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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Second regular session of 1988
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED
NATIONS

Assistance to the Palestinian people
Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly in resolution 42/166 welcomed the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people contained in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/42/289-E/1987/86 and Add.1 and 2) and requested the Secretary-General to develop the programme, to seek its early implementation in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and to co-ordinate the activities envisaged by various organizations of the United Nations system within the framework of the programme. In addition, it requested him to mobilize resources for the implementation of the projects contained in the programme, in close co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, and urged the international community, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to sustain and increase their assistance to the Palestinian people in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

2. In accordance with the resolution, consultations were held with the Observer Mission of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United Nations.

3. Pursuant to the General Assembly's request to the Secretary-General to mobilize resources for the programme, a letter was sent to 19 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and funds, asking for their assistance in providing funding for the projects contained in the programme (see annex). The Secretary-General also addressed a note verbale to Member States in which he drew attention to the General Assembly's request for increased assistance to the Palestinian people and expressed the hope that they would be in a position to provide funding for the programme.

4. As requested by the General Assembly, the present report covers the action taken by the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in implementing and further developing the programme of economic and social assistance contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/289-E/1987/86 and Add.1 and 2) and in mobilizing resources for the programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/166. It should be considered in conjunction with the above-mentioned report containing the programme of economic and social assistance. Information received at a later date will be published as an addendum.

II. RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

5. In his report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 605 (1987) (S/19443), the Secretary-General stated that, in response to the views expressed by the Palestinians regarding the improvement of conditions in the camps, he had asked the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to prepare urgently proposals for improving the infrastructure of the camps and to seek the necessary funds. He also stated that many of the Palestinians consulted had expressed the hope that a concerted international effort could be undertaken to revive the territories' economy, perhaps initially through an expansion of the existing programme of the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the territories, and that he had requested the Administrator of UNDP to study the possibility of expanding the programme.

6. In February-March 1988, UNRWA prepared a package of projects, including an indication of resources required (which amounted to approximately \$65 million), and presented it to an informal meeting of major donors and host Governments immediately followed by a meeting of the Advisory Commission of the Agency. On both occasions wide support was expressed for the approach taken and UNRWA is actively seeking contributions which would enable it to implement its proposals during the period 1988-1990. Areas of proposed activities include improvement of sewerage, shelters, road maintenance, upgrading of the Agency's health and education facilities, a new hospital block in Gaza, water supply in Gaza, expansion of vocational training and university scholarship programmes, as well as strengthening of income-generating and small development projects. So far, a total of some \$25 million has been pledged in cash and in kind.

7. UNRWA has also expanded its educational, health and relief programmes to deal with the emergency situation. Emergency plans have been prepared to make up for the teaching time lost in the school year 1987/1988. In the health centres, working hours were extended and special teams of doctors were constituted to render aid to injured refugees in camps under curfew. In Gaza, the mid-day meal programme was extended to children who are not normally eligible, the distribution of powdered milk to children was expanded and the dry ration programme was increased to benefit all pregnant women and nursing mothers. Additional budget provisions were made to meet hospitalization costs resulting from the emergency. Other emergency aid in the form of food, supplies and cash has been provided to refugees and to a small number of non-refugees in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Temporary health, relief and refugee affairs personnel have been employed to assist in the distribution of the aid, to counsel families in distress, to escort vehicles and to monitor and report on the situation as it affects Agency operations.

8. Pursuant to the Secretary-General's request, the Administrator of UNDP requested the UNDP Governing Council, at its special session in February 1988, to take urgent steps to reinforce the programme through an additional allocation of \$4 million from Special Programme Resources, over and above the \$8 million previously allocated for the planning period 1987-1991. The Governing Council acceded to this request and appealed to Governments and intergovernmental institutions for further voluntary contributions.

9. During the course of the Governing Council's special session, the Government of Japan announced a special contribution of \$1 million, subject to parliamentary approval. The Government of Italy indicated that the UNDP pipeline of projects was under study and that the Italian Government intended to select certain projects for official consideration for co-funding. The Administrator informed the Council that those and other indications made it appear that substantially increased funding would be available. In this connection, UNDP is undertaking measures, in consultation with the Palestine Liberation Organization, to attract additional financial support in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/166.

10. On 29 April 1988, pursuant to a decision of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation convened a meeting of organizations of the United Nations system to discuss the assistance that could be extended to the people of the occupied territories. The representatives of ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNEP, UNRWA, UNCHS, UNCTAD, DIEC, DIESA and ESCWA participated in the meeting. All organizations expressed a willingness to expand their activities in the area, provided additional funding was available, within the framework of the programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people.

11. In May 1988, UNDP sent a programming and operational review mission to the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for the purpose of discussing a number of questions relating to the implementation of the programme. During its five-day visit to the area the mission concluded that the unrest and demonstrations that have characterized the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have had an inevitable effect on the delivery of various aspects of the UNDP projects. Nevertheless, the UNDP programme continues to operate at full strength, and UNDP continues to plan its activities in consultation with all directly-concerned parties, including in particular the Palestinian inhabitants. The UNDP office in Jerusalem is successfully carrying out its functions of supervising the UNDP Palestinian Programme and is prepared to assist other United Nations agencies with expanded or new programmes with a variety of management services. The mission found renewed interest by donor Governments in assistance to the Palestinian people. During the mission agreement was reached on the new projects proposed by UNDP (see sect. III below).

III. PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

12. Considerable progress has been taken over the past year in implementing and further developing the programme of economic and social assistance contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/289-E/1987/86 and Add.1 and 2), as described below. All projects referred to in this report are funded or partially funded. Virtually all the projects could be readily and quickly expanded if additional funding becomes available. Proposed projects which still require funding are listed in the programme contained in the report of the Secretary-General mentioned above.

A. Research, analysis and organization of data

1. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

13. During 1987, ESCWA undertook and completed several studies related to assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories:

(a) Survey on vocational and technical training in the West Bank and Gaza (May 1987);

(b) Feasibility study on the establishment of a technical agricultural centre in the West Bank and Gaza (December 1987);

(c) Promotion of agricultural exports in the occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip);

(d) The Palestinian financial sector under Israeli occupation (July 1987). Study prepared in collaboration with UNCTAD (see para. 15 (a) below).

14. In addition, ESCWA has provided technical assistance to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee concerning the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Technical assistance has been provided to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for the household income and expenditure survey conducted in refugees camps in 1986. This assistance covered data processing, estimation of sampling errors and checking consistency within and between tables. In 1988, the following activities will be carried out:

(a) Social studies series on the Palestinian people, covering population, labour force and education;

(b) Study on the economic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories (jointly with UNCTAD);

(c) Report on the manufacturing sector in the occupied Palestinian territories;

(d) Study on Israeli trade practices in the occupied Palestinian territories, to be prepared in co-operation with UNCTAD.

15. Technical assistance on data processing will continue to be provided to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and assistance will also be provided to the Palestinian Open University.

2. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

16. In accordance with its mandate, UNCTAD through its Special Economic Unit (Palestinian people) has continued for the third consecutive year to prepare reports and technical publications which examine developments in the economic conditions of the occupied Palestinian territories. During the period from March 1987 to February 1988, the following work was accomplished by the Special Economic Unit:

(a) An in-depth study of the Palestinian financial sector under Israeli occupation was prepared in collaboration with ESCWA (UNCTAD/ST/SEU/3). The study, in particular, investigates the banking and monetary system of these territories, analyses fiscal determinants, focusing on changes in the tax system of the territories since 1967 and the role played by government revenues and expenditures, reviews the role of external resources, including transfers, as factor income from labour outside the territories and as international aid, in the financing of the

Palestinian economy. It contains some recommendations aimed at improving the structure and performance of the financial sector, thus enhancing the role and effectiveness of policy measures in the mobilization and allocation of financial resources within the Palestinian economy.

(b) The report entitled "Recent economic developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, with special reference to the financial sector" (TD/B/1142) was prepared for the thirty-fourth session (first part) of the Trade and Development Board.

(c) The Unit prepared the following three background documents, which include abstracts from the data base of the Unit on different aspects of the Palestinian economy: (i) "Selected statistical tables on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip)" (UNCTAD/ST/SEU/4); (ii) "Selected bibliography on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip)" (UNCTAD/ST/SEU/5); and (iii) "Selected chronology on economic issues and related Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip) June 1986-June 1987" (UNCTAD/ST/SEU/6).

(d) The Unit expanded its data base on the Palestinian economy, including the regular revision and updating of statistical series, drawing where possible on alternative statistical sources. This included keeping abreast of new publications and references on the Palestinian economy and regular monitoring of economic issues in the occupied Palestinian territories.

17. According to its 1988-1989 work programme, UNCTAD is planning the preparation of a number of studies and reports, as well as the formulation of operational projects. These activities will include, in particular:

(a) A comprehensive study, entitled "The external trade of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip", due for completion in mid-1988, which will, inter alia, examine the role of trade and services in the Palestinian economy; the performance of the external trade sector; major factors, including policies, practices and structural limitations, affecting the external trade of the territories; the potential of external trade in the territories, and the requisite policies and measures aimed at promoting Palestinian external trade.

(b) The 1988 report to the thirty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board (first part) on assistance to the Palestinian people, which will comprise an update of recent economic developments in the occupied territories, both in terms of basic indicators and relevant aspects of Israeli economic policy.

(c) Preparation of documents providing extracts and updates from the Unit's data base on the Palestinian economy, including statistical series, research references and bibliography.

(d) Preparation of a comprehensive study, entitled "The West Bank and Gaza Strip: prospects for sustained economic development", due for completion by the end of 1989, which will require inputs and contributions, including extrabudgetary resources, from relevant entities of the United Nations system and regional bodies concerned.

(e) Preparation of two project proposals for technical assistance in institution-building for the economic development of the occupied Palestinian territories. The draft project proposals are due for completion by mid-1988.

18. In accordance with paragraph 6 of Conference resolution 169 (VII), the Unit is currently studying, in consultation with ITC, the modalities of providing advice on the measures needed for the establishment of a centre in the occupied territories for the marketing of Palestinian products.

3. International Trade Centre

19. Contacts have been initiated with the UNDP programme of assistance to the Palestinian people with a view to determining if ITC Market News Service could assist the Palestinian people in their export efforts.

B. Infrastructure

1. United Nations Development Programme

20. In addition to the projects currently under implementation, UNDP proposes the following new projects:

Drinking Water - Gaza Strip: In consideration of the need to eliminate the high salinity and chloride content of the Gaza Strip water, it is proposed to establish a pilot project to explore the means of conserving and treating water by, possibly, the use of reverse osmosis. UNDP input will be \$400,000.

Nablus Sewage: UNDP has previously undertaken to design a sewage system for the Nablus area. Once the designs are completed, efforts will be made to solicit funds from interested Governments for the construction of the system. UNDP input - \$300,000.

Commercial Centres: Income-generating small businesses, such as appliance repairs, hardware stores and grocery stores, could be established with the construction of commercial centres. UNDP proposes to construct five to six such centres in key locations in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and is prepared to fund \$750,000 for it.

Assistance to the Municipalities: UNDP proposes to establish wholesale agricultural markets and cold storage facilities and to provide assorted equipment to Municipalities and Village Councils in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNDP input will be \$1 million. It is likely that non-UNDP funds will also be available to finance additional activities under this project.

2. United Nations Children's Fund

Water supply and sanitation

21. UNICEF support will be provided, in co-operation with Save the Children Federation and the communities concerned, to reduce the incidence of water-related diseases in 25 villages in high-risk areas in the northern part of the West Bank, the Jordan Valley and the southern part of the Gaza Strip, for the benefit of some 140,000 people. UNICEF will provide pipes and fittings to Save the Children Federation, while the communities will finance the water supplies costs of household. In the 25 villages to be provided with water, community education on child survival, environmental sanitation and hygiene will be supported through health education campaigns and the training of 45 workers. Support will also be provided for the establishment and training of local water committees (seven persons per committee) in maintenance and hygiene issues. Audio-visual equipment will be provided for the production unit of the Near East Council of Churches to produce materials to use in the training of health staff and community leaders and in the health education campaigns.

22. The estimated planned annual expenditures, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period of 1988-1991 for this programme will be 1988 - \$160,000, 1989 - \$185,000, 1990 - \$140,000, 1991 - \$60,000, totalling \$545,000.

C. Agriculture

1. United Nations Development Programme

23. By March 1988, the following three projects in the field of agriculture, financed from the UNDP central resources, were completed: "Training in agricultural development", "Agricultural training (Syria)" and "Agricultural and hydrology laboratory". The full costs of these projects are \$618,737.

24. The total financial allocations to the projects in the field of agriculture, including projects financed by special contributions and associated agencies, as at March 1988, was \$1,782,600.

25. For the remainder of its Fourth Cycle (1987-1991) the UNDP has a number of projects in the agricultural area which are now fully funded, in particular:

Food processing: A detailed feasibility study will be conducted in order to establish the viability of food processing facilities for different kinds of fruits, vegetables, etc. UNDP input - \$250,000.

Grape processing: A feasibility study already exists. UNDP proposes to establish processing facilities with a co-operative for concentrate only, which may be easily exported to Arab countries. UNDP input - \$300,000.

Agricultural machinery centres: UNDP proposes to establish agricultural equipment centres in key areas where farmers may rent required machinery at nominally less. UNDP input - \$1 million.

Beekeeping: The project calls for the upgrading of existing hives and extension of beekeeping facilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNDP input - \$50,000.

Dairy laboratories: UNDP proposes to establish dairy laboratories to provide the means of testing dairy products and improving their quality. UNDP input - \$150,000.

Pickling: UNDP proposes to establish facilities for pickling of various vegetables to be marketed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is planned to set up these facilities with charitable societies. UNDP input - \$350,000.

Seedling development: Seedling operations already exist in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but they appear to operate in an outmoded, inefficient manner. It is proposed to establish a project to provide technical assistance in the form of new technology, training and equipment. UNDP input - \$200,000.

Poultry hatchery: Poultry hatcheries are non-existent in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNDP proposes to set up a 300,000-egg hatchery, to include parent and grandparent breeding. UNDP input - \$1 million.

Sprinkler and drip irrigation: UNDP proposes to set up two sprinkler and drip irrigation systems in the Gaza Strip. UNDP input - \$500,000.

Ein Duke Drinking Water and Irrigation System: UNDP proposes to establish the necessary facilities for providing water for drinking or irrigation purposes to the Ein Duke Area, which at present faces serious shortages. The necessary wells are already available. UNDP input - \$400,000.

Auja Irrigation: It is planned to develop the Auja spring and to construct distribution systems for the irrigation of 6,000 dunums of land for growing bananas, melons and vegetables. UNDP input - \$1 million.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

26. FAO is continuing to provide three fellowships, two in agricultural economics and one in animal production. The project duration has been extended to cover 66 work-months with a total budget of \$US 68,500. FAO is also assisting Al-Quds Open University to develop its curriculum in agriculture through the provision of short-term consultants and audio-visual equipment.

D. Industry

United Nations Development Programme

27. By March 1988, the project "Training in industrial management", financed mainly from the UNDP central resources, was completed. Two other projects - "Industrial development (Olive Oil)" and "Glass and ceramics" are currently under implementation. The resources for the financing of these projects in the amount of \$690,000 were authorized from the Third UNDP Cycle (1982-1986). For the remainder of the Fourth Cycle, ending in 1991, UNDP will undertake two additional projects in the area of industry. They are:

Industrial Zones: Plans for establishing an Industrial Zone in Nablus are ready for implementation. In addition, UNDP expects to review possibilities for setting up such zones in other areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip with possible financing from non-UNDP sources. UNDP input - \$1 million.

Small-scale Business Development Centre: UNDP proposes to finance and operate a business development Centre to provide facilities for feasibility studies, business management advisory and marketing services, training, and subject to availability of financing from other sources, a low-cost credit system based on a revolving fund. UNDP input will be \$500,000.

E. Employment

1. International Labour Organisation

28. The ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin has prepared two programmes which will be financed by UNDP.

29. The first of these programmes (which was the subject of a specialized industrial management programme undertaken by the Turin Centre in 1984 with UNDP financing) is designed to supplement entrepreneur training on the West Bank and in Gaza. It was originally proposed to implement the programme in 1988; it will be implemented as soon as arrangements can be made locally.

30. The second programme concerns the training of trainers for entrepreneur development and follows the pattern of the three previous programmes carried out in 1984-86 for participants from small and medium-sized enterprises on the West Bank and in Gaza. The new programme is intended for teachers from higher education institutions that have or would like to set up entrepreneur training units. The programme is designed to last 11 weeks. The methods of its implementation are being examined.

31. Further activities, connected in particular with the situation that has developed since December 1987, are under consideration. They involve in particular:

Special programmes that are likely to contribute to the employment and training of young people;

Replacement work that might be necessary as a result of the disruption in the labour market;

The vocational reintegration of persons who have been in prison and consequently have difficulties in finding a job;

Vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons;

Social security;

Occupational safety and health in the broad sense of the term;

Training for labour administrators;

Assistance to organizations for agricultural workers and extension services.

32. A certain number of projects are financed from a special allocation in the ILO's regular budget for technical co-operation, which exceeded \$100,000 during the 1986-1987 biennium. For the 1988-1989 biennium it is planned to set aside a sum at least equivalent, on the understanding that it could be increased according to the possibilities of project implementation, on the one hand, and to needs that may not be covered by other methods of financing, on the other. Other projects, including entrepreneur training projects, are financed by UNDP. In addition, a series of projects proposed by ILO are being considered for UNDP financing, including projects relating to the expansion of vocational training. ILO may also finance, partly or fully, some other UNDP projects in the fields of employment development, agriculture, crafts and industry as well as in training, particularly for women.

2. United Nations Development Programme

33. UNDP activities in this area during the last year were directed at the implementation of two projects - "Youth programme" and "Women's institutions", which were funded from UNDP central resources and cost \$218,000.

34. During the remainder of the Fourth Cycle, ending in December 1991, UNDP is planning to carry out a project entitled "Women's institute", under which it will establish a centre which will provide technical and specialized training for women in various fields, serve as a permanent exhibition to promote and market traditional and new products and possibly house small-scale industries operated by charitable organizations. UNDP input will be \$500,000.

F. Education and vocational training

**1. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for
Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

35. In 1987-1988, the school population in the nine grades of education in the West Bank and Gaza reached 128,710 pupils, a net increase of 1,560 pupils over the previous school year. All increases occurred in Gaza, where a new school was opened which operates on a double-shift basis with another existing school. The class-sections with more than 50 pupils were reduced in Gaza from 59 to 10 and in the West Bank from 28 to 11. To cope with the natural increase of pupils and the reduction of class occupancy rates, additional teacher and school supervisor posts were established in the West Bank and Gaza.

36. Enrolment at the four Agency training centres in the occupied territories has increased over the last year by 48 trainees, reaching a total of 11,552 for vocational training and 550 for teacher training. A course of computer science was introduced at the Ramallah Men's Training Centre. At the Ramallah Women's Training Centre a new intake of 20 trainees was admitted for a new physiotherapy course, and plans are being made to introduce an additional course in nursing. Subject to availability of funds, the Agency plans to introduce additional courses in training centres over the coming three years. In 1987, for the fourth successive year the training centres in the West Bank obtained outstanding success rates in the General Comprehensive Examination administered by the Jordanian government for community colleges. In 1989-1990, semi-professional courses will be introduced for the first time at the Gaza Training Centre for both male and female trainees.

37. Three schools were constructed in the West Bank to replace unsatisfactory rented premises. The schools consist of 29 class-rooms, 8 administrative rooms, 3 multi-purpose rooms, 3 science laboratories and 3 libraries. In order to avoid triple shifts, 27 class-rooms in Gaza and 2 class-rooms in West Bank were erected or under construction in 1987. Eighteen school sanitary units were constructed in Gaza to replace unsuitable dilapidated units.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

38. UNESCO's major contribution to the education of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is undertaken in co-operation with UNRWA. As in the past UNESCO continues to loan to UNRWA, on a full-time basis, 15 posts attached to the UNRWA/UNESCO Department of Education (including the D-2 post of the Director of the Department) at a total cost of \$2,117,000 from UNESCO's Regular Budget.

39. In addition, UNESCO awards short-term fellowships to Palestinians employed by UNRWA in its education programme in the five fields of operation. An amount of \$77,000 is foreseen during the current biennium for such fellowships.

40. Furthermore, UNESCO purchases some equipment under its regular programme for use at the UNRWA/UNESCO Department of Education. Some \$50,000 are foreseen for this purpose during the current biennium.

41. Finally UNESCO scrutinizes and approves textbooks for use in UNRWA schools. This is done through consultative services financed by UNESCO's regular programme.
42. UNESCO's activities in support of educational institutions in the occupied Arab territories are twofold: on the one hand, there is assistance provided to the Palestinian universities operating in the West Bank and Gaza in the form of short fellowships for in-service training of the academic staff and purchase of some equipment. An amount of \$95,000 is budgeted for this purpose during the current biennium. On the other hand, UNESCO attempts, in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of its governing bodies, to undertake a permanent surveillance of the functioning of the educational institutions in those territories.
43. A mission was sent to the territories to investigate the question of academic freedom in 1987. A second mission is under preparation.
44. UNESCO maintains close relations with the authorities of the Al-Quds Open University, and has provided assistance, mainly in the form of technical advice. UNESCO is examining requests for consultant services, in consultation with the University authorities, and is also investigating the possibility of mobilizing appropriate funding from extrabudgetary sources on the basis of a fund-in-trust.
45. In conformity with General Conference resolution 22C/23, the Director-General of UNESCO launched an appeal in 1986 to all member States, as well as to regional, subregional and interregional development agencies and intergovernmental organizations, for voluntary contributions towards the establishment of a Scholarship Fund for the Higher Education of Students of the Occupied Territories. Pledges for contributions have so far been received from the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development. A fund-in-trust, to be financed by voluntary contributions, was established in 1987 for this Scholarship Fund with a target budget of \$2,500,000 for financing 50 scholarships a year. The Director-General is now in the process of renewing this appeal in conformity with resolution 24C/25.

3. United Nations Development Programme

46. By March 1988, projects dealing with the promotion of pre-primary education and promotion of vocational training were completed with the assistance of UNDP. The UNDP funding of these projects from its central resources amount to \$632,700. The total allocation of finances to the current and future projects in the area of education and vocational training, to be implemented in the West Bank and Gaza, including special contributions and financing by associated agencies, was defined in March 1988 as \$1,829,173.
47. The projects to be implemented by UNDP from funds available during the Fourth Cycle (ending in December 1991), are:

Class-rooms: It is planned to construct five new 12-class-room schools in rural areas and towns, two in the Gaza Strip and three in the West Bank. In

addition, a project outline is being submitted to the Government of Italy for financing the construction of 5 to 10 additional schools. UNDP input - \$1.5 million.

Vocational training: It is proposed to conduct, in co-operation with ILO, extensive courses for training of VTC Trainers. In addition, UNDP is investigating the possibility of establishing mobile VTC facilities as well as the establishment in Gaza of a two-year technical school for high school graduates. UNDP input - \$750,000.

Specialized medical training: UNDP has long proposed the establishment of a paramedical training centre for a number of specializations. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond its control, this centre has not materialized. As an alternative, UNDP proposes to finance training programmes for some specializations, with existing institutions. UNDP input will be \$US 150,000.

4. United Nations Children's Fund

48. In 1987, UNICEF provided technical assistance to local health departments to further develop the traditional birth attendants (TBA) training programme and funded the training of 16 supervisors (midwives) and 150 TBAs in the West Bank.

49. In the area of early childhood development, UNICEF assistance was directed to the establishment of four prototype child development centres for the prevention and early detection of the most common childhood disabilities and to the provision of guidance for treatment and rehabilitation. Assistance was also provided to train 652 kindergarten teachers and upgrade sanitation facilities in 60 kindergartens. In addition, construction materials and supplies were provided to renovate 20 kindergartens and basic furniture was provided to another 120. Pre-school facilities, such as day-care centres and kindergartens, are run by the private sector and the non-governmental organizations, but cover only 12 per cent of the total pre-school age-group in the West Bank and 6 per cent in Gaza. The project, originally scheduled to end in 1986, was extended for one year to permit a thorough review. The recommendations of this review form the basis for the new programme.

50. In the period from 1988 to 1990, six TBA supervisors from Gaza, two from each district, and 399 TBAs will be trained by local health authorities in safe delivery practices and in the promotion of child survival, particularly through oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and immunization.

51. A pilot project will be initiated in 1988 to introduce communities, on a self-help basis, to early childhood stimulation and development. It will be implemented in co-operation with the Social Welfare Society, operating in the northern part of the West Bank, and with the Society of Friends (Quakers) in the Gaza Strip. Fifty kindergarten teachers will be trained in community involvement and self-help programmes, and 30 families will be trained in toy-making as a source of income for themselves and the 24 kindergartens involved in the project. Ten kindergartens will be renovated to upgrade their sanitary and playground facilities and 20 will be given furniture to establish additional classes. The kindergartens

will also be used as demonstration and training units for toy production to replicate and expand the project. The pilot project will be evaluated in 1989, prior to expansion into other areas, and will eventually provide 10,000 children with pre-school services and 500 families with income-generating activities. By the end of the project, 260 teachers will have been trained, 200 kindergartens furnished and 30 renovated. All activities will be implemented in co-operation with the Federation of Philanthropic Organizations. The estimated planned expenditures for the period from 1988 to 1991, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, will be \$230,000.

5. International Labour Organisation

52. In the field of vocational training, an ILO consultant expert undertook a series of activities in April/May 1987 to evaluate needs for skilled manpower and the corresponding training needs in the main sectors of activity and occupation in order to work out proposals for the development of programmes and training institutions likely to meet these needs. These activities included a visit to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in April 1987, in the course of which consultations were held with a large number of local leaders and representatives of international agencies active in vocational training.

53. The initial proposals that resulted from these contacts and which involved financing in the range of \$500,000, mainly by UNDP, were re-examined with the UNDP representatives and were oriented towards a certain number of actions relating to specific training programmes for certain skills and for the training of instructors. A second consultancy mission for the implementation of these programmes is planned and will be carried out as soon as possible. The financing of these missions (some \$250,000) is met from the ILO's regular budget.

54. A course on training methodology for trade union instructors was prepared by the ILO International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training in Turin, financed by the regular budget for technical co-operation (approximately \$70,000). The course, which is intended for 18 participants from Palestinian trade unions on the West Bank and in Gaza, aims at providing them with instructor-training in methods of trade union administration and management so that they in turn may train trade union leaders.

55. This course was to have been held early in 1988 in Amman but has been postponed. Other courses of a similar nature are expected to be organized in various places.

6. Universal Postal Union

56. UPU provides two training fellowships at the Arab Faculty of Posts, Damascus, for two Palestinian nationals for four years (1986 to 1990 and 1990 to 1994). The total UPU contribution is estimated at 124,800 Swiss francs.

7. World Intellectual Property Organization

57. In 1987 WIP^o provided training for one Palestinian refugee in the field of copyright and for two Palestinian refugees in the field of industrial property.

8. United Nations University

58. UNU will continue to endeavour to provide fellowships for Palestinian scholars and scientists in accordance with its general training policies, bearing in mind the reduction of funds available for fellowships on account of current financial constraints.

9. United Nations Population Fund

59. UNFPA has provided three fellowships in the field of demography for post-graduate studies in the United Kingdom and has approved support for three fellowships in the Cairo Demographic Centre.

G. Health

1. World Health Organization

60. In response to the World Health Assembly resolutions, the Director-General of WHO has designated three WHO Collaborating Centres in the West Bank and Gaza to undertake activities in the field of primary health care research. This work is being carried out in close association between the UNDP, which administers the projects, and WHO which provides the financial support and is responsible for technical supervision.

61. The overall objective of all three centres is to undertake health systems research aimed at ensuring total coverage of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories with primary health care, using the most appropriate technology.

62. The Centres have been operative since the following dates:

Ramallah Health Services Research Centre	-	June 1987
Gaza Health Services Research Centre	-	January 1986
Health Manpower Development Working Group of the Health Services of the West Bank	-	June 1986

63. The Ramallah Health Services Research Centre has made definite progress. Its current priority activities include evaluation of expanded primary health care projects; studies on infant mortality and serological surveys designed to provide better measurements of the immunization status of young population; studies on the monitoring of the growth and development of children; evaluation of the work of

traditional birth attendants (dayas), and analysis of factors promoting or constraining utilization of pre-natal care and hospital delivery; research on prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors; establishment of a service of special care for women with high risk pregnancies, etc.

64. The Gaza Health Services Research Centre, established in 1981 as the Epidemiology and Health Information Centre of the Gaza Health Services, has developed into a good source of health information and epidemiological monitoring of the health status of the population of the Gaza Strip. It has made progress in the development of the computerization of vital health statistical data. Staff of the Gaza Centre have also been extremely active in pursuing the work arising from the health services research training workshop.

65. The Health Manpower Development Working Group of the Health Services of the West Bank has made an important beginning in reviewing all existing scientific data concerning the health manpower available in the West Bank, beginning with physicians and nurses. Priority is being given to the need for co-ordinated and expanded medical, nursing and paramedical manpower training, and continuing education. The central focus in this work is the projection of manpower needs and the preparation of an overall health manpower plan for the area.

66. A training exercise in health services research has been undertaken in the territories with the objective of increasing the skills of the staff of the Centres and of those who work closely with them, in carrying out health services research. The workshop has provided encouragement and technical guidance to the participants in formulating and implementing a selection of relatively small yet relevant research projects, each being undertaken as a practical learning experience by all participants during a period of approximately six months. The Workshop took place in December 1986 and in June 1987 (the review meeting). There were 26 participants, assisted by a faculty of seven, all of them WHO consultants or staff.

67. There is also individual training abroad for the Directors and research officers of the Centres. Further fellowships have been awarded to candidates from the West Bank and Gaza for training for masters' degree in public health at the international level.

68. Each Centre is an integral part of the health services of the area concerned. The financial requirements to maintain the Centres in operation in 1987 remained of the same order as in 1986, and the Director-General of WHO has made a number of approaches in order to seek extrabudgetary funding. Some support for a small part of the needs, especially relating to research in maternal and child health, including family planning, was given by UNFPA. WHO funding has come so far exclusively from the Director-General's Development Programme.

**2. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
in the Near East**

69. UNRWA has ensured full immunization coverage of children and pregnant women in the refugee camps, prevented incidence of major epidemics of communicable diseases, and met the target of no more than 50 deaths per thousand live births set by the World Health Organization for developing countries by the turn of the century.

70. The pilot projects concerning underweight children and those refugees who, because of declining economic conditions, need dietary assistance, have been completed and evaluated positively. The projects will be expanded and programmes based on them will gradually be introduced throughout the occupied territories.

71. In the West Bank, the projects for extension of two camp health centres were funded. A new health centre was built in Gaza town to replace old rented premises. Additional medical, nursing and other professional and support staff posts were established to cope with the increasing work-load at the health-centre level and to implement new activities and approaches in primary health care. Improved assistance was made possible through donations for upgrading diagnostic and treatment equipment. Specialists and special care clinics were further expanded by the establishment of a respiratory diseases clinic in one health centre and the procurement of equipment for two eye disease clinics in Gaza. Concerning in-patient medical care, the agreements with hospitals in both Gaza and West Bank were revised for wider provision of beds.

72. In order to increase the coverage of maternal and child care services, a second mobile health team was established in Gaza to serve the existing six maternal and child health sub-centres. Each sub-centre could thus be operated twice weekly instead of one day per week. Further improvements are planned for 1988 by establishing a third team, upgrading the staffing pattern of these teams and replacing inferior maternal and child health sub-centre premises. In the West Bank, two new maternal and child health centres were established and health centre premises in one camp were extended to facilitate the work of the maternal and child health clinic.

3. United Nations Development Programme

73. The health problems in the occupied Palestinian territories have received and continue to be given heavy emphasis in the activities of UNDP in that area. By March 1988, four health projects have been completed with the direct assistance of the UNDP. They are: "Development of health institutions I"; "Development of health institutions II"; "Children's institutions", and "Medical services training centre". The overall expenditures for these projects from UNDP resources constitute nearly \$1,600,000.

74. For the remainder of the UNDP Fourth Cycle (1987-1991) the following projects are planned for implementation with the assistance of the Programme:

Village clinics: UNDP plans to set up 15 to 20 clinics in rural areas and villages in the West Bank and Gaza, including regional clinics. Assistance under this project will be extended to local public health services as well as to non-governmental organizations, through provision of facilities for general treatment clinics and, in some cases, specialized clinics such as dental, maternity, etc. The Government of Italy has invited UNDP to prepare a proposal for the financing through UNDP of an additional 15 to 20 clinics by that Government. UNDP input - \$1 million.

Ambulance services: UNDP proposes to provide 10 ambulances for the purpose of establishing ambulance services in unserved areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNDP input - \$600,000.

75. Total financial allocations to the current and future projects in the field of health, including special contributions and inputs of associated agencies, as at March 1988, was defined in the amount of \$4,643,000.

4. United Nations Children's Fund

Programme co-operation, 1984-1987

76. In 1984, the UNICEF Executive Board approved a project for the reduction of infant mortality and the enhancement of mental and physical development of children of pre-school age. The project was subsequently fully funded (\$1.7 million) by the Federal Republic of Germany.

77. UNICEF assistance was directed through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help to extend immunization coverage through the provision of vaccines, syringes and needles, logistics support and cold-chain equipment. On the West Bank, immunization levels for children under one year of age reached more than 65 per cent for anti-tuberculosis vaccine, 75 per cent for three doses of combined diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, 90 per cent for measles and 97 per cent for three doses of oral polio vaccine, while coverage in Gaza was even more complete.

78. Support was also provided for extending the use of oral rehydration therapy, particularly in the health and maternal and child health centres of the health delivery system. In addition, in the less developed villages in the Hebron district, UNICEF provided assistance to train 55 village health workers and equipped them with first-aid kits. Local communities provided those workers with premises from which to dispense basic health services and first-aid and to promote child survival and development activities.

Recommended programme co-operation, 1988-1991

79. The major UNICEF programme for the period from 1988 to 1991 is to bring about an appreciable reduction in infant mortality. The main elements of this programme, which will be implemented primarily in co-operation with UNRWA, are as follows:

(a) Expanded programme of immunization (EPI). In 1988, a joint WHO/UNICEF EPI and control of diarrhoeal diseases (CDD) review will be undertaken to facilitate the development of strategies to achieve universal child immunization by 1989. UNICEF support will also be directed to the provision of vaccines, disposable syringes, needles and cold-chain equipment to UNRWA; the formation of an EPI technical committee; and the provision of community education on preventive health, including immunization, through the health services and mass media.

(b) Diarrhoeal disease control. Assistance will be provided to expand and strengthen the CDD programme in order to reduce the number of children who die each year from diarrhoeal diseases. UNICEF will also provide oral rehydration salt sachets to UNRWA-run health facilities and help to organize oral rehydration therapy training programmes for medical personnel in the private sector. Community education in the use of ORT will be supported in association with other interventions, particularly TBA training and water and sanitation activities.

80. The overall expenditures for the implementation of the above programmes during the period from 1988 to 1991, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, are estimated at \$725,000. In addition, a balance of \$159,000 from previous specific purpose contributions will be utilized in 1988.

81. UNICEF plans to employ an international project officer, with support staff, to help to develop further and oversee implementation of the project. Joint UNICEF/WHO EPI/CDD programme reviews will be conducted in 1988 and in 1990 to provide baseline and impact information on PHC services, as well as on the coverage of EPI and CDD. In the water and sanitation project, UNICEF will support baseline and impact assessment surveys in selected villages.

82. Monitoring of the early childhood stimulation project, through direct observation and registration records, will be carried out to determine if the pilot phase has reached its extended targets.

83. Review meetings involving counterparts and collaborating organizations will be held in June and December of each year to analyse progress and implementation constraints and suggest modifications to the subsequent year's plan of action.

5. United Nations Population Fund

84. UNFPA has approved the amount of \$88,000 to support the WHO Collaborating Centres for Primary Health Care Research in the West Bank and Gaza in research and research training in activities related to MCH and health. The long-range objectives of the project are to strengthen the capacity of the health services of the West Bank and Gaza to conduct health systems research at the primary and first referral levels, and to support research projects (including evaluation of services) specifically relating to maternal and child health.

85. Funds allocated are for the local costs of a two-part Health Services Training Workshop and support to five research projects on: (a) identification of major risk factors affecting outcome of pregnancy and childbirth; (b) infant mortality

studies; (c) study of trends and constraints in coverage of hospital delivery (West Bank); (d) knowledge, attitudes and professional practice of health staff concerning health; (e) monitoring and evaluation of a high-risk pregnancy service. The support for the research projects is in the form of technical expertise; costs of data collection; equipment, supplies and health education material for the proposed pilot "high-risk" pregnancy service.

H. Social welfare

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

86. It is estimated that, by the end of 1988, out of a total of 183,700 registered refugee families, 8,250 families in the Gaza Strip and 5,170 families in the West Bank will be registered as special hardship cases. Assistance provided to special hardship cases consists of dry food rations, blankets, clothing, small cash grants and repair or reconstruction of shelter. Children from these families are given preferential entry to Agency training centres. Cash grants are given to selected families to establish small enterprises that will enable them to become wholly or partially self-supporting. UNRWA is constantly seeking ways to improve the type and quality of assistance given to special hardship cases.

87. As to assistance to the disabled, a training centre for the blind in Gaza provides education, vocational training and employment in sheltered workshops for some 130 children and adults. The centre is partly funded by donations from non-governmental organizations and individuals. Plans are well advanced for establishing a centre for the treatment and education of the deaf and hard of hearing in Gaza, but are being held in abeyance for lack of funding. Recently, UNRWA co-operated with a non-governmental organization in establishing a small school for deaf children in the West Bank. Disabled persons are placed in institutions run by governmental and non-governmental organizations, many at UNRWA's expense, where they receive specialized care and, for those able to benefit from it, education and vocational training. Proposals for establishing community day-care centres for the mentally disabled, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations, are under consideration.

88. Welfare services are given to all eligible refugees who wish to take advantage of them. The services consist of social counselling, adult education and youth and women's activities. Social counselling is provided by trained welfare workers. Adult education in the form of sewing, embroidery and carpentry courses aims at providing the less educated refugees with marketable skills. It is planned to increase the number of these courses and to provide courses in other skills. Youth and women's activity centres provide facilities for youths and young adults to take part in educational, sporting, cultural and other recreational activities. Several youth centres, however, have been closed for some time.

89. UNRWA plans to carry out much needed construction in support of its welfare programme. This can only be done if special contributions are received. In 1988, \$460,000 is budgeted for the Gaza Strip and \$1,563,000 for the West Bank. Projects

include storm-water and sewage systems, and paving paths in camps, women's sewing and activities centres, an extension to the training centre for the blind and the establishment of a special school and resource centre for the deaf.

I. Human settlements

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

90. UNCHS (Habitat) is preparing an in-depth study on future needs in the infrastructure for the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/190. The report is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

91. Pursuant to resolutions 10/13 and 10/14 of the Commission on Human Settlements, UNCHS (Habitat) is also preparing studies on "housing requirements of a future independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil" and on "the reconstruction needed in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon". Both reports are to be submitted to the Commission on Human Settlements at its twelfth session, to be held in April/May 1989.

92. At its eleventh session, the Commission on Human Settlements adopted resolution 11/10 entitled "Reconstruction of Palestinian Houses" in which it, inter alia, requested the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to assist the Palestinian people in the re-building of their houses which had been "blown up and destroyed" by the occupying authorities. The Executive Director was further requested to report to the Commission at its twelfth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution and to provide it with a fuller report at its thirteenth session. UNHCS (Habitat) is in the process of initiating action on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution 11/10.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

93. The development of the programme, as described above, has been inevitably affected by the tragic events that have occurred in the territories since December 1987. Nevertheless, in spite of serious disruptions in the form of strikes, curfews and violent actions in recent months, measurable progress has been achieved by all United Nations agencies involved. Additional projects have become operational and further projects have been identified, even though the pace of project delivery has been slowed from time to time in specific regions and sectors.

94. From the standpoint of resource-raising, the developments in the territories have had the effect of attracting far greater international attention, and additional funds for development assistance, as well as relief services, have been forthcoming. The needs, however, are still very great and additional funding is urgently needed. The Secretary-General trusts that the international community will continue to increase its support for the programme. As more resources become available, the Secretary-General will continue to implement and develop further the programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/166.

ANNEX

List of organizations and funds addressed for the mobilization
of resources pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/166

European Economic Community
Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
League of Arab States
Organization of Islamic Conference
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
Council of Arab Economic Unity
Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
Arab Monetary Fund
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
Arab Industrial Development Organization
Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation
Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries
OPEC Fund for International Development
Islamic Development Bank
Arab Authority for Agriculture, Investment and Development
Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
Saudi Fund for Development
