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Chairman: Mr. ABDULLATIF (Oman)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/13)
- (b) REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/39/575)
- (c) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCILIATION COMMISSION FOR PALESTINE (continued) (A/39/455)
- (d) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/372, 375, 411, 457, 464 and Add.1, 528 and 538)

1. Mr. SIMENI (Nigeria) said that the continued existence of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was a reminder of the international community's failure to tackle the root cause of the problem. It was tragic for the people concerned that no political solution had been found allowing them to express their right of self-determination in their homeland. The absence of such a solution had inevitably required UNRWA to continue its operations in difficult circumstances.

2. His delegation supported the holding of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and attended by all parties to the conflict, both direct and indirect. Without a political settlement of the whole question of Palestine, peace in the region would not be possible. Meanwhile, UNRWA needed sufficient funds to perform all its functions. His delegation appealed to all members of the international community which had been contributing to UNRWA to be more generous still, in the knowledge that they were contributing to the maintenance of peace, to those States whose contributions had not been regular to make efforts to be more regular, and to those which had not contributed to seek ways of removing the obstacles which had so far prevented them from doing so.

3. Mr. HASSANI (Kuwait) said that the discussion on the agenda item had become a unique annual opportunity to focus on the tragedy of Palestine with all its ramifications, as well as a sobering reminder of the sin originally committed by the world Zionist movement against the people of Palestine through the creation of an alien Jewish homeland in their ancestral land. Over 4 million Palestinians were still either scattered, mostly homeless and destitute, in various parts of the world or suffering under the yoke of the most ruthless rule in memory in the occupied territories. No serious effort had been made by the international community to implement the countless United Nations resolutions guaranteeing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and calling for their repatriation and to force the Israelis to abide by the international will. An illustration of that fact was the failure of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to make any progress, as admitted in its report (A/39/455).

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(Mr. Hassani, Kuwait)

4. On the other hand, the Israelis were making a concerted effort to prevent any settlement of the Palestine question, especially by creating one fait accompli after another. They continued to disown any responsibility for the creation of the Palestine refugee problem, despite the Zionist leaders' systematic planning to usurp Palestinian land since the early days of the century. Their claim that the portion of the Palestinian people still remaining in the occupied territories was better off than it had ever been elsewhere was equalled only by the claims made in the like-minded racist régime of South Africa.
5. The Israelis had never concealed their ultimate goal of a purely Jewish Palestine and, in order to attain it, were establishing an increasing number of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and adopting ruthless tactics and repressive measures intended to force the Palestinians to leave their own country. Those tactics also included pursuing and harassing Palestinians wherever they might be. In south Lebanon in particular, where according to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Israeli occupying authorities were responsible for safeguarding the welfare of the civilian population, the Palestinians were continually the victims of atrocities.
6. There would be ample opportunity to discuss the illegal Israeli practices in the west Bank and the Gaza Strip when the Committee considered agenda item 71. Those practices were designed to make life so miserable for the Palestinians that they would flee and leave the remaining part of Palestine to be refilled with more Jewish aliens. Massacres such as Deir Yassin and Sabra and Shatila were meant to have a short-term psychological impact on the minds of the Palestinians.
7. UNRWA's special significance was that it had become a symbol of international commitment to the welfare of Palestine refugees and to a just solution of their plight. His delegation believed that Israel and the Powers which had created and supported it should be the major contributors not only to the finances of the Agency but also to ensuring the implementation of all the United Nations resolutions calling for repatriation. Pending a permanent solution of the problem, the Agency's services would remain an essential part of the international effort to alleviate the plight of the Palestine refugees. Although the Agency's mandate had always been, and must continue to be, considered temporary, the Palestinian question was no nearer solution than it had been when UNRWA had been created, owing to the arrogance and intransigence of Israel. The stability of the Near East did not depend on UNRWA, but if it were to collapse the instability in the region would be alarmingly aggravated. The Security Council must take action to ensure the implementation of the countless United Nations resolutions affirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people before it was too late. Otherwise, there was no chance for peace in the Middle East.
8. Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia) said that a review of all the documents relating to Palestine showed the primacy accorded to the right of return of the Palestine refugees. That was a fundamental right and stemmed from the fact that the Palestinian people had been expelled from its land against its will after that land had been taken over by usurpers for the purpose of establishing there an alien society.

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(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

9. The circumstances in which Israel, and with it the Arab refugee problem, had been brought into being had been unnatural. Israel was historically unique in that, at the time of its creation, it had possessed no territory of its own and no people with roots in the land. The land had then been usurped and the people gathered together by migration from all parts of the world and imposed by the bayonets of foreign forces on an already populated country.

10. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments had guaranteed the right of return of migrants to their countries. At the time the United Nations was established, the world refugee problem had been extremely severe and extremely complex, and the mistaken belief had prevailed that the new international order would, to a great extent, reduce the number of those subjected to forced expulsion. Several decades later, however, the Palestinians remained dispersed and in exile, without a homeland and with no secure future. It was most dangerous that the international community had begun to accustom itself to the tragedy of the Palestinian people, as if the passage of time alone could obliterate the wrong done.

11. Israel maintained that the refugee problem stemmed from Arab rejection of General Assembly resolution 181 (II), the partition resolution, and that the Arabs were therefore responsible. In its resolution 194 (III), the General Assembly had resolved that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest possible date. It had, in its resolution 212 (III), expressed the greatest concern for the organization of relief for the Palestine refugees. By its resolution 302 (IV), it had established UNRWA, whose mandate had been continually renewed, always with full acknowledgement of the right of the refugees to return to their homes should they wish to do so. Thus, from the outset, its mandate had been linked to the political dimension of the Palestine question. The Palestine refugees had come to perceive UNRWA as a token of international commitment to their cause. In its resolution 2672 C (XXV) the General Assembly had recognized that the problem of the Palestinian Arab refugees had arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights and had thus recognized the problem as one basically political and legal in nature.

12. The leaders and pioneers of the Zionist movement had not concealed their intention not to allow the Palestinians to return and to expel those that remained from the occupied Arab territories. One of those leaders, Arthur Ruppin, had readily confessed that, in achieving the goals of Zionism, it would not only be difficult to comply with general ethical principles, but would be completely impossible. Many others had spoken and written to the same effect. Zionist criminal intentions had always been clear and were becoming clearer. In the plan presented by the Zionist organization in 1943 to General Hurley, the personal representative of President Roosevelt in the Middle East, it had been stated openly that there was a need for the gradual transfer of the Arab population to Iraq. Before the Palestine tragedy, Zionism had tried to convince the world that there was a Palestine without Palestinians, a land without a people. When the Palestinians were expelled in 1948, Zionist spokesmen had claimed that the exodus had taken place at the instigation of the Arab leaders, ignoring the terroristic crimes committed by the Zionists. For the Palestinians, the right of return to their country was an absolute right, regardless of the passage of time.

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(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

13. The forcible expulsion of the Palestinians had been part of an Israeli Zionist plot and of a policy implemented by means of terrorism. At the time, a Jewish author had written that the Jews had compelled the Arabs to leave their towns and villages against their will, some by force of arms and some by means of deception. The United Nations Mediator for Palestine had, however, indicated that the exodus had come as a result of a state of alarm arising out of armed clashes in the towns and rumours concerning terrorist activities. He had stated that no just and complete solution was possible which did not acknowledge the right of the Arab refugees to return to their homes, when Jewish immigrants were flowing into Palestine and threatening to replace them permanently. The United Nations must not forget its Mediator for Palestine, assassinated while carrying out his peaceful mission by the Stern Gang, members of which now shared power in Tel Aviv. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that everyone had the right to return to his country and that no one should be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

14. The United Nations had condemned Israel's refusal to implement its resolutions concerning the return of the refugees to their homes. That refusal had been seen first in a memorandum sent by its Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Mediator for Palestine, in which he acknowledged that such a return would present a difficult economic problem. The reasons for Zionist opposition to the return of refugees were demographic and racist in nature and stemmed from Zionist ideology.

15. On 11 June 1967, a Zionist official had stated that Israel was capable of absorbing the Arabs economically, but that that would be incompatible with its future plans since it wished to be a purely Jewish State and not a bi-national or multinational State. The Zionists thought that, in the mid-twentieth century, human rights and national and historic rights could be obliterated by outworn racist theories. Successive reports of Commissioners-General of UNRWA had indicated Israel's refusal to take any positive steps for repatriation or compensation.

16. The Commissioner-General's report (A/39/13) clearly showed that UNRWA was in need of an additional \$60 million for 1985 in order to perform the tasks entrusted to it. The Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA had also urged Governments to increase their contributions to the Agency as soon as possible. Support for the Agency's budget was an expression of international commitment to the Palestinian cause and to assisting the Palestinian people in its plight. His country, together with the Arab States and other States, contributed directly to the Agency's budget with its supplementary voluntary contributions. It also made other efforts to lighten the material and moral burdens of that people which went far beyond the activities and budget of UNRWA. The prime responsibility for the funding of UNRWA devolved on those States which had directly participated in creating the problem of Israel and of the refugees. The United Nations, and particularly the great Powers, bore particular responsibility for the Palestine problem, a responsibility of a kind it had for no other matter ever included in its agenda.

17. In order to facilitate the operations of the Agency in the areas under Israeli control or occupation, the Commissioner-General had had to maintain a degree of reticence in his report. The difficulties and complications created by the Israeli

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(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

authorities for the Agency were one more proof of their terroristic and evil nature. Israel's attempt to reduce the activities and restrict the services of UNRWA was part of its plan to eradicate an entire people. History would prove that it was unable to do so, no matter what terroristic methods it used.

18. Whenever the question of Palestine was debated in the United Nations and the Organization proved unable to fulfil its role as laid down in the Charter, the question arose of the extent to which Member States could fulfil their material, moral and legal obligations to a people which had, for 37 years, shown itself determined to attain its rights and towards a problem that had been brought into being in an illegal manner under the auspices of the United Nations.

19. Mr. FARMER (Australia) said that the Agency's humanitarian services remained indispensable and should have the whole-hearted backing of all Governments, as they had of his own. The Agency's programmes, carried out under trying and often dangerous conditions, deserved the highest praise. His delegation was particularly impressed by the reference in the Commissioner-General's report (A/39/13) to the continuing quality and improvement of the education programmes and to the performance of pupils attending UNRWA schools. It was praiseworthy that the Agency had been able to continue its educational activity despite disruptions caused by military and political events. The Agency's efforts in the field of health, including not only preventive care, but also health services provided to meet the emergency needs of refugees in Lebanon were equally impressive. UNRWA should continue to allocate priority to those vital activities.

20. His delegation agreed that all refugees would continue to need the support of the international community, particularly in those areas, for some time. It was good to note that the completely destitute refugees still received food rations, blankets, clothing and assistance with housing. It was a matter of serious concern that the Agency's capacity to perform its functions was threatened by increasing financing difficulties. If it was to remain a factor for stability in its area of operation, everything possible must be done to avoid cuts in the education programme. The practice of postponing construction and maintenance of already dilapidated buildings as a means of balancing the Agency's budget was dangerous, uneconomical and undesirable. Governments which voted in favour of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly year after year should also accept the responsibility to supply the Agency with the necessary resources. Australia had contributed some 1.4 million Australian dollars for UNRWA's regular operations in 1984, had made a special contribution of 1 million Australian dollars for the Agency's emergency hospital fund for Palestine refugees in Lebanon in June 1984 and earlier in the year had provided food aid for Palestinians in Lebanon in the form of tinned meat valued at 567,000 Australian dollars. It agreed on the importance of the Agency's having early indications of moneys to be made available to it in any given year and had already announced its intention to contribute 1.4 million Australian dollars to UNRWA's normal programmes in 1985.

21. His delegation was concerned to read once again in the Commissioner-General's report of the difficulties encountered by the Agency in its operations. The

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(Mr. Farmer, Australia)

General Assembly could not condemn actions which compromised the neutrality of UNRWA installations, damaged or destroyed them or caused loss to an Agency that was already facing grievous financial problems. The Australian Government strongly urged all parties to respect the Agency's neutral status and allow it to perform its vital humanitarian task free from avoidable danger and with the full respect of all sides. It was a force for stability in a precarious area of the world, and it would be a cause for grave concern if its operations were fatally impaired. The Agency acted in the interest of peace and on behalf of the whole international community and deserved its whole-hearted support and co-operation.

22. Mr. IRTEMCELİK (Turkey) said that the existence of UNRWA symbolized both an embarrassing failure of the Organization to bring about a just and lasting solution to a major political problem included in the agenda for over three decades, as well as continued universal concern and support for the Palestinian people. The agenda item could not be dissociated from the political framework within which the Agency had had to function for the past 35 years. Only in that context could the role it had played and the social and humanitarian services it had rendered against all odds be properly assessed. Until the Arab territories occupied since 1967 had been returned to their rightful owners, there would be no viable and genuine peace in the Middle East.

23. The Turkish Government whole-heartedly supported the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Its most urgent concern was the safety and well-being of Palestine refugees. It had noted with profound regret the Israeli authorities' deplorable attitude towards the refugees and UNRWA personnel. Persistence in such an attitude, in complete disregard of well-established rules of conduct, would inevitably exacerbate tensions in the area.

24. The United Nations had a collective responsibility towards the Palestine refugees. Since UNRWA was the basic instrument available to alleviate their plight, it was essential to stand united in supporting the Agency, both morally and financially. The information given in the chart concerning the age distribution of registered refugees that 68.4 per cent had been born after the creation of the Agency and had therefore had to turn to it for all their manifold needs should be sufficient cause for all to consider the Agency's financial problems with a sense of urgency and understanding and the Palestine issue with political vision.

25. The Agency must never be considered a substitute for a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem, but without it political instability in the region might be even greater. The international community's inability to eliminate the root causes of the problem should not constitute an excuse for lack of concerted effort to alleviate the Palestinians' plight through UNRWA. His delegation therefore drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 20 of the report of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA (A/39/575) in which all Governments were urged to recognize the serious financial situation confronting the Agency in 1985 and to be prepared to respond to it to the best of their respective financial capabilities.

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26. Mr. MAKITALO (Finland) said that his delegation agreed with the Commissioner-General that UNRWA, while being a strictly humanitarian institution according to its mandate, had also become an important factor in the overall political context of the Middle East. The interplay of humanitarian and political factors evident in the Agency's origin had since been reflected in the way in which it had developed. Although its services promoted stability in the region, its continued existence could by no means diminish the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement. Such a settlement was the only way to a definitive solution of the economic, social and cultural problems of the Palestine refugees. His Government therefore reiterated its full support of the Commissioner-General and his staff.

27. The precarious financial position of UNRWA was a matter of deep concern. In past years, the lack of funds to cover budgeted expenditure could be met to a certain extent by cutting lower priority programmes and postponing construction and maintenance. The education programme, to which all assigned the highest priority, might now have to be reduced. As the Commissioner-General had stated, if UNRWA was to remain a factor for stability, everything possible must be done to avoid such a step. His delegation supported the recommendations of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA. The Working Group had drawn the attention of Governments to the impending financial crisis of 1985 and had expressed satisfaction at the willingness of some major contributors to convert contributions in kind into cash, which had been a decisive factor in maintaining the education programme at its present level.

28. The interfactional fighting in Lebanon and the occupation of south Lebanon had brought havoc to the lives of civilians, including Palestine refugees. The need of the Palestine refugees in Lebanon for additional assistance was still acute, and UNRWA had been able to support them in their efforts to rebuild their lives. His Government deplored the fact that the freedom of movement of Agency officials had been severely restricted and the principle of the immunity of United Nations installations violated. It appealed to all parties to give their full support to the Agency's work.

29. The collapse of UNRWA would have serious social and political consequences for the refugees, for the host countries and for the prospects for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The creation of the financial conditions necessary for the Agency's continued humanitarian activities was the common task of all Member States.

30. As an indication of the importance which his Government attached to UNRWA activities, it had, in September 1984, made an additional contribution of about \$US 160,000, earmarked for the 1984 education programme. Subject to parliamentary approval, it had decided to increase its contribution in the next fiscal year by 14 per cent, to 2.5 million Finnish markkaa.

31. Mr. LOZINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that over the years the Israeli authorities had impeded all efforts to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and were attempting to bring about radical socio-economic and demographic changes in the illegally occupied territories through a policy of

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(Mr. Lozinsky, USSR)

terror and repression. The barbarous aggression of Israel in Lebanon had further aggravated the plight of the Palestine refugees, who were victims of Israel's policy of genocide. Under the cover of its "strategic partnership" with the United States, Israel was continuing its policy of terror in Lebanon in order to destroy the will of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland. Such a policy, however, was doomed to failure.

32. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) the Soviet Union had consistently advocated the adoption of practical measures to bring about a just settlement of the problem of the Palestine refugees. The achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East was possible only through collective efforts undertaken on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions. The new Soviet proposals concerning the Middle East put forward in July 1984 had received widespread support. A comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East must be based on the implementation of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their rights to self-determination, to the establishment of their own independent State and to the restoration of their homes and property. That could be achieved only through the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and the implementation by Israel of the United Nations decisions on the question of Palestine.

33. The Israeli aggressors and those who supported their policy of usurpation bore the responsibility for providing compensation for the losses suffered by the Palestinians and other victims of Israeli aggression and for financing the activities of UNRWA. Israel, as was evident from the reports under consideration and the statements made by delegations, was impeding the Agency's activities and, with the generous financial support of the United States, was preparing to strengthen its hold on the Palestinian lands. Israel's objective was obviously to perpetuate the status of the Palestinians as refugees who had no rights and who lived on United Nations grants. His delegation agreed that the proposal to cover the budget deficit or part of the financial obligations of UNRWA through the regular budget of the United Nations was contrary to the principle of the voluntary financing of activities within the United Nations system.

34. His Government appreciated the Agency's work in carrying out its humanitarian task. The Soviet Union participated in the financing of a number of programmes carried out through UNRWA by specialized agencies of the United Nations and also participated in the financing of the maintenance expenses of the Agency's international staff. Furthermore, the Soviet Union provided broad and diverse bilateral assistance to the Palestinian and other Arab peoples who were victims of Israeli aggression.

35. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was shocked to hear the representative of the Soviet Union dare to use the word "genocide" with regard to Israeli actions. After all, the Soviet Government had signed a non-aggression pact with the Government of Nazi Germany in 1939 which had unleashed World War II and the crimes of genocide committed against the Jewish

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(Mr. Barromi, Israel)

people and many other peoples by the Nazis. Through its own brutal cynicism and short-sightedness the Soviet Union had caused its own people untold suffering. In view of the faulty memory of the Soviet Government it was difficult to take seriously the Soviet proposals for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

36. The representative of Saudi Arabia had repeated a distorted version of the events which had occurred in Palestine in 1948. It was patently untrue that Palestinian Arabs had been expelled by Israeli forces. Most of the refugees had left under pressure from the Palestinian Arab leaders and from Arab States. Others had fled as civilians were often forced to flee in time of war. The few cases in which civilians had been displaced because of military operations had been unavoidable at the time.

37. There was ample documentation concerning the role of the Palestinian Arab leaders and Arab States in encouraging the exodus of refugees. The issue dated 2 October 1948 of the British weekly, The Economist, had reported broadcasts made by Arab leaders urging the Arab population of Haifa to flee and had also mentioned the appeals by the Jewish authorities urging all Arabs to remain in Haifa and guaranteeing them protection and security. In an article appearing in Filastin al-Thaurah, the official journal of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO leader Abu Mazin had stated in 1976 that the Arab armies had initially entered Palestine in order to protect the Palestinians from Zionist tyranny but, instead, later had forced them to emigrate. In 1948 both Jews and Arabs had lost homes and property.

38. His delegation commended the decision of Saudi Arabia to increase its contribution to the Agency. Nevertheless, that contribution represented only a small fraction of the petrodollars which that country possessed. More generous assistance from Saudi Arabia and other Arab States would do much to bring about a speedy solution to the problem under discussion.

39. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Zionist Fascist régime had once again distorted the truth as to why the Palestine refugees had fled in 1948. Menachem Begin in one of his own books had described how the Zionist gangs went from village to village threatening Arabs with a repetition of the massacre which had taken place in Deir Yassin if they did not flee. At the current time in Israel, Meir Kahane, a member of the Israeli Knesset, was publicly advocating the expulsion of the entire Arab population from Israel. Lastly, mention should be made of the dealings which had taken place between the Zionists and the Nazi leaders in the 1930s and the 1940s for the purpose of bringing Jews from Europe to Palestine.

40. Mr. LOZINSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had distorted historical facts. The efforts of the Soviet Government to prevent World War II and the heroic struggle of the Soviet people to defeat the Fascists were well known. It was

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(Mr. Lozinsky, USSR)

unfortunate that the Israeli Zionist leaders had forgotten the lessons of history, particularly how the crime of genocide had been punished by an international court as a crime against humanity. The crimes committed by the Israeli Government against the Arab peoples in the occupied Territories were also crimes of genocide, which were condemned by all peace-loving peoples.

41. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that there was ample evidence of Soviet and Nazi collaboration before World War II. For example, the German Ambassador in Moscow had sent a letter to his Foreign Ministry describing a conversation which had taken place between him and the Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs on 16 November 1940. The Soviet Minister, referring to a protocol proposed by the Soviet Government, had stipulated that the focal point of the Soviet sphere of interest in the Middle East was south of Baku and in the general area of the Persian Gulf. The current policy of the Soviet Union in the Middle East could be better understood in the light of that evidence.

42. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel could not deny that Zionists had collaborated with Nazi leaders in order to facilitate the emigration of the Zionist élite from Europe to Palestine, abandoning other Jews to perish in concentration camps and gas chambers. He challenged the representative of Israel to provide any evidence of cases in which Arab Governments had encouraged Palestinians to emigrate. In that regard, he pointed out that Dr. John Davis, who had been Commissioner-General of UNRWA from 1959 to 1963, had explained the reasons for the exodus of the Palestine refugees in his book The Evasive Peace. Dr. Davis stated that the brutal manner in which the Israeli forces expelled the refugees as part of a deliberate plan was not sufficiently known to the public and that the Zionist concept of a Jewish State was based on a plan to drive the indigenous Arab population from its homeland. In his book entitled Rebirth and Destiny of Israel, David Ben-Gurion had demonstrated his desire to rid Palestine of Arabs just as Hitler had yearned to rid the Third Reich of Jews. Ben-Gurion had also boasted about the success of the Zionists in expelling the Arab population from Palestine in 1948.

43. In his book The Revolt, Menachem Begin described the role played by the Zionist terrorist gang, Irgun, and the panic caused by the massacre perpetrated by Zionist terrorists in Deir Yassin.

44. Contrary to the allegations of the representative of Israel, the Arab armies had entered Palestine at the urgent request of the Palestinian Arab population to protect the remainder of the Arab State in Palestine. However, the fundamental question was whether the Palestine refugees would be able to exercise their legitimate right to return to their country under article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Israel alone defied international law and world public opinion and refused to recognize the right of the Palestine refugees to return to their homes.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.