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

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Angel SANZ BRIZ (Spain)

1. In accordance with the request made in paragraph 21 of resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 and in paragraph 8 of resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted to the General Assembly his report for the year ending 30 June 1960.^{1/}
2. At its 898th plenary meeting on 10 October 1960, the General Assembly decided to include the above item in the agenda of its fifteenth session, and at the 904th plenary meeting on 13 October, allocated the item to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the question at its 199th to 214th meetings from 14 to 30 November 1960, at the 224th meeting on 19 December, and at its 246th to 254th meetings from 11 to 18 April 1961.
4. At the 199th meeting, the Chairman, with the consent of the Committee, invited the Director of the Agency to take a place at the Committee table. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Director of the Agency.
5. At the 202nd meeting on 17 November, the Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to a letter from the representatives of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yemen

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/4478).

(A/SPC/48) requesting that a Palestinian Arab delegation composed of four persons be heard by the Committee. After some discussion, the Committee agreed to grant a hearing to the delegation in accordance with the procedure followed at previous sessions. With the consent of the Committee, Mr. Emile Ghory, a member of that delegation, made a statement at that meeting, and Mr. Izzat Tannous, another member, at the 212th meeting on 29 November.

6. At the 214th meeting on 30 November, the Committee concluded its general debate on the item and adjourned its consideration pending the submission of a draft resolution. At the 224th meeting on 19 December, the Chairman suggested that, since negotiations between interested delegations had not yet resulted in the formulation of a draft resolution, consideration of the item be postponed until a later date. This suggestion was approved without a vote, it being understood that the question would remain on the agenda of the fifteenth session for the consideration of any draft resolutions which might be submitted. In view of this decision, the representative of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East read a statement by the Director.

7. On 7 April, a draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Federation of Malaya, Indonesia, Pakistan and Somalia (A/SPC/L.61) was circulated. According to this draft resolution the General Assembly, inter alia, after noting with deep regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) had not been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continued to be a matter of serious concern, and recognizing the need to safeguard the property rights of the Arab refugees of Palestine, would: (1) note with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine had not yet reported progress on carrying out the task entrusted to it in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 1456 (XIV), and again request the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to make efforts to secure the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session; (2) recommend to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session the establishment of appropriate and effective machinery for safeguarding the property rights of the Arab refugees of Palestine; (3) direct

attention to the precarious financial position of the Agency and urge Governments to consider to what extent they could contribute or increase their contributions so that the Agency could carry out its programmes; and (4) express its thanks to the Director and the staff of the Agency for their continued faithful efforts to carry out the mandate of the Agency, and to the specialized agencies and the many private organizations for their valuable and continuing work in assisting the refugees.

8. At the 246th meeting on 11 April, when the Committee resumed consideration of this item the representative of Indonesia introduced the five-Power draft resolution which was amended to include in the first paragraph of the preamble references to the resolutions adopted at the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.1).

9. At the 247th meeting on 12 April, the United States of America submitted four amendments (A/SPC/L.62) to the five-Power draft resolution:

(1) The third preambular paragraph of the five-Power draft resolution would be changed to read:

"Noting 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 in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) 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) The final preambular paragraph would be changed to:

"Recognizing that the sixteenth General Assembly is to review the whole problem of the refugees".

(3) In operative paragraph 1, everything after the word "thereon" would be deleted and the words "not later than 15 October 1961" would be added.

(4) Operative paragraph 2 would be changed to read:

"Recommends to the General Assembly that at its sixteenth session primary consideration be given to the future welfare of the refugees themselves."

10. At the 248th meeting on 12 April, Iraq and Libya submitted sub-amendments (A/SPC/L.63) to the United States amendments (A/SPC/L.62). According to the

Iraqi-Libyan sub-amendments, a final preambular paragraph would be added to the five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.1) to read:

"Recognizing that the General Assembly at its sixteenth session is to review the whole problem of the refugees".

Operative paragraph 2 of the five-Power draft resolution would be changed to read:

"Recommends to the General Assembly that at its sixteenth session primary consideration be given to the future welfare of the refugees themselves and that effective machinery for safeguarding the property rights of the Palestine Arab refugees be established."

11. At the 249th meeting on 13 April, the Philippines submitted an amendment (A/SPC/L.64) to the second preambular paragraph of the five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.1) to add the words "covering the period 1 July 1959 - 30 June 1960".

12. At the 252nd meeting on 17 April, the representative of the United States withdrew the United States amendment (A/SPC/L.62) to the five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.1), and at the same meeting submitted a new draft resolution (A/SPC/L.65), under the terms of which the Assembly would, inter alia, (1) note the annual report of the Director of UNRWA and commend to the particular attention of Governments his programme of vocational training; (2) note further that in accordance with paragraph 1 of the General Assembly resolution 1456 (XIV) the mandate of UNRWA was to be reviewed at the sixteenth session of the General Assembly; (3) express the belief that in its consideration of this item at the sixteenth session, careful consideration should be given to the future welfare of the refugees themselves, including the safeguarding of their rights set forth in resolution 194, paragraph 11, to repatriation or compensation for properties left behind.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Iraq withdrew the Iraqi-Libyan sub-amendments (A/SPC/L.63) to the United States amendment, and submitted orally a new amendment to the operative paragraph 2 of the five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.1), according to which that paragraph would read:

"Recommends to the General Assembly that at its sixteenth session primary consideration be given to the future welfare of the refugees themselves including the means of safeguarding their property rights."

14. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the co-sponsors of the five-Power draft resolution, accepted the Iraqi oral amendment, the Philippine amendment (A/SPC/L.64), and also amendments 1 and 3 of the amendments which had been submitted by the United States (A/SPC/L.62). These were incorporated in a revised text of the five-Power joint draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.2).

15. At the 253rd meeting on 18 April, the representative of the United States submitted a revised text of his delegation's draft resolution (A/SPC/L.65/Rev.1). In the revised text, the first and the second operative paragraphs became the second and third preambular paragraphs, with necessary changes, and the words "to repatriation or compensation for properties left behind" in the third operative paragraph were deleted.

16. At the same meeting, the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (A/SPC/L.66) to the revised five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.2) to change the word "reported" in the second line of operative paragraph 1, to read "been able to report".

17. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to vote on the revised five-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.61/Rev.2) and the United Kingdom amendment to it (A/SPC/L.66).

The United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 26 votes to 22, with 32 abstentions

The first, second and third preambular paragraphs were adopted by 64 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.

The fourth preambular paragraph was adopted by a roll-call vote of 46 to 20, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Finland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Thailand, Upper Volta, Uruguay.

Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 55 votes to 1, with 25 abstentions.

Operative paragraph 2 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 46 to 18, with 22 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Finland, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Laos, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Thailand, Upper Volta, Uruguay.

Operative paragraphs 3 and 4 were adopted by 68 votes to none, with 16 abstentions.

The Committee adopted the revised draft resolution as a whole by a roll-call vote of 47 to 19, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Dahomey, France, Honduras, Israel, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Senegal, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Cameroun, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Sweden, Thailand.

18. At the 253rd meeting on 18 April, the Committee proceeded to a vote on the United States revised draft resolution (A/SPC/L.65/Rev.1). It was rejected by a roll-call vote of 31 to 30, with 15 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Brazzaville), Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Afghanistan, Albania, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Federation of Malaya, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: Argentina, Brazil, Burma, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Israel, Japan, Laos, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Venezuela.

Recommendation of the Special Political Committee

19. The Special Political Committee therefore recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, 393 (V) of 2 December 1950, 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952, 614 (VII) of 6 November 1952, 720 (VIII) of 27 November 1953, 818 (IX) of 4 December 1954, 916 (X) of 3 December 1955, 1018 (XI) of 28 February 1957, 1191 (XII) of 12 December 1957, 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958 and 1456 (XIV) of 9 December 1959,

Noting the annual report of the Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period 1 July 1959-30 June 1960,^{2/}

Noting 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 in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) 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,

Recognizing the need to safeguard the property rights of the Arab refugees of Palestine,

1. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has not yet been able to report progress on carrying out the task entrusted to it in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 1456 (XIV), and again requests the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine to make efforts to secure the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) and report thereon not later than 15 October 1961;

2. Recommends to the General Assembly that at its sixteenth session primary consideration be given to the future welfare of the refugees themselves, including the means of safeguarding their property rights;

3. Directs attention to the precarious financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and urges Governments to consider to what extent they can contribute or increase their contributions so that the Agency can carry out its programmes;

4. Expresses its thanks to the Director and the staff of the Agency for their continued faithful efforts to carry out the mandate of the Agency, and to the specialized agencies and the many private organizations for their valuable and continuing work in assisting the refugees.
