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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Forty-fourth session
Agenda items 3, 22, 28, 32, 36, 37, 39,
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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fourth year

ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS
INTOLERANCE

Letter dated 31 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative
of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

In my capacity as the current Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, I have the pleasure to forward the following:

(a) The Arabic, English and French texts of the final communiqué of the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, 4 October 1989 (annex I).

(b) The Arabic, English and French texts of the Declaration of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the Plight of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Bulgaria, held at United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, 4 October 1989 (annex II).

It would be highly appreciated if this letter and the above-mentioned documents could be circulated as official documents of the General Assembly, under agenda items 3, 22, 28, 32, 36, 37, 39, 48, 53, 68, 82, 96, 98, 100 and 106, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

Communiqué of the Co-ordination Meeting of the Ministers
of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic
Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on
Wednesday, 5 Rabiul Awal 1410 H, corresponding to
4 October 1989

1. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held their Annual Co-ordination Meeting on Wednesday, 5 Rabiul Awal 1410 H, corresponding to 4 October 1989, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mohammad Ibrahim Masood, Minister of State and Member of Council of Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
2. His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Masood, Chairman, and His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference made statements reviewing the major problems confronting the Muslim world.
3. The Meeting adopted the draft agenda.
4. After preliminary discussion, the Meeting considered the reports prepared by the OIC Committees on Palestine, Afghanistan and South Africa and Namibia, which had preceded the Annual Co-ordination Meeting. The Meeting also had before it the explanatory notes prepared by the General Secretariat on each item of the agenda.
5. The Meeting adopted the report and the recommendations of the Six-Member Committee on Palestine and saluted the Blessed Palestinian intifadah and reaffirmed its full support to it. The Meeting called upon member States to take necessary measures to implement the resolutions calling for strengthening the steadfastness of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and to extend all forms of assistance including political, financial, medical and food aid to the Palestinian people. The Meeting condemned the Israeli barbaric policies and practices aimed at continuing the occupation and liquidating the intifadah and which had resulted in the martyrdom of over one thousand Palestinians and injuries and arrests of tens of thousands in addition to deportation and destruction of their properties.

The meeting reaffirmed that the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East conflict and that just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved unless the Palestine issue is settled on the basis of the immediate total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories occupied since 1967 as well as without enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable national rights including the right to return, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State on their own territory with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The Meeting commended the PLO for its efforts to realize its objectives by delineating a comprehensive peace strategy and reaffirmed its full support to the Palestinian peace initiative.

The Meeting called for the urgent convening of the International Conference on Peace in the Middle East in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/176 under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned in the conflict, including PLO, on equal footing.

The Meeting urged the Islamic Group to intensify its efforts at the United Nations and in the Security Council to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and to place the occupied Palestinian territory under the temporary supervision of the United Nations and to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli forces pending the establishment of the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds al-Sharif at its capital.

The Meeting expressed its appreciation to European countries, Japan and other countries for the positive evolution in their positions regarding the Palestinian cause and for recognizing the right of the people of Palestine to self-determination. It called upon the international community and the peace loving forces to use their influence to dissuade Israel and to compel it to cease its terrorist policy against the Palestinian people.

The Meeting decided to address a letter on behalf of the Islamic and friendly countries to the Secretary-General of the United Nations expressing reservations on the Israeli credentials.

6. The Meeting condemned the long-range missile tests made by the Zionist entity during the past few days in the Mediterranean region, one of which fell near the town of Benghazi in Libya. It considered that the possession by the Zionist entity of nuclear and mass destruction weapons not only threatens the security and peace in the region but also the existence of the entire Islamic Ummah and world peace. The Meeting called upon the international community to condemn such actions and urged the Islamic States to take necessary measures to dissipate such danger.

7. The Meeting adopted the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Afghanistan. It welcomed the completion of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan and underlined the importance of the Agreements concluded in Geneva as an important step towards a comprehensive political solution of the Afghanistan problem. It recalled the decision of the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to invite the Interim Government of the Afghan Mujahidin to assume the seat of Afghanistan in the Islamic Conference. It expressed the hope that the Afghan Mujahidin will be able to consolidate unity and solidarity among the Afghan people.

The Meeting also emphasized the need for the opening of an intra-Afghan dialogue with a view to establishing a broad-based government to replace the foreign imposed and discredited régime in Kabul. It also emphasized the Islamic character of Afghanistan.

The Meeting stressed the need for the achievement of a comprehensive political solution, which would enable the voluntary return of the Afghan refugees to their

homeland in safety and honour. It called upon the United Nations Secretary-General to continue his efforts aimed at facilitating an early and comprehensive settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreements and General Assembly resolution 43/20. It also called upon the international community to provide financial and material resources for the purpose of speedy repatriation and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees. The Meeting endorsed the draft resolution introduced by Pakistan for submission to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

8. The Meeting adopted the report of the OIC Committee on South Africa and Namibia. It reaffirmed that apartheid is the root cause of the conflict in the region. It strongly condemned the racist minority régime in Pretoria for its policy of apartheid and its repression of the defenceless African people as well as for its repeated acts of aggression and destabilization against the front-line States. It categorically rejected the racist elections organized by the Pretoria régime on 6 September 1989, which excluded the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa and were contrary to the well-known demand of the people of South Africa and the international community for the formation of a parliament representative of all the people of South Africa and elected on the basis of one person one vote. It called upon the international community to oblige the Pretoria régime to cease its campaign of repression against the people of South Africa and pledged to support the liberation struggle in South Africa until the goal of total elimination of the abominable apartheid system is achieved. It also expressed its support for the Declaration of the OAU Ad Hoc Committee on South Africa on the question of South Africa, adopted at Harare on 21 August 1989. It also welcomed the convening of the special session of the General Assembly on apartheid and South Africa's destabilization policies in the region and recommended to the member States to participate in this session at the highest possible level to achieve maximum results.

9. The Meeting welcomed the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia and emphasized the importance of the role of the United Nations in ensuring that the forthcoming elections in Namibia are conducted freely and fairly. It also called upon the international community to lend its full support to SWAPO, the sole authentic representative of the people of Namibia in its electoral campaign and during the election process and to continue to extend political and material support to SWAPO.

10. The Meeting expressed its deep concern over the situation in Lebanon and reaffirmed the solidarity of the Islamic States with the Lebanese people and its determination to stand by their side for the preservation of their unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty on all Lebanese territories.

The Meeting reiterated its full support for the mediation efforts being made by the High Level Arab Tripartite Committee to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. It welcomed the measures taken by the Committee in particular, the Meeting of the Lebanese Parliamentarians in Taif in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It urged all concerned parties to co-operate with the Tripartite Committee to enable it to restore peace in Lebanon while respecting its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

11. The Meeting expressed its satisfaction on the decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Iraq to hold direct talks, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations aimed at achieving full and rapid implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) in order to reach a comprehensive, just, honourable and durable settlement.
12. The Meeting took note of the statement made by the Representative of Somalia regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa and welcomed the conclusion in April 1988 of an agreement between Somalia and Ethiopia for the normalization of relations and expressed its support for the ongoing contacts and dialogue between the two sides in order to find a just and durable solution to conflict in the Horn of Africa taking into account the rights and aspirations of the concerned people.
13. The Meeting reviewed the critical economic situation in Africa and reiterated its call to the international community, in particular the developed States and international financial institutions concerned, to expedite the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development by substantially increasing financial flows to African States, particularly to the sub-Saharan countries, as well as to provide favourable terms of trade to the exports from African States and to reduce the negative impact of exchange rate fluctuations on the African economies. It also reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen further the Islamic solidarity with the people of the Sahel in their efforts to overcome the effects of drought, desertification, and to combat the locust problem.
14. The Meeting also reviewed the international economic situation which had remained unfavourable to the developing countries. It emphasized the need for strengthening horizontal economic co-operation between member States and called upon them to work together at the international level for promoting the North-South dialogue with a view to redressing the prevailing iniquitous system of international economic relations.

ANNEX II

Declaration of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the plight of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, held at United Nations Headquarters on Wednesday, 5 Rabiul Awal 1410 H, corresponding to 4 October 1989

The Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on Wednesday, 5 Rabiul Awal 1410 H, corresponding to 4 October 1989, to review developments regarding the plight of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria.

The Conference expressed grave concern over the continuing inhuman campaign of assimilation conducted by the Bulgarian Government against Turkish and other Muslim minorities in Bulgaria and the consequent exodus, in recent months, of over 300,000 people seeking refuge in Turkey.

The Conference noted Turkey's sincere readiness to enter into meaningful negotiations with Bulgaria so as to bring about a satisfactory solution to this humanitarian question. The Conference welcomed the statement made by His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Turkey in which he said: "We have no intention to seek a confrontation with our Bulgarian neighbours or try to humiliate them", and "Nobody will be happier than Turkey if our relations with Bulgaria return to the satisfactory state that prevailed prior to 1984".

The Conference expressed its profound gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference, for his valuable efforts to this end.

After debating the question, the Conference reiterated the resolution on this subject adopted at the Eighteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as the relevant paragraph of the final communiqué.

In the light of the debate, and bearing in mind the reports dated 22 July 1989 and 5 September 1989 of the Secretary-General and the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference respectively, the Conference called upon the Bulgarian Government to honour its international obligations and thereby restore and respect the religious, ethnic and cultural rights of Turkish and other Muslim minorities in Bulgaria.

The Conference further urged the Bulgarian Government to enter into meaningful negotiations with the Government of Turkey with a view to concluding a comprehensive emigration agreement that would ensure the reunification of divided families and the orderly movement of those members of the Turkish minority who may wish to emigrate to Turkey without prejudice to their social and property rights in Bulgaria.

The Conference also resolved that the delegations of the member States, in the appropriate international forums, would voice their concern about this serious and massive infringement of human rights in order to lend support to Turkey's efforts to redress this tragic situation that affronts not only the Muslim world but all mankind.

The Conference noted with appreciation the invitation extended by His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait to the Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Bulgaria to hold a meeting in Kuwait on 30 October 1989 for the purpose of discussing Turkish-Bulgarian bilateral relations, including the situation of the Bulgarian Muslim minority of Turkish origin. It appealed to both sides to respond favourably to this call.

The Conference further decided to remain seized of the matter and requested the Secretary-General of the OIC to closely monitor the situation through appropriate means and to report to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs before its next regular session.
