

DOCUMENT NO 1
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
(32 / 128)

16 th DECEMBER 1977

The General Assembly,

Concerned at the lack of progress towards the tracing and accounting for missing persons in Cyprus,

Expressing the hope that the informal discussions now taking place to establish a joint committee to trace missing persons are successful,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide his good offices, through his Special Representative in Cyprus, to support the establishment of an investigatory body with the participation of the International Committee of the Red Cross which would be in a position to function impartially, effectively and speedily so as to resolve the problem without undue delay;

2. *Invites* the parties concerned to continue co-operating in the establishment of the investigatory body and work out the modalities with a view to activating it expeditiously.

DOCUMENT NO. 2
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
(32 / 15)

9th NOVEMBER 1977

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Cyprus,

Gravely concerned over the prolongation of the Cyprus crisis, which endangers international peace and security,

Recalling its resolutions 3212 (XXIX) of 1 November 1974, 3395 (XXX) of 20 November 1975 and 31 / 12 of 12 November 1976,

Deeply regretting that the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus have not yet been implemented,

Expressing concern over the lack of progress in the intercommunal talks,

Mindful of the need to solve the problem of Cyprus without further delay by peaceful means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Calls* for the urgent and effective implementation of resolution 3212 (XXIX), unanimously adopted by the General Assembly and endorsed by the Se-

curity Council in its resolution 365 (1974) of 13 December 1974, as the valid framework for the solution of the problem of Cyprus:

2. *Reiterates* its call upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus and to cease any form of interference in its internal affairs;

3. *Calls* for the urgent resumption in a meaningful and constructive manner of the negotiations between the representatives of the two communities, to be conducted freely on an equal footing on the basis of comprehensive and concrete proposals of the parties concerned with a view to reaching as early as possible a mutually acceptable agreement based on their fundamental and legitimate rights;

4. *Demands* that the parties concerned refrain from any unilateral actions which might adversely affect the prospects of a just and lasting solution of the problem of Cyprus by peaceful means;

5. *Recommends* that the Security Council should keep the question of Cyprus under constant review and adopt all practical means to promote the effective implementation of its relevant resolutions in all their aspects;

6. *Calls upon* the parties concerned to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the performance of his tasks under the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council as well as with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus;

7. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Question of Cyprus" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session and requests the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the General Assembly at that session.

DOCUMENT NO. 3
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (414)

15 th SEPTEMBER 1977

The Security Council,

Having considered the situation in Cyprus in response to the letter dated 26 August 1977 from the permanent representative of Cyprus to the United Nations (S/ 12387).

Mindful of the urgency of making progress in the solution of the Cyprus problem,

Recalling its previous resolutions in particular resolution 365 (1974) and 367 (1975),

Taking note of the statements made to the Council regarding recent developments in the new Famugusta Area to the effect that there is no settlement in progress in the area,

Taking note also of the statements made by the parties concerned as well as by the Secretary-General with regard to these developments.

1. Expresses concern at the situation caused by recent developments,
2. Calls upon the parties concerned to refrain therefore from all unilateral actions anywhere in Cyprus that may affect adversely the prospects for adjust and peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem and urges them to continue accelerate determined co-operative efforts to achieve the objectives of the Security Council.
3. Reaffirms once again its resolution 365 (1974) of 13 December 1974, by which it endorsed General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) adopted unanimously on 1 November 1974, and calls once again for their urgent and effective implementation and that of its resolution 367 (1975) of 12 March 1975.
4. Expresses concern at the lack of progress at the intercommunal talks.
5. Calls on the representatives of the two Communities, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, to resume negotiations as soon as possible meaningfully and constructively on the basis of comprehensive and concrete proposals,
6. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed of developments that may adversely affect the implementations of the present resolution.

DOCUMENT NO. 4
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (422)

15th DECEMBER 1977

Noting from the report of the Secretary-General of 1 December 1977 (S/12463) That in Existing circumstances the presence of the United Nations Peace-keeping force in Cyprus is essential not only to Help Maintain quiet in the island but also to facilitate the continued search for a peaceful settlement,

Noting from the report the conditions prevailing in the Island, Noting also from the report that the freedom of movement of the United Nations Peace-keeping force in Cyprus and its Civil Police is still restricted in the north of the Island, and expressing the hope that ways will be found to surmount the remaining obstacles,

Noting further that the Secretary-General expressed the view that the best hope of achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem lies in negotiations between the representatives of the two communities and that the usefulness of those negotiations depends upon the willingness of all parties concerned to show the necessary flexibility, taking into account not only their own interests but also the legitimate aspirations and requirements of the opposing side,

Noting that due to efforts of the Secretary-General, his staff, and of UNFICYP and with the co-operation of the parties, there has been a relative improvement in the security situation, but that this evolution has yet to relieve the underlying tensions in the island, noting also the report of the Secretary-General of 30 April 1977 (S/12323) concerning the high-level meeting under the auspices of the Secretary-General, and emphasizing the need to adhere to the agreement reached at this meeting as well as to the agreements reached at the previous rounds of the talks,

Noting also the concurrence of the parties concerned in the recommendation by the Secretary-General that the Security Council extend the stationing of the United Nations Peace-keeping force in Cyprus For a further period of six months,

Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the Island it is necessary to keep the force in Cyprus beyond 15 December 1977,

Reaffirms the provisions of Resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, as well as subsequent resolutions and decisions on the establishment and maintenance of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus and other aspects of the situation in Cyprus,

Reaffirms once again its resolution 365 (1974) of 13 December 1974, by which it endorsed General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) adopted unanimously on 1 November 1974, and calls once again for their urgent and effective implementa-

tion and that of its resolution 367 (1975) of 12 March 1975, urges the parties concerned to act with the utmost restraint to refrain from any unilateral or other action likely to affect adversely the prospects of negotiations for a just and peaceful solution and to continue and accelerate determined co-operative efforts to achieve the objectives of the Security Council,

Extends once more the stationing in Cyprus of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force, established under Security Council Resolution 186 (1964), for a further period ending 15 June 1978, in the expectation that by then sufficient progress towards a final solution will make possible a withdrawal or substantial reduction of the force,

Appeals again to all parties concerned to extend their fullest co-operation so as to enable the United Nations Peace-keeping Force to perform its duties effectively,

Requests the Secretary-General to continue the mission of good offices entrusted to him by paragraph 6 of resolution 367 (1975), to keep the Security Council informed of the progress made and to submit a report on the implementation of this resolution by 31 May 1978.

DOCUMENT No. 5
TURKISH-PLO JOINT COMMUNIQUE

3 th February 1977

1. Mr. Said Kemal, Assistant Head of the Political Department of the PLO, has paid an official visit to Turkey on February 2 nd and 3 rd 1977, upon the invitation of the Turkish authorities, to make preliminary contacts about the procedures and the modalities of the PLO Bureau to be opened in Ankara, Turkey. He was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Şükrü Elekdağ and the Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Mr. Pertev Subaşı.

2. As it will be recalled, the relations between Turkey and the Palestine Liberation Organization which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, have been established on a permanent basis as of January 1975. The Turkish Embassy and the PLO Political Department in Cairo have been responsible for carrying out these bilateral relations. His Excellency Faruk El Kaddumi's first official visit Turkey, which took place in August 1975, has contributed to the furtherance of relations between Turkey and the PLO, and promoted mutual understanding. At the end of this visit it, was declared that the bilateral contacts should continue with a view to intensifying the existing relations between Turkey and the PLO.

3. During the 7 th Islamic Foreign Ministerial Conference held in İstanbul in May 1976, Turkish Government's acceptance of the establishment of a Bureau by the PLO in Ankara has been announced and the responsables of PLO were invited to Turkey to make the necessary contacts concerning this matter.

4. Mr. Said Kemal's visit to Turkey has taken place in the light of this decision and accordance with the agreement between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil and Mr. Faruk El Kaddumi. Ambassador Şükrü Elekdağ, Secretary General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Said Kemal have exchanged views on the modalities of the Bureau to be opened promotion of their bilateral relations in all possible ways to the mutual interest of both sides. The two sides, during their talks, have affirmed their adherence to and the importance they attribute to the the principles of mutual respect and goodwill, friendly cooperation, non-intervention in internal affairs, in the conduct of their relations.

5. Mr. Said Kemal has expressed his appreciation to Ambassador Şükrü Elekdağ and the Turkish Government for the kind welcome extended to him during this visit and for the support given by the Turkish Government to the UN resolutions recognizing the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine including the right to establish their independent state. He also expressed his deep appreciation of the Turkish Government for the official PLO Bureau to be opened in Ankara and the right of the representative to be on the dipolmatic list which he deemed to

be crucial importance to the promotion of Turkish-PLO, as well as Turkish-Arab relations.

6. The two sides have expressed their eagerness for the Bureau to be operational as soon as possible and Ambassador Şükrü Elekdağ has assured Mr. Said Kemal of all the aids, cooperation and collaboration of the Turkish authorities for the realization of the opening of the Bureau.

DOCUMENT No: 6
TURKISH-SAUDI ARABIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

28 th March 1978

On the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Saud El Faisal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, undertook an official visit to Saudi Arabia from to 28 March 1977 corresponding to 7 to 9 Rabia Al Thani 1397. His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and his accompanying delegation was received with a warm welcome and exemplary hospitality, which indicates the deep fraternal islamic sentiments existing between the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil had friendly and fruitfully constructive discussions with HRH the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The talks were in an atmosphere of sincerity and fraternity which included islamic and international issues of common interest.

Those attending the talks were on the Turkish side:

Ambassador Nazif Çuhruk,

Deputy Secretary General for Economic Affairs,

Mr. Necdet Özmen, Charge d'Affairs of Turkey in Saudi Arabia,

Ambassador Hasan Üner, Director General of Information,

Mr. Faruk Celiloğlu, Director of the Department of the Middle East and Africa.

Mr. Oktay Aksoy, Special Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On the Saudi Arabian side:

His Excellency Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mansoury, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs.

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Ali Reda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Cultural and Economical Affairs

Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Siraj, Director of Eastern Department.

The two sides have agreed to give special stress in their countries' policies for islamic solidarity to help in the realization of prosperity and progress of the islamic nations and the whole world through a new and just international economic order and fighting racial discrimination and apartheid wherever they exist.

The Middle East issue was also discussed.

The two Ministers reiterated and stressed two countries' firm belief that total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including

their right to self determination in their own home land, are the two basic prerequisites for the realization of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The two Ministers expressed their deep abhorrence for the measures leading to the judaization of holy Jerusalem, they reiterated their rejection of these measures.

The two Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the recent agreement reached in Ankara for the opening of a PLO Bureau and hoped for its quick establishment.

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey explained the new developments in the Cyprus question. The two Ministers confirmed their agreement of the resolution taken at the 7 th Islamic Conference in Istanbul regarding the support for the Moslem Turkish Community in Cyprus. They expressed their satisfaction at the meetings held by the Leaders of the two communities and their hope that these constructive discussions would lead to a quick settlement in Cyprus.

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey also explained questions of the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece. The two Ministers expressed their hope in the continuation of negotiations aimed at reaching solutions that would achieve mutual benefits for both countries.

Bilateral relations were discussed and the two Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress and development of these relations in all fields. They studied the measures to support and increase these relations between the two countries and to continue co-operation through the joint Saudi-Turkish Committees, established by the commercial, cultural and economic agreement signed by both countries.

His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Turkey and accompanying delegation was received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz, the Viceroy.

They have exchanged views on subjects of mutual interest to both countries.

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey listened with great appreciation to the discuss of His Royal Highness, which was exemplified by deep wisdom and foresight.

DOCUMENT NO 7
FINAL COMMUNIQUE
OF THE EIGHTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
HELD IN TRIPOLI, SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
FROM 27TH JUMAD AL AWAL TO 3RD JUMAD AL THANI 1397 H

(16-22 May, 1977)

1. The Eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers convened in Tripoli, Socialist People's Libyan Arab JAMAHIRIYA, one of the glorious lands of the Islamic world, from 27 th Jumad Al Awal to 3 rd Jumad Al-Thani 1397 H (16-22 May, 1977), in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul, and at the invitation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

2. The Conference was preceded by a Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Participating Delegations from 22 nd-25 th Al Awal 1397 H (11-14 May, 1977).

3. The following member States took part in the Conference; Republic of **Afghanistan**, Democratic and Popular Republic of **Algeria**, People's Republic of **Bangladesh**, State of **Bahrain**, State of **Comoro Islands**, Republic of **Cameroun**, Republic of **Chad**, Republic of **Gabon**, Republic of **Gambia**, Republic of **Guinea**, Republic of **Guinaw-Bissau**, Republic of **Indonesia**, Republic of **Iraq**, Hashemite Kingdom of **Jordan**, State of **Kuwait**, Republic of **Lebanon**, Socialist People's Libya Arab Jamahiriya, **Malaysia**, **Maldives Islands**, Republic of **Mali**, Islamic Republic of **Mauritania**, Kingdom of **Morocco**, Republic of **Niger**, **Sultanate of Oman**, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**, State of **Qatar** Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia**, Republic of **Senegal**, Democratic Republic of **Somalia**, **Syria Arab Republic**, Republic of **Tunisia** Republic of **Turkey**, Republic of **Uganda**, State of **United Arab Emirates**, Republic of **Upper Volta**, **Yemen Arab Republic**, **Yemen People's Democratic Republic**, **Palestine Liberation Organisation**.

4 The following States and Organisations attended the Conference as observers or guests:

1) **States:**

Nigeria

2) **INTERNATIONAL AND INTER — GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| a) United Nations | (New York) |
| b) League of Arab States | (Cairo) |
| c) Organisation of African Unity. | (Adisababa) |

3) ISLAMIC ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS:

- a) Rabitah Al-Alam Al-Islami (Mecca)
- b) Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami (Moslem World Congress) (Karachi)
- c) Jamiat Ad-Dawah, Tripoli.
- d) The Supreme Islamic Council of Egypt.
- e) International Moslem Youth Organisation, (Riyadh).
- f) Islamic Council of Europe. (London).
- g) World Federation of Arabo-Islamic Schools. (Jeddah).
- h) Moro National Liberation Front.

5. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Ihsan Sabri Çağlayangil, Foreign Minister of Turkey, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Conference.

6. The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Ali Abdusselam Treki, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Jamahiriya, as its Chairman, H. E. Shamsul Haq, Member of the President's Council of Advisors in charge of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and H. E. Lamine Jabang, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gambia as Vice-Chairman, H.E. Mr. Assena Sech, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal as its Rapporteurs. H.E. Şükrü Elekdağ, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference for Information and Cultural Affairs assumed the duties of Spokesman of the Conference.

7. H.E. Colonel Muammer El Qaddafi, Leader of the First September Revolution addressed the Conference at its inaugural session. In his address, H. E. Colonel Muammer Al Qaddafi, after welcoming the representatives of the Islamic countries and the Secretary General touched on the most important issues contained in the Agenda of the Conference.

On the question of Palestine he stated: «Peace and war lie in the hands of the Palestinians. We stand by them with all our means. The solution of this problem does not lie in the hands of any leader. The right solution is for the foreigners to go back to their original countries where they came from after 1948 and for Palestinians to return to their homeland to live with the Jews who were there and to form one democratic nation».

With regard to the problem of the Moslems in the Philippines, he said, «The Jamahiriya has exerted all her efforts in order that peace prevails in the Philippines. However, what happened lately turned out to be against our expectations and was contrary to the Tripoli Agreement. The problem in the Southern Philippines is up to the Moro National Liberation Front and to the Government of the Philippines which is at liberty to face its own problems. The Islamic Conference will, of course, be discussing this problem».

Regarding Cyprus he said: «The national and religious struggle prevails in the area, and it is imperative that our efforts should be directed towards the realization of equality between Moslems and non-Moslems in Cyprus»

With regard to the right of veto at the United Nations, Colonel Qaddafi called for the abolition of the right of Veto at the U.N. Security Council. If the reali-

zation of equality among nations is to be obtained, he enquired how a single country could have the right to oppose all decisions of the peoples of the world.

He also demanded that colonial powers should compensate the nations who suffered from the war and stressed the necessity of returning their stolen treasures, manuscripts and antiquities.

Colonel Qaddafi recommended to the Conference the establishment of an International Red Crescent Organisation in order to serve universal humanitarian cause and stated that the Jamahiriya would make the greatest contribution to the realisation of this humanitarian noble task.

He suggested that an Islamic Summit Conference should be held once a year.

He said that when the Eritrea problem would be taken up, the Conference should not forget that the percentage of Moslems in Ethiopia is more than 65 % of the total population and this is an important factor which should be borne in mind.

He also requested that the entire world should be reassured, without any religious prejudice, of the reality that the non-Moslem minorities who are living among majority of Moslems are not oppressed. However, we note with regret that the same cannot be said of in the opposite case.

Instead of a Constitution prepared by man in the world, Colonel Qaddafi declared that the Jamahiriya adopted the Holy Kuran as its Constitution and implemented it as its unchanging law, which is the most just legislation for the entire mankind.

8. The Foreign Ministers of Arghanistan, Niger and Tunisia, representing their respective regional and linguistic groups and the Foreign Minister of Turkey, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Conference, expressed their thanks and appreciation for the address made by H.E. Colonel Muammer Al Qaddafi.

9. The Conference received congratulatory messages conveying fraternal greetings and best wishes for the success of the Conference from H.E. Major General Ziaur Rehman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Colonel Ibrahim El Homdi, Chairman of the Command Council, President of Yemen Arab Republic and H. E. Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

10. The Conference heard a message of good wishes from H.E. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations.

11. The Conference decided to send H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Popular Republic of Mozambique, a message of support for the just struggle of the people of Namibia and Zimbabwe for their liberation and national independence.

12. Upon the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the Conference discussed with priority Agenda item entitled «Strengthening of Islamic Solidarity». The Conference dwelled on the need to strengthen the relations between the Islamic countries and to have full participation of all Member countries in the Islamic Conference with a view to maintaining Islamic Solidarity. After deliberation it decided to make an appeal, affirming the renewed determination of its

Members to safeguard Islamic Solidarity and calling for the attendance of all the Member countries in the Conference at present and in future.

13. In this context, after discussing the establishment of a specialized and permanent organ to deal with the settlement by peaceful means of the disputes that might arise between Member States, the Conference decided to establish such a body and requested the Secretary General to prepare a legal study on its creation, taking into account international bodies of similar nature such as the UAE Protocol of the Committee of Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration.

14. The Conference addressed a message of solidarity to H. E. Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan. It also adopted a resolution recalling the important decisions of the Second Islamic Summit and the great contribution of the Government of Pakistan and the preponderant role of Prime Minister Bhutto, the current Chairman of the Islamic Summit, in this context.

The Conference expressed its profound concern over the external manouvres directed against the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and affirmed its solidarity with the Government and People of Pakistan in their efforts to thwart all foreign interference and to maintain and consolidate their national unity in their consistent attachment to the cause of Islam.

15. Their Excellencies Kasim Zuhairi (Morocco), Zafarul Islam (Pakistan), and Cihad Fethi Tevetoglu (Turkey) were sworn in as Assistant Secretaries General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

16. The Conference listened with deep attention and great interest to the statement of President Rauf Denktaş, Leader of the Turkish Moslem Community of Cyprus. In his address, President Denktaş explained, inter alia, the just struggle of the Turkish Cypriot Community for self preservation and for the protection of its inalienable rights in the territory and in the bi-communal body-politic of Cyprus. He also drew attention to the inspiring address of the illustrious leader of the gallant host country, H.E. Colonel Qaddafi who stated that the Turkish intervention in Cyprus was absolutely legitimate and underlined the equality of the two communities in Cyprus.

17. The Conference listened with interest and sympathy to the address made by Professor Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front. The Chairman, in his address, explained the heroic struggle of the long-oppressed and exploited Bangsa Moro people for liberation and self-government. He also pointed out to the gravity of the situation in southern Philippines and gave a full account of the events which led to the Tripoli Agreement and the violation of it by the Government of the Philippines. It pleaded the Member countries to exert all their efforts and influence with a view to ensuring the Philippines Government's fulfilment of its obligations to the Bangsa Moro people and to the resolutions of the Islamic Conference. In this connection, Professor Nur Misuari expressed his people's deep appreciation and gratitude for the unanimous support extended to them by the Member countries, for their legitimate struggle.

The Conference decided, by acclamation, to give the status of «observer» to the Moro Liberation Front as an exceptional case which should not form a precedent for other Organisations in future.

18. The Conference, after noting that the Charter of the Organisation has no provision regarding grant of observer / guest status and being desirous of maintaining the character of the Conference as an association of Islamic States asked the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive study on this subject and to submit it as soon as possible to the Member States for consideration at the 9 th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

19. The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Conference submitted the annual report reviewing the extensive activities of the Organisation during the previous year in the political, economic, Islamic and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of strengthening the Secretariat of the Islamic Conference so that it can perform its duties effectively to meet its ever-increasing activities and responsibilities.

20. The Heads of Delegations, in their addresses to the Conference, reviewed the present world situation with particular emphasis on the questions concerning the Islamic countries. The Committees of the Conference discussed all issues of interest to the Islamic countries in the political, economic and cultural spheres. The deliberations at the Plenary Session and the Committees were held in a spirit of brotherhood, cooperation, understanding and mutual confidence which allowed the Conference to accomplish its task with success.

IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE

21. The Conference carefully considered all aspects of the Middle East conflict. It noted with regret that the Zionist entity still continues to perpetuate its policies of occupation, expansion, annexation, destruction of buildings and expropriation of property as well as mass expulsions and maltreatment of Arab residents in the occupied territories. The Conference expressed concern at the serious situation arising from Israel's persistent and continued violation of the UN Charter, the principles and provisions of international law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention on The Protection of Civilians In the Time of War which constitute an increasingly serious threat to peace and security in the Middle East. The Conference noted that prolongation of this situation could bring the world to the brink of renewed armed conflict

The Conference hailed the struggle of the Arab people in Palestine and in the other Arab territories occupied since 1948 and 1967. It affirmed its solidarity with and support for their legitimate struggle for ending Zionist occupation, for the liberation of the occupied territories, the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the defence of the Islamic Arab and spiritual status of Jerusalem. The Conference reiterated that the Palestinian cause is the core of the Middle East problem and that a just and lasting peace can be achieved only by the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories and the restitution and exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily their right of self-determination and that of establishing an independent state in Palestine. It further called on all states to extend every form of assistance to the Palestinian and Arab people in their legitimate struggle. The Conference affirmed the right of the PLO to participate separately and equally in all international peace efforts.

The Conference called on the Security Council to reconsider its position with regard to the Report and Recommendations of The Committee To Investigate The Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which have been approved by the United National General Assembly during its 31 st Session.

The Conference reaffirmed the close links which binds Moslems to the Holy City of Jerusalem and the responsibility of the Islamic States to secure its liberation and restoration to Arab rule. The Conference called upon the member states to contribute to the enhancement of the Islamic Arab presence in the Holy City.

The Conference reiterated its conviction that the measures taken by Israel in the occupied Arab territories since 1948 and 1967 to change its physical, geographical, social, cultural, economic , religious and demographic features, including the measures of annexation and judaization, are null and void. The Conference demanded that Israel rescind all these measures and policies which flagrantly violate the Charter of the United Nations.

The Conference called upon the Security Council to assume responsibilities as defined by the United Nations Charter towards safeguarding International peace and security. It requested the member states to work for convening of the Security Council as early as possible to take effective measures with a view to implementing the U. N. Resolutions concerning various aspects of the Middle East question. The Conference also called on all States to shoulder their responsibilities, especially to refrain from supplying Israel with any form of support and to sever all ties with her. The Conference further called on the member states to join the Arab boycott of Israel. It confirmed its Resolution adopted during the 6 th Islamic Conference held in Jeddah calling for expulsion of Israel from the United Nations and all other international organisations. The members of the Islamic Conference undertook to support and uphold the cause of Palestinian and other Arab peoples until victory has been attained.

22. The Conference reiterated the commitment of the Islamic countries to the struggle against racism in Southern Africa, Zimbabwe and occupied Palestine. It also reaffirmed its resolve for the complete and unconditional elimination of racism, racial discrimination and racial division, condemning these practices. In this connection the Conference invited all member states to co-operate with the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference in convening the International Conference For Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination, in compliance with the relevant UN General Assembly Resolution, calling for mobilizing international public opinion and implementing all the UN Resolutions in this regard.

23. Although the liberation struggle is ever developing and strengthening in Africa, alien government systems is still raising obstacles in order to prevent the peoples of this continent to freely enjoy their right self detemination, to have access to freedom and independence, thus perpetuating the existence of racist minority regimes and favouring foreign occupation and domination.

In its endeavours to de - stablize African countries and to threaten their sovereignty, alien government system is more and more resorting to interference and intervention, the use of mercenaries, political assassinations and the creation of conflicts between friendly and neighbourly countries.

The Conference expressed its deep indignation and condemned such practices. It called upon Islamic countries to be vigilant and to work in solidarity in order to complete the irreversible process of political, economic and cultural liberation of their nations, and to maintain their support of the liberation movements struggling for the achievement of the same objectives.

24. The Conference noted with satisfaction the report submitted by the Secretary General on the liberation movements in Southern Africa and expressed its deep appreciation for the Secretary General's valuable efforts and the contacts he has undertaken with the representatives of these movements during the Summit Conference of the Organisation of African Unity in Mauritius in July, 1976. The Conference reiterated its commitment and full support for the struggle of the people of Southern Africa and urged all possible moral and material assistance for these liberation movements. It further requested the Secretary General to maintain his contacts with them to obtain information on their needs and activities.

25. The Conference, reaffirming its support to Mozambique and other Front-line countries to enable them to strengthen their national independence and to resist racist and colonialist regimes and noting with appreciation the support extended by member to this effect, invited the member States to provide these countries with economic assistance.

26. The Conference took note, with appreciation, of the report submitted by the Delegation of Somalia on the liquidation of colonialism from Somalia Coast. Welcoming the results of the referendum and elections held in the Somali Coast (Djibouth) on May 8, 1977, the Conference reiterated its full support for the right of the people of the Somalia Coast to achieve immediate and real independence by June 27, 1977 and called for the respect of the desire of the people of the territory for self-determination. Moreover, it decided to send a congratulatory message to the head of the majority party and Prime Minister Syed Hasan Jouleed on the occasion of the referendum and the elections and requested the Secretary General to extend the congratulations of the Islamic Conference to the leaders of the country on its independence day.

27. The Conference after considering the situation in the Comorian Island of Mayotte, condemned the so-called referendum held on February 8 and April 17, 1976, imposed upon the inhabitants of the territory and declared them null and void. It also rejected in advance any other form of referendum or consultation which might be organized in future or any law or regulations to be adopted by the French authorities designed to give a legal basis to French colonial presence on the Comorian territory of Mayotte. It further called upon France to respect fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Comoro and to withdraw its military occupation forces from the Comorian Island of Mayotte.

The Conference requested the Chairman of the Conference to approach the French Government to put an end to the process it has undertaken for giving a special status to the Island of Mayotte with a view to creating favourable conditions for the resumption of the dialogue between the parties concerned. The Conference, also, appealed to all member states to approach the French Government with a view to making it, renounce its intention of separating the Island of Mayotte from

the Republic of Comoro and to provide financial, technical and material assistance to the Comorian State to enable it to overcome its serious difficulties.

28. The Conference re-affirmed its resolution on the Cyprus Question adopted at its Seventh Meeting; welcomed the agreement reached between the leaders of the two Cypriot communities; supported the principle of political equality for the two Cypriot communities in a federal administration; noted with satisfaction the resumption of the inter-communal talks; urged the parties to continue their negotiations until they find a peaceful solution acceptable to both sides; and demanded from member states to take all necessary measures to extend to and strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Moslem Community of Cyprus.

29. The Conference recalled its Resolution of last year on the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia and noted the dangers posed to the security of the Islamic countries was a result of the non-acceptance of these proposals by certain states and parties outside the Islamic world. The Conference called upon these states and parties to reconsider their positions and give credible undertakings not to acquire nuclear weapons. It also called upon the nuclear powers to undertake the obligations devolving on them in the denuclearization of these regions. The Conference furthermore called for the transformation of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, free of military bases and nuclear weapons.

30. The Conference having considered the question of strengthening the Security of Non-nuclear Weapon States, welcomed the adoption of the resolution of the 31st Session of the U.N. General Assembly in this matter and called upon the nuclear weapons states to respond positively to the security concerns of the non-nuclear weapon states and accept not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states. The Conference also requested the member states to seek from nuclear weapon states binding and effective security assurances for non-nuclear weapon states, in particular, at the forthcoming Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly On Disarmament and other relevant fora.

31. Taking note, with appreciation, of the report submitted by the Secretary General, the Conference reiterated its deep concern at the inhuman treatment meted out to Moslem minorities and communities in some countries. It called on the Governments concerned to respect fully the legitimate rights of the minorities and communities in their countries. The Conference recommended the Permanent Council of the Solidarity Fund to provide all necessary assistance to Moslem minorities and communities throughout the world in order to relieve their plight.

32. The Conference considered the question of Eritrea and decided to coordinate its efforts with those of the O.A.U. in order to find a just and equitable settlement within the framework of Afro-Asian brotherhood.

33. The Conference, reiterating its support of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right of self-determination and recognising that the preservation of international peace and security is an important collective responsibility to which all the countries of the world should have the possibility of making practical contribution on the basis of equality, called upon the member states to exert efforts to expedite action on amending the present Charter of the United Nations, especially the provisions re-

lating to the right of veto enjoyed by the permanent member states of the Security Council in a manner that would protect the interests and aspirations of third world countries.

In this context, the Conference called for the cooperation of member states with the non-aligned countries to take initiatives for amending the U.N. Charter during the 32 nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly especially with regard to the question of veto.

34. The Conference considered the problem of compensating the losses from left-over war material, in particular the damages arising out of the mines planted by foreign powers in the developing countries. In this context, the Conference underlined the responsibility of the colonial states for the material and moral losses suffered by the developing nations and called upon all the states which were parties in general and colonial wars to accept their obligations to compensate for those losses and decided to convene an International Conference to discuss all questions relevant to this matter. The Conference further recommended to the member states to inscribe on the agenda of the 32 nd Session of the U. N. General Assembly an item on this question.

35. The Conference, convinced that the consultations which have taken place among the Islamic countries in the Law of the Sea Conference so far have demonstrated that wide range of issues existed on which member countries could establish coordinated action, and desirous of promoting this cooperation, called upon the Islamic countries to consult and harmonize their positions during the forthcoming sessions of the Conference on the Law of the Sea. Furthermore, it was emphasized during the general debate that such consultations should also be made with all the members of the non-aligned movement.

36. The Conference, after having examined the report submitted by the Quadripartite Commission on the evolution of the situation concerning the Muslims in Southern Philippines expressed its concern over the policy of the Government of the Philippines, which is contrary to the Agreement of Tripoli, signed thanks to the efforts made by the Jamahiriya, the Quadripartite Commission and the Secretary General, and has entrusted the Commission again with the task of pursuing its mission of mediation between M.N.L.F. which is the legitimate representative of the Moslem movements in Southern Philippines and the Government of Philippines.

IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE

37. The Conference reviewed the progress achieved in economic cooperation and measures taken for strengthening such cooperation amongst member states of the Islamic Conference and in this context noted the recommendations of the First Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs and those of the Group of Economic Experts on trade, money and finance, technical cooperation and agricultural development and considered that these recommendations were extremely important and, when implemented, would go a long way towards bringing together the member states through expansion of economic cooperation between developed and developing countries.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the keen desire of the member states to make all possible endeavours to accelerate and facilitate increased cooperation in various fields relating to economic development and prosperity.

38. The Conference, however, expressed its disappointment with the lack of progress in international economic negotiations so far and strongly urged the developed countries to adopt a positive attitude specially at the concluding session of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation so that concrete progress is made towards the establishment of a New International Economic Order. It affirmed the crucial importance of implementing the decisions relating to the Integrated Programme on Commodities and the commitment of the developing countries to the early establishment of a Common Fund.

39. The Conference in keeping with the objectives embodied in the Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to create the best possible circumstances and conditions for the economic progress and development of member states and for raising living standards of their people approved a General Agreement for Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation amongst Member States and expressed the firm belief that its implementation would ensure achieving the objectives of consolidation of the socio-economic development of the Islamic states.

40. The Conference welcomed the establishment of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre in Ankara, Turkey, which would play a vital role in economic cooperation amongst member states which is hampered for lack of vital information and data on the economic situation of the countries of the Islamic world. It also approved the programme of work and budget of the Centre for the financial year 1977-78.

41. The Conference noted with appreciation the detailed report prepared by a group of Experts appointed by the Secretariat of the Islamic Conference on the requirements of land-locked Islamic countries and recommended that this report, together with the country studies on the six Islamic land-locked countries be examined in depth by the Islamic Commission for Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs for initiating necessary measures to ameliorate the economic difficulties of these countries.

42. While appreciating the need for continued exchange of labour and know-how amongst member states, the Conference felt that such exchange could be accelerated if the skills of the manpower resources available within the Islamic world are improved through adequate training. In this context the Conference appreciated the offer made by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to set up an Islamic Centre for Vocational and Technical Training in Dacca, under the Islamic Conference. The full details of the project to be submitted shortly by Bangladesh to the Secretary-General will be finalised on the due scrutiny at an Experts Group Meeting in Dacca in the light of relevant information on training facilities existing in other member countries, for submission to the 9th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

The Conference reiterated its call upon the Secretariat to act as a catalyst in the collection and dissemination of information concerning surplus and requirements of manpower within the Islamic World and prepare guidelines for use of member states while concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements.

43. The Conference welcomed the important proposal submitted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates for strengthening the land, sea and air transportation and tele-communications links amongst the member states and recommended that this proposal be urgently examined and considered at expert level.

44. While adopting the reports of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs and the Group of Experts convened in Ankara to review measures to promote economic cooperation amongst Islamic countries, the Conference approved the convening of a number of expert group meetings to identify specific possibilities of expanding trade, joint projects and technical cooperation amongst member states. The Conference also recommended the holding of a meeting of the Governors of the Central Banks of the member countries in conjunction with the next meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank to coordinate and harmonise policy issues on monetary, capital and investment matters.

45. Expressing solidarity with the cause of the people of Palestine and its martyrs and freedom fighters, the Conference adopted a resolution for the immediate convening of a meeting of the Governing Body of the Jerusalem Fund and issue of a postage stamp bearing the name of «Palestine Stamp» in support of the Palestinian cause.

IN THE ISLAMIC AND CULTURAL SPHERE

46. In conformity with the decision taken at the previous meeting to establish an Islamic, Art and Cultural Research Centre' in Istanbul and having heard the statement made by the Turkish Delegation on the latest developments in this connection, the Conference decided to make an appeal to all Member States to contribute financially to establishing this Centre in addition to what is granted by the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Solidarity Fund. The Conference also resolved that the status of the Centre submitted by Turkey, be forwarded to the Council of Islamic Solidarity Fund and recommended that the Turkish Delegation should co-operate with the Fund's Council during its deliberations on this matter.

47. The Conference decided to call upon the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to draw up a detailed report on the establishment of an Islamic Research Centre' in Guinea-Bissau and present it to the Secretariat of the Islamic Conference at its earliest convenience. The Conference decided to call upon the Secretary General to co-operate with the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to provide all Member States with detailed information on the importance of this project, its cost and requirements so as to enable the Member States to define their capabilities in the financial and technical participation in the Project.

48. The Conference having considered the decisions adopted by the Executive Council of the Islamic International New Agency as well as the report of the Agency's Director decided to urge Member States to meet the cost of the proposed telecommunication project.

49. The Conference, having examined the report of the General Assembly of the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation, reaffirmed the importance of the Organisation and made an appeal to all Member States to support this Organisation financially and morally so as to enable it to achieve its objectives properly.

50. The Conference, recalling its previous decisions concerning the Islamic Organisation for Science and Technology, requested the Secretary General to urge the Member States to support this Organisation and to determine the amount of contributions to be made with a view to securing the required fifty million dollars for the establishment of this body.

51. The Conference, having considered the report drawn up by the Preparatory Committee set up by the seventh Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference, approved the recommendations programmes of the said Committee for the celebrations on the occasion of the beginning of the Fifteenth Hijra Century at international and Islamic Member State levels.

52. In conformity with its established policy to support the Islamic Centres, the Conference entrusted the Secretary General with the task of cooperating with the Islamic Solidarity Fund to assist these Centres all over the world financially and morally and decided on the establishment of two Islamic Centres, one in Asia and one in Africa.

53. Delegations expressed the wish that religious teaching and Islamic culture should be strengthened in Islamic countries with a view to thwarting increasing activities of foreign associations and missionaries in Member countries.

54. The Conference unanimously decided to set up an International Islamic Red Crescent Society upon the proposal of the Delegation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Conference entrusted the Secretary General with the task of preparing the basic principles for the establishment of the International Islamic Red Crescent Society and to submit its report to the next Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

55. The Conference, having examined the Report on the Religious Ability on Pilgrimage prepared by the Ministry of Hajj and Auqaf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, fully supported its recommendations and urged Member States to convene seminars in which Islamic scholars and thinkers could study these important recommendations.

56. The Conference having heard the report presented by the International Union of Arabo - Islamic Schools, decided to call upon the Member States to support its activities and called upon Member States to support this Union materially and morally.

57. The Conference, having listened with great interest to the President of the Islamic Solidarity Fund and having examined the report regarding the activities of the Fund during the 1976-77 fiscal year, expressed its appreciation to the President for his endeavours. The Conference thanked the Members which have extended support to this end, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous contribution. The Conference approved the budget of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for the 1977-78 fiscal year, ratified amendment of Article VIII of the Regulations of the Fund, noted with satisfaction the advanced stage of the implementation of the numerous projects carried out by the Fund, and called upon the members to continue to extend their assistance and contributions to the activities of the Fund.

The Conference, having examined the project concerning the establishment of a Waqf for the Islamic Solidarity Fund and expressing its deep appreciation for this initiative, approved in principle the project submitted by the Permanent Board of the Fund.

The Conference also called upon member states to make donations to the Islamic Solidarity Fund in order to enable it to finance the setting up of universities in Niger and Uganda.

58. The Conference examined the administrative and financial matters on its agenda and adopted resolutions in this regard. The Conference approved the budget of the Organisation for the fiscal year 1977-78.

59. The Conference approved, by acclamation, the extension of the mandate of H.E. Dr. Amadou Karim GAYE, for another term as Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

60. The Conference accepted, with appreciation and gratitude, the invitation of the Republic of Senegal to hold its 9th Session in Dakar.

61. The Conference recorded its deep appreciation and thanks to the people and Government of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the cordial and generous hospitality extended to the Delegations throughout their most pleasant stay in the historic and beautiful city of Tripoli.

DOCUMENT NO. 8
DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE FINAL COMMUNIQUE

7th December 1977

1. The Defence Planning Committee of the North Atlantic

Treaty Organization met in Ministerial Session in Brussels on 6th and 7th December, 1977.

2. Ministers re-emphasised that the assurance of security is indispensable for the maintenance of freedom and progress in their societies and for the furthering of detente. They reviewed the state of security of the alliance in the light of assessments and reports on developments since their last meeting. They received an appraisal on the main defence issues by the Secretary General and an assessment of the military situation by the Chairman of the Military Committee.

3. Reviewing the military balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Ministers stressed that the threat posed by the military capabilities of the Warsaw Pact is the fundamental factor which affects the military requirements for alliance defence. In this context they expressed their concern, at the continuing momentum of the Warsaw Pact, which provides them with increasingly capable offensive ground, naval and air forces, with improved strategic attack capabilities and with enhanced command and control arrangements for these forces. Ministers noted that the military capabilities of the Warsaw Pact forces are being increased far in excess of what would be reasonably needed for defence. Ministers welcomed the growing public awareness of these developments.

4. At the London Summit Meeting in May 1977, it was agreed to develop a long-term defence programme to enable NATO forces to meet the changing defence needs of the 1980s. Ministers reviewed a report on progress achieved in preparing specific programmes in a limited number of defence planning fields already identified where collective action is urgently required. Within these fields Ministers endorsed the main action areas on which attention should be focused in developing co-operative and coordinated defence programmes in the medium and longer term trends in East-West relations which they initiated at the London meeting. They agreed to make every effort to achieve a positive outcome to the initiatives.

5. Ministers also endorsed the prompt and positive outcome of the accompanying programme of short-term force improvements in the selected areas of anti-armour, war reserve stocks, and readiness and reinforcement. They noted that, for example, the alliance will increase by end-1978 holdings of anti-air missiles by about one third and plan similar improvements in stocks of other critical war reserve munitions. The response to the short-term initiatives has enhanced NATO's defence capabilities and provided an example of the alliance's ability to act expeditiously and effectively.

6. Ministers took stock, in their review of the outcome of the 1977 NATO Defence Review, of national force contributions to the defence of the alliance planned for the next five years. Ministers expressed concern that the gap in conventional capabilities between NATO and the Warsaw Pact was still widening. However, they concluded that significant force improvements had been accomplished in 1977 and that more would materialise as the implementation of current plans leads to a substantial improvement in the defence capabilities of the alliance.

7. Ministers agreed that effective steps must be taken in the preparation of new force goals for NATO to cover the period up to 1894, and in further work on the Long-Term Defence Programme, to redress deficiencies and, as a result, reduce the disparity in conventional capabilities between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. They recognised that the achievement of these objectives would continue to require real annual increases in defence expenditure as called for in the 1977 Ministerial Guidance and that increased emphasis must be placed in defence budgets on allocations to major re-equipment and modernisation programmes. They reaffirmed the importance of making the optimum use of available resources through co-operative efforts in defence planning, both in the medium and longer term.

8. In general, while Ministers expressed their concern at the serious deficiencies which still remain in the defence capabilities of the alliance, they welcomed the growing resolve and willingness to respond to the increases in the Warsaw Pact's military capabilities by taking the initial steps to correct critical short-term weaknesses and to establish a slouder base forlonge r term defence improvement programmes. Ministers agreed that, provided the necessary additional resources are made available and used effectively by all members nations, an adequate conventional posture essential to maintain the NATO Triad of strategic, theatre nuclear and conventional forces is within reach.

9. Ministers noted with satisfaction the efforts that Portugal and Turkey were making from their own resources to improve their force contribution to NATO, but acknowledge the urgent need for both of these members of the alliance to receive external assistance for the modernisation and support of their forces. They agreed that it was the responsibility of the alliance as a whole to provide this assistance and undertook to review the contributions which their own countries were making. They confirmed their view of the importance of the contribution to the solidarity and vital security of the entire alliance of the early implementation of defence co-operative agreements relating to the South-Eastern flank.

10. Ministers reiterated their support for the western position in negotiations on Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction, which is seeking a more stable military relationship by removing current disparities in forces, in Europe as a major contribution to the improvement in East-West relations. They reaffirmed the Western position in the Vienna negotiations and the importance they attach to the principle that NATO forces be maintained and not reduced except in the context of a Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction agreement with the East, which must not diminish the collective security of the alliance. Ministers noted recent developments in the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of Strategic Arms and reaffirmed the importance of continued close consultation within the alliance on issues arising in these talks.

11. Ministers took note with interest of a statement by the Chairman of Eurogroup, Minister Sogaard of Denmark, on the groups' discussion in Ministerial Session on 5 th December. They welcomed the announcement of European force improvements planned for the coming year; and reaffirmed the importance which they attach to the Eurogroups' efforts to ensure a stronger and more cohesive contribution to the alliance's defence effort through close co-operation on a wide range of practical issues.

12. Ministers discussed the progress being made in improving the interoperability of defence equipment, particularly in priority areas such as communications, airborne munitions and fuels. They welcomed the steps being taken towards a periodic armaments planning system within the alliance. In this regard they endorsed the decision of the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD) to set up a procedure for a NATO armaments planning review. They expressed their support for other efforts being made by the CNAD to improve standardization and / or interoperability through co-operative equipment programmes and exchanges of information. In this respect they agreed to the importance of the work being undertaken to remove obstacles to collaboration, in particular, in areas such as the granting of licenses and the establishment of co-production.

13. Ministers noted the Military Committee endorsement of a revised concept of operations for an interoperable NATO airborne early warning force comprising E-3 and Nimrod aircraft. They received a report on the progress made towards agreement on an acceptable means of sharing the programme costs of the E-3 element of the mixed force, and agreed to initiate the necessary research and development activities leading to a standardized E-3 aircraft for both the United States Air force and NATO. They commissioned Permanent Representatives to monitor progress, with the aim of identifying early in the year a final package proposal for review through national processes, with a view towards final approval by Ministers at the spring 1978 DPC Ministerial Meeting.

14. Ministers agreed to NATO's continuing need for a significant infrastructure programme. Specifically, they endorsed the planning and proposed schedule calling for ministerial approval of the next five year Programme in December 1978.

15. Finally, Ministers designated national forces committed to the alliance for 1978 and approved the NATO Force Plan for the period up to 1982. They reaffirmed their pledge to do their utmost to ensure that the necessary resources would be forthcoming to maintain and improve NATO's force capabilities and their determination to support and promote co-operative ventures within the alliance.