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CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC
CONFERENCE
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 7 February 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement made by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait and Chairman of the Fifth Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of that organization (see annex).

I should appreciate if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference" and "Question of Palestine", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad AL SALLAL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement of 7 February 1990 made by the Emir of the State of Kuwait
on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment
of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful,
Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, Prayers
and Peace be upon the Prophet Mohamed and his Brothers,
the Messengers of God, and all his kins and companions

I send my greetings to you on an occasion we all cherish; it is the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), which came for the first time in the modern age to give shape to the hope of nations in the Moslem world for methodical co-operation towards overall Islamic development and positive participation in the global civilizational progress.

The people and Government of Kuwait, as well as myself, send our greetings to our brothers, the Heads of Moslem States and to their peoples and Governments, and to all our Moslem brothers living all over the globe, and to every champion of benevolence, praying that God the sublime would retain for us the virtue of faithfulness and good deeds.

There were past efforts that preceded and paved the way for the establishment of OIC. On behalf of the organization and from my position of responsibility as Chairman of the Fifth Summit, I should like to express my thanks and appreciation to those who undertook those attempts. I pray to God the Almighty to bestow His ample compassion on those of them, as well as those contributors to the foundation of the organization, who passed away, and to bless the lives and endeavours of those who pursued their work and shoulder with us the responsibility, and whoever joins in this blessed procession. He is the Merciful Providence.

From the very outset, the establishment of OIC has been associated with Al-Aqsa Mosque, which was then the target of a heinous act of arson perpetrated by an Israeli.

This blessed Mosque has sustained several assaults through excavations and diggings by those in search of the so-called relics of Solomon's Temple, but whose ultimate goal is to cause the Mosque's walls and foundations to crack and wind up collapsing so that they may then erect their temple in its place. OIC took the initiative and protested the Israeli aggression, which was not confined to Moslem sanctuaries, but also went further to desecrate and intrude on Christian ones. Meanwhile, the Israeli repression has grown more fierce against the valiant intifadah, which is entering its third year with absolute steadfastness and perseverance.

At a time when world conscience has become more mindful of the Palestinian right and more desirous of positive steps towards its fulfilment and towards helping the Palestinians attain their legitimate hopes for the establishment of their independent state on their territory, we were taken by surprise with the uncovering of the most dangerous anti-Palestinian decision jointly taken by the two super-Powers and with which they are dropping the curtain on the twentieth century.

A flood of Jewish immigrants numbering up to 1 million is gushing out of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and flowing under the banners of human rights and freedom of residence. The banks between which this flood is flowing were delineated by the revised immigration laws in the United States of America and European countries, so that it winds up in Palestine whose Arab inhabitants would in turn have no alternative but to exit to diaspora or be drowned.

The makers of that decision speak of the Jew's right to immigrate from wherever he wishes to wherever he desires to settle, but they don't speak of the Arab's right to his home and to the land of his fathers.

This is how human rights have for them become a word of rightness by which the contrary is intended. And there could be nothing more unrightful than this occupation through settlements, which tries to uproot an entire people from their land and have it inhabited by aliens extrinsic to the soil and tongue, who have not a link to the land of Palestine that the world could sense.

We are still hopeful that those who produced the Soviet-Jewish immigration, and helped direct it towards Palestine, will, taking into consideration the Arab right, reconsider that decision.

OIC bears the perpetual responsibility of improving the image of Islam in the contemporary world. This image has a national level and a global one. On the national level, we insist on the complete respect for the independence of each member State in the organization and its right to choose the system with which it wants to live. And we believe that Islam calls upon us to reinforce national devotion in each member State in OIC; a devotion that unites its people, one that is based upon consultation and dialogue, science and work, and that rises above all sectarian, ethnic and denominational propensities and welcomes the intellectual movement that promotes progress so that Moslem life may flourish further.

The Moslem world combines diverse political and economic systems; this diversity is one of the most prominent features in the present age. Given this fact on the comprehensive Islamic level, we have to prevail upon the member States until all requirements of peace and neighbourliness are met. We believe that mending bridges among Moslems is an inevitability, while desistance from preserving and utilizing them is destructive to the spirit of the age and Islam. These bridges, illuminated by brotherhood, are the crossings towards the desired Moslem progress.

From this horizon we are looking forward to a near future where all the provisions of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) are implemented, both in letter and spirit, between the two neighbours Iraq and Iran, and where Lebanon's

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legitimacy is stabilized, and Afghanistan's people have come to agree to the peace that is based upon pillars of faith and reconstruction.

We are required to respond to the voice of rightness that calls for co-operation, to the voice of reality that imposes responsibilities to which we are duty-bound and to the voice of the future that demands our planning and construction.

The "development of the Moslem individual" is a permanent responsibility in which both the national and global levels interact. This development basically derives inspiration from the Holy Koran and the hallowed Sunna of the Prophet, utilizes the Islamic heritage and the accomplishments of modern science and aspires for greater participation in the march of world civilization. This requires us to review the curricula of education and information programmes that affect the perception of the new generation, so that the positive aspects of Islam are stressed, the causes of animosity and dispute removed, and the seeds of brotherhood planted instead.

The organs of OIC are invited to formulate this noble objective in the context of an overall plan that would bring together nations and generations of the Moslem world.

We should like to see co-operation augmented among Moslem scholars, interacting with the efforts by men of culture and poets to spell out the goals and hopes of Islam and the desires of the new generation.

The dialogue of cultures is an important part of the activities of the age and in it Islam has an established role. That role must be centred upon the vigour of Islam in the hearts of its followers, on its fertile practices in their lives, its illumination of their future and its dealing with the facts of life, instead of being limited to the memories and glories of history. As Moslems, we are invited to co-operate to display Islam appropriately and objectively on the international scene, so that all ambiguities are removed in a world that emphasizes plurality and coexistence.

The message of divine compassion comes across to humankind through a happy smile on a child's face or a look of relief on the face of the poor whose distress has ceased, or the wronged whose right has been recovered. There are millions of our brothers and children whose smiles have long disappeared from their faces. They experience hardships in earning their living, and nothing has remained in the prospects of their lives but a flash of hope in the human fraternity stemming from those kind hearts that believe in the dignity of man whose rights they take as a guiding light for the path. Our kins are most worthy of our beneficence.

Out of faith in God the Almighty, OIC has undertaken from the outset the advocacy of human rights. We hope to find our path to the future guided by the light of faith and the need to preserve man's dignity.

To conclude my statement, I turn to God the Almighty to thank Him for what He bestowed and granted to us. Upon Him we rely and from His Providence we derive our existence. We ask Him to help us attain what we aspire to and to grant the Moslems and all humanity the opportunity of reliving such good occasions with a greater sense of fraternity, understanding, co-operation and accomplishment.

God the Almighty is the light of faith, knowledge and our path. He is the light of heaven and earth.
