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COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE  
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ACTING AS THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 22 October 1982, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SARRE (Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER PENDING ISSUES  
(A/CONF.114/PC.CRP.4)

2. Mrs. MAIR (Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine), introducing document A/CONF.114/PC/CRP.4, explained with regard to annotated draft provisional agenda in section I, that items 5, 7 and 8 of the annotated agenda had been reformulated to take account of recommendations by the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization. In addition, the proposal made by the Ukrainian SSR at the 6th meeting with regard to item 5, had been the subject of consultations and a formulation reflecting that proposal would be submitted to the Committee later in the meeting. A decision was pending on the allocation of all items of the agenda (sect. II) and on the number of vice-presidents (sect. III). Section IV reflected the redrafting of the relevant paragraphs on participation by non-governmental organizations agreed to at the Committee's 6th meeting. Section V provided the information requested by the Committee on the provision of summary records for the Conference.

3. Mr. TARASYUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, following informal consultations on his delegation's proposal to add a further item to the list of issues to be reflected in the annotated agenda, the relevant text had been drafted in a manner satisfactory to all. He therefore proposed that a new item should be added after item 5 to read "Other obstacles which frustrate the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

4. Mr. GAUCI (Malta) observed that the effect of the reference to "other obstacles" was to suggest that some obstacles had already been mentioned. Preceding agenda items did not list obstacles to the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, however, and the Ukrainian proposal must be viewed in the context of the agenda as a whole.

5. Mr. DMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the problem raised by the Maltese representative might be dealt with by adding the proposed wording to that of item 5. Item 5 would then read "Israeli policies and practices and other obstacles which frustrate the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".

6. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the wording of item 1 of the annotated agenda was far too vague. It was not enough to refer simply to the "historical" aspects of the Palestinian problem; the problem had to be placed in its precise historical context. For instance, the question of Palestine had not come into being only in 1967; it in fact even predated the League of Nations and the British Mandate. While the British Mandate had been fundamental in creating the Palestinian and Israeli problems, their origin really lay in earlier European interference in the Middle East and in the 1897 Congress of Basel.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the views of the Observer for Syria would be taken fully into account when the documentation on item 1 was prepared. He agreed that it was very difficult to establish when exactly the question of Palestine had first arisen, but the wording of item 1 had been made deliberately vague in order to circumvent that difficulty.
8. Mr. TERZI (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) noted that some items of the agenda referred to the "Palestinian people" while others referred to the "Question of Palestine". It was impossible to cite a precise date for the emergence of the "Palestinian people", whose history went back for centuries. The term's vagueness would therefore permit the broadest possible discussion under agenda item 1.
9. Mr. GAUCI (Malta) observed that the United Nations had published a pamphlet on the origins and evolution of the Palestine problem, covering such aspects of the question as the British Mandate. Experts were already working on documentation which would fill in the gaps left by that pamphlet and would, he was sure, take into account views such as those expressed by the Observer for Syria.
10. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) reiterated that while a specific date could not be set on the emergence of the Palestinian problem, the Conference must place the problem in its precise historical context by tracing its origins to the colonial period. The existing situation in the Middle East was the result of colonial policies which dated back to before the First World War and the Congress of Basel, and it was in that context that the question must be considered. The Palestinian problem had its roots in colonialism and any solution to the problem must be anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist. The Conference must also determine which nations had been responsible for frustrating, in Palestine and elsewhere, the concept of self-determination enunciated by the League of Nations. Only if the Conference placed the question in that context would it be able to determine how to resolve it.
11. The CHAIRMAN observed that at the Committee's first meeting it had been agreed that the Conference would, in examining the history of the question of Palestine, take particular care to place the question in the context of colonization and decolonization.
12. Mr. CABALLERO (Cuba) observed, with regard to the new item to be added after item 5 on the list of issues to be reflected in the annotated agenda, that the Yugoslav proposal seemed to offer a practical solution. The wording of that proposal might, however, be slightly amended to read: "Israeli policies and practices and all obstacles which impede the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".
13. Mr. KUBBA (Observer for Iraq) suggested that item 5 should read "Israeli policies and practices aimed at denying the Palestinian people their inalienable rights".

14. Mr. BURAYZAT (Observer for Jordan) said that the question raised by the Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic seemed to be adequately covered by the list of specific issues in section I of document A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.4. Nevertheless, a new item might be added in order to reflect the international consensus on the steps to be taken to relieve the suffering of the Palestinian people. All dimensions of the problem of the Palestinian people, including the international efforts undertaken on their behalf at both the regional and the international levels, should be reflected in the agenda.
15. Mr. TARASYUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that he could accept the amendment proposed by the representative of Yugoslavia to his delegation's proposal with regard to the specific issues to be reflected in the annotations to the provisional agenda. In that connection, he pointed out that the word "frustrate" had been used in the same sense in a previous General Assembly resolution on the question of Palestine.
16. Mr. TERZI (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) said that there seemed to be some confusion between the 14 items of the provisional agenda (A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.3, sect. I) and the nine specific issues to be reflected in the annotations to the provisional agenda (A/CONF.114/PC/2/CRP.4, sect. I). Item 9 of the provisional agenda was covered by item 1 on the list of specific issues and item 10 of the provisional agenda was covered by item 4 on the list of specific issues. The Secretariat had suggested that item 13 of the provisional agenda should be considered by one of the two main committees. That would take care of the question raised by the representative of Jordan. Item 12 of the provisional agenda was not completely covered by the addition proposed by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR to the list of specific issues. He therefore proposed that item 5 on the list of specific issues should read "Obstacles to the achievement of Palestinian rights: (a) Israeli policies and practices vis-à-vis the Palestinian people, (b) other obstacles which frustrate the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people".
17. Mr. LOGOGLU (Turkey) supported that proposal.
18. Mr. KUBBA (Observer for Iraq) said that, in view of the proposal made by the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization, his delegation would withdraw its proposal.
19. Mr. TARASYUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation supported the proposal made by the Observer from the Palestine Liberation Organization and would withdraw its proposal with regard to item 5 on the list of specific issues.
20. Mrs. MAIR (Secretary-General of the International Conference on the Question of Palestine) observed that at a meeting in August the Preparatory Committee had endorsed the list of documentation for the Conference (A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.2). At its sixth meeting it had approved, subject to drafting changes, the draft provisional agenda for the Conference (A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.3, sect. I) and had identified five broad agenda item headings which would cover all the relevant issues of the question of Palestine. The list of specific issues to be reflected

(Mrs. Mair)

in the annotations to the provisional agenda was intended only to pinpoint the essential issues which would be reflected in the documentation and discussions of the Conference and was not exhaustive. Once the documentation was complete, the Secretariat would submit a draft annotated agenda listing the issues dealt with in those documents.

21. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that the list of specific issues in document A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.4 should mention the racist and colonial nature of zionism: zionism should be clearly identified as a colonialist movement.

22. Mr. DIACONU (Romania) said that the Secretary-General of the Conference had clearly explained the manner in which the documentation would be prepared for the Conference. The purpose of the annotations to the provisional agenda was to give further substance to the agenda items. It should therefore be assumed that the provisional agenda would incorporate all relevant problems with respect to the question of Palestine.

23. Mr. BURAYZAT (Observer for Jordan) proposed that the following item should be added to the specific issues to be reflected in the annotations to the provisional agenda: "Zionism as a colonial movement and its adverse effects on Palestine and the Palestinian people". That would cover the points raised by the Observer from the Arab Republic of Syria.

24. Mr. TERZI (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) said that it might be wise not to expand unduly the list of specific issues to be reflected in the annotations to the provisional agenda. The points raised by the Observers for the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan would be covered in the documentation for the Conference, as listed in the draft report of the Committee.

25. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to adopt the proposal of the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization concerning item 5 on the list of specific issues to be reflected in the annotated agenda for the Conference (A/CONF.114/PC/1/CRP.4, sect. I).

26. It was so decided.

#### CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

27. Mr. GAUCI (Malta), Rapporteur, said that the draft report referred to no matters of substance, but was confined to summarizing the work of the Committee and the decisions which it had taken.

28. Mr. DIACONU (Romania), referring to paragraph 25 (i) of the draft report, said that the Preparatory Committee had not discussed the question of inviting national organizations to attend the Conference. It was not clear what type of national organizations would be considered.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft report.

30. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

31. Mr. LOGOGLU (Turkey) said that his delegation felt that the press release issued concerning the sixth meeting of the Preparatory Committee had not properly reflected what had transpired at that meeting. It was to be hoped that the situation would not recur and that more care would be exercised in the preparation of press releases.

32. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation supported the statement by the representative of Turkey. He was happy to note, however, that the revised press release accurately reflected the proceedings of the meeting in question.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.