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

Palestine refugees in the West Bank

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 39/99 J of 14 December 1984 entitled "Palestine refugees in the West Bank", the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Calls upon Israel to abandon its plans and to refrain from the removal, and from any action that may lead to the removal and resettlement, of Palestine refugees in the West Bank and from the destruction of their camps;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, to keep the matter under close supervision and to report to the General Assembly, before the opening of its fortieth session, on any developments regarding this matter."

2. On 22 March 1985, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, in which he drew attention to his reporting responsibility under the resolution and requested the Permanent Representative to inform him, by 30 June 1985, of any steps his

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\* A/40/150.

Government had taken or envisaged to take in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution. In his reply, dated 12 August 1985, the Permanent Representative of Israel stated that his Government's position on this matter had been set out in the statement of the representative of Israel in the Special Political Committee on 20 November 1984 (A/SPC/39/PV.35).

3. The views of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA remain as stated in the Secretary-General's report of 8 August 1984 (A/39/372, para. 3). The Agency does not envisage being involved in plans such as those referred to in paragraph 1 of the resolution. While it does not oppose measures voluntarily accepted by refugees to improve their living conditions, it will strongly object to any attempt to force the refugees to comply with any particular scheme. In any event, the Agency would expect to continue providing services to any refugees who are relocated from their camps as their status as refugees and eligibility for UNRWA services will not be affected by the mere fact of such relocation. At present, of the 357,704 registered refugees in the West Bank, 266,473 live outside the camps.

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