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

Offers of scholarships and grants for higher education
for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 33/112 C of 18 December 1978. It includes the substance of responses by Member States and United Nations agencies to General Assembly resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977, received after the Secretary-General's report of 18 October 1978 (A/33/287 and Corr.1) on the latter resolution. By these resolutions, the Assembly appealed to all States to make special allocations, scholarships and grants to Palestine refugees, and invited relevant United Nations agencies to consider the inclusion, within their respective spheres of competence, of assistance for higher education for Palestine refugee students. The Assembly requested the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to act as recipient and trustee for such special allocations and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestinian refugee candidates. The Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 33/112 C.

2. Two Member States responded to General Assembly resolution 32/90 F after the Secretary-General had submitted his report (A/33/287 and Corr.1). The Government of Cuba informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that it was providing assistance to the Palestinians through the Palestine Liberation Organization and that this assistance included numerous fellowships for higher studies. The Government of Israel informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that opportunities were provided for refugees to attend higher educational institutions in Israel and that this was in addition to the direct assistance provided by the Israeli authorities for educational services to the refugees.

3. In response to resolutions 32/90 F and 33/112 C, the Government of Malta has awarded two scholarships through UNRWA enabling two Palestine refugees to undertake a four years' course for electrical engineering technicians, beginning in September 1979. The Government of Egypt has also informed the Secretary-General

that it provided educational assistance to Palestinian students at all levels, as it had done for the past 30 years, and that currently there were 13,209 students in receipt of scholarships at Egyptian universities. Egypt would continue this policy in the future and its educational and other institutions would be open always for Palestinian students.

4. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) informed the Commissioner-General of the regular assistance provided by their organizations, through the Palestine Liberation Organization, to the Palestinians, including the provision of training facilities and fellowships for higher studies. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) invited UNRWA to propose one or more refugee candidates for training within the programme of WIPO fellowships. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) informed the Commissioner-General of UNRWA that the WMO Congress had agreed to broaden the scope of availability of its fellowships to include Palestinian refugees. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) acknowledged receipt of the appeal, the IAEA indicating that requests for its technical assistance should be channelled through its Member States. The United Nations University informed the Commissioner-General that it operated a fellowships programme for advanced training, and that Palestinians, like other nationalities, were eligible to participate in it in accordance with applicable criteria and procedures.

5. Following the reference in the Secretary-General's report to the offer by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) of scholarships (A/33/287, para. 4), UPU awarded two scholarships through UNRWA to two Palestine refugees and proposed two more Palestine refugees for awards by the Arab Postal Union. The awards are for four years full-time training at the Higher Arab Postal Institute in Damascus, commencing in October 1979.

6. The Commissioner-General has advised the Secretary-General that UNRWA will make available to prospective candidates whatever information it receives about scholarships offered by States and specialized agencies for which Palestine refugee students might be eligible. It also is ready to act as the recipient and trustee of special allocations and scholarships whenever such funds and scholarships are made available to it.
