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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE  
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE  
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1994

I. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE  
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

1. The mandate of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for 1994 is contained in General Assembly resolutions 48/158 A, B and C of 20 December 1993, the relevant parts of which are paragraphs 2 to 6 of resolution 48/158 A, paragraph 2 of resolution 48/158 B and paragraph 2 of resolution 48/158 C.
2. In paragraphs 2 to 4 of resolution 48/158 A, the General Assembly considered that the Committee could make a valuable and positive contribution to international efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements 1/ and to mobilize international support and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period; endorsed the Committee's recommendations; and requested the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate.
3. In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the General Assembly authorized the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in the light of developments, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize support for and assistance to the Palestinian people and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and thereafter.
4. In paragraph 6 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and promoting support and assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinian people, and to take the necessary steps to involve additional NGOs in its work.

5. Resolution 48/158 B deals with the work programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights. In paragraph 2, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Division with the resources required, including the continuing development of the computer-based information system on the question of Palestine, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in the pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance.

6. Resolution 48/158 C deals with the programme of work of the Department of Public Information. In paragraph 2, the General Assembly requested the Department, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1994-1995, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America.

## II. PRIORITY ISSUES IN THE COMMITTEE'S PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1994

7. In the recommendations contained in its report to the forty-eighth session, 2/ the Committee welcomed the developments in the peace process and the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as an important step towards the attainment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant United Nations resolutions. The Committee called for intensified support and assistance by the international community to the Palestinian people under its recognized leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the agreements reached.

8. The Committee reaffirmed once again the ongoing responsibility of the United Nations with respect to the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects. It stressed the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the peace process and in the process of establishing the future Palestinian National Authority as well as in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people in all needed fields.

9. The Committee stated that, as the organ of the General Assembly dealing with the question of Palestine, it could make a valuable and positive contribution to United Nations endeavours during the transitional period and that it would devote a major part of its future programme of work to this objective.

10. The Committee considered that the following priority tasks required immediate and sustained attention in its programme of work for 1994:

(a) Promoting support for the ongoing peace process and for the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, and following closely the developments and monitoring the situation on the ground, in order to

promote the effective implementation of the agreements reached and the full realization of Palestinian rights;

(b) Promoting intensified assistance to the Palestinian people by the United Nations system as a whole, as well as other donors, for immediate relief and for nation-building;

(c) Encouraging constructive consideration and debate of the major issues to be negotiated at a later stage with a view to promoting a final settlement based on international legitimacy in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant United Nations resolutions.

11. In view of the massacre that was committed against Palestinian worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, on 25 February 1994, the Committee decided to intensify its efforts to promote international action to provide for the protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. In this regard, the Committee also considered that the full implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) was an important step in that direction.

### III. ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

#### A. Action by the Committee

12. The Committee will continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate. The Committee will also continue to monitor the situation on the ground and draw the attention of the international community to urgent developments in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. The Committee will continue to participate in relevant meetings of intergovernmental bodies in order to promote the full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

13. The Committee will once again extend an invitation to all Governments to participate in its work and in the events organized under its auspices. The Committee requests its Chairman, as in the past, to address a letter to the Secretary-General requesting him to inform all States of the Committee's concerns and to convey the Committee's invitation to them to participate in and contribute to its work. The Committee also will continue to hold consultations with interested representatives of Member States in this regard.

14. The Committee, in accordance with its mandate as renewed by the General Assembly, will continue its programme of seminars and NGO meetings in the light of the new situation. The Committee considers that in the period ahead these meetings can provide a useful mechanism for in-depth consideration of the priority issues mentioned above, with the participation of all concerned, including Palestinians and Israelis. The Committee will pay particular attention to structuring the meetings for maximum usefulness, including the possibility of co-sponsoring them with academic institutions, NGOs or others.

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The Committee is of the view that as soon as conditions permit, one such activity could be held in Gaza or Jericho. The Committee will also seek to involve additional NGOs in its activities, particularly those working in the general fields of development and human rights.

15. In carrying out this programme of meetings, the Committee will exercise the necessary flexibility in the light of developments and make adjustments as may be dictated by the changing situation.

#### B. Seminars

16. Budgetary provision has been made for seminars to be held in 1994 in the following regions: Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia.

17. In response to General Assembly resolution 48/213 of 21 December 1993 on assistance to the Palestinian people, and as already indicated in the Committee's report, one of the seminars will be devoted to Palestinian trade and investment needs in the light of the new developments. The provision made for a European seminar will be utilized for this purpose. The seminar will be held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 20 to 23 June 1994.

18. With regard to the North American Seminar, which is usually held at United Nations Headquarters in New York immediately preceding the North American NGO Symposium, the Committee will explore possible alternatives to the holding of this event.

19. Consultations are being undertaken with regard to venues and dates for the Latin American and Asian Seminars.

#### C. Regional symposia and the International Meeting of Non-Governmental Organizations

20. Budgetary provision has been made for the holding in 1994 of NGO symposia in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia, and for the International NGO Meeting, as well as for preparatory meetings for the North American NGO Symposium and the International NGO Meeting.

21. The preparatory meeting for the North American NGO Symposium was held at New York on 31 January and 1 February 1994 and provided an opportunity for useful consultations between the members of the North American Coordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations, the Bureau of the Committee and the secretariat with regard to future cooperation and the substantive and organizational arrangements for the Symposium. The meeting proposed that the theme for the Symposium should be: Palestine: Towards a just and lasting peace - focus on mobilizing NGO support for cooperation and development". The symposium is tentatively scheduled to be held in late June 1994 at a venue in North America.

22. The preparatory meeting for the International NGO Meeting was held at Geneva, on 21 and 22 February 1994, with the participation of members of the International Coordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine and the European Coordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine. The meeting provided an opportunity for consultations on future cooperation with NGOs in the various regions as well as on preparations for the International NGO Meeting and the European NGO Symposium. The European NGO Symposium and the International NGO Meeting will be held at Geneva from 29 August to 1 September 1994.

23. The Latin American and the Asian NGO Symposia will be held in conjunction with the Latin American and Asian Seminars at venues and dates to be decided in the future.

D. Research, monitoring, and publications, including the United Nations information system on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL)

24. In accordance with the recommendations made in its report to the General Assembly, the Committee believes that the collection, exchange and dissemination of accurate and timely information are of particular importance to its endeavours to make a constructive contribution to the ongoing peace process and the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, and that such activities reaffirm the useful role of the Division for Palestinian Rights in this regard.

25. The publications programme of the Division for Palestinian Rights will include the following:

(a) Monthly bulletins on activities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs will be enhanced to provide comprehensive coverage of all relevant resolutions, statements and decisions by intergovernmental bodies, as well as summaries of the most significant activities of NGOs;

(b) The bulletin formerly entitled "Approaches towards the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the question of Palestine" will be renamed "Developments related to the Middle East Peace Process" and will contain material related to the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, the multilateral negotiations on Middle East regional issues, as well as other aspects of the Middle East peace process;

(c) The bulletin monitoring developments in the occupied Palestinian territory will be issued as a chronological summary of events relating to the question of Palestine, based on press reports and other sources.

26. The Committee further considers that studies, information notes, reports and other material published by the Division should focus specifically on the priority issues to be addressed by the Committee in 1994, in order to enhance their usefulness at this important stage.

27. The Division will also continue to issue regularly reports of regional seminars, regional NGO symposia and the International NGO Meeting; a special bulletin on the commemoration, in 1993, of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People; and a compilation of relevant resolutions, decisions and statements adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in 1993.

28. The Division will also continue to update periodically its information notes on the work of the Committee and the Division, on NGO activities on the question of Palestine and on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

29. In response to the mandate given by the General Assembly regarding the establishment and continued development of the United Nations information system on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL), the Division is continuing to work to implement the system in all its aspects. The Division will include in the system all relevant documentary, analytical and statistical information and will cooperate with other users and sources of information with a view to making the system as comprehensive and useful as possible. Information notes on the status of the system will be issued periodically.

E. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

30. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People will be observed on Tuesday, 29 November 1994. It is envisaged that the observance will take place at Headquarters, at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, and elsewhere in accordance with established practice.

31. The Committee decided, in cooperation with the Office of the Permanent Observer for Palestine, to prepare a special programme for the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in 1994, including an exhibit to be displayed at United Nations Headquarters from 29 November to 5 December 1994, as well as hosting a reception and organizing other activities as appropriate.

Notes

1/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 35 (A/48/35), paras. 85-96.

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