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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/88 F)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/88 F of 10 December 1982, the operative part of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Reaffirms the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"2. Condemns Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculties in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially the policy of opening fire on defenceless students, causing many casualties;

"3. Condemns the systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities in the occupied Palestinian territories, restricting and impeding academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting the selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, the admission of students and the appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities, in clear contravention of the Geneva Convention;

"4. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the provisions of that Convention, rescind all actions and measures against all educational institutions, ensure the freedom of these institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities and other educational institutions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution before the end of 1983."

2. On 10 March 1983, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel in which he referred to his responsibility to report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to transmit to him any information that would be relevant to the preparation of that report.

3. On 27 September 1983, the Permanent Representative of Israel addressed to the Secretary-General the following reply:

"Israel utterly rejects the accusations levelled against it in General Assembly resolution 37/88 F of 10 December 1982, with regard to the situation in the educational institutions in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

"The school system in the areas in question is staffed by several thousand local Arab teachers, inspectors and administrative personnel. Compared to 1967-68 when the governmental educational network in Judea and Samaria included 14 Israeli employees and 913 local employees, the 1982-83 numbers show 12 Israelis and 8,533 local employees.

"The following table demonstrates the growth of the school system in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District during the years of Israel administration. Whereas the population increased by about 20 per cent during this period, the total number of pupils receiving schooling in governmental, UNRWA and private educational networks increased by 90 per cent and the number of classes increased by almost 88 per cent:

	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
Pupils (total)	222,266	421,429
Classes (total)	6,148	11,618

"This percentage growth is due mainly to the development in the governmental education network during the years of Israel administration, as shown by the following table. In Judea and Samaria, the number of pupils and classes in the governmental education network almost doubled, and in the Gaza District the number of pupils increased by over 250 per cent and the number of classes increased by 270 per cent:

<u>Judea, Samaria</u>	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
Pupils	107,332	209,212
Classes	3,287	6,098
<u>Gaza District</u>		
Pupils	27,527*	68,852**
Classes	643*	1,749**

* Including Northern Sinai.

** Excluding Northern Sinai.

"In June 1967, there were no higher education institutions in Judea and Samaria. It was the Israel administration which enabled the establishment of such institutions, including four universities as well as other colleges and teacher training schools:

"A. <u>Universities</u>	<u>Students</u>
1. Al-Najah University (Nablus)	3,000
2. Bir Zeit University	1,972
3. Bethlehem University	1,250
4. College of Islamic Studies	1,600
"B. <u>Colleges</u>	
1. The Polytechnic Institute (Hebron)	411
2. College of Science, Abu Deis	180
3. Arab College of Medical Sciences, Elbireh	200
4. College of Islamic Studies, Abu Deis	58
5. College of Islamic Studies, Kalkilya	122
6. Bible College, Bethlehem University	20
"C. <u>Teacher Training Schools</u>	
1. <u>Governmental</u>	
a. Tulkarem (Kadouri)	299
b. Hebron (Al Aroub)	80
c. Ramallah	239

2. UNRWA

a. Ramallah (Men)	355
b. Ramallah (Women)	525
c. Kalandiya (Coed)	432

3. Private

a. The National Al-Najah	316
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"Academic activity on the university campuses and at other educational institutions is conducted without interference by the Israel administration. The academic and pedagogic curricula and other educational programmes in the institutions are, in fact, those of the Jordanian educational authorities (as regards Judea and Samaria) and the Egyptian educational authorities (as regards the Gaza District). Matters and problems concerning programmes or curricula are handled directly by the educational institutions and Jordan or Egypt respectively, as the circumstances require, without intervention by the Israel authorities.

"Academic freedom, however, does not license the disruption of public order by incitement, threats or violence. When security is, or is likely to be, endangered by virulent demonstrations outside the confines of the campus, on public highways, generally by setting fire to tires and other objects on the roads or by stoning passing vehicles, authorities are obliged by International Law to restore and maintain public order and safety. Such action is taken without any relation to the academic context. Therefore, Israel's actions may in no way be interpreted as alleged as a 'systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities' in the administered areas."

4. It might be mentioned that the report of the Team of Experts on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian Territories, which has been reproduced in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the same subject, contains, inter alia, information relevant to the conditions of education in those territories (A/38/278-E/1983/77, paras. 112-124). The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories has considered the subject of measures taken by the Israeli authorities affecting the right to freedom of education in the occupied territories and has included pertinent information in its report to the General Assembly (A/38/409, paras. 155-191).
