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ALBANIA REPORT

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AT SPECIAL SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS

ALBANIA EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

The Seventh Emergency Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly was held from July 22 to July 29, 1980, to discuss the Palestine Question.

On July 25, Ambassador Abdi Baleta, Permanent Representative to the U.N. from the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, took the floor to express Albania's position on the matter.

Again Amb. Baleta stated in strong terms the full support of the Albanian people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their homeland and their full rights, as well as support to the Afghan peoples struggling for their freedom from Soviet occupation. He also supported fully the Iranian Revolution, and warned of the dangers posed by the super-powers to the whole region.

Amb. Baleta stressed that the solution of the Palestine Question cannot be separated from the further progress of the Iranian Revolution and the struggle of the Afghan people to regain control of their country.

Following is the full text of the speech, which was delivered in French. The present English translation was provided by the official translation service of the U.N., and may contain some slight errors.

The Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, in the spirit of its well-known policy of principled solidarity with peoples struggling for their freedom and national independence, welcomes and fully supports the initiative taken on 1 July by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to request the convening of an emergency special session of the General Assembly to examine the question of Palestine.

That question is, of course, neither new nor unfamiliar to the United Nations. However, its examination at this time as a matter of urgency is of great importance because the problem is one of the most crucial issues in the world today and has for decades aroused the most serious concern of the people of Palestine, the Arab peoples and all peoples that love peace, freedom and justice. Those peoples have consistently demanded that the Palestinian people, so sorely tried, brutally driven and uprooted from their homeland, should have its national rights restored to it and that the question of Palestine be resolved in accordance with the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people and with the interests of peace and stability in the Middle East and in the world.

But it is becoming ever more clear that the Israeli Zionists, merciless executioners of the Palestinian people and bloody tool of American imperialism, have not the slightest intention of giving up their policy of war, aggression and annexation in the Middle East. They continue, with unequalled cynicism and arrogance, to turn a deaf ear to the voices of protest, justice and reason which are raised throughout the world against their aggressive policy.

In these circumstances and in view of the unsettled situation and the many dangers that the imperialist super-Powers have again quite recently created in the Middle East, support for and solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian people takes on a very special significance. The convening of this emergency special session is thus an important, just and timely event. It accords with the legitimate concerns of the Palestinian people, the Arab peoples and other peoples that love peace and freedom. The people of Palestine have every right to expect continued efforts on the part of democratic and progressive countries to support it in its struggle for noble objectives, aimed at putting an end to an intolerable and all too long-existing situation.

RIGHT TO FREEDOM & INDEPENDENCE

Like every other people and nation on earth, the Palestinian people have the right to live in freedom and independence, to the return of their land and homes taken from them by force of arms, to determine their future and settle their affairs in their country, in full sovereignty, according to their own wishes and free will. A just and prompt solution of the question of Palestine is an urgent necessity because it is also the essential and indispensable precondition for the settlement of the problem of the Middle East; it would thus make a major contribution towards the elimination of a hotbed of permanent conflict and a constant threat to global peace and security.

After many years of heroic struggle and enormous sacrifices in particularly difficult and complicated conditions, the people of Palestine find themselves once again compelled to continue their struggle, to spill their blood and to yield new martyrs to survive as a nation, in order to preserve their national identity and to regain their sovereignty and territorial integrity. That is so because they are still exposed to armed attacks and atrocities com-