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

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Lamech E. AKONG'O (Uganda)

1. On 9 September 1969, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report (A/7665) in pursuance of resolution 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, in which the Assembly had requested him to follow its implementation and report thereon to the Assembly.
2. On 15 September 1969, in accordance with the request made by the General Assembly in paragraph 21 of resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, and paragraph 8 of resolution 1315 (XIII) of 12 December 1958, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) submitted to the General Assembly his report for the year ending 30 June 1969.<sup>1/</sup> Earlier on 24 July 1969, by a letter addressed to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies (A/7577), the Secretary-General had transmitted a statement of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on the Agency's financial position.
3. At its 1758th plenary meeting, on 20 September 1969, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/7614).

Refugees in the Near East: (a) Report of the Commissioner-General; (b) Report of the Secretary-General" and allocated it to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.

4. The Committee considered the question at its 665th to 686th meetings, held from 17 November to 5 December 1969. At the 665th meeting, the Commissioner-General made a statement and introduced his report.

5. In a letter dated 12 November 1969 (A/SPC/131) to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee, the representatives of Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia requested that "the Palestine Arab delegation be heard by (the) Committee during its deliberation of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East". In a letter dated 14 November 1969 (A/SPC/132), the representative of Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yemen requested that "the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, representing the Arab People of Palestine, the principal party to the Palestine question, be heard by (the) Committee during its deliberation of item 36".

6. At its 665th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee decided in regard to each request for participation, to authorize, in accordance with the practice established at the previous four sessions, the persons constituting the said delegations to speak in the Committee, without such authorization implying recognition of the organization or the delegation in question. In accordance with this decision, statements were made on behalf of both delegations in the course of the Committee's debate on this item.

7. In a note dated 17 November (A/SPC/133), the Commissioner-General of UNRWA transmitted a revised estimate of the Agency's budget for 1969 and 1970. On 21 November, the Commissioner-General submitted a further note (A/SPC/134) on financing UNRWA operations.

8. On 20 November, the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.175) which read as follows:

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"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, 393 (V) and 394 (V) of 2 and 14 December 1950, 512 (VI) and 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, 1456 (XIV) of 9 December 1959, 1604 (XV) of 21 April 1961, 1725 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 1856 (XVII) of 20 December 1962, 1912 (XVIII) of 3 December 1963, 2002 (XIX) of 10 February 1965, 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, 2341 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2452 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

"Noting the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969,

"1. Notes 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. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

"3. Directs the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue its efforts in taking such measures, including rectification of the relief rolls, as to assure, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the most equitable distribution of relief based on need;

"4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was unable to find a means to achieve progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof;

"5. Directs attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's report;

"6. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions to

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help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements;

"7. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and, therefore, urges non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions."

9. At the 680th meeting, on 2 December, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA and the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs made statements (A/SFC/135) in response to certain points of inquiry raised by the representative of Jordan at the 679th meeting of the Committee, on 1 December. At the 683rd and 686th meetings, on 4 and 5 December respectively, the Commissioner-General made further statements.

10. At the 683rd meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Somalia introduced a draft resolution (A/SFC/L.176), co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal and Somalia. Subsequently, Burundi, Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Yugoslavia also joined as its co-sponsors (A/SFC/L.176/Add.1 and 2). The text read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing that the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Gravely concerned that the denial of their rights has been aggravated by the reported acts of collective punishment, arbitrary detention, curfews, destruction of homes and property, deportation and other repressive acts against the refugees and other inhabitants of the occupied territories,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

"Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, calling 'upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities',

"Desirous of giving effect to its resolutions for relieving the plight of the displaced persons and the refugees,

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"1. Reaffirms the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine;

"2. Draws the attention of the Security Council to the grave situation resulting from Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories and its refusal to implement the above resolutions;

"3. Requests the Security Council to take effective measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter to ensure the implementation of these resolutions."

11. At the 684th meeting, on 4 December, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.177), co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Sweden, Turkey and Yugoslavia, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

"Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969,

"Bearing in mind also the letter dated 24 July 1969 from the Secretary-General addressed to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies,

"Concerned about the continued human suffering as a result of the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

"1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII) and 2452 C (XXIII);

"2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and are in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

"3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned."

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12. At its 686th meeting, on 5 December, the Committee proceeded to a vote on the three draft resolutions before it - A/SPC/L.175, A/SPC/L.176/Add.1 and 2 and A/SPC/L.177. The voting was as follows:

(a) The draft resolution submitted by the United States of America (A/SPC/L.175) was adopted by 101 votes to 1) with 4 abstentions (see paragraph 13 below, draft resolution A).

(b) The ~~eleven~~<sup>twelve</sup>-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.176/Add.1 and 2) was adopted by a roll-call vote of 50 to 22, with 38 abstentions (see paragraph 13 below, draft resolution B). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierre Leone, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Bolivia, Botswana, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Nicaragua, Panama, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

(c) The eighteen-Power draft resolution (A/SPC/L.177) was adopted by 102 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (see paragraph 3 below, draft resolution C).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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

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United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees  
in the Near East

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, 393 (V) and 394 (V) of 2 and 14 December 1950, 512 (VI) and 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, 1456 (XIV) of 9 December 1959, 1604 (XV) of 21 April 1961, 1725 (XVI) of 20 December 1961, 1856 (XVII) of 20 December 1962, 1912 (XVIII) of 3 December 1963, 2002 (XIX) of 10 February 1965, 2052 (XX) of 15 December 1965, 2154 (XXI) of 17 November 1966, 2341 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2452 B (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

Noting the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969,<sup>1/</sup>

1. Notes 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. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for their continued faithful efforts to provide essential services for the Palestine refugees, and to the specialized agencies and private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Directs the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue his efforts in

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<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/7614).

taking such measures, including rectification of the relief rolls, as to assure, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, the most equitable distribution of relief based on need;

4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine was unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation thereof;

5. Directs attention to the continuing critical financial position of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, as outlined in the Commissioner-General's report;

6. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions to help relieve the serious budget deficit of the past year, contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East continue to fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements;

7. Calls upon all Governments as a matter of urgency to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, particularly in the light of the budgetary deficit projected in the Commissioner-General's report, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute and contributing Governments to consider increasing their contributions.

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Gravely concerned that the denial of their rights has been aggravated by the reported acts of collective punishment, arbitrary detention, curfews, destruction of homes and property, deportation and other repressive acts against the refugees and other inhabitants of the occupied territories,

Recalling Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

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Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967 and 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, calling "upon the Government of Israel to take effective and immediate steps for the return without delay of those inhabitants who have fled the areas since the outbreak of hostilities",

Desirous of giving effect to its resolutions for relieving the plight of the displaced persons and the refugees,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine;
2. Draws the attention of the Security Council to the grave situation resulting from Israeli policies and practices in the occupied territories and Israel's refusal to implement the above resolutions;
3. Requests the Security Council to take effective measures in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations to ensure the implementation of these resolutions.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967 and 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968,

Taking note of the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1968 to 30 June 1969,<sup>2/</sup>

Bearing in mind also the letter dated 24 July 1969 from the Secretary-General addressed to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies,<sup>3/</sup>

Concerned about the continued human suffering resulting from the June 1967 hostilities in the Middle East,

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 2252 (ES-V), 2341 B (XXII) and 2452 C (XXIII);
2. Endorses, bearing in mind the objectives of those resolutions, the efforts of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to continue to provide humanitarian assistance, as far as practicable, on an emergency basis and as

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<sup>2/</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3/</sup> A/7577.

a temporary measure, to other persons in the area who are at present displaced and in serious need of continued assistance as a result of the June 1967 hostilities;

3. Strongly appeals to all Governments and to organizations and individuals to contribute generously for the above purposes to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and to the other governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

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