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Item 6(c) of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE COMMISSION

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECWA RESOLUTION 27 (III) ON
THE GENERAL STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION AND POTENTIAL
OF THE PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLE

Note by the Executive Secretary

82-0037

Resolution 88 (VIII): The economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people

1. Pursuant to operative paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 88 (VIII), the Executive Secretary has taken the necessary steps towards the completion of the study on the economic and social situation and potential of the Palestinian Arab people. On 14 April 1981, the secretariat signed a contract with "Team International", an engineering and management consultancy firm in Beirut, Lebanon, which undertook to complete the study in six stages covering a period of 16 months. Hence, it is expected that the study will be completed in August 1982. TEAM submitted a detailed work programme in which the modalities of the study are outlined. So far, TEAM International has submitted three progress reports on the study which cover the first three stages, the submission of a fourth one is expected in April 1982. The contents of these reports have been commented upon by ECWA.
2. In the first report, the work plan is described. In the work plan which presents the organizational structure of TEAM's activities for the study, a conceptual framework was developed and its elements (group work, review work, survey work and field work) were defined. For the purpose of bringing the field work (preparation of country profiles) closer to research and review work, various research centres, including Palestinian research institutes, in ECWA countries were contacted.
3. The second report focuses on an analysis of the demographic characteristics of Palestinians in Lebanon, Syria and the Occupied Territories. Also, it sets the stage for the study of the economy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on the eve of the 1967 war, and appropriate methodologies are developed for this purpose. In this report account is taken of the Palestinian institutions providing various forms of social services to the Palestinian community in Lebanon.

4. At the time of the preparation of this report a third progress report was submitted by TEAM which was reviewed by the secretariat and a meeting was held for further consultation. In the third progress report it is indicated that despite some setbacks in the progress towards the completion of the study, mainly because of logistical and security constraints, TEAM had made a particular attempt to be on schedule. The working group supervising the project was reinforced, and progress was made in the survey group carrying out research on the prevailing socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian communities in Kuwait, Lebanon, the Occupied Territories, Syria, as well as "other" Palestinian communities in the ECWA region. The various subgroups of this survey group have already completed their papers, each one dealing with a particular aspect of the study such as education, health, business enterprises, women and youth conditions. Also, preparatory work on the details of the field work was completed and two alternative interview forms were designed for pre-testing of the random samples of Palestinian households and heads of these samples. For this purpose negotiations had begun with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Work was also in progress on the bibliography of Palestine, Palestinians and the Palestinian socio-economic problems.