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

Report of the Special Political Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled:

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

- "(a) Report of the Commissioner-General;
- "(b) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
- "(c) Report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine;
- "(d) Report of the Secretary-General"

was included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

2. At its 2236th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1974, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee for consideration and report.

3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 941st to 947th meetings, between 29 November and 6 December. The Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA for the year ending 30 June 1974; 1/
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 (A/9740);
- (c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3089 B (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 (A/9789);
- (d) Report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3090 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 (A/9815 and Corr.1);
- (e) Note by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA on revised budget estimates for 1974 and 1975 (A/SPC/172 and Corr.1).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/9613).

4. The Special Political Committee began its consideration of the item on 29 November hearing statements by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, who introduced his report, and by the representative of Norway, Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA, who introduced the report of the Working Group.

5. In the course of its consideration of the item, the Special Political Committee received five draft resolutions, as set forth in section II below.

II. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.316

6. At the 945th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of India introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.316), entitled "Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", sponsored by Afghanistan, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Sweden and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Denmark.

7. On 4 December, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, submitted a statement (A/SPC/L.321) to the Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution.

8. At the 947th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 20 below, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.317

9. At the 945th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.317) which had been submitted by his delegation on the same day.

10. At the 947th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by 106 votes to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 20 below, draft resolution II A).

C. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.318/Rev.1

11. At the 946th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Norway introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.318) sponsored by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway, on behalf of the sponsors, indicated the following revision of the draft resolution (A/SPC/L.318/Rev.1):

/...

(a) In the second preambular paragraph, the words "and pension costs" were deleted from the text which had originally read:

"Noting that in the critical financial situation of UNRWA the financing from voluntary contributions of the expenses for salary and pension costs of international staff employed by UNRWA limits the amount available for local costs,";

(b) In the operative paragraph, the words "and pension costs" were deleted and the words "for the duration of UNRWA's mandate" were added to the text which had originally read:

"Decides that the expenses for salary and pension costs of international staff in the service of UNRWA which would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should with effect from 1 January 1975 be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations."

13. On 5 December, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure, submitted a statement (A/SPC/L.322) to the Committee on the administrative and financial implications of the revised draft resolution.

14. At the 947th meeting, on 6 December, an additional statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was made by the Secretary of the Committee.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without vote (see para. 20 below, draft resolution II B).

D. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.319

16. At the 945th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of Sweden introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.319) sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by Denmark and Malaysia.

17. At the 947th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 20 below, draft resolution II C).

E. Draft resolution A/SPC/L.320

18. At the 945th meeting, on 5 December, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.320) sponsored by Afghanistan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by the Congo, the German Democratic Republic, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Mali, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia.

/...

19. At the 947th meeting, on 6 December, the draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 97 to 5, with 15 abstentions (see para. 20 below, draft resolution II D). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Israel, Nicaragua, United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Chile, El Salvador, Germany (Federal Republic of), Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, 2791 (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2964 (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3090 (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, 2/

Taking into account 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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 3/

Gravely concerned at the alarming financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, imminently endangering the essential minimum services being provided to the Palestine refugees,

Emphasizing the urgent need for extraordinary efforts in order to maintain, at least at their present minimum level, the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Commends the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for its work;

2. Notes with appreciation the report of the Working Group;

3. Requests the Working Group to continue its efforts for the financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of one year in co-operation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the necessary services and assistance to the Working Group for the conduct of its work.

2/ A/9815.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 13 (A/9613).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

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

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3089 B (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973 and all previous resolutions referred to therein, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 4/

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 by the General Assembly in paragraph 2 of resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952 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 to 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. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been 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 of that paragraph and to report as appropriate, but no later than 1 October 1975;

4. Directs attention to the unprecedented seriousness of the 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;

5. Notes with concern that, despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions which met the serious budget deficit of the past year, this increased level of income to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East will fall short of the funds needed to cover essential budget requirements in the coming year;

4/ Ibid.

6. 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;

7. Decides to extend until 30 June 1978, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

B

The General Assembly,

Having recognized the continuing responsibility of the United Nations towards the Palestine refugees by extending the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East for a further period of three years from 1 July 1975,

Noting that in the critical financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East the financing from voluntary contributions of the expenses for salary of international staff employed by the Agency limits the amount available for local costs,

Noting also that international staff are made available to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization on a non-reimbursable basis,

Decides that the expenses for salary of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East which would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should with effect from 1 January 1975 be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate.

C

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2341 B (XXII) of 19 December 1967, 2452 C (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 C (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 B (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 B (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 B (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3089 A (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

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 1973 to 30 June 1974, 5/

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), 2452 C (XXIII), 2535 C (XXIV), 2672 B (XXV), 2792 B (XXVI), 2963 B (XXVII) and 3089 A (XXVIII);

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 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 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned.

D

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also its resolutions 2252 (ES-V) of 4 July 1967, 2452 A (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2535 B (XXIV) of 10 December 1969, 2672 D (XXV) of 8 December 1970, 2792 E (XXVI) of 6 December 1971, 2963 C and D (XXVII) of 13 December 1972 and 3089 C (XXVIII) of 7 December 1973,

Emphasizing the necessity of full implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions,

Having considered the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East 6/ and the report of the Secretary-General of 17 September 1974, 7/

Noting that the Israeli occupation authorities have persisted in adopting measures that obstruct the return of the displaced population to their homes and camps in the occupied territories - including changes in the physical and

5/ Ibid.

6/ Ibid.

7/ A/9740.

demographic structure of the occupied territories, by the displacement of inhabitants, the transfer of population, the destruction of towns, villages and homes, and the establishment of Israeli settlements - in violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, 8/ as well as the pertinent United Nations resolutions,

Reaffirming that it considers those measures null and void,

Noting also that the Israeli armed forces have repeatedly attacked refugee camps and that those raids have resulted in heavy loss of life and extensive damage to refugee shelters and installations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East,

1. Reaffirms the right of the displaced inhabitants to return to their homes and camps and deplores the refusal of the Israeli authorities to take steps for their return;

2. Calls once more upon Israel immediately to:

(a) Take steps for the return of the displaced inhabitants;

(b) Desist from all measures that obstruct the return of the displaced inhabitants, including measures affecting the physical and demographic structure of the occupied territories;

3. Reiterates its call upon Israel immediately to:

(a) Take effective steps for the return of the refugees concerned to the camps from which they were removed in the Gaza Strip and to provide adequate shelters for their accommodation;

(b) Desist from further removal of refugees and destruction of their shelters;

4. Deplores Israeli military attacks on refugee camps and calls upon Israel immediately to desist from such attacks;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, after consulting with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East, to report as soon as possible, and whenever appropriate thereafter, but in any case, not later than the opening date of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, on Israel's compliance with and implementation of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the present resolution.

8/ United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.