

ply its provisions in full but also the moral obligation to ensure that its occupation took place in accordance with the standards the Convention embodied. The Security Council should again call Israel's attention to the grave concern about the situation in the occupied territories and express not merely the Council's desire for an end to the current violence but its hopes for a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict.<sup>155</sup>

At the same meeting, the Council proceeded to vote on the draft resolution.<sup>151</sup> The draft resolution received 14 votes in favour to 1 against, with no abstentions, and failed to be adopted owing to the negative vote of a permanent member.<sup>156</sup>

After the vote, the representative of the United States of America contended that the draft resolution just voted upon contributed neither to easing tensions in the occupied territories nor to promoting the cause of peace, and was redundant and inappropriate. Its broad and sweeping condemnation of Israel contained not a scintilla of balance and it contained no appeal or request for calm. Nevertheless, he reaffirmed that his country's position on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its opposition in principle to deportations remained unchanged. He noted that his country was engaged in a major diplomatic effort with the parties directly concerned to try to bring about the start of direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Referring to a proposal put forward by the United States as a realistic and constructive one, he maintained that it offered the best hope for a political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and would lead to a comprehensive settlement that assured security to Israel and all the States of the region and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He requested the Council to desist from rhe-

torical exercises and draft resolutions that were not productive and only cut across the objective of finding a real way to peace in the Middle East.<sup>157</sup>

#### Decision of 26 August 1988: statement by the President

On 26 August 1988, following consultations, the President of the Security Council issued a statement on behalf of the members of the Council. The statement reads:<sup>158</sup>

The members of the Security Council are gravely concerned by the continued deterioration of the situation in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and especially by the current grave and serious situation resulting from the closing-off of areas, the imposition of curfews and the consequent increase in the numbers of injuries and deaths that have occurred.

The members of the Council are profoundly concerned by the persistence of Israel, the occupying Power, in continuing its policy of deporting Palestinian civilians in contravention of Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, as demonstrated on 17 August 1988 by its expulsion of four Palestinian civilians to Lebanon and its decision to expel 40 more. The members of the Council request Israel immediately to desist from deporting any Palestinian civilians and immediately to ensure the safe return of those already deported.

The members of the Council consider that the current situation in the occupied territories, described in the first paragraph above, has grave consequences for endeavours to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

They reaffirm that the above-mentioned Geneva Convention is applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and request the high contracting parties to ensure respect for the Convention.

Recalling Security Council resolutions, the members of the Council will keep the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, under review.

<sup>155</sup>*ibid.*, p. 51.

<sup>156</sup>*ibid.*, pp. 53 and 54.

<sup>157</sup>*ibid.*, pp. 56 and 57.

<sup>158</sup>S/20156.

## 20. STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE INAUGURATION ON 1 JANUARY 1986 OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE)

### Decision: statement by the President

At the 2642nd meeting, on 17 January 1986, prior to the adoption of the agenda,<sup>1</sup> the President made the following statement<sup>2</sup> on behalf of the members of the Council:

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the first meeting of the Security Council and the inauguration on 1 January of the International Year of Peace, the members of the Security Council wish to reaffirm their commitment to the Charter of the United Nations which conferred on the Council the primary responsibility for the mainte-

nance of international peace and security. At the first meeting of the Council in London 40 years ago, its members assumed this special responsibility in the conviction that it would prove a new beginning of the continuing quest for lasting peace and security.

Although peace has been preserved on a global basis for 40 years, conflicts and tensions persist. Over the course of the 2,600 meetings, the Security Council has debated the most pressing issues of peace and security. The inauguration of the International Year of Peace provides an added impetus for the members of the Council to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security. They call again upon the entire membership of the United Nations to abide by their obligations under the Charter to accept and carry out decisions of the Security Council. Let us hope that 1986 and the years to come will bring the progress which is so urgently needed for the safeguarding of peace for future generations.

<sup>1</sup>The agenda for the meeting was: "The situation in the Middle East".

<sup>2</sup>S/17745.