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

Letter dated 30 May 1985 from the Chairman of the Advisory Commission
of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
in the Near East to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a statement endorsed by the members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission which met at Vienna on 30 May 1985 to consider the financial situation of UNRWA described in the Commissioner-General's special report of 10 May 1985 (A/40/299).

I would be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 79 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Taher KANA'AN
Chairman of the Advisory Commission of
the United Nations Relief and Works Agency

* A/40/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Statement by members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission
addressed to the Commissioner-General

The members of the UNRWA Advisory Commission met 30 May 1985 at Vienna to consider the critical financial situation facing the Agency and the implications for its ability to maintain services to Palestine refugees if the shortfall of funds described in the Commissioner-General's special report to the Secretary-General is not overcome. The members unanimously commend and support the strenuous efforts the Commissioner-General and his senior staff have been making to obtain the additional contributions required to fill the gap between estimated income and expenditures. They share the Commissioner-General's disappointment that responses to date have been inadequate. They note with deep concern the Commissioner-General's statement that the Agency faces the imminent prospect of having to reduce services already at a minimum level and urge UNRWA to take all appropriate steps to avoid such action.

The members of the Advisory Commission recognize the vital role that UNRWA plays in providing education, health and relief services for over 2 million Palestine refugees living in the area of its operations. They endorse the view that all Member States of the United Nations, who annually express their support for the Agency, should also participate in providing the Agency with the funds that it needs to fulfil its mandate. A failure on the part of the international community to provide the resources required will force the Agency to cut back its already severely limited programmes of assistance to refugees, many of whom face increasingly difficult circumstances. Such action would have profoundly disturbing consequences for stability in the area of UNRWA's operations and for prospects of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The members, therefore, unanimously endorse the efforts already made by the Commissioner-General and urge that he continue his efforts to obtain the additional funding required in order to avoid the necessity of having to reduce the present level of services. They also call upon all Member States of the United Nations to contribute appropriately to the Agency to ensure its survival and ability to carry out its mandate until a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is attained.
