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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

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Friday, 26 November 1971, at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Cornelius C. CREMIN (Ireland).

AGENDA ITEMS 38 AND 12

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (continued) (A/8366, A/8383 and Add.1, A/8403, A/8413, A/8432, A/8476, A/8526, A/SPC/147, A/SPC/148, A/SPC/L.225, A/SPC/L.226, A/SPC/L.227, A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1, A/SPC/L.229):

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General (A/8413);
- (b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/8476);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General (A/8366);
- (d) Report of the Economic and Social Council (chapter XVIII (section D)) (A/8403)
- 1. The CHAIRMAN announced that two new documents had been issued, a supplement (A/8383/Add.1) to the special report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on the effect on the Palestine refugees of the operations carried out in July and August 1971 by the Israeli military authorities in the Gaza Strip and a revised draft resolution (A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1). He asked members wishing to participate in the debate to put their names on the list before 6 p.m. that same day and asked that draft resolutions should be submitted as soon as possible.
- 2. Mr. KOMATINA (Yugoslavia) expressed his appreciation to the staff of UNRWA, the Commissioner-General and the members and chairman of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA.
- 3. For more than 20 years the United Nations had been considering the problem of the refugees, which, as everybody knew, had political, national and legal as well as humanitarian aspects. Providing shelter for human beings was a reflection of international solidarity with the refugees, but it was not enough. The problem was no longer merely one of returning the refugees to their land or of compensation for confiscated property, but of a people who should be enabled to exercise its legitimate right to self-determination, without which any solution would be unjust and would contain the seeds of further conflicts in the Middle East.
- 4. His delegation had studied with interest the reports of the Working Group (A/8476) and of the Commissioner-General (A/8413), as well as the latter's special reports (A/8383 and Add.1) on the effect on the refugees of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip. It was obvious that Israel, not content with refusing to implement the resolutions relating to the Palestine refugees, was acting in a

manner calculated to make the latter's position more difficult.

- 5. The annual report of the Commissioner-General (A/ 8413) also stressed the Agency's extremely difficult financial situation, which threatened to cause a reduction in its services. There was particular danger of restrictions in vocational training and educational programmes, to which almost one-half of the Agency's resources were allocated. His delegation attached special importance to those programmes, which enabled young Palestinians to regain their human dignity and to outgrow their refugee status. All possibilities of mitigating the Agency's chronic financial deficit had not been exhausted. For that reason, his delegation supported the joint appeal (A/8526) made by the States Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals to assist the Agency in continuing to function normally. Yugoslavia had extended assistance to UNRWA since the Agency's establishment and would make its contribution within the limits of its available means in 1971, as it had done in preceding years. In 1967, in addition to its regular contribution, it had given direct aid to the victims of aggression.
- 6. The people of Palestine should be given an opportunity to choose freely between returning to their homes and receiving adequate compensation. His delegation held that persons who had become refugees for the second time as a consequence of the 1967 war should be permitted to return at once to the places where they had lived before the conflict, and it felt that UNRWA should continue to assist them. Their return would contribute to an improvement in the Agency's financial position and in the general situation in the Middle East; however, the number of persons repatriated so far was insignificant. His delegation reiterated its support for UNRWA's future work and for the new Commissioner-General. It supported General Assembly resolution 2535 B (XXIV), which explicitly recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestine Arab people, and was prepared to contribute to its implementation.
- 7. Mr. BÁNYÁSZ (Hungary) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with those speakers who had expressed their appreciation for the humanitarian work of the Arab countries, and of UNRWA and other international organizations and expressed the hope that the refugees' sufferings might be alleviated.
- 8. The friendship of the Hungarian People's Republic for the Arab countries was based on their joint struggle for national and social progress and against all forms of oppression. That was why Hungary was so much concerned with the plight of the Palestine refugees. The refugees were also victims of one of the innumerable tragedies caused by

imperialist policies. Deprived of their homeland, of work and of the inalienable rights of man, they were condemned to live on charity and stood in fear of further repressive measures. Whatever the scope of the assistance given or the devotion with which it was distributed, it was not sufficient to treat the symptoms of the illness. It was necessary to tackle the political problem which was the latter's source. The Government of Israel was pursuing an aggressive, expansionist policy, expelling the Arab inhabitants from their homes while carrying on unrestrained propaganda abroad for immigration in order to recruit specialists for its further acts of aggression. In order to justify their conduct the Zionists referred to the crimes committed by the Nazis. However, the Jews had not been the only victims of nazism. In the Soviet Union 20 million lives had been lost, and Poland, Yugoslavia, Belgium, the Netherlands and France had each lost millions. During the Second World War 600,000 Hungarians had died, out of a total population of 10 million. Nor should it be forgotten that the greatest sacrifices in the war against nazism had been made by the international working-class movement.

- 9. Having suffered did not entitle one to cause suffering to others. The United Nations, whose task it was to defend fundamental human rights, must see to it that the Arab refugees also enjoyed those rights and were compensated for the damage they had suffered. Instead of trying to make UNRWA a charitable agency in five or ten years, a definitive and equitable solution must be found to the refugee problem.
- 10. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the competence and wisdom with which the Chairman was guiding the debates. His delegation also expressed its gratitude to UNRWA, the Commissioner-General and the Working Group, whose efforts had made it possible to reduce the serious deficit in the Agency's 1970/71 budget. Egypt was already burdened by its own displaced persons who had been evacuated from the Suez Canal area as a result of Israeli attacks on Egyptian cities, and Israel's policy of aggression was forcing Egypt to devote a good part of its budget to national defence. In spite of that the Egyptian Government had assumed its international obligations towards the Arab people of Palestine and had contributed approximately \$6.5 million during the current year. If Security Council resolution 237 (1967) and General Assembly resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2452 A (XXIII), 2535 (XXIV) and 2672 (XXV), calling for the immediate return of the refugees, were implemented, a good part of UNRWA's budget deficit would be eliminated. It should also be recalled that the Arab lands usurped by Israel yielded an income amounting to some \$200 million annually, more than four times UNRWA's budget. While considerable efforts were being made to raise some \$6 million to cover bare necessities, \$500 million were granted with enthusiasm to the aggressors.
- 11. It should not be forgotten that UNRWA had been created to provide temporary relief pending a solution of the refugee problem and the return of the refugees to their homeland in accordance with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III). The United Nations resolutions calling for repatriation of the refugees had become so numerous that it had not been possible to list all of them in draft resolution A/SPC/L.225. Their very number high-

lighted the failure of the international community to impose its will and the continued defiance on the part of Israel to the United Nations and all that it stood for. Israel continued to pursue systematically its policy of expansion. The same pattern reflecting the same racial creed, was still apparent: aggression to obtain a status quo imposed by force of arms was followed by annexation and expulsion of the remnants of the Arab people of Palestine in order to make room for new waves of immigrants who sowed the seed of new aggression and new expansion. All that was done in the name of national liberation and the search for peace or security.

- 12. General Assembly resolution 2672 C (XXV) recognized the right of the people of Palestine to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and declared that respect for the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine was an indispensable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Once again, Israel had disregarded the will expressed by the international community, and while continuing its repressive measures against the refugees it was pursuing obstructionist policies towards UNRWA, as stated in the Commissioner-General's special report (A/8383), which mentioned that 4,360 rooms built by the Agency in the Gaza Strip as well as over 2,000 privately built rooms had been demolished, resulting in the displacement of 15,000 persons. Those actions constituted a violation of basic principles for the protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts which had been laid down in General Assembly resolution 2675 (XXV) and in the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, of which he referred particularly to articles 49 and 53.
- 13. The description he had just given of the plight of the refugees was based entirely on official United Nations documents. It would be incomplete if it failed to include a reference to the despair of an oppressed people who had no course left but to resort to arms in a struggle for the restoration of its legitimate rights, which had been usurped by the aggressor and neglected by the international community. Since the end of the First World War, the right to self-determination had been recognized for peoples of all races, creeds and colours. Palestinians, however, were still denied that right. The principle of self-determination was embodied in the Charter, and the United Nations must see that it was upheld.
- 14. Mr. TARCICI (Yemen) said that the question before the Committee concerned the life and future of the entire Palestinian people. He reminded the Committee that General Assembly resolution 2672 C (XXV) had reaffirmed the rights of the Palestinian people, who were living as refugees, while an occupying Power brought in newcomers to replace them, and who depended on international charity even though UNRWA could be financed with only part of the interest on the income realized by the occupying Power from confiscated Palestinian property.
- 15. According to the report of the Commissioner-General (A/8413), nearly 1.5 million Palestinians were registered with UNRWA as refugees. Responsibility for their plight rested with the authorities of the occupying Power, with

¹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75 (1950), No. 973.

those who had aided Israel and continued to arm and finance it and, finally, with the international community, which had been unable or unwilling to restore the rights of the Palestinian people.

- 16. His delegation paid a special tribute to Mr. Laurence Michelmore, who had demonstrated exemplary integrity and devotion in carrying out his functions as Commissioner-General of UNRWA, and extended its best wishes to his successor, Sir John Rennie.
- 17. Although the Commissioner-General's report was excellent from the standpoint of presentation and clarity, it would have been even better if it had dealt with rights and other matters of concern to the Palestinian people and had described their humiliation, distress and despair, i.e. if it had touched upon the non-material side of their life.
- 18. The Agency's mission should be viewed against the background of three basic factors: the rights of the Palestinian people, the plight of the refugees and the after-effects of the most recent aggression. Moreover, UNRWA was dealing with an occupying Power that was aggressive, racist and militaristic and that was continuing to defy the United Nations in order to compromise the Organization's existence and reputation and render its resolutions ineffective. He read out paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 9 (XXVII),² adopted on 15 March 1971 by the Commission on Human Rights, which condemned Israel's behaviour, policies and practices in the occupied territories and protested against its expansionist policy as reflected in its colonization of those territories.
- 19. General Charles de Gaulle had said at a press conference that Israel's occupation of the territory it had seized was bound to lead to oppression, repression and expulsions and that a resistance movement was building up against Israel which Israel described as terrorism. In his book, Mémoires d'espoir; le renouveau,3 after remarking that Israel had established itself as sovereign on Arab land at the expense of the Arabs, General de Gaulle had recounted that he had asked David Ben-Gurion not to involve Israel in further territorial conquests which, he had said, would throw the East into terrible upheaval. In the same passage General de Gaulle had stated that he had put an end to the "abuses of co-operation" as a result of which Israelis had become permanently established at all levels of the French armed services and Government. Other Powers that had been infiltrated by the Zionists could have profited from that example.
- 20. In addition to its expansionist policy, Israel hoped to extend Zionist economic and political hegemony throughout the entire region, not excluding the non-Arab countries. In that connexion, he read from a statement made by Mr. Abba Eban at the 1686th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, on 8 October 1968, in which Mr. Eban had called for discussions which would include an examination of a common approach to some of the resources and means of communication in the region, in an effort to lay the foundations of a Middle Eastern community of sover-

- eign States.4 He recalled that the sociologist Maxime Rodinson had said that Israel was engaged in a process which was in perfect keeping with the great expansionist movement of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries aimed at peopling the lands of other nations and dominating them economically and politically. It would appear that Israel's goal was to become by the year 2000 a great neo-colonial, industrial, economic and military Power which would exploit the entire Middle East as well as a large part of Africa for its own profit. As proof he cited some documents on the rising standard of living issued by the Association for Peace in Tel Aviv. The only explanation for the \$2,830 difference between the per capita income of \$3,000 forecast for Israel and the \$170-\$250 per capita income forecast for Egypt was that, after extending its economic, political and military hegemony throughout the Middle East, Israel planned to exploit the area's resources for its exclusive profit.
- 21. Some might think that Israel's colonialist designs were only passing fancies and that it was no longer possible for some groups of countries to exploit others. However, the billionaires who were the corner-stone of zionism and had exploited the colonies of the industrialized countries were still exploiting the resources and wealth of the developing countries. It must not be forgotten that it was to Lord Rothschild, a leader and financial backer of zionism, that Lord Balfour had made his promise. The Rothschilds and their associates were virtually the only beneficiaries of the enterprises which were "jointly" exploiting the resources of the third world.
- 22. He then read from an article by Mr. David Nes, a United States diplomat, which had been published in Le Monde of 17 March 1971 and had also been printed in The New York Times. That article had stated that between 1948 and 1968 economic aid to Israel by the Government of the United States of America had amounted to \$11 thousand million while private capital transfers had aggregated \$25 thousand million, for a total of \$36 thousand million, or \$1,400 per capita for a population of 2.5 million. Mr. Nes had pointed out that \$1,400 per capita was much higher than the assistance given by the United States to its other allies and could not be compared with the \$35 per capita given to 13 neighbouring States. He had pointed out that United States aid to Israel had increased greatly since 1968 and that dollar transfers had amounted to \$800 million in 1970 and would be close to \$1.5 thousand million in 1971. In the book Present at the Creation,⁵ Mr. Dean Acheson, former United States Secretary of State, told of the Zionist pressure put on him and other high officials in his Department. In 1970, while the Committee had been concerned with finding the \$5 million needed to make up UNRWA's deficit, the United States had given \$500 million to Israel. Thus, the aggressors had received additional aid amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars while their victims had had great difficulty obtaining enough to survive. A similar situation prevailed in 1971.
- 23. In closing, he wished to state that it was the duty of the United Nations to restore to the Palestinian people the

² See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 4, chap. XIX.

³ Ch. de Gaulle, Mémoires d'espoir (Paris, Librairie Plon, 1970), vol. I (Le renouveau 1958-1962).

⁴ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Plenary Meetings, 1686th meeting, para. 118.

⁵ New York, W. W. Norton, 1969.

rights which the General Assembly had recognized as theirs. Only if that was done would Palestinians of every religion be able to live in peace.

- 24. Mr. BASSETTE (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1 on behalf of its sponsors, which now included Finland and Iran. The preamble of the revised draft was the same as that of draft resolution A/SPC/L.228. Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 had been combined, and, although the sponsors had not been able to delete the reference to the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group, they had reached a compromise which had been accepted by the representative of Kuwait. By operative paragraph 1 as it now stood the General Assembly would also commend the Working Group. By operative paragraph 2 it would extend the mandate of the Working Group for one year, and the text embodied two amendments which one delegation had submitted unofficially concerning the scope of the resolutions which the Working Group was responsible for implementing. In accordance with the wishes of several delegations, operative paragraph 4 gave greater prominence to the joint appeal by the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, which had been referred to in the preamble of the original resolution. Finally, two changes had been made in operative paragraph 5, which referred to the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General and specified that the views expressed in the course of the debate during the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the General Assembly should be taken into account.
- 25. On behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, he thanked the representatives who had suggested amendments and said he was grateful to the representative of Kuwait for the understanding he had shown with regard to one of the amendments he had proposed.
- 26. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a note by the Secretary-General (A/SPC/L.229) which contained a statement of the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1.
- 27. Mr. GANDA (Sierra Leone) noted that operative paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1 referred to a resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council and, in particular, to its paragraph 5. He wondered whether the text of that paragraph could be included in the draft resolution with a view to making the draft clearer and sparing delegations some time-consuming research.
- 28. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that a summary of Economic and Social Council resolution 1565 (L) could be found in paragraphs 48 and 49 of the report (A/8476) of the Working Group.
- 29. Mr. CAHANA (Israel) said, in exercise of the right of reply, that the Arab countries were still using the slogans of hatred of the first Arab Summit Conference at Khartoum. Some refugees had not been deceived by them and, realizing that the Arab Governments were exploiting their troubles for propaganda purposes, they were increasingly adopting a positive attitude, recognizing that improvement of their lot depended on the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Of course, such tendencies were repressed in the Arab countries, where the lives of supporters of

- reconciliation with Israel were in jeopardy, and were expressed even more rarely in the Committee.
- 30. The representative of Yemen had clearly shown that his Government, like other Arab Governments, was opposed to Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and that his main interest was not in finding ways and means of bettering the lot of the refugees, but in eliminating the State of Israel and replacing it by an Arab State. For a Member of the United Nations to dispute, in 1971, the existence of Israel testified to an obsession and political blindness: the Yemeni Government was continuing to support the position which was that of all Arab Governments in 1948 and had learned nothing since then.
- 31. The representative of Yemen had turned the facts upside down: the cause of the conflict was not the presence of Palestinian refugees, but the fact that the Arab States had tried to prevent the establishment of the State of Israel by force. The League of Nations in its day had approved the idea of establishing a Jewish National Home in Palestine: the Arabs had opposed it, when the aspirations of the Jewish revolutionary movement might well have been realized together with those of the Arab nations. Even before the decision to partition Palestine, when it had become apparent that the United Nations would sanction the establishment of a Jewish State, the Arabs had already been plotting and had decided to take up arms to prevent it. The Bulletin of the Research Group for European Migration Problems showed that, on 8 June 1946, the Arab League had decided in secret resolutions to attack collectively and to prevent the establishment of a Jewish State, in the event of the United Nations deciding to sanction it. Further, in a book on the Arab League, Mr. B. Y. Butros-Ghali, of the University of Cairo, had stated that on 19 September 1947 the Political Committee of the Arab League had secretly decided to send troops into Palestine in case a partition plan were agreed upon. It was in anticipation of such an attempt that the General Assembly in its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947 had requested that "the Security Council determine as a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or acts of aggression, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter, any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged by this resolution".
- 32. On the very day following the adoption of that resolution, the Arab League had announced its plan for the occupation of Palestine by the armies of States members of the League with the aim of forcibly preventing the establishment of a Jewish State (The New York Times of 30 December 1947). On the same day, the Acting Chairman of the Palestine Arab Higher Committee had demanded a holy war against the Jews. In his book In the Cause of Peace; seven years with the United Nations,6 Trygve Lie, the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, had stated that from the first week of December 1947, disorder in Palestine had begun to mount. The Arabs had repeatedly asserted that they would resist partition by force. Attacks against the Jewish community in Palestine had amounted, in less than a week, to 105 dead and many wounded. On 16 February 1948, in its first special report to the Security Council,⁷ the United Nations Palestine Commission had

⁶ New York, The Macmillan Company, 1954.

⁷ See Official Records of the Security Council, Third year, Special Supplement No. 2, document S/676.

stated that powerful Arab interests, both inside and outside Palestine, were defying the resolution of the General Assembly (181 (II)) and were engaged in a deliberate effort to alter by force the settlement envisaged therein.

- 33. Many other documents could be quoted, from United Nations and other sources, to show that the Arabs were responsible for the attacks against Israel. It was they who had created the refugee problem and were responsible for its continuance. It was therefore cynical of the Arab countries to declare, as stated in the report of the Working Group, that they did not consider themselves obliged to make larger contributions because they did not accept any responsibility. Their contributions constituted a minute part of their oil revenues: if only that proportion could be increased there would no longer be any need to intensify the efforts to prevent UNRWA from operating at a deficit. He reserved the right to return to the matter if necessary.
- 34. Mr. TARCICI (Yemen) said that the statement of the representative of the authorities that had occupied Palestine and forcibly driven out its inhabitants was like cigarette smoke: it was not thick enough to hide the truth. The facts were clear: there was a people that had always lived in Palestine and was descended from the early inhabitants of that country, including Jews, Arabs, Christians and others. Whether those inhabitants had, at a certain point in history, adopted Christianity or had been converted to Islam, was immaterial. According to the Zionists, those who had adopted a religion other than Judaism no longer belonged there and the occupying authorities had the right to drive them out. It was the last straw for the Zionists to claim that the Arabs were responsible for the existing situation, whereas it was they who were occupying Palestine and who had driven out the Palestinian people. The fact that the Committee had already recognized the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination proved that the Committee was convinced of that.
- 35. He was surprised that Israel claimed to express the feelings of the Palestinian refugees. Since when did executioners express the opinion of their victims? And if they did so, who could believe them? The Palestinians were in fact represented in the Committee. They had been heard and would be heard again.
- 36. He could not accept the argument that support for the refugees should be the responsibility of all, including the Arab countries. He considered that it was necessary to begin by returning to them what belonged to them. En passant he quoted the definition of the word chutzpah, which appeared in Joys of Yiddish, by Leo Rosten, who had described it as a quality enshrined in a man, who, having killed his mother and father, threw himself on the mercy of the court because he was an orphan. That definition seemed to apply perfectly to the Israeli representative.
- 37. Mr. TREKI (Libyan Arab Republic) noted that the representative of the aggressor State of Israel had referred to Security Council resolution 242 (1967), while he scorned all the other United Nations resolutions. As for the allusion to the Governments of neighbouring countries and

their contributions, Libya considered that the problem was not a refugee problem, but concerned the Palestinian people who had been driven out of their country and expected to be reinstated in their right to freedom and human dignity. For his Government there was only one solution: to grant the Palestinians the right to return to their homes, and to drive out the foreign colonists from Europe and America in order to establish a State without religious discrimination.

- 38. The cause of the tragedy of the Palestinian people was the very existence of Israel. The Zionist leaders did not conceal their desire to expand and occupy Arab territories. In 1951 Moshe Sharett had advised the Israeli Government immediately to declare war on the Arabs and had declared that the most favourable moment was then; in the same vent. David Ben-Gurion had agreed to form a Government only on the condition that he was permitted to employ all possible means to expand southwards, and had said that the Israeli empire should extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. The position was clear: Israel was still refusing to carry out the resolutions of the United Nations and was still seeking new Jewish immigrants in order to stay put in Palestine. Was it, however, prepared to allow the Palestinians to return home in accordance with resolution 194 (III) of the General Assembly, he wondered.
- 39. The CHAIRMAN urged the representatives to confine themselves to the item under discussion and pointed out that the General Assembly would take up the Middle East question as a whole the following week in plenary meeting.
- 40. Mr. CAHANA (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the remarks of the representative of Libya, who bore full responsibility for his imaginary quotations, clearly confirmed that the Arab States envisaged no other solution to the refugee problem than the elimination of the State of Israel.
- 41. The representative of Yemen had several times referred to the same example to illustrate the meaning of the word "chutzpah". To provide a little linguistic information on the subject, he explained that the word was both Hebrew and Yiddish, and that its proper use required a certain subtlety which seemed to escape the representative of Yemen.
- 42. Mr. AZZOUNI (Jordan), also speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that the representative of Israel was persisting in shifting the responsibility for the refugee problem on to the Arab Heads of State who, apparently, had given the Palestinians the order to leave their homes. His allegations were refuted in a book which was not of Arab origin: a detailed study of the subject published by a London journalist by name of Shelder, who had established that those so-called orders were a fiction, and that in fact the Palestinians had been expelled by Zionist terrorist organizations.
- 43. The CHAIRMAN announced that Belgium had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/L.226.
- 44. He expressed the hoped that the debate on the Palestinian refugees could be concluded in the middle of the following week, when the General Assembly would take

⁸ New York, McGraw-Hill, 1968.

up the Middle East question as a whole in plenary meeting. He reminded the Committee that the list of speakers would be closed at 6 p.m. and requested sponsors of draft resolutions to submit them as soon as possible.

45. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.228/Rev.1 could be voted upon at the following meeting.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.