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GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
Fortieth session  
Item 12 of the preliminary list\*  
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
Second regular session of 1985  
Item 21 of the provisional agenda\*\*  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION  
ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE  
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND  
PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED  
AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE UNITED NATIONS

Economic development projects in the occupied Palestinian  
territories

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 39/223 of 18 December 1984, called for the urgent lifting of the Israeli restrictions imposed on the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories; recognized the Palestinian interest in establishing a seaport in the occupied Gaza Strip to give Palestinian firms and products direct access to external markets; called upon all concerned to facilitate the establishment of a seaport in the occupied Gaza Strip; and also called upon all concerned to facilitate the establishment of a cement plant in the occupied West Bank and a citrus plant in the occupied Gaza Strip.

2. In paragraph 5 of that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. Accordingly, the Secretary-General transmitted a note verbale dated 2 May 1985 to the Government of Israel requesting the views of the Government and any relevant information on the subjects mentioned in the resolution.

\* A/40/50/Rev.1.

\*\* E/1985/100.

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3. On 24 May 1985, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations replied to the note verbale of the Secretary-General. The text of the reply is contained in the annex to the present report.

4. In connection with resolution 39/223, the Secretary-General also wishes to draw attention to the information contained in paragraph 49 of his report on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/40/353-E/1985/115).

ANNEX

Letter dated 24 May 1985 from the Permanent Representative  
of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

Regarding General Assembly resolution 39/223, I have the honour to direct Your Excellency's attention to the statement made by the Israeli representative to the Second Committee on 13 November 1984.

This resolution is biased and politically motivated. Its sponsors falsely accuse Israel of imposing arbitrary economic restrictions in the administered territories. They deliberately disregard the improved economic and social welfare of the inhabitants of those areas, and Israel's actions to foster economic growth there.

The ports of Ashdod and Haifa are fully open to the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District; products from these territories have thus free access to external markets. Furthermore, all development projects are considered solely on the basis of their economic merit.

(Signed) Benjamin NETANYAHU  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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