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Speech of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

To
The Second Committee
The Fourth Committee - 64th Session

On item:

Permanent sovereignty of the
Palestinian people in the
Occupied Palestinian territory,
Including East Jerusalem; &
The Arab Population in the
Occupied Syrian Golan,
Over their National Resources

By

Second Secretary / Mr. Tariq Alfayez

New York, October 27, 2009



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64th Session*

In the name of God the Beneficent, the Merciful

Mr. President,

In the beginning, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on item (40) entitled: “*Permanent Sovereignty of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab Population in the Occupied Syrian Golan Over Their Natural Resources*”; as well as expressing the Delegation of my Country’s support to the general statement made by the representative of Syria on behalf of the Arab Group. I would also like to thank the Under-Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Mr. Badr Al-Dafa, for presenting the ESCWA report under item (40).

Mr. President,

Our world is undergoing speedy political changes that have complicated linkages and influences. Thus, we are all called upon to establish genuine cooperation under the umbrella of the United Nations



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to create a healthy environment for building appropriate peaceful and balanced relations between States based on the respect of international legitimacy; and resolving disputes by employing peaceful means in order to ensure justice, sense of mutual trust and achieve genuine partnership. These goals require from us to confront the challenges of the future with a more honest will in commitment, a more objective approach, and more effective mechanisms of implementation that will benefit humanity as a whole.

A cursory look at the situation in the Middle East clearly shows us its sensitivity and gravity, where the continuation of the Israeli occupation transforms the whole region into multiple foci of violence and disorder as a result of the ongoing humanitarian suffering of the Palestinian people accompanied with despair due to arbitrary detention, the use of excessive force, the demolition of homes, the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes, and imposing severe curfews; in addition to the adoption of the closure policy in the occupied Palestinian territories, which led to restrict Palestinian access to health services, education, employment, markets and natural resources; as well as the economic blockade imposed by Israel and the additional restrictions on the exchange of goods and the traveling persons, beside increasing



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restrictions on humanitarian agencies' operations by imposing additional tax increases in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where the embargo has led to a severe shortage of basic necessities of life such as food, water, fuel, electricity, and health care. Moreover, this also led to the obstruction and halting the operations of humanitarian agencies attempting to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. This is in addition to the expansion of Israeli settlements and the establishment of new ones, land confiscation, the depletion of water resources and polluting the environment in the occupied Palestinian and Syrian Golan Heights, and endangering the health and welfare of the civilian population.

The only way to avoid these dangerous results begins with achieving the Arab - Israeli peace, and pressuring the Israeli side to comply with international resolutions as the Arab - Israeli conflicts are still overshadowing all other issues in the region for the past six decades. I believe that there is no other regional crisis similar to this one from the means of its impact on the rest of the region's issues and international peace and security, as neglecting finding a comprehensive and just solution to this conflict will exacerbate the increasing suffering of the Palestinian people; and impedes all efforts of development.



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modernization and reform in this region which should play a significant and essential civilized role rather than being distracted by conflicts that drain its energies and squander their resources.

Mr. President,

Arabs have affirmed their continued commitment to a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy, and we are still awaiting a serious Israeli commitment in return. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia assured absolute rejection of any partial or interim solutions. In this context, the Kingdom supports the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli parties to reach a final comprehensive solution. Therefore, the cessation of all settlement activities becomes an urgent necessity for the success of these negotiations. The continuing Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories renders the negotiations meaningless and makes it difficult for us to convince our peoples of the feasibility and possibility of achieving peace. Moreover, it is illogical to impose terms and conditions on the Palestinian people suffering under occupation, while making concessions to the Israeli occupation authorities in a reversed logic that does not inspire confidence in the seriousness, fairness and credibility of the current peace process.



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It is noted that all previous efforts that have focused on partial and limited steps did not give any indication that the desired solution could be achieved, or had implied unilateral measures that have only resulted in worsening the suffering of the Palestinian people. The overemphasis on procedural issues, ignoring the key issues that constitute the core of the conflict and the way to achieve a lasting solution, the lack of specific steps and clear time-bound binding both parties in a balanced and fair obligation, had made the previous approach adopted by the Quartet Committee to achieve the anticipated progress in the peace process weak and limited in results, especially in the light of lacking the presence of unaligned observers to undertake the task of monitoring and following-up on the Parties' commitment to their obligations; and to subject any abuses to appropriate penalties. It is obviously clear that there is an urgent need for a new approach in order to avoid the previous obstacles and difficulties.

In this context, the Arab Peace Initiative represents a unique and historic opportunity to seriously resume the peace process and to ensure achieving the desired success; as it allows all concerned parties to negotiate on a clear and compatible basis in accordance with the



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resolutions of international legitimacy. All Arab countries without any exception pledged to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and accede to a permanent peace agreement that will achieve security, recognition and normal relations among all countries in the region on the basis of the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories and the occupied Syrian Golan since 1967. Moreover, and for the first time, the Arabs also committed to a mutually agreed solution on the problem of refugees.

Unfortunately, all initiatives, solutions and international efforts in this field are still crashing against a wall of rejection, disruption, manipulation, and procrastination on the part of Israel who continues to exercise unilateral measures that contradict international law and Security Council resolutions. Instead of seeking a sincere path to peace, Israel continues to exercise daily humiliation against the Palestinian people, building walls and settlements and bypass roads, all of which are contradictory to the international legitimacy, in order to create new facts on the ground.



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Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands side by side with its Arab brothers, and the window of opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive peace exists now if each party bears its responsibilities. In this regard, the Arabs affirmed their commitment to peace, now it is the major international powers' obligation to fulfill their duties towards this conflict. The least expected from Israel is to alleviate the daily suffering and inhumane treatments inflicted on Palestinians, and halt all settlement operations which aim to unilaterally create new facts on the ground in clear and flagrant violation of the International Law principles and total disregard to dozens of resolutions adopted by the United Nations. These aggressive practices make it difficult for any Palestinian Government to function effectively, or to persuade Palestinians of the feasibility and the possibility of achieving peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.