

Their Excellencies, the Consul-Generals
Jerusalem
Palestine

Your Excellencies,

We take this opportunity of the departure of one of our long-standing friends, His Excellency the Consul-General of Greece, to transmit to you our feelings and concerns during this, the 17th month of our people's heroic uprising.

The massacre at Nahalin, as well as the growing use by settlers of a special militia to intimidate the indigenous people of the land, are both warning signals of an impending deterioration in the situation, and a prelude to what we feel will be a new phase of Israeli repression against our people. Under these circumstances, and given the horrifying practices that continue to be undertaken against our people by the army, the border-guards and the settlers, we repeat the appeal made to you in the early months of the **intifada** for placing the occupied territories of our Palestinian State under international supervision. There is great urgency, now more than at any time before, for the international community to force itself into the situation in such a way as to guarantee security for the lives and properties of our unarmed and defenceless population. Failing such a decisive intervention, the world will be a guilty witness to a tragedy of hitherto unknown proportions.

We especially take this opportunity to request from our European friends to continue to push for the convening of an international conference with PLO participation as the surest means of achieving peace and stability in the region. In this context, we are certain that our friends are well aware of the PR nature of Shamir's proposals for elections in the West Bank and Gaza. Shamir's concern is obviously not to achieve an equitable settlement, but to divert world public attention from the excesses of the Israeli army and from the real nature of the conflict, as a struggle of a nation to achieve freedom and independence. The proposed elections will affect only one third of the Palestinian people, and they are conceived as a means to address the individual rights of that one third under overall Israeli hegemony and sovereignty. An equitable settlement has to address the Palestinian issue in its entirety, and the Palestinian people as one entity. The key to this approach is the PLO, in which the people and their political aspirations are united, and the most direct route to it is the international conference. Israel is required to rise up to the Palestinian challenge, not to try to dodge it.

Your Excellencies,

We hope that by this time next year your Governments will have recognised the Palestinian State we declared through the PNC last November 15th. In the meantime, we urge you to convey to your peoples and Governements that we in the occupied territories view the PLO as our sole legitimate representative, and that we view the international peace conference as the most direct route for any party that honestly seeks peace.

With Our Respects and Good Wishes,

The National Palestinian Institutions

Jerusalem 19th April '89

