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

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for Palestine refugees

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of its resolution 42/69 D of 2 December 1987.
2. The report includes the substance of responses from United Nations agencies to the appeal contained in that resolution, together with reference to further action taken by United Nations agencies in response to the appeals contained in General Assembly resolutions 32/90 F of 13 December 1977, 33/112 C of 18 December 1978, 34/52 C of 23 November 1979, 35/13 B of 3 November 1980, 36/146 H of 16 December 1981, 37/120 D of 16 December 1982, 38/83 D of 15 December 1983, 39/99 D of 14 December 1984, 40/165 D of 16 December 1985 and 41/69 D of 3 December 1986. By these resolutions the Assembly appealed to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to augment special allocations for scholarships and grants to Palestine refugees, and invited the relevant United Nations agencies to continue, within their respective spheres of competence, to extend assistance for higher education to Palestine refugee students. The General 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 refugee candidates.
3. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) followed up its awards of 13 fellowships in the period from 1980 to 1987 with a further offer of fellowships in 1988.

4. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), although unable because of its financial situation to make funds available to UNRWA for the higher education of Palestine refugee students in 1987, decided to prepare a more comprehensive programme of future UNIDO activities concerning the Palestinian industrial sector, with special emphasis on generating and strengthening small-scale industries, as well as industrial training for both men and women.

5. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), under its project RAB/84/028 - Arab Maritime Transport Academy, located at Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, enrolled 29 Palestinians in the Academy in 1987 in a variety of training courses. Since the inception of the Academy in 1981, more than 290 Palestinians have been trained there.

6. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as part of its long-standing agreement with UNRWA, granted 46 fellowships to Palestine refugee education staff of UNRWA in the period from 1981 to 1986. In 1987, a total of five fellowships were awarded.

7. Outside the framework of its co-operation with UNRWA, UNESCO also foresees continued assistance to the Palestinian universities in the occupied Palestinian territories in the form of fellowships for members of their academic staff. It also plans to award a number of fellowships during 1988/89 to Palestinian students sponsored by the Palestine Liberation Organization and to pursue efforts to render operational the scholarship fund for the higher education of students of the occupied Palestinian territories, the establishment of which was requested by its General Conference. In 1986/87 UNESCO allocated \$140,000 to provide fellowships to students from the occupied Palestinian territories and to teaching staff of educational institutions in those territories.

8. The World Health Organization (WHO), in a post-graduate training programme aimed at developing the technical and managerial skills of the staff of the Department of Health of UNRWA, and at meeting future replacement needs under the various health disciplines, awarded eight regional and international fellowships to Palestine refugee health staff of UNRWA in 1987, following the award of five such fellowships in 1986. These awards, while not specifically in response to the General Assembly's resolutions, are in keeping with their spirit.
