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Items 37, 39 and 78 of the
preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

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

SECURITY COUNCIL

Forty-fourth year

Letter dated 28 June 1989 from the Permanent Representative of
Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text, in English and French, of the declaration on the Middle East adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the twelve States members of the European Community, at the European Council held in Madrid on 26 and 27 June 1989.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 37, 39 and 78, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francisco VILLAR

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Madrid Declaration on the Middle East

The European Council has examined the situation in the Middle East conflict in the light of recent events and of contacts undertaken over several months by the Presidency and the Troika with the parties concerned, and it has drawn the following conclusions:

1. The policy of the Twelve on the Middle East conflict is defined in the Venice Declaration of 13 June 1980 and other subsequent declarations. It consists in upholding the right to security of all States in the region, including Israel, that is to say, to live within secure, recognized and guaranteed frontiers, and in upholding justice for all the peoples of the region, which includes recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination with all that this implies.

The Twelve consider that these objectives should be achieved by peaceful means in the framework of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, as the appropriate forum for the direct negotiations between the parties concerned, with a view to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement.

The European Council is also of the view that the PLO should participate in this process.

It expresses its support for every effort by the permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations to bring the parties closer together, create a climate of confidence between them, and facilitate in this way the convening of the international peace conference.

2. The Community and its member States have demonstrated their readiness to participate actively in the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict, and to co-operate fully in the economic and social development of the peoples of the region.

The European Council expressed its satisfaction regarding the policy of contacts with all the parties undertaken by the Presidency and the Troika, and has decided to pursue it.

3. The European Council welcomes the support given by the extraordinary summit meeting of the Arab League, held in Casablanca, to the decisions of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, involving acceptance of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), which resulted in the recognition of Israel's right to exist, as well as the renunciation of terrorism.

It also welcomes the efforts undertaken by the United States in their contacts with the parties directly concerned and particularly the dialogue entered into with the PLO.

Advantage should be taken of these favourable circumstances to engender a spirit of tolerance and peace with a view to entering resolutely on the path of negotiations.

4. The European Council deplures the continuing deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories and the constant increase in the number of dead and wounded and the suffering of the population.

It appeals urgently to the Israeli authorities to put an end to repressive measures, to implement Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and to respect the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Populations in Times of War. They appeal in particular for the reopening of educational facilities in the West Bank.

5. On the basis of the positions of principle of the Twelve, the European Council welcomes the proposal for elections in the Occupied Territories as a contribution to the peace process, provided that:

- The elections are set in the context of a process towards a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the conflict.
- The elections take place in the occupied territories including East Jerusalem, under adequate guarantees of freedom.
- No solution is excluded and the final negotiation takes place on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), based on the principle of "land for peace".

6. The European Council launches a solemn appeal to the parties concerned to seize the opportunity to achieve peace. Respect by each of the parties for the legitimate rights of the other should facilitate the normalizing of relations between all the countries of the region. The European Council calls upon the Arab countries to establish normal relations of peace and co-operation with Israel and asks that country in turn to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination.
