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provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN
IRAN AND IRAQ
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Letter dated 19 August 1988 from the Permanent Representatives
of Greece and Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General

We have the honour to request you, on behalf of the member States of the European Community and the member States of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, to have circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 37, 40, 48 and 77 of the provisional agenda, the text of a Joint Declaration of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and its member States and the European Community and its member States.

The Declaration was issued on 15 June 1988, in Luxembourg, on the occasion of the signing of the Co-operation Agreement between the two groups.

(Signed) Constantine ZEPOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Greece

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia

* A/43/150.

ANNEX

Joint declaration issued in Luxembourg on 15 June 1988 by the European Community and its member States, and the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and its member States

1. On the occasion of the signing of the Co-operation Agreement between the European Community (EC) and the member States of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), EC and its member States and GCC and its member States expressed their determination to continue strengthening and intensifying relations between the two regions in the political, economic and cultural fields. The signing of the Agreement will no doubt create the momentum for the strengthening of their already solid relations and will expedite the realization of their common objectives.

2. On this occasion, the EC and GCC Ministers discussed regional and international issues of common interest. They expressed their deep concern over the gravity of the situation in the occupied territories. They share the view that the repressive measures taken by Israel against the Palestinian people are in clear contradiction of international law and human rights and must stop forthwith. This situation underlines the urgent need for a speedy negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this context, the EC and GCC Ministers, recalling respectively the Venice Declaration issued by the European Council and subsequent declarations and the Fez Plan and subsequent statements adopted by the Arab League Summit, reaffirmed their support for the early convening of an international peace conference and will exert their utmost with a view to reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Both sides expressed their profound concern about the continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran, which endangers international peace, security and stability. They reiterated their full support for the early implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and commended the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General in this regard. They urged the Security Council to make every effort for the realization of a peaceful solution to the conflict and to take whatever additional measures are necessary in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to secure compliance with Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

The two sides also reviewed problems related to navigation in the Gulf's international waterways. They explicitly emphasized that freedom of navigation and unimpeded flow of trade is a cardinal principle in international relations and international law. In this context, they call upon the international community to safeguard the right of free navigation in international waters and sea lanes for shipping en route to and from all ports and installations of the littoral States that are not party to the hostilities.

3. Reaffirming that co-operation between the EC and the GCC countries is complementary to the Euro-Arab dialogue and not a substitute for it, they expressed their determination to support actively the objectives of the dialogue and to contribute positively towards its success.

4. Recognising the positive role of GCC for the preservation of peace, security and stability of the Gulf region, EC and its member States are determined to develop further co-operation with GCC and its member States, in particular, in the framework of the co-operation agreement. In so doing, both sides will be contributing to peace and stability in the region.

5. Both sides expressed their determination to take the necessary steps to ensure the early entry into force of the Co-operation Agreement signed today, and to pursue with vigour its subsequent implementation. In accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, they decided to hold one annual meeting with the participation of the member States of the Community and the Commission on the one hand, and the member States of GCC and the General Secretariat of GCC on the other hand.
