

3. Rights of the Palestinian people

31. Public information activities of the Department in connection with the question of Palestine have focused increasingly on the situation in the occupied territories, in addition to information on efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.
32. Full coverage was provided by the Department on meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and other intergovernmental bodies as they dealt with the question of Palestine, and of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population in the Occupied Territories and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, including the solemn meeting held at Headquarters by that Committee to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
33. The Department continued to distribute a brochure on the Special Committee and the booklet entitled The United Nations and the Question of Palestine. Both are available in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish and have been given wide circulation through all available channels. Updated and revised versions of these publications are due by the end of 1989. Two new booklets were issued: the first one, entitled For the Rights of the Palestinians: Work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was produced and disseminated world-wide in early 1989; the second booklet, Human Rights for the Palestinians: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, was issued later this year. Both booklets are also available in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish.
34. All aspects of the question of Palestine, including Palestinian refugees, Palestinian rights, the intifadah, the situation in the occupied territories, and the meetings of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, were covered extensively in news, current affairs magazines and other radio programmes of the Department of Public Information. A total of 138 video news packages on the various aspects of the question of Palestine were disseminated world-wide through international syndicators. Three editions of the weekly video programme UN in Action were devoted to various aspects of the question, namely "Palestinian Women", "UNRWA rebuilds camps in Lebanon" and the "UN expands humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip".
35. An information officer from the Department of Public Information travelled with the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories during its fact-finding news mission to Tunis, Damascus, Amman and Cairo in May 1989 and reported on testimony taken from inhabitants of the occupied territories. A team of 13 high-level journalists participated in the news mission organized by the Department.
36. As in previous years, regional encounters for journalists were held - one in Singapore from 30 January to 1 February 1989, for 20 journalists; and another at Kingston, Jamaica from 26 to 28 July, for 18 journalists from the Americas. Three series of national encounters, in which small panels of experts held in-depth press