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CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, held on 31 May 1976, the Conference, in accordance with rule 4 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee composed of the following States: Belgium, Costa Rica, Libyan Arab Republic, Mali, Mongolia, Pakistan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Venezuela.
2. The Credentials Committee held two meetings, on 4 and 8 June 1976. At the 1st meeting, Mr. Léon Ronse (Belgium) was unanimously elected Chairman.
3. The Committee noted from memoranda submitted to it by the Secretary-General of the Conference that as at 8 June 1976:
 - (a) Credentials issued by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs had been submitted, as provided for in rule 3 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, by 114 States participating in the Conference;
 - (b) The credentials of the representatives of 10 States were communicated to the Secretary-General of the Conference in the form of cables from their respective Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs;
 - (c) The representatives of 5 States were designated in letters or notes verbales from their respective permanent representatives or permanent missions in New York, or from their embassies in Ottawa; and
 - (d) The representatives of 2 States were designated by still other Government authorities different from those specified in rule 3 of the rules of procedure.
4. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee agreed that, as an exceptional measure, in view of the short duration of the Conference and taking into account rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the communications referred to in subparagraphs (b), (c) and (d) of paragraph 3 above should be accepted provisionally, pending the receipt of the formal credentials of the representatives concerned. The Committee noted that in most instances assurances had been given that proper credentials would be transmitted as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Committee requested that the Secretariat remind the Governments concerned to submit such credentials if these had not been received within one week after the Conference.

5. The representative of the Libyan Arab Republic reserved the position of his delegation with regard to the credentials submitted by the delegation of Israel and requested that his delegation's views be communicated to the Conference in the Committee's report (see Annex to the present report). The representative of Pakistan associated himself with the views expressed by the representative of the Libyan Arab Republic. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics indicated that the views of his delegation on this point were well known.

6. Upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee thereupon decided to submit this report for the approval of the Conference.

ANNEX

4 June 1976

STATEMENT BY MR. IBRAHIM DHARAT, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to make the following statement regarding the credentials of the delegation of Israel to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

Mr. Chairman,

International organizations and conferences have been dealing with the question of Palestine, and in particular with the question of uprooting the Palestinians from their homeland and replacing them by foreign elements, for more than 20 years.

Owing to lack of time, however, and without entering into a detailed discussion of the roots of the historical developments that accompanied the tragedy whereby the Palestinian people were denied their country, I would like to mention that the United Nations, which has no legal right to partition any State, adopted at its second session in 1948, resolution 181 (II), partitioning Palestine. This marked the beginning of a series of arbitrary actions, taken by the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian people who represented the majority of the population, and led to the expulsion of the Palestinians from their national homeland - so that they became refugees without hope, in preparation for the establishment of a racial régime alien to the region and to the land and based on aggression, usurpation and terror.

The international community has since sought to correct this grave mistake by adopting numerous resolutions condemning the inhuman acts of the Zionists and their violation of the most basic norms of human rights and international instruments. However, the Zionist policies were, and still are, based on disregard for the continuous calls by the international community, reiterating the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and their inalienable right to return to their homes and property in Palestine. All this notwithstanding, the racial régime in Palestine still persists in its total disregard of the unanimous will of the nations of the world - its arrogance reaching the point that it continues to pursue its aggressive expansionist ambitions not only in Palestine, but even in the territories of independent Arab States participating in this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

On the basis of the foregoing, the credentials of the Israeli delegation to this Conference should not be accepted, because it represents a régime that is morally and legally unqualified to participate in the work of this Conference. Accordingly, the delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic would like to place on record its non-recognition of the credentials of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and to express its strong reservations concerning their acceptance.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation requests that the report of this Committee to be submitted to the Plenary should contain, in extenso, the text of the reservation it has expressed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.