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Forty-third year

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Letter dated 7 October 1988 from the Permanent Representative of
Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, inasmuch as my country, Jordan, chaired the Seventeenth Conference of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to transmit to you herewith the Arabic, English and French texts of the final communiqué adopted by the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in New York on 29 September 1988.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 3, 12, 18, 24, 29, 30, 36, 37, 39, 40, 47, 48, 77, 83, 86, 91, 129 and 136, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdullah SALAH
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign
Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held in
New York on 29 September 1988

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their annual Co-ordination Meeting on Thursday, 18th Safar, 1409H, corresponding to 29 September 1988, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Taher Masri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.
2. His Excellency Mr. Taher Masri, the Chairman, and His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, made statements dealing with the major problems confronting the Islamic Ummah.
3. Background notes prepared by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the question of Palestine, Jerusalem and the Middle East; the situation in Afghanistan; South Africa and Namibia; and the critical economic situation in Africa were submitted to the meeting. The meeting also had before it the reports of the committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Palestine, South Africa and Namibia and Afghanistan, which had held their meetings in New York on 26 and 28 September 1988.
4. The meeting undertook a review of the items on the agenda in the light of the reports and recommendations prepared by the committees on Palestine, Afghanistan, and South Africa and Namibia, and the background notes submitted to it.
5. The meeting approved the report and recommendations of the Committee of Six on Palestine. It reaffirmed that the Palestine cause constitutes the core of the Middle East conflict. A just and lasting peace in the Middle East could not be established without the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative.
6. The meeting expressed full support for the national uprising of the Palestinian people in occupied Palestinian territories and it condemned the brutal and inhuman policies and practices of Israel in the occupied territories in its bid to suppress by force the national uprising of the Palestinian people, which had resulted in the killing of hundreds of Palestinians, injuries to thousands, mass detentions and deportations, wanton and illegal destruction of Palestinian property and an economic blockade of the Palestinian people. The meeting called for concrete measures by the Islamic countries to provide diplomatic, political, financial, and other support, as well as medical and food supplies, for the Palestinian people inside occupied territories. The meeting called for an

intensification of efforts by the Islamic world, as well as the international community, towards the early holding of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, as called for by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 38 58 C, of 13 December 1983, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation on an equal footing of all parties directly concerned, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

7. Pending the holding of the conference, the meeting called for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to determine ways and means of providing protection to the Palestinian people in occupied territories not only through the full implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, but also through the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and the assumption of the administration of the Palestinian occupied territories by the United Nations for a limited transitional period until the establishment of an independent Palestinian State.

8. The meeting decided that a letter from the Islamic and friendly non-aligned States should be addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, expressing reservations regarding the credentials of the representatives of Israel.

9. The meeting adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Afghanistan. While welcoming the signature of the Geneva Accords as a step towards a comprehensive settlement of the problem of Afghanistan, the meeting called for the establishment of a broad-based government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan, which would usher in an era of peace and enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour. The meeting appealed to member States to continue to provide assistance for the upkeep of the Afghan refugees pending their return to Afghanistan. It also called upon member States to contribute to the programme of rehabilitation of refugees and reconstruction in Afghanistan following the establishment of a broad-based government, the restoration of peace and the return of Afghan refugees to their country.

10. The Co-ordination Meeting took note, with approval, of the consensus draft resolution introduced by Pakistan for submission to the General Assembly and expressed support for the proposal that the President of the General Assembly may be requested to present the agreed draft text to the Assembly for adoption by acclamation.

11. The meeting expressed relief and satisfaction at the cessation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq and hoped that the negotiations being conducted by the two sides under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) and for a comprehensive settlement would be successful and would enable both Iran and Iraq to turn their energies towards the urgent and gigantic task of the reconstruction of their economies which had been ravaged by the war.

12. The meeting adopted the report of the Committee of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on South Africa and Namibia. It condemned the repulsive system of apartheid and the brutal and inhuman policies pursued by the Pretoria régime in South Africa. The meeting demanded the immediate and total dismantlement of

apartheid, the restoration of the fundamental, civil, political, economic and human rights of the black community and the induction of majority rule in South Africa.

13. The meeting also reaffirmed full support for the heroic struggle of the people of Namibia to achieve independence under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), their sole and authentic representative. It condemned the brutal South African policies of terror, torture and murder against the Namibian people and the repeated aggression by the Pretoria régime against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the front-line States. The meeting demanded the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 386 (1976) and 435 (1978), which constitute the only acceptable basis for the accession of Namibia to independence.

14. The meeting requested member States to participate actively in the debate on the question of Namibia and the policies of apartheid at the General Assembly of the United Nations and to support the resolutions submitted on these issues. It requested member States to continue to extend support and material assistance to the people of Namibia and South Africa and their liberation organizations, as well as to the front-line States, to safeguard their sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability against repeated aggression by the Pretoria régime. The meeting called upon the United Nations Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

15. The meeting reviewed the international economic situation and took note with satisfaction of the three-point proposal of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, contained in his address to the forty-third session of the General Assembly, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit, regarding economic co-operation between the North and the South to alleviate the critical economic situation of the developing countries. The proposal calls for the waiver of interest due on all loans, reconsideration by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank of their stringent conditions for development assistance, for the development of human resources in developing countries and for the expansion of scientific and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology from the North to the South. The meeting expressed its full support for the proposal and considered it as an important and positive contribution to enhancing international economic co-operation and to improving the situation of the debtor nations.

16. The meeting reviewed the continuing critical economic situation in Africa and called upon the international community to increase assistance to the countries of Africa for the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the special session of the General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa, held from 27 to 31 May 1986.

17. The meeting also expressed sympathy and support for the Governments and the people of the Sudan and Bangladesh where heavy rains and flooding have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, rendered millions homeless and caused extensive damage to property. While expressing appreciation to those member States that have provided emergency relief assistance to the Sudan and Bangladesh, the meeting appealed to all member States to make generous donations to these two brotherly

countries to enable them to undertake the major task of rehabilitation and reconstruction that confronts them.

18. The meeting took note of a statement made by the representative of Turkey regarding the plight of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria. It expressed appreciation for the report of the Contact Group on Bulgaria established by the Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and called for the continued support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to the Muslims of Bulgaria.

19. The meeting took note of the statement made by the representative of Turkey regarding the Turkish Muslims of Cyprus and the need to protect the equal status of the Turkish-Cypriot community within a bi-communal bi-zonal federal structure. In this context, the meeting welcomed the ongoing negotiations between the Turkish-Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot leaders to find a solution to the problem of Cyprus.

20. The meeting decided to issue a statement expressing deep appreciation and thanks to His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who would be relinquishing his charge at the end of this year (see appendix).

APPENDIX

Statement issued at the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers for
Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,
held in New York on 29 September 1988

The Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at their meeting, held on 18 Safar, 1409H (29 September 1988), paid tribute to His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who would be completing his tenure at the end of 1988.

They expressed appreciation for his efforts during his term of office since 1 January 1985 in defence of the causes of the Islamic world at the regional and international level and for the laudable role he played in raising the stature of the Organization of the Islamic Conference internationally and promoting its objectives.

The Ministers, noting that His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada had served as the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference during a difficult and turbulent period in the international arena, expressed particular appreciation that he had tackled the problems facing the Islamic Ummah with patience and wisdom and had made a positive contribution towards their resolution, particularly through regular contacts with Governments, international organizations and world personalities.

The Ministers wished all success to His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada in his future life and expressed the confidence that he would continue to serve the Islamic Ummah even after the completion of his tenure as the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
