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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE  
REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abduldayem M. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

"United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East:

"(a) Report of the Commissioner-General;

"(b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

"(c) Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;

"(d) Reports of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 32/90 A to F of 13 December 1977.

2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 22 September 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 13th to 23rd meetings, held between 25 October and 6 November. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for the year ending 30 June 1978; 1/

(b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/90 D of 13 December 1977 (A/33/320);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 512 (VI) of 26 January 1952 and paragraph 4 of Assembly resolution 32/90 A of 13 December 1977 (A/33/276);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/90 C of 13 December 1977 (A/33/285);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 32/90 E of 13 December 1977 (A/33/286);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977 (A/33/287 and Corr.1).

4. At its 13th meeting, on 25 October, the Special Political Committee heard a statement by the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), who introduced his report. 1/ At the same meeting, the representative of Norway, Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, introduced the report of the Working Group (A/33/320).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

5. In the course of its deliberation, the Special Political Committee considered six draft resolutions, as set forth below.

### A. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.6/Rev.1

6. At the 17th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.6) entitled "Assistance to Palestine refugees", which the sponsor revised on 2 November by the insertion of a new operative paragraph 3 (A/SPC/33/L.6/Rev.1).

7. At its 22nd meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by 108 votes to none, with 1 abstention (see para. 21 below, draft resolution A).

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/33/13).

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.7

8. At the 19th meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.7) entitled "Assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 hostilities", which was sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, subsequently joined by India.

9. At its 22nd meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see para. 21 below, draft resolution B).

C. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.8/Rev.1

10. At the 21st meeting, on 2 November, the representative of Jordan introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.8) entitled "Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for the Palestinian refugees", which was also sponsored by the United States of America.

11. At the 22nd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Japan proposed the following oral amendments to draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.8:

(a) In paragraph 3, the words "including the United Nations University" should be added after "United Nations agencies";

(b) In paragraph 4, the words "non-governmental organizations" should replace "the United Nations University".

The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposed an oral amendment whereby, in paragraph 4, the entire phrase following the words "to contribute generously" should be replaced by the following: "to the Palestinian universities in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, as well as for scholarships to Palestinian students in those universities".

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Jordan accepted, with slight modifications, the oral amendments proposed by Japan and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The revised draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.8/Rev.1) was eventually co-sponsored by Austria, Japan, Jordan and Yugoslavia. The representative of the United States of America stated that, following the incorporation of the amendment submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the United States had withdrawn its previous co-sponsorship of the draft resolution.

13. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by 111 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 21 below, draft resolution C).

D. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.9

14. At the 21st meeting, on 2 November, the representative of the Netherlands introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.9) entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East" which was sponsored by India, Indonesia, Iran, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia and Zaire, subsequently joined by Canada, Malaysia and Sweden.

15. On 3 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/SPC/33/L.12) on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

16. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see para. 21 below, draft resolution D).

E. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.10

17. At the 22nd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Pakistan introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.10) entitled "Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip" on behalf of Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Senegal and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Cuba, India, Malaysia and Mali.

18. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by 109 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions (see para. 21 below, draft resolution E).

F. Draft resolution A/SPC/33/L.11

19. At the 22nd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Afghanistan introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/33/L.11) entitled "Population and refugees displaced since 1967", which was sponsored by Afghanistan, Madagascar and Pakistan, subsequently joined by Cuba, Cyprus, Mali, Senegal and Yugoslavia.

20. At its 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by 95 votes to 4, with 18 abstentions (see para. 21 below, draft resolution F).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

21. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine  
Refugees in the Near East

A

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/90 A of 13 December 1977 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 2/

1. Notes with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) has not been effected, that no substantial progress has been made in the programme endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 for the reintegration of refugees either by repatriation or resettlement and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of serious concern;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Notes with regret that part of the headquarters of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has been relocated outside of the area of its activity and requests that the headquarters be reconsolidated within the area of its operations as soon as practicable;

4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of the paragraph and to report as appropriate, but no later than 1 October 1979;

5. Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

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2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/33/13).

6. Notes with profound concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions, this increased level of income to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the present year, and that, at presently foreseen levels of giving, deficits will recur each year;

7. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the report of the Commissioner-General, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

B

Assistance to persons displaced as a result of the  
June 1967 hostilities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/90 B of 13 December 1977 and all previous resolutions referred to therein,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 3/

Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolution 32/90 B and all previous resolutions referred to therein;

2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

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3/ Ibid.

C

Offers by Member States of grants and scholarships for higher education, including vocational training, for the Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 212 (III) of 19 November 1948 on assistance to Palestine refugees,

Recalling also its resolution 32/90 F of 13 December 1977,

Cognizant of the fact that the Palestine refugees have, for the last three decades, lost their lands and means of livelihood,

Having examined with appreciation the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 4/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 32/90 F, 5/

Noting that less than one per thousand of the Palestinian refugee students has the chance to continue higher education, including vocational training,

Moting also that over the past five years the number of scholarships offered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East has dwindled to half of what it was because of the Agency's regular budgetary difficulties,

1. Expresses its regret that the response to the appeal contained in resolution 32/90 F, as reported by the Secretary-General, has not been commensurate with the needs of the Palestine refugees for higher education and vocational training;

2. Appeals to all States to make special allocations, scholarships and grants to Palestinian refugees, in addition to their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

3. Invites relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations University, to consider the inclusion, within their respective spheres of competence, of assistance for higher education for the Palestinian refugee students;

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4/ Ibid.

5/ A/33/287.

4. Appeals to all States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to Palestinian universities in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, as well as to offer scholarships to Palestinian refugee students in those universities;
5. Requests the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to act as recipient and trustee for such special allocations and scholarships and to award them to qualified Palestinian refugee candidates;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

D

Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2964 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3090 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3330 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3419 D (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/15 C of 23 November 1976 and 32/90 D of 13 December 1977,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 6/

Taking into account the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 7/

Gravely concerned at the critical financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which has already reduced the essential minimum services being provided to the Palestine refugees and which threatens even greater reductions in the future,

Emphasizing the urgent need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present minimum level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its efforts to assist in ensuring the Agency's financial security;

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6/ A/33/320.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/33/13).



2. Notes with approval the report of the Working Group;

3. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts, in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General, for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

E

Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Recalling also its resolutions 2792 C (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3419 C (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/15 E of 23 November 1976 and 32/90 C of 13 December 1977,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 8/ and the report of the Secretary-General of 11 October 1978, 9/

1. Calls once more upon Israel:

(a) To take effective steps immediately for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed in the Gaza Strip and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation;

(b) To desist from further removal of refugees and destruction of their shelters;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report to the General Assembly by the opening of its thirty-fourth session on Israel's compliance with paragraph 1 above.

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8/ Ibid.

9/ A/33/285.

F

Population and refugees displaced since 1967

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 E (XXVI) of 5 December 1971, 2963 C and D (XXVII) of 13 December 1972, 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973, 3331 D (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, 3419 C (XXX) of 8 December 1975, 31/15 D of 23 November 1976 and 32/90 E of 13 December 1977,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, 10/ and the report of the Secretary-General of 12 October 1978, 11/

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of all the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes or former places of residence in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and declares that any attempt to restrict, or to attach conditions to, the free exercise of the right of return by any displaced person is inconsistent with that inalienable right and inadmissible;
2. Deplores the continued refusal of the Israeli authorities to take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;
3. Calls once more upon Israel:
  - (a) To take immediate steps for the return of all the displaced inhabitants;
  - (b) To desist from all measures that obstruct the return of the displaced inhabitants, including measures affecting the physical and demographic structure of the occupied territories;
4. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to report to the General Assembly by the opening of the thirty-fourth session on Israel's compliance with paragraph 3 above.

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10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/33/13).

11/ A/33/286.