

World Council of Churches

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To members of the WCC Central Committee

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Commission on the Churches' Participation in International Affairs

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Geneva, 19 July 2007

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

June 2007, the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was an historic month for peace in the Middle East. At the end of the month, following the launch of the Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum in Amman, Jordan, I led a four-person delegation to Jerusalem. We met with the heads of local churches, government officials, civil society organizations and local parish and community members. Among the churches, we found much encouragement at the conference in Amman, with many looking in hope to the WCC fellowship to play a stronger role in supporting local struggles for a just peace.

This special report is sent to you for information. In this period to the next assembly the Middle East focus will continue to play an important role in the work and ministry of our fellowship of churches. I would ask you to continue in prayer for our sisters and brothers in the Middle East.

With all good wishes,

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia

General Secretary