

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

FORTY-SECOND SESSION

*Official Records**



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
32nd meeting
held on
Monday, 23 November 1987
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-KAWARI (Qatar)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2 780, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/42/SR.32
25 November 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
/...

87-57272 7414S (E) 12p.

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/454, 455, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 650)

1. Mr. SHIKIR (United Arab Emirates), after expressing his delegation's satisfaction with the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/42/650), drew attention to arbitrary Israeli practices such as the escalation of tension and violence pursuant to the "iron fist" policy, the noticeable increase in the number of arrests of Palestinians, particularly under administrative detention orders, and the persistent denial of the right to family reunification. Such practices constituted a flagrant violation of Palestinian human rights and an open challenge to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

2. The drafters of the Charter had affirmed that respect for fundamental human rights could not only be considered merely an internal issue, particularly if the violation of human rights created conditions which threatened peace and security and impeded the implementation of the Charter. Foremost among the principles on which the Charter was based were suppression of acts of aggression, respect for human rights and dedication to the right to self-determination. An occupying Power had the duty to respect human rights and to protect civilians in the areas under occupation in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949.

3. Since its establishment in 1948 Israel had persisted in acts of aggression, expansion, annexation and denial of the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people. In fact, the establishment of Israel had resulted in the expulsion of 800,000 Palestinians in 1948, and thousands more had been forced to leave following the war of June 1967, in which Israel had occupied the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Today, approximately 3 million Palestinians remained in exile. Other aggressive Israeli practices included subjecting Palestinians remaining in the occupied territories to various forms of oppression, while bombing refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

4. The conscience of the world, represented by the United Nations, continued to show concern about the plight of Palestinians. The General Assembly had recognized the issue's political dimension when it had declared that the problem of the Palestinian refugees arose from the denial of their inalienable rights as stipulated in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Complete respect for the rights of the Palestinians was an essential element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In that connection, the Security Council had identified Israel as an occupying Power, and, consequently, the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention were applicable to all Palestinians and to all Arab territories occupied by Israel. Continual Israeli

(Mr. Shikiri, United Arab Emirates)

rejection of the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council and of the fourth Geneva Convention threatened to undermine key principles of the Charter, namely: the maintenance of international peace and security and non-acquisition of territory by force.

5. Aggressive Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories were characterized by violence and official terrorism, which were manifested in three trends. The first trend was illustrated by the implementation of the "iron fist" policy through increased patrols, the setting of road-blocks, the imposition of curfews and collective punishments against towns, villages and camps, the demolition of houses, arrests accompanied by interrogation and torture, confiscation of land and possessions, expulsion, and intensification of the clandestine activity of the Israeli State security apparatus, with a view to creating an atmosphere of fear and despair. Citations from the report of the Special Committee, The Washington Post and The New York Times, documented the fact that the Israeli occupation authorities resorted to unveiled terrorism aimed at crushing opposition among the Arab population.

6. The second trend was evidenced by the arming of Zionist settlers and gangs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to commit acts of terrorism against Arab civilians. Such gangs escalated the tension in the occupied Arab territories through assassinations, the destruction of cars, the poisoning of drinking-water, the desecration of holy places, and the expropriation of crops and livestock. In that connection, the occupation authorities modified the law in such a way as to aid the leaders of such groups. The amnesty granted to those leaders of the Gush Emunim movement who had planted bombs on Arab buses and planned to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to attack Arab citizens, was a perfect example of that policy. In addition, senior officers of the Israeli army armed the most violent and radical settlers who had been constructing arsenals from which to launch attacks on Arabs. Attacks by Zionist settlers on Arab villages and refugee camps occurred daily within clear view of the Israeli army. The Government's ultimate objective was to break national resistance within the occupied territories and incorporate settlers into the official Israeli military machinery.

7. The third trend in Israeli State terrorism was seen in the establishment of new settlements and expansion of old ones. That process entailed confiscating Arab land by direct means and by means of threat, subterfuge and falsification, as well as expropriating Arab water resources and channelling them to Zionist settlements or even Israeli towns. In addition, the Israeli occupation authorities hindered the normal functioning of Arab educational institutions by closing universities, expelling professors, harassing students, interfering in the academic curricula and imposing restrictions on academic research, publishing and art work.

8. Israel knew very well that the will of the Palestinian people could not be repressed and that the Palestinian people was steadfast in its resolve to regain all its inalienable national rights. The right to return and the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent sovereign State were particularly important in providing a basis for lasting peace and security in the Middle East region.

9. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, since 1967 Israel had continued its policy of expansion, terror and blatant violation of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine. In that connection, his delegation considered fully justified the observation in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/42/714) that Israel's occupation of Arab territory for over 20 years continued to be deeply resented by the inhabitants and had given rise to much unrest and violence, with the result that many innocent lives had been lost and that the situation would remain unstable as long as a settlement was not reached.

10. The main objective of Israel's policy in the occupied Arab territories was to strengthen its claim to sovereignty over them. To that end, the occupation authorities had confiscated approximately half of the land of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, annexed East Jerusalem and extended Israeli jurisdiction to the Golan Heights. One of the means of consolidating its hold over the occupied territories was the active construction of militarized settlements and military bases in those areas. The establishment of settlements was a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, to which Israel was a party. In spite of that Convention and other international legal documents, Israel continued its rapacious economic exploitation of the population and the natural resources of the occupied territories.

11. Israel made widespread use of measures of collective punishment in order to crush the struggle of the Palestinian people for the implementation of its legitimate rights. There were more than 8,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Approximately 500,000 persons had been imprisoned in the course of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories. Prisoners were subjected to the most refined types of torture. That short list of actions by the Israeli authorities was eloquent proof of that country's massive human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories. In that connection, his delegation supported the conclusion in the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) that, as a result of the "iron fist" policy adopted last year, the climate of tension and violence had been intensified and had reached a climax during the period under consideration.

12. Israel continued its occupation of the Golan Heights and parts of the territory of southern Lebanon, where it also applied the policy of expansion and State terrorism. Those actions by Israel were in blatant violation of important international legal instruments, including the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant United Nations decisions.

13. The reason behind Israel's defiant behaviour was the almost unlimited military, political and financial support from its overseas partner in "strategic co-operation" and the assistance provided by influential financial and ideological non-governmental organizations in a number of "Western democratic" countries which actively participated in the illegal construction of Israeli settlements and the neo-colonialist exploitation of the occupied Arab territories.

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

14. The Soviet Union fully supported the General Assembly's condemnation of Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories aimed at annexing and colonizing those territories and the blatant and massive violations of the human rights of the population of those territories. His country also supported the just struggle of the Arabs for their rights and called for an immediate end to the illegal policies of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. A just solution to the Palestinian question, as well as to the entire range of problems in the Middle East, could be achieved only through a comprehensive settlement based on the well-known United Nations decisions, within the framework of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Arab people of Palestine, whose sole legitimate representative was the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and also the five permanent members of the Security Council.

15. Mr. JAWSHAN (Afghanistan) said that Israel was stubbornly continuing its policy of intimidation and harassment in the occupied Arab territories in spite of the general recognition of the inherent right of the Palestinian people to national self-determination and the international community's repeated condemnation of those policies. Land and water resources continued to be of utmost concern to the Palestinian population. The process of expropriation and other practices had led to a decline in the area of land under cultivation and in agricultural output. Israel had imposed severe restrictions limiting water consumption by the Palestinian population. The gap between the living standards of the Israeli settlers and the Palestinian population would greatly increase the feelings of deprivation and antagonism on the part of the local Arab inhabitants.

16. Palestinian workers employed in Israel had no job security. The living conditions of the Palestinian people had been seriously affected by various restrictions imposed by the occupying authorities, who harassed and intimidated the Palestinians both individually and collectively.

17. Israel, with the direct military, economic and political support of the United States, had refrained from taking any steps to restore peace in the region and had refused to end the prolonged occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. His Government had supported all the relevant United Nations resolutions concerning the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing in all deliberations and conferences on the Middle East conflict, of which the question of Palestine was the core.

18. Afghanistan reaffirmed the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and called upon Israel to withdraw completely and unconditionally from all occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. The failure to prevent Zionist aggression and continued United States support for Israel's military machine was a failure to promote international peace.

(Mr. Jawshan, Afghanistan)

19. No solution could lead to the establishment of comprehensive, just and durable peace in the region without ensuring respect for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Lastly, his delegation shared the conclusions in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/42/455, 459, 461 and 465) and the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650), which indicated that the attitude of Israel towards the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs had remained unchanged. His Government reaffirmed its support for all the relevant United Nations resolutions and believed that the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East and the establishment of a preparatory committee for that purpose within the framework of the Security Council could contribute to the restoration of peace in the region.

20. Mr. DIMITROV (Bulgaria) said that the Special Committee had carried out the difficult task of providing objective information on Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. Twenty years after the occupation of those territories and in spite of the efforts of the United Nations, the question of Israeli practices was still one of the main causes of the explosive situation in the region. The report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) described the negative consequences of that policy, which in the long run would only perpetuate the root causes of the Middle East conflict, particularly the denial of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the establishment of its own State.

21. In view of its long-standing tradition of assisting the oppressed and its friendly relations with the countries of the Middle East, Bulgaria had a natural interest in wishing to see a peaceful settlement to the conflict in that region. His Government, which had repeatedly expressed its concern about the suffering of the Palestinian people, was confident that the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all parties concerned would be an important step towards normalizing the situation. The Middle East crisis could not be resolved unless the human rights of the peoples in the region, including their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries, were respected, particularly the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to its own homeland. His country would continue to give comprehensive support to the just struggle of the Arab peoples to put an end to the illegal occupation of their territories and achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

22. Mr. FARTAS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, while the current report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) was distinguished by its precision and objectivity, it was to be hoped that future reports would be more comprehensive and more thorough. His delegation appreciated the difficult circumstances under which the Special Committee had worked and which had sometimes obliged it to make use of accounts published in newspapers published in occupied Palestine and therefore subject to censorship.

23. The facts presented in the report reflected the persistence of the Israeli occupation authorities in their defiance of the United Nations, their disdain for

(Mr. Fartas, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

its Charter and their scorn for the principles of international law. The Israeli entity continued to disregard the mandate of the Special Committee and to withhold its co-operation. Its representatives had even gone so far as to cast doubt on the Special Committee's honesty, objectivity and competence. The campaign had reached such a stage that, at a recent meeting of the Special Political Committee, the Zionist representative had made an open appeal for the activities of the Special Committee to be brought to an end. In the view of his delegation, the time had come for the international community to exert serious pressure on the Israeli entity in order to prevail upon it to respect United Nations resolutions and recognize the mandates of the Committees it established.

24. Article 49 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, stipulated that individual or mass forcible transfers or deportations from occupied territory were prohibited regardless of their motive. Article 47 provided that protected persons should not be deprived of the benefits of the Convention by any change introduced into the institutions or government of the occupied territory, by any agreement between the local authorities and the occupying Power or by any annexation. Despite those provisions, the rulers of the Israeli entity outdid each other, particularly during election campaigns, in undertaking to annex more territory and establish more settlements. There was evidence from official sources that the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank had doubled in the past two or three years and was now 100,000. Large numbers of Palestinians had been expelled and displaced so that the West Bank could absorb such large numbers of Jewish settlers.

25. It was the belief of the occupation authorities that every inch of land occupied and annexed became an integral part of the so-called promised land, which had no fixed boundaries. Year by year, that policy became more open and more unequivocal, and the occupation authorities continued to take the necessary measures to establish new settlements, to confiscate land and to force the indigenous Palestinian inhabitants, directly or indirectly, to leave their homes and property. The policy was no longer a secret, and the occupation authorities themselves no longer felt any embarrassment in openly acknowledging it.

26. Security Council resolution 465 (1980) had been adopted unanimously and without abstentions. In the fourth preambular paragraph of that resolution, the Council affirmed once more that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. By paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Council determined that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character or demographic composition of occupied Palestine had no legal validity and that Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constituted a flagrant violation of the Convention. The General Assembly, at each session, unequivocally reaffirmed the applicability of that Convention to the occupied territories.

27. Speaking on behalf of the 12 members of the European Economic Community, the representative of Denmark had stated in the course of the general debate in a

(Mr. Fartas, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

plenary meeting of the General Assembly at its current session that the 12 were increasingly concerned about the situation of human rights in the occupied territories and renewed their call on Israel to fulfil its obligations as the occupying Power. The representative of Denmark had recently stated in the Special Political Committee that the 12 were of the opinion that the provisions of Convention IV of The Hague of 1907 and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 were applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. The Security Council, the General Assembly and the members of the European Community were thus agreed on the matter, and the attitude of the non-aligned countries and the socialist countries was well known.

28. Throughout history, attempts and designs to establish a Jewish State in Palestine had lacked any legal basis. Cyrus the Great was said to have had a dream in which God ordered him to free the Jewish captives in Babylon and allow them to return to Palestine to re-establish their State. Napoleon's promise to the Jews that they could establish a State in Palestine as a reward for their participation in his war effort likewise lacked any legal basis. Palmerston had proposed the establishment of a Jewish State for the sole purpose of establishing a barrier against Muhammad Ali in Egypt. Disraeli's scheme had also been based solely on British interests, and the plan adopted by the Basel Conference at the instigation of the Austrian journalist Herzl had also been devoid of any legal basis. The Balfour Declaration had merely been an undertaking given by one individual to another. The bonds linking the Jews were of a purely religious character and were not based on nationality, as claimed by the Zionists.

29. If history and law were to be invoked, Palestinian rights in Palestine went beyond anything stipulated in treaties and conventions. An objective analysis of history showed incontrovertibly that Palestine was an Arab country and that its inhabitants spoke one language, had one culture and shared the same aspirations and interests. Palestine had preserved its Arab consciousness for 4,000 years, despite a number of foreign invasions. The Bible showed that Palestine had been the place in which the Semitic Canaanite people had lived, a people that was Arab in terms of its geographical origin. The Hebrew tribes had only entered Palestine in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries B.C., and there they had found a flourishing civilization, the Canaanites having been there since the new Stone Age. The ancient Hebrews had occupied a very small part of Palestine and had remained there for a very short period of time. Just as the ancient Hebrews had not originated in Palestine, neither had the modern Hebrews.

30. Historical rights were linked in international law with the exercise of de facto sovereignty, and the Jews were therefore not entitled to invoke a right of return to a country ruled by Jews for a short period on which historical accounts were silent. The rights of the Palestinian people, on the other hand, were of ancient origin and were based in modern times on the principles of international law, especially the right to self-determination.

31. General Assembly resolution 181 (II) had been null and void for a number of reasons. It had been adopted by the United Nations without responsibility for the

(Mr. Fartas, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

protection of Palestine having been transferred to it after the dissolution of the League of Nations. Its implementation had been closely linked with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), calling for the return of all refugees to their homes. That resolution had also called for partition and for the establishment of a Palestinian State, but the Israeli entity had transformed it from a partition resolution into an annexation resolution. General Assembly resolution 181 (II) was based on a fundamental falsehood and therefore had no force of law.

32. It was no longer only the Arabs who felt concern at the expansionist designs of the Zionists. The truth had been established, and it was that such expansion had begun in the form of agricultural colonies, had entered the stage of the so-called Jewish national home which international Zionism had made to appear as a cultural and religious centre of limited scope but which had, in 1948, speedily taken the form of a bellicose entity. By all historical and political standards, the Israeli entity was the offspring of European colonialism and expansion in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

33. Shortly after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 181 (II), the Zionist entity had made known its rejection of that resolution because of the restrictions that it imposed on its expansionist ambitions and hegemonist outlook. Ben-Gurion had stated that the Israeli entity did not owe its existence to that resolution or to the United Nations. Such speedy rejection of the partition resolution was a clear indication of the intention of the Zionist entity to expand and its discontent with the borders established by that resolution. By their pretence of accepting the partition resolution, the leadership of the Israeli entity had had no other goal but to obtain a foothold in Palestine, upon which the international community would confer legitimacy, with a view to the subsequent occupation of more of the territory of Palestine and of the neighbouring Arab States.

34. In 1937, Ben-Gurion had stated that the acquisition of land was important not only in itself but would assist in taking control of the entire country. Neither Ben-Gurion nor any subsequent Zionist leaders had set any boundaries for the country they had sought to establish. The strategy followed by the early leaders of Zionism was obstinately adhered to by their disciples today: indeed, Ariel Sharon had stated that the borders of the Israeli entity were wherever the last Israeli tank was to be found.

35. Mr. IDRIES (Sudan) commended the valuable report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/42/650), which provided abundant information concerning Arab human rights. He noted, however, that the Government of Israel continued to withhold its co-operation from the Special Committee.

36. Israeli practices and policies affecting human rights in the occupied territories violated the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and other international instruments.

(Mr. Idries, Sudan)

Indeed, the very nature of Israeli occupation and settlement of the Arab territories necessitated the perpetration of human rights violations.

37. The report had focused on the systematic and continuous violation of fundamental freedoms. Arab citizens were restricted in their right to freedom of movement, and were subjected to house and town arrest, as well as travel bans. Furthermore, the right to freedom of expression was curtailed by the occupying authorities, as was evidenced by periodic suspension of the distribution of the East Jerusalem daily Abeer and the East Jerusalem daily Al-Fajr. Freedom of association was also seriously affected. Israeli harassment had rendered the General Federation of Palestinian Workers in Gaza inoperative for 20 years.

38. However, the Israeli practices which most violated international conventions guaranteeing human rights were the policies of Israeli settlement and violation of the freedom of education. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, prior to his election as Prime Minister, had declared that 37 new settlements would be established on occupied Arab land. Reliable statistics further confirmed that, since 1967, 200 Israeli settlements had been built in the occupied Arab territories. With regard to education, statistics attested that Bir Zeit University, Al-Najah University, Bethlehem University, Hebron University and the Islamic University of Gaza had been closed on numerous occasions by the Zionist authorities.

39. The international community must make an effort to safeguard Arab human rights and freedoms and end the Zionist policy of military occupation and settlement through the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, including in particular, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

40. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that statistics in a report by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) showed that per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in Judea and Samaria had increased to \$1,037 in 1984 from \$232 in 1965, or 345 per cent. In the Gaza District, per capita GDP had increased to \$555 in 1984 from \$88 in 1966, or 531 per cent. According to the criteria for identifying the least developed countries contained in document E/1987/23, Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District no longer qualified for inclusion in the list of such countries, so vast had the improvement in their economies been since the inception of Israeli administration. Such progress was a remarkable achievement, reflecting Israel's constructive role in their development. The report of the Special Committee referred to the deterioration of the economic situation in the occupied territories and included information provided by terrorists. It would have been fairer to refer to professional, United Nations economic studies. Facts had been distorted and the truth had been ignored in the preparation of such a biased report.

41. Mr. FARTAS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that what the Committee had heard about economic progress in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the mechanization of agriculture in the occupied territories was incompatible with Israeli authorities' claims regarding the pumping of huge amounts of water to Jewish settlements, thus depleting the Arabs' water supplies, while not authorizing the Arabs to dig new wells. It was incompatible with the Israeli practice of confiscating land, uprooting trees, restricting Arab exports and imposing exorbitant taxes upon Arabs. The occupation authorities were afraid to establish a school of agriculture lest it upgrade Palestinian agricultural techniques, thus binding the Palestinians to their land even more strongly.
42. As to the quantity and quality of education, an Israeli military order treated the universities like elementary and secondary schools. It aimed to restrict the development of the universities, to eliminate all the benefits acquired by Palestinian students, to control them and to monitor their admission. Only authorized teachers could work in public educational institutions. They must either relinquish their right to resist occupation or lose their jobs. Students were required to recognize the occupation as a fait accompli or surrender their right to an education. The Israeli authorities interfered with the curricula with a view to obliterating the Arab character of the occupied territories. The authorities were clearly unconcerned about education, as was further shown by their refusal to establish "Al-Quds" University. Their actions might be interpreted as an effort to perpetuate Palestinian underdevelopment.
43. As to the provision of medical services, it would be useful to know how such a claim could be reconciled with the demolition of hospitals, the lack of drugs and the scarcity of doctors. The occupying Power was concerned about applying the "iron fist" policy. The Law of Return had thus been promulgated, authorizing Jews to return to Israel, while denying that same right to Palestinians. The Law of Absentees authorized the confiscation of properties under the pretext that their landlords were absentees or had left voluntarily. Moreover, the occupying authorities had revived certain regulations in force under the British Mandate, allowing them to detain individuals arbitrarily and to close down newspapers and periodicals. Violence was a daily occurrence.
44. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that several delegations, though not all the Arab delegations, had proposed that the terrorist PLO should take part in negotiations to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict. He wished to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that part of the Palestine National Charter of 1968 was devoted to the destruction of Israel. It claimed that the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the State of Israel were entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time. Moreover, in 1967 the Palestine National Council had adopted a resolution calling for a joint struggle with Jordanian national forces to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian national front, in order to set up in Jordan a democratic national authority in close contact with the Palestinian entity which would be established through the struggle. He invited the Committee to draw its own conclusions as to what had occurred subsequently in Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

45. Mr. AL-JUWABI (United Arab Emirates), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had made false claims regarding the economic situation in the occupied territories and in Palestine. He had deliberately tried to ignore economic facts. Average per capita income was a total of national income divided by the population. Per capita income in the occupied territories would be high were two thirds of the population expelled. Credit for the high per capita income should be given not to Israel but to the Palestinians themselves, particularly those outside Palestine who remitted small amounts of money to their brothers still living in the occupied territories, despite the scarcity of resources. In addition, the Palestinians received assistance from Arab countries, based on moral commitments. Those donations had been depleted or stolen by the forces of occupation through high taxes and tariffs imposed in an irrational way.

46. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had resorted to selective quotations and misquotations in a deliberate effort to portray positions out of context. Numerous Israeli and American researchers had shown that the economic situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated sharply. He pointed out that Israel had voted against the assignment of a UNIDO unit to monitor the economic and financial situation there. The improvement over the past two decades was not due to economic productivity and development but rather to Palestinians living abroad, who remitted an average of \$100 million yearly to their brothers in the occupied territories and to the Arab countries which, for the past decade, had been remitting \$200 million yearly to them. If the situation was so favourable, it would be useful to know why there had been an eightfold increase in the acts of resistance over the past decade.

47. In 1986 only two countries had been opposed to the convening of an international conference to seek a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. The PLO was proud to be in the forefront of those working for the convening of such a conference. Israel was one of the two parties impeding it.

48. As to the question of Israeli borders, Israel was the only country to date which had not defined its borders constitutionally.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.