and humanitarian assistance to dependants of persons detained, imprisoned or restricted under such legislation, of which the majority are women and children (A/35/509, annex, para. 4).
- 71. In 1981, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa received \$US 2,013,705 (A/36/619, para. 3).
- 72. As suggested by the Special Committee against Apartheid, "relevant programmes of the United Nations agencies, including in particular the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, should consider increased assistance to the oppressed women of South Africa and Namibia". 36/ The Voluntary Fund has supported, in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Training and Research Centre for Women, two projects to assist women in southern Africa. 37/ In addition, a project, No. 53-a, entitled "Training for development planning and women, an African perspective, phase II (Eastern and Southern Africa) amounting to \$US 110,580", was recommended for financing by the tenth session of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (Conference room paper IESA/SDHA/VFCC.10/8).

1. Assistance by the specialized agencies

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- 73. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been providing assistance to the various national liberation movements in the planning and conduct of training courses and workshops to enhance the basic knowledge and skills of personnel of liberation movements in the fields of nutrition, child care and child feeding. Under its project "Training for food distribution", FAO provided \$US 107,000 under its technical co-operation programme to support, within the "United Nations Nationhood Programme for Namibia", a three-month training course in 1981 for 20 Namibian women working in South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) refugee camps in Zambia and Angola. Subsequently, some of the trainees undertook a study tour of group feeding programmes in the United Republic of Tanzania and Botswana.
- 74. In 1981, FAO further allocated \$US 30,000 under its technical co-operation programme "for a workshop to evaluate the effectiveness and relevance of the training provided under the above project, and for the preparation of materials for use by the trainees in future courses to be organized by them in SWAPO camps". In 1982, FAO conducted a course at Mazimba/Morogoro, United Republic of Tanzania, for 30 African National Congress women staff, with funding amounting to \$US 24,000 provided under its technical co-operation programme. "Two additional courses for the ANC are under consideration for support (\$US 54,000) through FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development Programme" (A/CONF.119/8, paras. 8-9).

(b) International Labour Organisation

- 75. The International Labour Organisation has been involved in several projects for black women of southern Africa. ILO continues to publish annually "the special report on the policy of <u>apartheid</u>", which relates to labour and social matters. It also analyses in detail recent developments affecting admission to employment and access to training, especially discriminatory practices such as job reservation and barriers to the training of black women, unemployment, and wage and salary discrimination.
- 76. In 1980, ILO carried out additional projects or seminars in the field of non-discrimination. Following a detailed analysis, proposals for changes in discriminatory labour legislation and the creation of machinery for promoting equal opportunity policies were made available to the new Government of Zimbabwe. In 1980, in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, seminars on non-discrimination and equality of rights in labour matters have also been organized for women of southern Africa, from national liberation movements. In 1981, a similar study and seminar concerning women in Namibia was prepared for SWAPO (A/CONF.119/6, paras. 28 and 32).

(c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

77. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) collaborates with the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the fields of education, culture, communication and

social sciences. Specific collaboration undertaken by UNESCO with women in national liberation movements includes the following. In 1980 UNESCO was designated as executing agency for the project to assist ANC to expand its educational centre in the United Republic of Tanzania (at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College). This assistance makes it possible to offer education to younger girls and boys who have fled from the South African régime. The project was implemented by UNESCO, with the co-operation of FAO which undertook to provide agricultural training for the young people of ANC. Under its regular programme, UNESCO has made various types of supplies available to kindergartens in the United Republic of Tanzania (Morogoro). Assistance to the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) has made it possible to train a number of pupils and students, to cover the cost of missions undertaken by its members to set up an Azania institute in host countries (particularly in Zambia) (A/CONF.119/5). A study on women under apartheid was completed recently.

(d) World Health Organization

78. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been collaborating with the United Nations Council for Namibia and SWAPO in launching country health programmes. A workshop, supported by WHO as part of a nationhood programming workshop, took place in 1980 and included promotive activities for women to supplement ongoing fellowships and family health activities (A/CONF.94/6/Rev.l, chap. II, sect. B).

(e) World Food Programme

79. Since 1980, the World Food Programme (WFP) has provided food assistance for five projects with the Patriotic Front and with the respective Governments in Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. Aid was reaching 18,000, 100,000 and 60,000 recipients, respectively, in those countries. WFP estimates that 30 per cent of its recipients were women, most of whom (88 per cent) were girls under 16 years of age. Of the five projects, three were for development and two were for quick-action support (A/CONF.94/6/Rev.1, chap. II, sect. A).

2. Assistance by the Special Committee against Apartheid

- 80. The Special Committee against Apartheid has given "special attention" to women and children, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/172 K. It has promoted, in co-operation with Governments and organizations world-wide, the denunciation of torture and ill-treatment of women political prisoners, the denial of remissions to political prisoners, and death sentences against patriots. 38/
- 81. The Special Committee against Apartheid and its Task Force on Women and Children under Apartheid, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity, undertook various missions to several countries to persuade them to co-operate in international action and promote assistance to projects for women and children.
- 82. In March 1982, a mission sent by the Special Committee to the front-line States of Angola, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania consulted with

Government representatives and the leaders of ANC, PAC and SWAPO about projects, and visited those projects which were run by them in the host countries. 39/

83. Another mission, to Paris, The Hague, Brussels, Rome and Tunis from 24 January to 4 February 1983, pledged support for new projects aimed at giving women under apartheid appropriate education and training. The mission visited the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden from 13 to 16 June 1983.

3. Assistance from non-governmental organizations

(a) Churches and religious bodies

84. Churches and other religious bodies have played an important role in the international campaign against the <u>apartheid</u> régime, especially with regard to the mobilization of opinion against <u>apartheid</u> and the campaign against loans to invest in South Africa, as well as the provision of humanitarian assistance to the oppressed people and their national liberation movements. 40/

(b) Youth and student organizations

85. Youth and student organizations have given special attention to encouraging and promoting action against collaboration with the <u>apartheid</u> régime and in support of national liberation movements of South Africa. They provided political and material assistance to the Youth and Students Conference in Solidarity with the Struggling People, Youth and Students of southern Africa, which took place in Luanda in November 1981. 41/

(c) Other non-governmental organizations

86. As was announced to the Special Committee against Apartheid, the National Committee of the Revolutionary Union of Women of Guinea had sent a cheque for \$5,000 for the Committee's programme of action in favour of the women of South Africa and Namibia (A/AC.115/SR.526, para. 50).

II. THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

A. Background

1. Mandate

87. The issue of the situation of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories was discussed at the World Conference of the International Women's Year held at Mexico City in 1975. 42/ The Conference drew attention to the specific needs and measures of assistance to Palestinian women and children.

- 88. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 34/160 and 34/161 of 17 December 1979, the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen in July 1980, had before it two reports under agenda item 10, "Effects of Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories: (a) Review of social and economic needs of Palestinian women; (b) Special measures for Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories". 43/ Those reports were entitled "Special measures of assistance to the Palestinian women" (A/CONF.94/4) and "Effects of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories" (A/CONF.94/21 and Corr.1). Both had been prepared by the Economic Commission for Western Asia and were considered at its regional preparatory meeting. The Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, adopted at Copenhagen, included proposals for assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied territories. 44/
- 89. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its twenty-ninth session, adopted a resolution on the situation of women and children in the occupied Arab territories, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1982/18 of 4 May 1982. The Commission decided to include on the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session an item on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security, and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.
- 90. The present chapter is based mainly on recent reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the living conditions of Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories (A/35/533 and Corr.l, A/36/260 and Add.l-3, A/37/238) 45/ and the reports of other United Nations bodies. 46/ No comprehensive study related to the status of Palestinian women has been prepared within the United Nations system during the last three years.

2. Population

- 91. Owing to the dispersion of the Palestinian population throughout the world, it is difficult to have a precise population figure; however, available estimates range from 3.6 million (low estimate) to 4.2 million (high estimate) as of 1980 (E/ECWA/166/Add.1, pp. 58-59). The overall population of the West Bank (land area of 5,500 sq. kms.) in 1981 was 707,300 and the Gaza Strip (367 sq. kms.), 451,600. Some 50 per cent of the population in the West Bank are refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and 85 per cent of the population in the Gaza Strip are refugees. 47/
- 92. Detailed information on the structure of the population in the occupied territories by sex and age is presented in the table below.

2.9

Age	Percentage female	Percentage male	Percentage of total
0-14	43.2	48.0	45.6
15-29	28.4	30.2	29.3
30-44	14.3	9.6	11.9
45-64	11.3	9.2	10.3

Table 1. Population by sex and age, 1981 a/

Source: Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, table XXVII/3, p. 734.

3.0

65 +

2.8

- \underline{a} / Based on the total West Bank population of 707,300 and that of the Gaza Strip of 451,600, for a total of 1,158,900.
- 93. The high male emigration rate resulted in the decline of the male population in the age brackets 30-44 and 45-64 and created a male/female ratio of 80 to 100 (that is, there are 80 males for 100 females). 48/

B. Political and social aspects of the situation

1. Political aspects

- 94. The policy of the occupying Power affects the society as a whole men, women, youth and children alike. Despite countless resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, emphasizing the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and the right of self-determination, calling for cessation of the construction of settlements in the occupied territories (see, for example, General Assembly resolution 35/110), the Government of Israel promulgated on 7 June 1967 a series of decrees by which it established a military administration for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. These laws, particularly Decrees 1 and 2, constitute the basis for the policy in the occupied territories. 49/
- 95. The military administration reinstituted rules and laws established porior to 1967, including the Defence Emergency Laws of 1945. The laws enable the occupying Power to confiscate Arab lands and to prevent residents from returning to their villages and towns to claim their property. The laws and practices seriously affect the economic situation and living conditions of Palestinian families, often separating women and children from the male family members. The situation of women has been aggravated under the Defence Emergency Laws, which resulted in mass arrests, collective punishments, detentions without trial, deportations, and restrictions of freedom of association and expression. 50/

96. The life of the Palestinians in the occupied territories continues to be governed by those military regulations, since no new laws have been enacted to date.

(a) Settlements

- 97. One of the first acts of the occupation policy was the confiscation of Arab land and the creation of a network of settlements in which Israeli settlers reside. The settlements are primarily agricultural; however, some are para-military and industrial and surround the major cities and villages in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The settlements are often interconnected by water, electricity and communication. Despite international condemnation of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as an obstacle to peace (see, for example, Security Council resolution 465 (1980)), the number of settlements has been increasing continuously. In 1983 the number of settlements is estimated to be more than 170, not including the Golan Heights. 51/ The presence of Israeli citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip restricts the communication and co-operation among the Palestinian people. It hampers economic, social and cultural development, as well as possibilities to improve the status of women in all these spheres. 52/
- 98. The status of women is particularly affected by the diversion of natural water resources, the prohibition of drilling of new wells by Palestinians and the restriction on the amount of water they can pump, because clean water is necessary for their households, for child care and for the proper health and hygienic standard of their families. 53/ The curtailed electricity supply causes additional problems for their households and for child rearing.
- 99. The fertile land is divided into small segments, rendering large-scale agricultural development difficult; the sovereignty of the Arabs over their own land has been restricted. 54/ All these factors have specially negative effects on Palestinian women, for whom a family farm is a traditional source of livelihood and stability. Declining prospects of Palestinian farms seriously affect not only the economic status of women but also their social position and psychological well-being. The loss of farms sometimes leads to the partition of families, leaving women with children without male heads of households. According to the 1980 UNRWA statistics concerning registered Palestinian refugees, there were 25,278 female heads of households out of a total of 67,145 in the West Bank and 13,795 out of 70,951 in the Gaza Strip, which creates many difficulties, as the majority of Palestinian women are not prepared to live independently and to take decisions concerning every-day family life.

(b) Oppressive practices

- 100. Under the Defence Emergency Laws, promulgated on 7 June 1967, $\underline{55}$ / arrest, detention and other forms of oppression have continued to be applied to the Palestinian population, men, women and children alike.
- 101. Examples of the oppressive practices by the military authorities in the occupied territories were reported by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People during the years 1980 to 1983. The Secretary of the Israeli League for Civil and Human Rights stated before the

Committee that villagers complained that settlers had kidnapped children, on the pretext of stone-throwing, then had taken them to settlements and maltreated them and that heavy fines, up to 20,000 shekels, were imposed on youths of 12 to 13 years of age for stone-throwing incidents. Where fines were not paid, members of the accused's family were imprisoned.

102. In the years 1980 to 1983, restrictions on the population in the occupied territories increased, resulting in the dismissal of most of the elected municipal officials and the dissolution of the National Guidance Committee, which supervised socio-educational activity, placing some of its members, including female social activists, under house arrest. 56/ The restrictions caused further unrest, strikes in the municipalities and disruptions in the schools, involving the death of a few school children in the Gaza Strip. 57/ The military authorities have imposed curfews in some camps and villages and restrictions on travel for selected residents. 58/ This seriously affected the situation of women and children in the occupied territories as it hindered UNRWA health and nutrition services. 59/

2. Social aspects

(a) Employment and working conditions

103. Since 1967, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as occupied territories, have registered a decline in their agricultural and economic development. The occupying Power has gradually incorporated their economy with that of Israel (A/38/278, paras. 44-81, A/37/238, paras. 48-51). Those factors, as well as the constant expropriation of Palestinian lands, led to a number of changes at the labour market, affecting the economic status of women and changing the existing pattern of women's employment.

104. During the years 1980 to 1983, Palestinian women from the occupied territories worked mainly in three categories of employment: as self-employed workers, as unskilled wage workers in Israel and as employees in enterprises set up by Israelis in the occupied territories (TEAM/SDI/WP8, pp. 29-30). The overall participation of women in the total labour force in 1980 was 18.7 per cent for the West Bank and 6.1 per cent for the Gaza Strip (TEAM/SDI/WP8, p. 84).

105. Detailed information on the distribution of the female labour force in the West Bank (excluding Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip for 1980, according to the type of occupation, is presented in the table below.

Table 2. Distribution of female labour force in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

	West B	<u>lank</u>	Gaza Total	Gaza Strip Total		
Occupation	(thousands)	Percentage	(<u>thousands</u>)	Percentage		
Total	24.5	100	4.9	100		
Professional, technical, academic and related						
occupations	3.6	14.7	2.3	47.0		
Administrators and managers Clerical and related	0.1	0.4	-	-		
occupations	0.7	2.9	0.1	2.0		
Sales occupations	0.5	2.0	0.2	4.1		
Service occupations	1.0	4.1	0.3	6.1		
Agricultural occupations Skilled occupations in	15.7	64.1	0.5	10.2		
industry Other occupations in industry	2.5	10.2	1.4	28.6		
and unskilled occupations	0.4	1.6	-	-		

Source: Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1981, No. 32, calculated from table XXVII/21, pp. 734-735.

(i) Self-employment

106. The first category, self-employment, in particular through ownership of land, is still dominating as the most popular form of women's work. Nearly two thirds of the female labour force in the West Bank, estimated at about 16,200, is self-employed. Approximately 90 per cent of them are engaged in agriculture and mainly work on small family farms. It is estimated that of the total agricultural work force in the West Bank nearly 45 per cent is female. The rest of the self-employed are women in small industries, for example, sewing and embroidery (TEAM/SD1/WP8, p. 84).

107. The reverse is found in the Gaza Strip, where only 8 per cent of the self-employed women are working in agriculture and two thirds are in manufacturing (TEAM/SD1/WP8, p. 87). The fact that most of the Gaza Strip families are landless affects the traditional possibilities of work of women and results in a much lower participation of women in the labour force in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank.

(ii) Wage work

108. Owing to a shortage of unskilled daily labourers, Israel began to employ Palestinians, including Palestinian women, from the occupied territories in 1968. The flow of labour from the West Bank by 1981 reached 74,000 persons recruited through official channels. However, the actual number of Palestinians working in Israel is much larger and covers those employed unofficially, often including women and children working in seasonal agriculture. 60/

(iii) Work in Israeli enterprises

109. In addition to being employed as migrant and agricultural workers, many women are employed in enterprises set up by Israelis in the occupied territories, which specialize in finishing goods imported from Israel. This is a prevalent practice in the garment industry. The wages received there are up to 50 per cent less than that for equivalent work in Israel. The comparative reluctance of women to move away has enabled entrepreneurs to depress the price of local female labour (TD/B/870, para. 84).

(iv) Conditions of work

110. The majority of the Palestinian workers employed in Israel and in Israeli enterprises in the occupied territories work at the lower levels of the employment structure in jobs which are poorly paid, mostly manual and unskilled work. They have no job security and are engaged on short-term work permits, which means that they are not entitled to unemployment benefits, compensation for illness etc. (A/37/238, paras. 50-51). Palestinian women and children engaged on a short-term basis in Israel generally work in even more difficult conditions than Palestinian men, as they often work illegally. Many women and children are low-wage labourers for seasonal work, harvesting crops or working in hotels and restaurants. They are exposed to various kinds of exploitation, as well as detention or interrogation, as they cannot observe, in the circumstances, existing rules concerning work permits, or the prohibition of staying at night at a work site (TD/B/870, para. 16; A/CONF.94/21, paras. 74-76).

lll. Moreover, this type of work, which is contrary to the Palestinian tradition, is uprooting women from their traditional position in society, without giving them guarantees of a permanent job or prospects for advancement. In addition, their absence from the house has adverse effects on the family and community life, on the education of children and the preservation of traditions.

(b) Education

112. The public educational system in the occupied territories covers elementary, preparatory and secondary education provided by private, government and UNRWA/UNESCO schools. Females have access to all of those schools. The UNRWA/UNESCO school system for refugee children goes through the ninth grade, but has no kindergarten or secondary school facilities. Therefore, pre-school opportunities are generally sponsored by voluntary community organizations, and the majority of secondary school students attend government schools. 61/

113. Detailed information on the distribution of refugee pupils receiving education in 1982/1983 is presented below.

Table 3. Distribution of refugee pupils receiving education in 1982/1983 in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

	West Bank	Gaza Strip			
Number of					
UNWRA schools	98	141			
Number of					
teachers	1 267	2 138			
Number of pupils in elementary classes at UNRWA schools					
Boys Girls Total 13 290	15 114 28 404	31 701 28 241 59 942			
Number of pupils in preparatory classes at UNRWA schools Boys Girls Total 5 435	5 729 11 16 4	10 877 9 810 20 687			
Number of refugee pupils in government and private schools					
Government Private schools schools 25 098	1 180	15 700 -			
Total number of refugee pupils known to receive					
education	64 209	89 574			

Source: UNWRA/UNESCO, Department of Education, "... in service of Palestine refugees", 1982-1983, table 2, p. 51.

^{114.} The public educational system in the West Bank is based on the Jordanian system and, in the Gaza Strip, on the Egyptian system. Since 1967, both systems have been under the control of the military authorities. $\underline{62}$ /

^{115.} The school books have been subject to Israeli censorship. In 1981/1982 in the West Bank, of 79 textbooks prescribed by Jordan and approved by UNESCO, 11 were rejected by the military authorities. In the Gaza Strip, of 72 prescribed by Egypt and approved by UNESCO, 10 were rejected. 63/ Those restrictions referred especially to Palestinian history, geography and culture, hindering the knowledge of heritage, national history and tradition by Palestinian children and youth.

(i) Pre-school education

116. According to Israeli statistics, the number of children in kindergartens reached 13,988 in 1981. 64/ Most of those children attended kindergartens sponsored by private institutions and Palestinian community organizations. However, a serious shortage of these types of services is particularly felt by women who for financial reasons must work and have no place to leave their children.

(ii) Elementary, preparatory, secondary and higher education

117. In the years 1980 to 1983, there was a steady increase in overall enrolment, as well as in female enrolment at all levels of education. 65/ Male enrolment is higher at the preparatory and secondary levels, but women nevertheless perform better in the secondary examination (tawjihi). 66/ In 1981, of 13,489 students who completed secondary education, 4,688 (34 per cent of the total) were females (TEAM/SD1/WP15, pp. 45-56). At the university level female enrolment represents more than 40 per cent of the total. 67/ This could be due to the high male drop-out rate in the 13-16 age group as a result of the need to work and to assist the family, and to the emigration or detention of the male youth. 68/

118. Detailed information on female college and university enrolment in the occupied territories in 1981/1982 is presented in the table below.

Table 4. Female college and university enrolment in the occupied territories in 1981/1982

Institutions	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	Total
Birzeit University	1 209	680	1 889
An-Najah University	1 580	942	2 522
Bethlehem University	626	522	1 148
Hebron University	637	664	1 301
Islamic University (Gaza)	1 311	567	1 878
Abu-Dis College of Sciences	28	32	60
College of Religions Fundamentals	139	98	237
Arab College for Medical Professions	14	138	152
			
Total	5 544	3 643	9 187

Source: TEAM/SD1/WP15, p. 46.

(iii) Vocational training

119. There are four types of vocational training institutions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip providing technical training to Palestinians. Only two of these types of institutions have women trainees enrolled in large numbers. They are the UNRWA/UNESCO training centres and the private training centres.

- 120. The UNRWA/UNESCO training centres (such as, for example, the Ramallah Vocational and Teacher Training Institute for Women in the West Bank) offer two-year courses in secretarial and office skills, nursery and kindergarten training, administrative skills, medical technology, sewing, cosmetics and beauty care. In 1981-1982, 162 graduates completed training in the following courses: secretarial (47), assistant pharmacist (19), dressmaking (22), clothing production (23), infant care (20), home and institution management (17), and hairdressing (14). 69/
- 121. The private training centres have a low female enrolment, but many private Palestinian institutions, which have organized practical work-related short-term courses, have a large number of women. 70/
- 122. The secondary vocational public schools, which offer three-year courses in welding, carpentry, heating, radio and television repair, and the government training institutions, have in practice an exclusively male enrolment.
- 123. In 1981-1982 special activities for refugee women and girls aimed at developing their skills to raise the standard of living of women have been carried out by UNRWA. The programme covers the teaching of sewing, embroidery, knitting, gardening, child care, first aid and health education. 71/
- 124. Local communities in camps have initiated short-term courses which are offered at local UNRWA/UNESCO schools and in community buildings on weekends, after school, in evenings and in summer. They complement the existing work of the various social organizations and provide instructions in technical skills, courses in family health, child care, literacy, cultural programmes, etc.
- 125. During the period 1980-1983, the work of UNRWA schools, vocational courses and training programmes were disrupted by unrest and demonstrations which began in autumn 1981 and continued for the remainder of the reported period. They resulted in harassment of school pupils and teachers. For example, in December 1981, in one UNRWA centre, 246 female trainees and 6 staff were detained, though released the same night. However, 20 trainees were brought to trial and were given suspended sentences. 72/
- 126. In 1983 the Israeli military authorities entered the three UNRWA training centres in the West Bank (including the Ramallah Women's Training Centre). Two of them were closed for a few months, which affected the educational process. 73/

(c) Health

127. As stated in the WHO report of 28 April 1983 on health conditions of the Arab population in the occupied territories, including Palestine, 74/ the health system in the occupied territories has remained unchanged. An insufficient number of hospital beds, 75/ the cost of hospitalization, and the shortage of essential medical equipment, staff and drugs 76/ remain serious obstacles to health protection. Although it affects the population as a whole, existing conditions relating to health have more significance to women, in view of their role in child bearing and rearing, and the health and nutrition of the family. Also, there is a higher percentage of adult women in the occupied territories.

- 128. The shortage of qualified staff in the medical professions poses a serious obstacle to the improvement of health care, which specifically affects women and children. At the same time many of those who graduate, especially male and female physicians, can find no employment in the public health system of the occupied territories and are out of work or forced to take other jobs. 77/
- 129. The international community has undertaken numerous efforts to overcome the shortage of qualified staff for UNRWA health services, especially those related to mother and child. During the period 1980-1983, UNRWA and WHO funded scholarships for male and female refugee students to attend teacher-training programmes in public health and to continue studies in pediatrics and midwifery training courses. 78/

(i) Curative and preventive medical care services

- 130. Preventive and curative medical care services comprise an important part of health care for Palestinian women and children refugees. They are provided by UNRWA health units, by special arrangement at 20 government and two voluntary agency clinics, private health institutes and special health teams for children in elementary and preparatory schools of UNRWA. 79/
- 131. Nutrition rehabilitation clinics of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East are directed particularly at supervision, protection and promotion of the nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups of refugees: infants, pre-school and school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. The data collected during the year 1981/1982 showed a generally satisfactory nutritional state in most refugee children. 80/ The UNRWA programme of immunization was also satisfactory.

(ii) Maternal and child health centres

- 132. The Agency provides its maternal and child health services through special health centres. In the West Bank, there are at present 30 maternal and child health centres operating six days a week and 20 centres operating two or three days a week in the smaller villages. In the Gaza Strip more than 20 maternal and child health centres are currently in operation providing pre-natal, maternity, delivery, post-natal, infant and child-care services for the first five years of life, including vaccinations and prescribing medicines. It has been estimated that in 1981/1982 in the West Bank 4,193 refugee children were delivered in hospitals and camp maternity centres, and 1,655 were born at home, usually with the aid of traditional midwives. For the Gaza Strip, the figures are 9,320 and 3,912 respectively. 81/
- 133. The detailed information on maternal and child health services is presented in the table below.

Table 5. Maternal and child health services

			West Bank	<u>Gaza Stri</u> p
(a)	Mate	rnal care		
	(i)	Pre-natal services		
		Pre-natal clinics Pregnant women newly registered Average monthly attendance S.T.S. performed Cases positive Home visits	5 292 1 627 0 0 60	9 13 267 4 412 5 361 0 303
	(ii)	Natal care		
		Deliveries registered In home In camp maternity centres Live births Still births Maternal deaths Home visits (post-natal)	5 848 1 655 4 193 5 843 63 3 5 042	13 282 3 912 9 370 13 275 140 0 36 660
(b)	<u>Chi</u>]	ld health care		
	0-1 Aver 1-2 Aver 2-3	d health clinics year registered rage monthly attendance years registered rage bi-monthly attendance years registered rage tri-monthly attendance	23 4 718 4 269 5 240 4 844 5 233 4 844	9 12 713 10 101 11 206 9 229 10 760 9 013

Source: UNRWA, Annual Report of the Director of Health, 1982, table 8, p. 28.

^{134.} Special services are provided by child health clinics to the underweight children registered at clinics. Detailed information on the average prevalence of underweight in infants is presented below. This prevalence of underweight declines in the age group 2-3 years. 82/

Table 6. Average prevalence of underweight in infants and children registered in child health clinics

Number and percentage of underweight infants 0-1 year

	Fir No.	st degree Percentage	Sec No.	cond degree Percentage	Thi	rd degree Percentage	thir	second and degrees Percentage
<u>Field</u>								
West Bank Gaza Strip	242 727	5.1 5.7	92 497	1.9 3.9	16 116	0.4 0.9	350 1 340	7.4 10.5

Number and percentage of underweight children (1-2 years)

	First degree		Second degree		Third degree		First, second and third degrees	
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	<u>Percentage</u>	No.	Percentage
West Bank	190	3.6	64	1.2	4	0.1	258	4.9
Gaza Strip	631	5.6	438	3.9	49	0.4	1 118	9.9

Degrees of underweight are based on the following percentages of average theoretical weight for age:

First degree	75-85 per cent
Second degree	60-74 per cent
Third degree	Below 60 per cent

Source: UNRWA, Annual Report of the Director of Health, 1982, table 8, p. 29.

135. Family planning services and family life education courses in the 18 preparatory schools continued to be provided by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip. 83/

(iii) Health conditions in camps

136. Living and health conditions in the refugee camps are very difficult and make their residents specifically vulnerable to diseases and infections. Most of the camps have no covered water supply systems, the sewers are open and the commonly used toilets are few in number and unsanitary. Therefore, UNRWA gives special attention to the health protection of women and children, as those most exposed to the health hazards. 84/

137. The medical and health preventive services and activities have suffered in the years 1981-1983 from frequent actions and disturbances in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 85/ The raids against camps were affecting the process of improving

their infrastructure; numerous police and military actions disturbed the work of maternal and child health centres and other in and outdoor services related to women and children.

(iv) Housing and environmental sanitation

138. Some 20 per cent of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories live in housing units with a density of three persons per room, and approximately 50 per cent of the population has an average of seven or more in the family household. 86/ The electrical and plumbing facilities and the availability of running water have improved over the years. However, in some areas these basic services are inadequate. The housing problem is particularly difficult for women in low-income categories who require adequate space and sanitary and cooking facilities properly to rear their children and families.

C. Assistance of the international community

- 139. The resolution of the Palestinian problem remains one of the main international political issues confronting the numerous organs and divisions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the political, social, economic and humanitarian spheres. Concerning the humanitarian aspects of the Palestinian problem, the international organizations have been and are undertaking two kinds of activities: (a) the preparation of various studies and reports, and the convening of conferences which bring the attention of the world community to the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. These reports and conferences serve as a basis for the preparation of political decisions by various United Nations bodies and for the elaboration of their assistance programmes; and (b) the directing of humanitarian assistance of the Palestinian people by and through various United Nations divisions and specialized agencies. The mandate for assistance is based on Economic and Social Council resolution 2026 of 4 August 1976, calling on all United Nations bodies to accelerate their assistance to the Palestinian people.
- 140. Another form of activity was initiated by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which convened a series of regional seminars on various aspects of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people during the period from 1981 to 1983.
- 141. The Palestinian problem was also discussed by the regional preparatory meetings for the 1983 International Conference on the Question of Palestine. None of the meetings paid specific attention to the question of Palestinian women except the Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting, held at Managua in 1983, which requested the secretariat of the Conference to prepare a study on the conditions of women and children in all the occupied territories and to encourage various non-governmental organizations to investigate that matter as well as to undertake relevant joint action with their Palestinian counterparts.
- 142. The International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held at Geneva from 29 August to 7 September 1983, analysed various aspects of the Palestinian problem. Its relevant conclusions and recommendations are contained in a final Declaration $\underline{87}$ and a Programme of Action. $\underline{88}$

- 143. Among the various activities undertaken by the United Nations system aimed at assistance to Palestinian women, the important role of UNRWA should be mentioned, which especially focuses on measures to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Those measures mainly concentrate on education, relief, health and vocational training programmes.
- 144. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization plays an important role in the sphere of education, and with UNRWA shares in the preparation of school curricula and programmes, as well as teacher training and vocational training, in the entire school system.
- 145. The United Nations Children's Fund extends its major assistance, comprising health services, vocational and pre-school training, to mothers and children.
- 146. The World Health Organization contributes to the organization of health services, especially in the field of professional training, preventive and curative courses and activities. Traditionally, the organization also studies the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories, drawing the attention of the international community to the possibilities of improvement of those conditions.
- 147. The United Nations Development Programme developed several projects related to the promotion of pre-primary technical and vocational education, as well as training programmes in agricultural development. The two projects on women's institutions and children's institutions are of special interest to women (DP/1982/18).
- 148. The other divisions and organizations of the United Nations, such as FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and Commission on Human Rights, also provided assistance to Palestinian women, as mentioned in their reports.

Notes

- 1/ See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).
 - 2/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. B.
 - 3/ Ibid., sect. A.
 - 4/ Ibid., paras. 241-243
- 5/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22); A/AC.115/L.571.
- 6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), annex I, chap. V.

- 7/ International Labour Conference, sixty-ninth session, 1983, "Special report of the Director-General or the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid in South Africa"; Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22).
 - 8/ Ibid.
- 9/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), annex I, chaps. III, IV.
- 10/ E/CN.4/1497, para. 55; Centre against Apartheid, "Women in prison and under banning", May 1982 (list prepared by the International Defence and Aid Fund for southern Africa, London); Focus, No. 38, September-October 1981.
- <u>11</u>/ Paper on working women presented by the ANC women's section to the International Conference on Women and <u>Apartheid</u>, Brussels, 17-19 May 1982; see Official Records of the General Assembly, <u>Thirty-seventh Session</u>, <u>Supplement No. 22</u> (A/37/22), annex I, chap. III.
- 12/ E/CN.4/1497, para. 51; Rand Daily Mail, 4 and 10 August 1982; Sowetan, 5 August 1982; International Defence and Aid Fund for southern Africa, in co-operation with the United Nations Centre against Apartheid, To Honour Women's Day: Profiles of Leading Women in the South African and Namibian Liberation Struggles, London, August 1981.
- 13/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), annex I, chap. III.
 - 14/ Ibid.
- 15/ Paper on working women presented by the ANC women's section to the International Conference on Women and Apartheid, Brussels, 17-19 May 1982.
- 16/ International Labour Conference, sixty-ninth session, 1983, "Special report of the Director-General on the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of <u>Apartheid</u> in South Africa".
- 17/ "The effects of <u>apartheid</u> on women in rural and urban areas and bantustans", paper presented by ANC during the International Conference on Women and <u>Apartheid</u>, Brussels, 17-19 May 1982.
- 18/ Center against Apartheid, "Notes and documents: special issue", November 1980.
 - 19/ Ibid.
- 20/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), annex I, chap. V.

- 21/ Paper on women and apartheid, presented by the ANC women's section to the International Conference on Women and Apartheid, Brussels, 17-19 May 1982, pp. 4-5.
 - 22/ <u>Ibid.</u>, p. 6.
- 23/ Center against <u>Apartheid</u>, "Notes and documents: special issue", November 1980,
- 24/ International Labour Conference, sixty-ninth session, 1983, "Special report of the Director-General on the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid in South Africa", p. 42.
 - 25/ Ibid., pp. 22-23.
 - 26/ Ibid., p. 23.
 - 27/ Ibid., p. 39.
- 28/ "The effects of <u>apartheid</u> on women in rural and urban areas and bantustans", paper presented by ANC during the International Conference on Women and <u>Apartheid</u>, Brussels, 17-19 May 1982, p. 3.
- 29/ International Labour Conference, sixty-ninth session, 1983, "Special report of the Director-General on the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid in South Africa".
- 30/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), annex I, chap. IV.
- 31/ International Labour Conference, sixty-ninth session, 1983, "Special report of the Director-General on the application of the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid in South Africa".
 - 32/ Sunday Times, London, 13 June 1982.
 - 33/ Sowetan, 25 June 1982.
- 34/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/36/22), paras. 232, 238.
- 35/ Report of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4), chap. II.
- 36/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22), para. 450.

- 37/ (a) The provision of technical training scholarships for southern African refugee women in medicine, management and business skills; (b) to date, 17 women have been trained, nine of whom in maternal/child health, in co-operation with WHO (Administration of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, New York).
- 38/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/37/22).
 - 39/ Ibid., paras. 93-97.
 - 40/ Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 22 (A/36/22).
 - 41/ Ibid.
- 42/ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year,
 Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1),
 chap. III, resolution 32.
- 43/ See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. II, para. 12.
 - 44/ <u>Ibid.</u>, chap. I, sect. A, para. 244.
- 45/ Although none of these reports have referred to the question of Palestinian women, they have presented an overall picture of the living conditions of the Palestinian population as a whole.
- 46/ Such as numerous reports of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, the UNDP Inter-Agency Task Force on Assistance to the Palestinian People, reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Develoment, UNRWA annual reports of the Director of Health, and reports of the UNRWA/UNESCO Department of Education.
- 47/ UNRWA official figures for 1983 are 342,164 registerd refugees in the West Bank and 378,771 in the Gaza Strip. The overall 1981 population figures are from the Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, p. 734.
- 48/ UNDP, "Inter-Agency Task Force on Assistance to the Palestinian People", New York, 1979, p. 9.
- 49/ Government of Israel, Decrees of the Israeli Defence Force Command in the West Bank, 7 June 1967.
 - 50/ Ibid., A/CONF. 54/21.

- 51/ Official estimates (Ha'aretz, 10 April 1981) cited 142 for the West Bank, 11 for the Gaza Strip and 33 for the Golan Heights (total 186).
- 52/ Matar Ibrahim, "Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip", Journal of Palestine Studies, vol. XI, No. 1, autumn 1981, pp. 9-12.
 - 53/ Ibid.
 - 54/ Ibid.
- 55/ Government of Israel, Decrees of the Israeli Defence Force Command in the West Bank.
- 56/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eleventh Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/37/35); ibid, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/35/35).

 (A/36/35); ibid., Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/35/35).
 - 57/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13), para. 68.
 - 58/ Ibid., para. 56.
 - 59/ Ibid., para. 57.
 - 60/ Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, p. 758; TEAM/SD1/WP8, pp. 29-30.
- $\underline{61}$ / UNDP, "Inter-Agency Task Force on Assistance to the Palestinian People", New York, 1979, p. 9.
 - 62/ Ibid.
- 63/ See, for example, Official Records of the General Assembly,

 Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13); ibid., Thirty-eighth Session,

 Supplement No. 13 (A/38/13).
- 64/ Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, p. 776; see also UNESCO, "Pre-school education in the Arab world", Unedbas, Beirut, 1981.
- 65/ According to the <u>Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982</u> (p. 776), in 1981/82 the enrolment in the occupied territories reached 259,316 in elementary schools, 83,248 in preparatory schools and 53,069 in secondary schools.
- 66/ There were 44,159 boys and 42,651 girls in elementary schools and 16,500 boys and 15,268 girls in preparatory schools in the occupied territories in 1981/82 (see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13)).
- $\underline{67}$ / College and university enrolment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1981/82 was 5,444 males and 3,653 females (TEAM/SD1/WP15, p. 46).

- 68/ UNRWA/UNESCO, Department of Education, Statistical Abstract, Vienna, 1982, p. 77.
 - 69/ Ibid., Statistical Yearbook, 1981-1982, pp. 134-135.
 - 70/ Ibid.
 - 71/ UNRWA, "Assistance to Palestine refugee women", October 1983, pp. 1-2.
- 72/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13), para. 58.
 - 73/ Ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/38/13), para. 165.
- 74/ WHO, "Report of the Special Committee of Experts Appointed to Study the Health Conditions of the Inhabitants of the Occupied Territories", presented to the thirty-sixth World Health Assembly (A/36/14).
- $\frac{75}{}$ In the Gaza Strip the number of hospital beds decreased from 1,000 in 1974 to 904 in 1981; in the West Bank it remained 1,393 (Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, p. 777).
- 76/ WHO, "Report of the Special Committee of Experts Appointed to Study the Health Conditions of the Inhabitants of the Occupied Territories", presented to the thirty-sixth World Health Assembly (A/36/14); <u>ibid</u>, presented to the thirty-fifth World Health Assembly (A/35/14).
 - 77/ Ibid.
- 78/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13), paras. 132-134; ibid., Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/38/13), paras. 110-113.
- 79/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/37/13), paras. 101-102.
 - 80/ Ibid., paras. 129-131.
 - 81/ UNRWA, Annual Report of the Director of Health, 1982, table 8, p. 28.
 - 82/ Ibid., pp. 29-30.
 - 83/ Ibid., pp. 6-7.
 - 84/ Ibid., pp. 10-12, 36-40.
- 85/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/38/13), paras. 54-55.

- 86/ Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1982, pp. 744, 747.
- 87/ Report of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, Geneva, 29 August-7 September 1983 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.I.21), chap. I, sect. A.
 - 88/ <u>Ibid.</u>, sect. B.
