

Havana, 28 November 2006

(Unofficial Translation)

Excellency,

I have the honor to address the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on this memorable date, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Cuban people.

In the recently concluded 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Havana, the attending Heads of State or Government reviewed the grave situation in the Palestinian occupied territory, including East Jerusalem, and deeply regretted that the Palestinian people continues to suffer the prolonged and brutal Israeli military occupation of its land since 1967, and that it is continuously denied its inalienable rights, among which are the right to self-determination, the return of the Palestinian refugees to their lands and the full enjoyment of its sovereign and independent State.

Almost 60 years have passed since the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of its resolution 181(II), which decided the participation of Palestine and the creation of two independent States, which should coexist in peace and harmony. However, the just aspiration of the Palestinian people to create its own State is yet to be materialized.

The 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted an important "Declaration on Palestine", wherein the member countries expressed their serious concern at the tragic deterioration of the situation in the political, economic, social and humanitarian spheres prevailing in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. Likewise, they firmly condemned Israel's occupation of the Palestinian lands and the non-stop Israeli aggression, which has brought about, *inter alia*, the continued killing and injury of Palestinian civilians on account of the excessive and indiscriminate use of force, selective attacks and extrajudicial executions, the vast destruction of property, infrastructure and agricultural land, and the detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians.

**His Excellency Mr. Paul Badji
Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People
United Nations. New York**

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to disregard International Law and to fail to fulfill systematically and with impunity more than a hundred resolutions of different United Nations bodies, including more than 60 that were adopted by the Security Council.

In the abovementioned Declaration of the 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Heads of State or Government reiterated their condemnation of Israel for the intensification of the crisis and the isolation in the Gaza Strip after the implementation of their unilateral separation plan. They further condemned Israel's persistence in building up the Wall through the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which ignores the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, of 9 July 2004, and resolution ES-10/15 of the General Assembly, of 20 July 2004.

Allow me to renew to you, Excellency, the Non-Aligned Movement's steadfast commitment to continue to support the Palestinian people and its leadership to bring the Israeli occupation to a halt, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and to urgently provide economic and financial assistance to the Palestinian people in order to alleviate the current economic, financial and humanitarian crisis that it is enduring, for which the international community's support is essential.

I also reaffirm to you Cuba's hope to achieving a global, just and lasting peace for all peoples of the Middle East, without exclusion, that grants the Palestinian people its right to exercise self-determination and sovereignty in its independent State, on the basis of the borders previous to 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital. In their pursuance of peace, the Arab peoples will always be able to count on the Cuban people's full support.

Receive, Excellency, the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration, and I reiterate to you the committed support of our people and government in the discharge of your important responsibilities at the head of the Committee.

(signed)
Felipe Pérez Roque