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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI
PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 39/95 A to H of 14 December 1984 concerning the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/39/591). In paragraph 17 of resolution 39/95 D, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General:

"(a) To provide all necessary facilities to the Special Committee, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, with a view to investigating the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

"(b) To continue to make available additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

"(c) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee, and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee which are no longer available;

"(d) To report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present paragraph."

2. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 17 of resolution 39/95 D.

* A/40/150.

3. The Secretary-General continued, as in previous years, to provide the facilities required by the Special Committee. In response to the request addressed to him by the General Assembly in paragraph 17 (b) of resolution 39/95 D, the services of an additional staff member and of staff on temporary assistance were made available to assist the Special Committee.

4. In response to paragraph 17 (c) and (d) of General Assembly resolution 39/95 D, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat undertook the following activities to ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories:

(a) Coverage was given in press releases, in English and French, of the activities of the Special Committee at Geneva, Amman and Damascus. Consideration of the Committee's report by the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly was reported in press releases as well as in two issues of the UN Chronicle in 1985 (issues No. 3 and 9/85). The 1985 Yearbook of the United Nations will also report on the activities of the Special Committee;

(b) Radio coverage continued to be given to the activities of the Special Committee in broadcast of news programmes on short wave and in some feature programmes distributed on tape. Television and video coverage of the activities of the Special Committee in the form of video feeds, regional magazines, interviews, statements and news packages was provided to news syndicates and other interested news broadcasters;

(c) A pamphlet on the work of the Special Committee, including a summary of its 1984 report, was published in English. In addition, a manuscript on the United Nations and the question of Palestine, including the work of the Special Committee, was completed and approved during the reporting period;

(d) Copies of the report of the Special Committee and of the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly were sent to all United Nations information centres for wide dissemination. Issues addressed in the report of the Special Committee were covered by the centres in the activities they organized to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The Information Service in Geneva and the Centre in Cairo provided assistance for press coverage and other practical arrangements during the meetings of the Special Committee in Cairo and Geneva.
