



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations



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Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations and
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement
on the Occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Adoption of
General Assembly Resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975
at the 289th Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
New York, Thursday, 10 November 2005

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour and privilege to address this meeting in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. It was thirty years ago that the General Assembly through its Resolution 3376 (XXX) took an historic decision to establish the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. Indeed, the Committee has made significant contributions over the past thirty years pursuant to its mandate and terms of reference as encapsulated in operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same Resolution. These contributions have been well documented in the annual reports and other documents of the Committee since 1976. My delegation feels deeply honoured and privileged for the opportunity to serve the Committee as one of its Members since its establishment in 1975.

3. The establishment of the Committee was a testimony to the culmination of efforts in the past to remedy a situation that has inflicted considerable injustice on the Palestinian people. But more importantly, its establishment is, in the view of my delegation, a step in the right direction for it helps to focus public attention on the fact that the solution of the question of Palestine rests with the complete restoration and exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The restoration and exercise of these rights could be facilitated through the complete withdrawal by Israel from all occupied Arab territories and allowing Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes and their property. My delegation reiterates its call on Israel to extend to the Palestinians the opportunity to exercise their inalienable rights without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

4. My delegation would like to recall that in its first report (A/31/35) of June 1976 the Committee had, inter alia, affirmed that the question of Palestine was at the heart of the Middle East problem and that no solution could be envisaged without fully taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. The Committee had urged the Security Council to promote action for a just solution, taking into account all the powers conferred on it by the Charter of the United Nations. The recommendations of the Committee then included a two-phase plan for the return of Palestinians to their homes and property; a timetable for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories by 1 June 1977, with the provision, if necessary, of temporary peacekeeping forces to facilitate the process; an end to the establishment of settlements; recognition by Israel of the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories pending withdrawal; and endorsement of the inherent right of Palestinians to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty in Palestine. The Committee had further expressed the view that the United Nations had the historical duty and responsibility to render all assistance necessary to promote the economic development and prosperity of the future Palestinian entity. Today, some of these observations and recommendations remain valid, relevant and applicable as they were almost thirty years ago.

5. Finally, allow me to seize this opportunity to express appreciation to you, Sir, and your distinguished predecessors -- the Chairmen of the Committee -- for the leadership role, commitment and contributions to the important work of the Committee. My delegation remains confident that the Committee will continue to benefit from your wisdom and diplomatic skills and experience. I would also like to express appreciation to all staff members of the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat for their dedication and contribution in the cause of the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Committee would certainly not be able to carry out its mandate without the support of the Division. My delegation would like to urge all staff members of the Division to remain steadfast in their important work.

Mr. Chairman,

6. Let me conclude by reaffirming that the Non-Aligned Movement remains steadfast in its support for the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to return to their homes and property and to achieve self-determination, national independence and sovereignty. The Movement reaffirms its support to the indispensable work of the Committee. The Movement certainly looks forward to join our Palestinian brothers and sisters, hopefully in the near future, in celebrating the day when their inalienable rights are fully exercised in their own homeland -- the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.