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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA: UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND
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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROLONGATION OF THE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN
IRAN AND IRAQ
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND
DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER

Note verbale dated 23 October 1988 from the Permanent Mission of
Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that the Eightieth Inter-Parliamentary Conference took place at Sofia, Bulgaria, from 16 to 24 September 1988.

As is the established practice, the host country usually forwards resolutions adopted by the Conference to the Secretary-General when such resolutions are related to items on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Accordingly, the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria would be grateful to the Secretary-General if the text of the present note and the resolutions attached thereto could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 18, 36, 37, 39, 40, 48, 82, 87, 91, 104 and 105.

ANNEX

Resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
at the Conference held in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 19
to 24 September 1988

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Resolution on :

**SUPPORT FOR TALKS TOWARDS ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND
LASTING PEACE BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ ON THE BASIS OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 598 (1987)**

(adopted by consensus)

The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling its resolution adopted by consensus at its 78th Conference on the "Contribution of Parliaments to Achieving Comprehensive and Just Peace between Iran and Iraq and to Security of Navigation in the Gulf on the Basis of the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 598 (1987)" which, inter alia, appealed to Iran and Iraq "to settle their conflict through negotiations and in a peaceful way, further co-operating with the efforts and proposals of the United Nations Secretary-General, and in particular, by fully implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 598 (1987)",

Noting with satisfaction the cease-fire of 20 August 1988 which has been accepted and observed by the two parties on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 598 (1987),

Noting further the active and constructive role played by the United Nations Secretary-General in reaching this successful outcome and the start of talks, under the auspices of the United Nations, at Geneva on 25 August 1988,

1. Welcomes the efforts of Iran and Iraq in order to end the conflict which has led to the loss of countless human lives, and urges them to pursue talks under the auspices of the United Nations and on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 598 (1987), with a view to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the principles embodied in the United Nations Charter and international law;
2. Encourages the United Nations Secretary-General to pursue his role of facilitating an understanding between the two parties, on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolution 598 (1987);
3. Calls on all Parliaments and Governments to support and encourage constructive talks by the two parties, under United Nations auspices, towards a peaceful, lasting, just and honourable solution of the conflict which, inter alia, would enable the re-establishment of free and secure navigation and air traffic in the region, in accordance with international law.

INTER - PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Resolution on :

**THE POPULAR UPRISING IN THE ARAB TERRITORIES
OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL**

(adopted by 636 votes to 139, with 211 abstentions *)

The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Following with deep concern the atrocities existing and continuing in the occupied Arab territories and the effects of such atrocities on innocent civilians, including the deprivation of rights and liberties inherent in the human person, and recognizing the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, including the right to form its own independent State,

Noting the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, relating to the Palestinian question and the Israeli-Arab conflict,

1. Strongly reproves and denounces the flagrant daily violations, by Israel, of the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols, with regard to the treatment of the populations of occupied Arab territories, and the practices of the Israeli forces and settlers;
2. Calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from all Arab territories and to end its occupation of those territories, including the part of Arab Jerusalem that it has occupied since 1967, the Golan Heights and South Lebanon, to comply with the will of the international community by ceasing its repressive practices, releasing all detained or sentenced Arab patriots, and allowing all deportees to return to their homeland;
3. Appeals to all parties concerned to refrain from any action violating international law and human rights, points out that the Israeli military administration bears special responsibility during the period of the military occupation, denounces and condemns the repressive and inhuman treatment by the occupying Israeli Authorities of the unarmed Palestinian people, and demands that those Authorities put an end to such treatment;
4. Renews its commitment to a peaceful solution to the crisis, in the firm belief that a real peace process is possible;
5. Underlines that the principles upon which a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict should be based are the renunciation of the use of violence as a means of solving conflicts, the security of all States and peoples in the region, which necessarily implies the right of Israel to exist within secure borders, and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;

* Full details of the vote may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex, CP 438, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

6. Reaffirms its support for the international peace conference, to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and involving all parties concerned, including Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the USSR and the United States of America, as well as the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, and to be convened in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolutions-242 and 338, and all other relevant UN resolutions;
7. Welcomes all international initiatives, particularly those of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, aiming to arrive at a confluence of views in order to solve the Palestinian question on the basis of the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations;
8. Supports the efforts of the Palestinians to find a negotiated solution, on the basis of mutual, reciprocal and simultaneous recognition, paving the way to a just and lasting peace, and calls for the elimination of all obstacles in the way of this process;
9. Stresses that every effort must be made to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and calls on the international community to extend economic and humanitarian aid;
10. Requests the United Nations to ensure the protection and security of Palestinian citizens by placing the territories occupied by Israel under international control pending the holding of the international conference on peace in the Middle East, with a view to finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to this conflict;
11. Recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council establish a working group consisting of Israeli, Palestinian and other delegations to the Conference, under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
12. Acknowledges and accepts the proposal of the Egyptian National Group that an IPU fact-finding mission should be sent as soon as possible to the West Bank and the Gaza strip, and recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council urgently take the appropriate measures for that mission to be undertaken and for it to report back to the Council on its findings.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Resolution on :

**ACTION BY PARLIAMENTS IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD AND IN BRINGING
NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS NORMS, PRINCIPLES AND INSTRUMENTS**

(adopted without a vote)

A. With regard to bringing national legislation into line with international human rights norms, principles and instruments

The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations is the achievement of international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Anxious to facilitate, in all areas and in keeping with the goals and principles of the United Nations Charter, the full implementation of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the fulfilment of States' commitments arising from fundamental international instruments on human rights and humanitarian problems, such as the International Covenants on human rights and the Conventions against genocide, apartheid, racial discrimination, slavery, torture, discrimination against women, etc.,

Concerned by the economic gap between developed and developing countries, and affirming that the right to development is an inviolable right, the enjoyment of which would further the exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the year 1988 marks the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering that next year (1989) marks the Centenary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union whose goals include the promotion of peace and co-operation among countries and whose work includes specific action in the field of human rights,

Expressing its conviction that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the implementation, promotion and protection of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights,

Recognizing that full respect for human rights in all areas of the world is a prerequisite for maintaining international peace and security and promoting the establishment of friendly relations and co-operation among States,

Deeply concerned by the persistent massive and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in some parts of the world, and committed to intensifying its efforts to contribute to the total elimination of such violations,

Aware that it is not possible to speak with credibility of the protection of human rights without mentioning that the great majority of the five billion men, women and children on earth continue to be subjected to poverty, that more than one billion human beings suffer from chronic hunger and that not even their minimum nutritional, health, housing, clothing and educational needs are met,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all peoples to determine their own form of government and to choose their own economic, political and social system without outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever,

Affirming that the peaceful efforts undertaken in accordance with international law to secure respect for human rights, particularly when the relevant international instruments are invoked, do not constitute interference in the internal affairs of other States,

Reaffirming its support for the efforts of the United Nations and other international and multinational bodies for the observance of human rights,

Recalling the terms of the resolution adopted by the 78th Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which lays particular emphasis on the need for national measures guaranteeing the effective implementation of international rules concerning human rights,

Affirming that Parliaments and parliamentarians have a role to play in the solution of humanitarian problems, the definition, assertion and constant protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in their own countries, and can assume this responsibility by using the authority bestowed on them by their electors to influence the policy of Governments, taking into consideration public opinion and the interests of all sectors of the population,

Convinced that respect for human rights can only be guaranteed in the long term under a system of government in which the rule of law prevails and constitutional guarantees are provided,

1. Appeals to all States which have not yet done so to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as to the other international instruments concerning human rights, thereby conferring genuine universality on all these instruments;
2. Invites all States immediately to take the necessary steps to ratify the 1984 Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and requests the Inter-Parliamentary Union to publish the list of countries which have ratified this Convention;

3. Calls on States to guarantee effective protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, in accordance with their respective constitutional régimes and international instruments concerning human rights;
4. Urges all States to respect the rights of national minorities and ethnic groups and support them in their efforts to cultivate their language and preserve their beliefs, national culture and heritage;
5. Appeals to all Governments to adapt their passport and visa regulations in order to facilitate direct contacts among individuals;
6. Calls on Parliaments to undertake constructive efforts jointly at the international level to promote human rights, seek agreement and mutual understanding, improve readiness to co-operate and seek solutions to world problems such as hunger, disease, poverty, homelessness and environmental destruction, and to establish a just and democratic international economic system;
7. Underlines that it is important for Governments to establish equality between men and women in law and in practice and encourage women to play more effective roles in economic and social development by improving their educational and employment opportunities and ensuring that all women are at liberty to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children by providing family-planning information and services;
8. Recognizes the right of every country to develop according to its social and economic needs and cultural values, in conformity with its national legislation and international instruments, as well as the human right of every citizen to benefit from such development;
9. Insists on the need to increase food production in the Third World countries and to improve the distribution of resources in order to ensure economic, social and cultural rights for their peoples;
10. Asserts the need to set up, in conformity with national legislation, national institutions capable of effectively promoting and protecting human rights and to ensure the independence and integrity of those institutions;
11. Stresses the need for every State to make provision, in its national legislation and in accordance with its constitutional system, for effective recourse procedures in cases involving violations of these rights;
12. Recommends that all States take appropriate measures to disseminate objective information in the field of human rights and to elaborate and adopt guidelines for education in a spirit of peace, tolerance, understanding between peoples and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

13. Calls on all States to provide necessary training for their police officers, prison staff, military personnel and other relevant authorities on all aspects of their obligations and responsibilities under the 1984 Convention against torture;
14. Calls for further improvement of international monitoring of the observance of internationally binding obligations to respect human rights;
15. Calls on the international community constantly to review the effectiveness of existing international and multinational bodies for the protection of human rights and to propose the necessary improvements;
16. Reaffirms the need for States to report on the human rights situation in their respective countries, in conformity with their international obligations;
17. Calls on developed countries to consider providing, when requested, financial, technical and/or other support to developing countries, to assist them in meeting the conditions of ratification and the obligation of regular reporting;
18. Invites the United Nations to consider the possibility of strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights;
19. Stresses that a more advanced understanding of human rights requires a general abolition of capital punishment or, at least, in order to reach that goal, a progressive reduction of the number of crimes for which capital punishment is still applied;
20. Recalls that the 78th Inter-Parliamentary Conference urged all States to consider in all its aspects, within the framework of the United Nations, the possibility of establishing an international court of justice responsible for examining human rights violations which do not fall within the jurisdiction of regional courts responsible for such matters.

B. With regard to the international co-operation in the humanitarian field:

The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that human dignity is inviolable and that respect for fundamental human rights forms the basis of every human society and, as such, is the prerequisite for domestic peace within States and for peaceful co-operation,

Deeply concerned by the continuation of armed conflicts and their serious consequences in the humanitarian field,

Noting and deploring that not only wars, but also countless disasters, both natural or caused by man, are creating emergency situations,

Stressing the imperative need to provide protection and assistance to the victims of conflicts, natural or man-made disasters, diseases, epidemics and hunger in the world,

Noting that international co-operation in the humanitarian field is weakening under the effects of the world economic and social crisis,

Recalling international humanitarian conventions, particularly the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 on the protection of victims of armed conflicts and their two Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977,

Also recalling the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees and the 1967 Protocol to that instrument,

Noting that different universal organizations, such as the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the European Economic Community, the Organization of American States, etc., provide relief in the event of natural or other disasters, and that several of them have undertaken to prepare a draft convention to facilitate disaster relief,

Commending the role played in international co-operation in the humanitarian field by the international humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental humanitarian organizations,

Stressing the importance of the role played by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),

Placing particular emphasis on the action of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the universality of the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality underlying its work,

Also emphasizing the humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO),

Convinced that humanitarian aid is an act of solidarity and that effective co-operation in the humanitarian field depends on closer co-operation between those involved and on the co-ordination of their activities,

Stressing the contribution which Parliaments can and must make to the development of international co-operation in the humanitarian field, and the need for all Parliaments to continue their efforts in this field,

Recalling the terms of the resolutions adopted by the 76th and 78th Inter-Parliamentary Conferences,

1. Appeals for observance, at all times and in all circumstances, of the rules of international humanitarian law and universally recognized humanitarian principles;

2. Urges States to promote dialogue between donor and beneficiary countries, between non-governmental humanitarian organizations and between such organizations and the countries that they assist, in order to identify essential objectives and prevent duplication of efforts;
3. Stresses the need to strengthen present arrangements at the international level to ensure a rapid and effective response to the problems of a humanitarian nature facing the international community;
4. Invites Parliaments and Governments to do everything in their power to respect and ensure compliance with the rules of international humanitarian law in cases of armed conflict and, more particularly,
 - (a) To take all necessary legislative and other measures;
 - (b) To preserve the lives of civilians, release prisoners of war as soon as hostilities are ended and reconstruct devastated areas;
 - (c) To give the ICRC all the support it requires to carry out its humanitarian mission;
 - (d) To support efforts to increase public awareness of the general activities of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent notably those of their own National Societies;
 - (e) To fulfil scrupulously their commitment, under the Geneva Conventions, to disseminate the principles of international humanitarian law, particularly among the armed forces;
 - (f) To hasten the process of ratification of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, one of which relates to the protection of the victims of international armed conflicts and the other to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts, both adopted on 8 June 1977, or the procedure of accession to those instruments;
5. Recommends the creation of a working group composed of the representatives of the main universal and regional organizations providing assistance in the event of natural or other disasters (International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, UNHCR, UNDRG, EEC, OAU, etc.), to co-ordinate and hasten the preparation of an international convention to provide swift and effective relief to the victims of disasters, both natural or caused by man;
6. Stresses the need to guarantee the continuity of the structure and operations of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), urges the industrialized countries to assume a major share of the third replenishment of its resources, and requests the

developing countries, traditional contributors, to maintain their contribution to the third replenishment at the same level as their contribution to the second;

7. Also requests Parliaments and Governments to support non-governmental humanitarian organizations;
8. Calls on all Governments and Parliaments to eradicate the causes of the refugee and expellee problem, in particular, massive and flagrant human rights violations, national and international military conflicts, and foreign occupation;
9. Urges States to ratify the universal and regional juridical instruments concerning refugees and expellees or, as the case may be, to withdraw the reservations restricting their obligations under these instruments;
10. Calls on all Governments and Parliaments to be mindful of their responsibility to grant refugees protection and to accept the victims of political persecution, in accordance with the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
11. Urgently appeals to all States to provide financial and organizational support to assist host countries with the additional problems caused by the presence of refugees and asylum-seekers;
12. Calls on each Parliament, together with its respective Government, to contribute to the creation of a national emergency aid and solidarity fund for the victims of natural disasters or to take other appropriate steps to ensure rapid relief for victims;
13. Encourages Governments to provide the resources needed for humanitarian activities carried out at the international level.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Resolution on :

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL TERRITORIES, AND TO THE
ELIMINATION OF COLONIALISM, RACISM AND APARTHEID

(adopted by 878 votes to 4, with 141 abstentions*)

The 80th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling UN General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, containing the Programme of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, and resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the Annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration,

Taking note of UN General Assembly resolution 40/56 of 2 December 1985 concerning the 25th anniversary of the above-mentioned Declaration,

Confirming all previous resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union concerning the implementation of the Declaration and the elimination of apartheid and all forms of racism,

Noting with deep concern the existence of colonialist countries which hinder the efforts made to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in territories under their domination, violating the principles of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly,

Aware that all forms of colonialism and racism must be eradicated from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the South Pacific,

Recognizing the key role played by the United Nations in the implementation of UN General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), especially with regard to the granting of independence to a great many colonial, trust and non-self-governing territories,

Realizing the urgent need to take effective measures to ensure prompt elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism and racial discrimination,

* Reservations were expressed by the French delegation without any mention of the paragraphs in question, by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to operative paragraph 3, by the Moroccan delegation to the 30th preambular paragraph and to operative paragraphs 29 and 30, by the delegation of the United Kingdom to operative paragraphs 34 and 35 and to other, unspecified paragraphs and by the United States delegation to operative paragraphs 4, 26 and 27. Full details of the vote may be obtained from the Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Place du Petit-Saconnex, CP 438, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

Recalling that the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, in spite of numerous resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, remain subjected to the most inhuman colonialist, racist and apartheid policy,

Taking into account the United Nations resolution ending South Africa's mandate over Namibia, of which Walvis Bay and the Penguin Islands are integral parts, as well as Security Council resolution 435 (1978) laying the foundations for a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the Namibian conflict,

Reaffirming its support for the struggle waged by the people of South Africa under the leadership of its national liberation movements to exercise its right to self-determination and to create a free, democratic, united and non-racial South Africa,

Strongly condemning racist South Africa and its continued illegal and colonial occupation of Namibia in contravention of the decisions of the UN Security Council,

Confirming the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to freedom, self-determination and national independence in a united Namibia,

Welcoming the constructive approach of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) to diplomatic initiatives and the United Nations' efforts in search of a just and peaceful solution to the Namibia problem through negotiation,

Recalling that the continued efforts of South Africa to "link" the problem of granting independence to Namibia to irrelevant and extraneous issues have been condemned throughout the world and rejected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council,

Reaffirming that Namibia's resources belong solely to the people of Namibia and that exploitation of these resources by foreign economic circles under the protection of the colonial régime of South Africa is illegal and encourages the occupation régime to pursue a more uncompromising and arrogant policy,

Expressing its regret over South Africa's use of the territory of Namibia as a springboard for new acts of aggression against independent African States,

Expressing deep concern over continued violations of the mandatory embargo on arms supplies, established by UN Security Council resolution 418 (1977), and also over the nuclear collaboration of some Western States and Israel with the racist régime of South Africa,

Welcoming the decisions taken with regard to southern Africa by the 23rd Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held in Addis Ababa in July 1987,

Noting with satisfaction the start of the negotiating process aimed at political settlement in south western Africa,

Dismayed at the extent of the loss of life and limb and of the destruction of economic and social infrastructures amounting to billions of dollars and further exacerbated by Pretoria's use of armed bandits, particularly in Angola and Mozambique,

Deeply concerned by the constant refusal of certain Western countries to give effect to United Nations resolutions concerning comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa, which remain the only effective peaceful means available to the international community of eliminating apartheid and hastening the accession of Namibia to independence,

Stressing the urgent need to draw the attention of the international community to the intolerable repression and racism prevailing in South Africa and Namibia,

Convinced that there can be no positive developments in South Africa until all political prisoners and detainees have been released and the liberation movements are able to participate in all negotiations,

Reaffirming its strong determination totally and unconditionally to suppress racism in all its forms, racial discrimination, apartheid, as well as any kind of discrimination based on colour, religion or ethnic origin,

Encouraged by the four-party meetings of the Governments of Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States of America aimed at achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict in south western Africa and independence for Namibia within a year, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 435 (1978),

Gravely concerned over the tense situation which has persisted for so long in southern Africa, perpetuated by the South African régime's continuing occupation of Namibia and its refusal so far to recognize the inalienable right of the people of Namibia to independence and to put an end to its racist apartheid policy,

Recalling the recent appeal by the Non-Aligned Conference of Foreign Ministers in Nicosia, Cyprus, for a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in 1989, devoted to the question of apartheid and its destructive tendencies in South Africa,

Taking note of the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence and of the peace plan proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General for a political settlement of the Western Sahara question, which takes into account the just aspirations of the people,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 38/40, 39/40, 40/50, 41/16 and 42/78 concerning the Western Sahara question, which take up the peace plan contained in resolution AHG/104 adopted by consensus at the 19th Conference of the OAU Heads of State and Government,

Supporting the endeavours of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairman of the OAU to promote implementation of the resolutions concerning the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and

independence through the holding of a democratic referendum without any military or administrative constraints, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU,

Noting with satisfaction UN Security Council resolution 621 on Western Sahara, adopted unanimously by its members, supporting the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Chairman of the OAU with a view to holding a referendum on self-determination under the supervision of the United Nations in co-operation with the OAU,

1. Reaffirms that the Declaration on The Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be implemented in full and without exception;
2. Declares that the continued existence of colonialism in all forms and manifestations - including racism, apartheid and the activities of foreign economic and other circles, all of which run counter to the UN Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as violation of the right to self-determination and fundamental human rights of the peoples of colonial territories, and the continued policy and practice of suppressing legal national liberation movements - is incompatible with the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and poses a major threat to international peace and security;
3. Recognizes the right of peoples subjected to colonial, neo-colonial and racist domination to use every means possible, including armed struggle, to attain freedom;
4. Denounces the attempts by colonial Powers to perpetuate their military presence by maintaining so-called sovereign bases and to dismember their colonial territories and the use of those territories for purposes which are incompatible with both the interests of the native peoples and the maintenance of international peace and security;
5. Reaffirms that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms, including foreign occupation and the establishment of settlers, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;
6. Welcomes the commendable endeavours of the United Nations Secretary-General who offers his good offices to reduce tension and end conflicts, in particular by ensuring that the principles of the United Nations Charter and resolutions are respected;
7. Strongly condemns the policy of apartheid, which deprives the majority of the population of South Africa of its citizenship and fundamental freedoms and human rights;

8. Demands that the South African authorities:
 - (a) Immediately and unconditionally release Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners;
 - (b) Prevent illegal prosecution of the Sharpeville Six;
 - (c) Immediately lift the state of emergency;
 - (d) Lift the ban on political activity of democratic mass organizations, including the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU);
 - (e) Abolish discriminatory legislation and mass media restriction and censorship;
 - (f) Begin, without any pre-conditions, political dialogue with the genuine majority leaders with the purpose of immediately eliminating apartheid and creating a representative government;
 - (g) Eliminate the system of Bantustans;
 - (h) Discontinue actions aimed at political and economic destabilization of the front-line and other States;
9. Vigorously condemns the racist régime of Pretoria for its illegal occupation of Namibia, while hoping that effect will be given to Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in accordance with the commitments made by South Africa in the recent four-party talks, following direct negotiations with SWAPO;
10. Strongly condemns the acts of aggression, destabilization and State terrorism perpetrated by the South African régime against the front-line States, that create a climate of terror, instability and insecurity throughout southern Africa;
11. Endorses the call by the Non-Aligned Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Nicosia, Cyprus, for a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in 1989, devoted to the question of apartheid and its destructive tendencies in South Africa;
12. Calls on Parliaments to give their strong support to the convening of the UN Special Session devoted to the question of apartheid and its destructive tendencies in South Africa;
13. Strongly condemns the South African régime for its continued illegal occupation of Namibia in contravention of the UN resolutions on Namibia;
14. Confirms that the UN plan for granting independence to Namibia, as contained in UN Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978), is the only internationally acceptable basis for a peaceful settlement of the Namibia problem, and demands its prompt implementation without any pre-conditions and changes;

15. Solemnly declares once again that the granting of independence to Namibia should be accompanied by the preservation of its territorial integrity, of which Walvis Bay and the offshore islands are integral parts;
16. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle waged by the people of Namibia for self-determination and its right to use all available means, including armed struggle;
17. Notes with satisfaction the measures taken by some countries, international organizations, parliamentarians, institutions and non-governmental organizations to bring pressure to bear on the racist régime of South Africa, and calls on them to redouble their efforts to make the racist régime comply with UN resolutions and decisions on Namibia and South Africa;
18. Urgently calls on the UN Security Council to discuss without delay the question of imposing comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa;
19. Requests all parliamentarians to urge their respective Governments to take measures to guarantee that all enterprises and persons under their jurisdiction fully observe and implement the provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia;
20. Believes that an independent Namibia is not obliged to honour South Africa's huge foreign debt under recent practice at independence or under relevant conventions on rights and duties of succession at independence;
21. Calls on the creditors to hold the South African régime responsible for contracting and under obligation to settle foreign debts entered into for purposes of its illegal occupation of and presence in Namibia;
22. Appeals to the international community to give assistance to SWAPO in order that it may return to Namibia after its protracted 22 years of struggle and participate in the UN-organized general elections which must be free and fair;
23. Also appeals to the international community to give material and financial assistance to an independent Namibia with a view to the reconstruction of its economy;
24. Further appeals to all Parliaments to urge their Governments firmly to support the call for the imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa and to end investments in and assistance to that country;
25. Cautiously supports the recent agreement of 8 August 1988 involving Angola, Cuba and South Africa, initiated with the mediation of the United States of America and aimed at achieving a peaceful solution to the struggle for Namibian independence and the occupation of the southern part of Angola by South African troops;

26. Requests the Government of the United States of America and the Government of South Africa to stop their financial, military and political aid to UNITA so that the People's Republic of Angola may live in peace and intensify implementation of its policy of clemency and national harmonization;
27. Reaffirms the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination, independence and sovereignty in conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the full applicability of that resolution to the case of Puerto Rico;
28. Reaffirms that the question of Western Sahara is a decolonization issue which remains to be resolved on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of its inalienable right to self-determination and independence;
29. Requests the immediate implementation of resolution AHG/104 adopted by the 19th Conference of the OAU Heads of State and Government and United Nations General Assembly resolutions 40/50, 41/16 and 42/78, so that the people of Western Sahara may exercise its right to self-determination and independence;
30. Renews its request to both parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, to initiate direct negotiations at the earliest possible date to agree on the terms of a ceasefire that will create the conditions defined in the Peace Plan of the OAU and the United Nations for a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara, under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations, without any military or administrative constraints;
31. Welcomes the acceptance, in principle, by the two parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front, of the proposals of the Chairman of the OAU and the United Nations Secretary-General, and considers that Security Council resolution 621, adopted on 20 September 1988, constitutes a consolidation of the process aiming at the full implementation of the OAU-UN peace plan;
32. Also welcomes the improvement of relations in the Maghreb region which is likely to promote the earliest possible implementation of the peace plan submitted by the UN Secretary-General and accepted by all parties concerned;
33. Calls on all Parliaments to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to implement Security Council resolution 621 at the earliest possible date;
34. Condemns the refusal of the United Kingdom to comply with UN General Assembly resolution 41/40 reaffirming the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their territorial waters;

35. Strongly reaffirms the right of the Argentine Republic to recover the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, rejects attempts by the United Kingdom to apply the principle of the right to self-determination in the case of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and recalls that the present inhabitants of these islands are not a colonized people as defined by resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SUPPORT COMMITTEE TO THE
CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Report adopted by consensus by the Inter-Parliamentary Council
at its 143rd session
(Sofia, 24 September 1988)

INTRODUCTION

1. At its 142nd session (Guatemala City, April 1988), the Inter-Parliamentary Council extended the mandate of the Inter-Parliamentary Support Committee to the campaign for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East* so that it might report anew to the Council at its 143rd session in Sofia.

2. On this basis, the Secretary General, by circular letter GRP/88/DSG.7 of 26 May 1988, again requested all National Groups to communicate information and observations on follow-up action to the recommendation of the 77th Inter-Parliamentary Conference related to an international conference on peace in the Middle East. A number of Groups responded to this second appeal and summaries of their messages (the full texts of which may be made available on request) are given in the attached Annex. In addition, the Annex contains information received from the United Nations as well as from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

3. On 21 September 1988, the members of the Support Committee held a meeting in Sofia, with a view to drafting their report to the Inter-Parliamentary Council. They also had the opportunity of exchanging views with a delegation of Arab National Groups, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Palestine National Council. The National Group of Israel

* This Committee was set up by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 141st session (Bangkok, October 1987), following a recommendation made by the 77th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

conveyed to the Support Committee that it did not believe that an international conference on peace in the Middle East would solve the problems of the area, but that bilateral talks with the Arab National Groups concerned would be useful to that end. Accordingly, they would be ready to meet with those National Groups and would consider it useful if the Support Committee could bring about such a meeting. The members of the Support Committee did not consider that such a role would fall within the terms of reference assigned to the Committee by the Inter-Parliamentary Council.

4. The members of the Support Committee noted the favourable conditions of diminished tensions prevailing at the present time and considered that there was an historic opportunity of advancing the cause of convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. They considered it a positive element and were encouraged by the increased support for such a conference by National Groups from various parts of the world and of different political orientations.

5. At the same time, the members of the Support Committee noted that conditions in the area continued to deteriorate, making the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East even more urgent, particularly as no viable alternative solutions seemed to be available. They noted the continued manifestation in favour of their legitimate rights by the Palestinian people and remained concerned about the situation prevailing in the occupied areas, particularly about acts of violence and violation of human rights of Palestinians.

6. They also felt that acts of terrorism, wherever they occurred, were never justified and believed that their elimination would certainly improve conditions for the convening of an international conference on peace in the region.

7. The members of the Support Committee remained convinced that the situation in the Middle East required a political solution. They considered that, given the general improvement of the international climate and the policy of disengagement from the West Bank recently announced by H.M. King Hussein of Jordan, an unequivocal mutual recognition of all parties concerned, would go a long way toward facilitating the convening of an international conference on peace in that region.

8. The members of the Support Committee commended the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, described in the Annex to this report, and expressed the readiness of their Committee to assist the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in their effort to promote the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

9. In view of the above considerations the members of the Support Committee recommend to the Inter-Parliamentary Council that it reiterate its support and encouragement to the United Nations Secretary-General's action in this connection as well as its request to the Inter-Parliamentary Secretary General to urge National Groups to continue communicating their respective follow-up action in promoting an international conference on peace in the Middle East, for consideration by the Council, at its 144th session in Budapest, in March 1989. As a consequence, they also recommend to the Council to extend the mandate of the Support Committee so that it may report to the Council at that time.

ANNEX

SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE ATTENTION
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT COMMITTEE TO THE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The communications summarized below supplement those of China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Germany (Federal Republic of), Hungary, India, Jordan, Pakistan, Romania, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Austria/Tunisia, Tunisia/United Kingdom, United Nations, Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Palestine National Council, contained in the Annex to the report of the Support Committee to the Campaign for the Convening of an International Conference on Peace in the Middle East, adopted by consensus by the 142nd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Council (Guatemala, 16 April 1988).

NATIONAL GROUPS

Algeria

In July 1988, the National Group of Algeria decided to establish a parliamentary group in support of the Palestinian cause, within the National People's Assembly. One of that Group's main objectives will be to undertake any action which would favour the understanding of the Palestinian cause and promote sympathetic support by the international parliamentary community, with a view to, inter alia, holding an international conference on the Middle East which would legitimize the rights of the Palestinian people.

Canada

In June 1988 Canada hosted the annual meeting of the seven major western industrialized countries (Canada, France, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, West Germany). The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs made the following statement on behalf of the seven: "We express our deep concern at the increasing instability in the Near-East. The current violence in the occupied territories is a clear sign that the status quo is not sustainable. An early negotiated settlement to the underlying Arab-Israeli dispute is essential. We declare our support for the convening of a properly structured international conference as the appropriate framework for the necessary negotiations between the parties directly concerned".

The Canadian view is that a properly structured international conference should provide for direct negotiations, which are required to ensure the commitment of the parties to any settlement.

In the context of bringing about a political solution, the Government of Canada has appealed to the Government of Israel to show the utmost flexibility in approaching negotiations and has urged the Palestinian leadership to confirm its willingness to recognize the State of Israel. It has clearly stated its position that the current violence in the occupied territories is destructive to the peace process.

Cyprus

The Cypriot National Group expressed its belief "that a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem can only be achieved through the convening of an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This belief is propagated by the Cypriot Members in various international fora in which they participate." The position of the Government was similar. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been sent a copy of the relevant Middle East resolution adopted by the 77th Conference.

The urgency of convening an international peace conference had been highlighted by the ongoing events in the occupied Arab territories and in December 1987, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution regarding the events in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The resolution, inter alia, "condemns the oppressive acts of the Israeli occupation forces in these areas and reiterated its support of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on the Middle East problem".

Egypt

Referring to its previous note stating, inter alia, that "Egypt's consistent policy is that the holding of the international conference on peace in which the permanent members of the UN Security Council must participate as well as all parties to the conflict, above all the PLO, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is the right approach for putting an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and finding a legal solution to the Palestinian question which is acceptable to the international community", the Egyptian National Group underscores that "Israel's occupation, over twenty years ago, of the Arab territories in 1967, accompanied by the Palestinian people's categorical rejection of this situation, merely exacerbates the need to build the edifice of a comprehensive peace based on justice, to restore the legitimate rights of all those entitled to such rights within a framework which guarantees mutual security, and to recognize the right of all States in the region to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, on the basis of the principle of the inadmissibility of the occupation of a country through war." Both the Egyptian Government and people are untiringly pursuing their efforts throughout the world for a peaceful settlement, by means of negotiations between the parties and within the framework of an international peace conference.

The Egyptian National Group hopes that "the Committee will take into consideration the fact that the attempt to impose a fait accompli and to maintain such a situation carries with it grave threats and entails the most unfortunate consequences." It, therefore, considers that "there is no alternative to responsible action and efforts by all Governments and peoples with a view to accelerating the process of peace in the Middle East region and to allowing the Palestinian people to regain its legitimate rights."

Germany (Federal Republic of)

The National Group of the Federal Republic of Germany reported that, in March 1988, the Bundestag had devoted a session to an item entitled

"The situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the territories occupied by Israel". The same month, a Bundestag delegation of its Foreign Affairs Committee to the Maghreb had discussed the question of a Middle East conference with its hosts, Arab League representatives and the PLO. Moreover, the Bundestag had organized talks with Israeli authorities. Finally, the relevant resolution of the 77th Conference bearing on the Middle East was published and discussed by the Bundestag in May 1988.

The Federal Government consistently endorsed "an international conference under United Nations auspices". It continued to consider "such a conference to be the appropriate framework for furthering the peace process". But it believed that conference details (such as participants and terms of reference) should be left to the countries directly concerned. The Government will continue to develop this policy in the future. Like the European Community, it also continued to be preoccupied by the fate of the Palestinian people living in the Israeli-occupied territories. The situation prevailing there underlined the urgency of reaching a political settlement.

Morocco

The Moroccan National Group reported that its parliamentarians fully supported the proposal to convene without delay an international conference on the Middle East in which all parties concerned, including the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council, would participate on an equal footing. This was the way to establish a just and lasting peace on the basis of UN resolutions on Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, in particular resolutions recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establishment of its own State.

On 5 May 1988, the House of Representatives held a special session on the situation in the occupied territories. It then adopted a declaration in which it reiterated its support for the Palestinian uprising in these territories, again condemned the acts of repression and aggression by the Zionists against the Palestinian Arab people, and reaffirmed its support for the holding of an international conference on peace in the Middle East as soon as possible.

Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan National Group reported that its Government had always strongly defended the Palestinian cause. Since 1984, Nicaragua has stressed the urgent need to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all the parties involved, including the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Nicaragua has manifested its unconditional support for these people's uprising in Gaza and the West Bank, illegally occupied by Israel, and at the same time it has strongly condemned Israel's repressive and terrorist policies. In this connection, Nicaragua has taken an active part in a number of United Nations and Non-Aligned Countries' meetings as well as IPU Conferences, where it has consistently supported the urgent need to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Syrian Arab Republic

The Syrian National Group reiterated its position with regard to the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. The Group endorsed UN General Assembly resolutions on the convening of such a conference. It furthermore underlined the need to ensure participation therein of all parties in a state of war, the PLO and the permanent members of the UN Security Council. So as to achieve peace on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter and of the UN resolutions dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the proposed conference should be effective and not serve as a cover for partial and individual agreements. It should lead to total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories (including Jerusalem) and should guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Turkey

The Turkish National Group felt that the Palestinian problem lies at the heart of the Middle East conflict, and that a just and lasting peace in the region could only be achieved on the basis of (a) Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories (including Jerusalem) and (b) the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. Turkey welcomed all peace efforts including the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, at which all parties concerned, including the PLO, would be represented, and the National Group would continue to do its utmost to contribute to the efforts in this regard.

USSR

The National Group of the USSR reported that the Soviet Union favoured a solution to the Middle East conflict which took into account the balance of interests of all parties concerned. It considered that for peace to be established, Israel had to end its occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories; at the same time, the security and right of all States and nations in the area to full national development had to be ensured. An international conference on peace in the Middle East could find mutually acceptable solutions to all aspects of the settlement. All parties to the conflict, especially the PLO, as well as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, should participate in the preparation and work of the conference.

In recent years, the USSR had actively promoted the idea of convening a Middle East conference in the United Nations and other international fora, while pursuing consultations with the parties to the conflict and with the United States of America. Soviet parliamentarians as well as various national organizations were playing an active part in these efforts.

United Kingdom

The British National Group reported that its position on the matter remained unchanged from the joint Tunisian-British declaration on the subject summarized in the Annex to the Support Committee's report to the 142nd session of the Council.

Viet Nam

The Vietnamese National Group reported that its members as well as the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee support the IPU Committee in favour of convening a conference on peace in the Middle East. They condemned "oppressive terrorist Israeli acts against Arab people", and supported the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, to return to their homeland and to establish their own independent State. The Group reiterated that the National Assembly and the people of Viet Nam supported the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the full participation of the PLO.

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations

The position of the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly and Secretary-General, has not changed since that reported in some detail in the Annex to the Conclusions of the Support Committee to the Convening of an International Conference on Peace in the Middle East, adopted by the 142nd session of the Inter-Parliamentary Council (Guatemala, 16 April 1988).

As he stated in January 1988, the UN Secretary-General continued to believe that "a settlement should be negotiated by means of an international conference under United Nations auspices, with the participation of all concerned" and he remained committed to exploring actively with the parties and with the members of the UN Security Council, especially its permanent members, how the present impasse in the peace process could be unblocked. Unfortunately, bilateral attempts in this direction have not borne fruit to date and no discussion on this matter has been held in any of the UN organs since those reported to the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 142nd session in April 1988. Nor have any relevant UN documents been issued since that date.

At the present time, the President of the UN Security Council is conducting bilateral consultations on this matter with members of his Council with a view to informing the UN Secretary-General of their results by 22 September 1988. The latter is expected to issue his report on the situation by the end of this month, shortly after the start of the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

A member of the Support Committee (Mr. Martinez) drew attention to a resolution "on the prospects for an international Middle East Peace Conference", adopted by the Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 13 June 1988. In the resolution, the Assembly, inter alia, decided "to do its utmost ... to try to overcome existing reservations and help create the climate of confidence necessary for the earliest possible opening of talks aimed at convening the international conference which has become indispensable if the inhabitants of the Middle East and neighbouring regions wish to avert disaster". It also decided on the principle of a fact-finding mission to the Middle East region "with a view to preparing a parliamentary conference in Strasbourg for early 1989 with the countries participating in a possible Middle East peace conference".