

Israel-Palestine conflict

SELECTIVE OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE MARCH 1974

- o **March 1974:** Information visit to Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. Meetings with Palestinian diaspora / visit of refugee camps / in Cairo: meeting with **Yussef el-Sebai**, General of the Egyptian Army, Minister of Culture, later assassinated because of his support of Anwar Sadat's peace initiative with Israel / in Abu Dhabi: meeting with **Saif Ghobash**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the UAE, later assassinated by a Palestinian terror group. (Global Dialogue Expedition 1974: <http://i-p-o.org/GDEX74.htm>)
- o **Since 1974:** Establishing contact with historical leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization, including PLO Chairman **Yasser Arafat** and **Faruk Kaddoumi**, head of the Political Department of the PLO (Foreign Relations), and, at a later stage, with functionaries of the Gaza- and subsequently Ramallah-based Palestinian Administration such as **Dr. Hanan Ashrawi**, Minister of Higher Education in the Palestinian National Authority, and with leading figures of the Israeli peace movement at the time, such as **Felicia Langer**, **Lea Tsemel**, **Prof. Israel Shahak**, and **Joseph Algazy-Galili**, Secretary of the Israel League for Human and Civil Rights.
- o **September 1977:** Participation in a closed meeting with Prime Minister (1974-1977, 1992-1995) **Yitzhak Rabin** of Israel on the sidelines of the European Forum Alpbach (of which Köchler was a member of the Executive Board). Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing terrorist who opposed the peace accords with the PLO.
- o **January 1978:** Organization of first public lecture in Austria of an official representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) (**Dr. Ghazi Husain**, speech on "The Political Development of the Palestine Question," University of Innsbruck, 18 January 1978).
- o **February 1980:** Meeting with Chairman **Yasser Arafat** in Beirut (<https://i-p-o.org/arafat-beirut.htm>).
- o **November 1980:** Organizer of the first international expert conference on the legal aspects of the Palestine and Jerusalem problem, in Vienna, Austria, with the participation of leading scholars such as **Prof. Antonio Cassese** (later to become the first President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia), **Colonel G.I.A. D. Draper** (U.K.), one of the leading pioneers of international humanitarian law, **Prof. Henry Cattan** from Jerusalem, leading Arab expert on Jerusalem, and **Ramsey Clark**, United States Asst. Attorney-General under President John F. Kennedy and Attorney-General under President Johnson. In the course of the preparations, contact was established with Chancellor (Prime Minister) **Bruno Kreisky** of Austria and **Crown Prince Hassan** of Jordan. The Chancellor of Austria gave a reception for the delegates at the Government Palace in Vienna. – Communiqué: <https://i-p-o.org/CONFPAL.HTM>. – Photo: <https://i-p-o.org/kreisky.htm>; <https://i-p-o.org/conference-palestine-reception.htm>.
- o **December 1983:** Organizer of a documentary exhibition on Sabra and Shatila in Vienna. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Austrian Minister of State, **Ms. Johanna Dohnal**. The French poet **Jean Genet** presented his eyewitness report and read from his text "Quatre heures à Chatila." The exhibition was organized in co-operation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). (<http://hanskoechler.com/genet.htm>)
- o **May 1984:** Organizer of the International Conference on Israel as Occupying Power in Vienna, Austria. – Final resolution: <https://www.i-p-o.org/iop.htm>.
- o **1988:** Initiator of the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights (List of founding members: <https://i-p-o.org/icphr-members.htm>).
- o **February 1988:** Organization of delegation of inquiry (on behalf of the International Progress Organization's Committee for Palestinian Human Rights) to the occupied Palestinian territories – Report: <https://i-p-o.org/palestine-report1.htm>.

- o **June 1989:** Organization of second delegation of inquiry to the occupied Palestinian territories, with special focus on the situation of children and juveniles. – Report: <https://i-p-o.org/palestine-report2.htm>.
- o **February 1992:** Honorary Medal of the **International Peace Bureau** (Geneva) in recognition, *inter alia*, of peace efforts in Palestine (<https://www.i-p-o.org/ipb-Clark.htm>).
- o **December 1997:** Visit to Gaza for a conference in Gaza City (13 December 1997) on “Human Rights and the Final Status Issues” organized by the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. – News release: <https://i-p-o.org/pal-sd.htm>.
- o **November 2024:** Latest speech at United Nations in Vienna, Austria, 29 November 2024 (<https://i-p-o.org/United-Nations-Palestine-Speech-IPO-29November2024.pdf>).
- o **1980 – 2025:** Cooperation with the **Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People** of the United Nations General Assembly. – Speech at United Nations headquarters in New York, 28 November 1980: <https://i-p-o.org/UN-Palestine-IPO-28Nov80.htm>. Subsequent annual speeches on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, organized by the United Nations: <https://i-p-o.org/ICPHR.htm>. – E.g., speech at United Nations Vienna, 29 November 2017: https://i-p-o.org/IPO-nr-Palestine_Day-29Nov2017.htm.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND SPEECHES

- o (Ed.) *The Legal Aspects of the Palestinian Problem with Special Regard to the Question of Jerusalem*. Vienna: Braumüller, 1981.
(https://books.google.at/books/about/The_Legal_Aspects_of_the_Palestine_Probl.html?id=tHwWAQAIAAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- o (Ed., with Wolfgang Fetz) *Sabra und Schatila: Die israelische Invasion und das Schicksal des palästinensischen Volkes – Dokumentarische Ausstellung der International Progress Organization*. Vienna: International Progress Organization, 1983.
- o *Zur Lage der Menschenrechte in Palästina*. Vienna: International Progress Organization, 1988.
- o (Ed.) *The Human Rights Situation in Palestine: Reports by the Delegations of Inquiry on Behalf of the International Committee for Palestinian Human Rights*. Vienna: International Progress Organization, 1989. [See links to texts of the reports in the section above]
- o *The Palestine Problem in the Framework of International Law: Sovereignty as the Crucial Issue of a Peaceful Settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict* [Lecture in Madrid, Spain, 30 September 2000] (<https://www.i-p-o.org/palestine-sovereignty.htm>).
- o *The Evolution of the Palestine Problem and the Status of Jerusalem: Force of Law or Law of Force?* [Lecture at the International Conference on Jerusalem, Doha, Qatar, 27 February 2012] (https://i-p-o.org/Koechler-Status_of_Jerusalem-IPO-Online_Papers-2012.pdf).
- o *The State of Palestine and the International Rule of Law* [Speech delivered at the Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, United Nations Office at Vienna, 29 November 2012] (https://i-p-o.org/Koechler-Palestine-United_Nations-Vienna-29Nov2012.htm).
- o *Palestine, the Rule of Law and Global Power Politics*. Speech delivered at the Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, United Nations Office at Vienna, 24 November 2015 (https://i-p-o.org/Koechler-Palestine-Rule_of_Law-Power_Politics-UN_Vienna-24Nov2015.htm).
- o *Self-determination vs. Realpolitik: Palestine and the Elusive Peace in the Middle East*. Summary of lecture at the University of Jordan, Amman, 9 November 2018 (<https://i-p-o.org/Koechler-Palestine-Self-determination-Amman-09May2018-OUTLINE.pdf>).