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Chairman: Mrs. de REYES (Colombia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/34/3 and Add.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, Add.5, Add.12, Add.16-26, Add.28, Add.34, Add.35, Add.39, A/34/289, 345, 357, 359 and Add.1, 385, 389 and Corr.1, 499, 535 and Add.1, 542, 583 and Add.1, 658 and Add.1, 697; A/C.3/34/5, 10, 11 and Add.1, 12, 13; A/C.3/34/L.34/Rev.1, L.40, L.55, L.56/Rev.1, L.58-64, L.70-72)

1. Mr. ANTONIO (Mozambique) said that full enjoyment of the fundamental freedoms of peoples was a prerequisite for social progress and peace. Human rights were constantly being flouted in Chile, and since 1975 the international community had been obliged to deal with the plight of families bereaved by the military junta. Documents recently submitted to the Committee and the report of the Special Rapporteur showed that the Chilean authorities had refined their methods of repression in order to deceive the world but that the repression was continuing, as was evidenced by the suspension of the newspaper Hoy, the attack on trade union freedoms and the arrests of members of the opposition.

2. With regard to missing persons, he recalled that the reports of the preceding year had recorded 600 disappearances. The appointment of special investigating judges (ministros en visita) was a measure of limited scope affecting only very few cases.

3. Mozambique fully supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. The General Assembly should condemn the criminal acts committed by the Chilean authorities and establish effective co-operation with democratic forces in Chile for the protection of human rights. The decision taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-third session to establish a voluntary fund was the major achievement in favour of the victims of the military junta, but it would be necessary to ensure that they were really the beneficiaries. The Commission on Human Rights would have to take into account the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur.

4. On the question of assistance to student refugees from Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa, Mozambique wished to reaffirm its full support for draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.58, which had been adopted by the Committee.

5. Mrs. SANTOS (Cape Verde) said that the question of migrant workers was of very great concern to Cape Verde, which geographical and historical circumstances had turned into a nation of emigrants. According to some estimates, the number of persons who had emigrated was twice the population of the archipelago. From the 1950s onwards the migratory outflow, which in the nineteenth century had been to the American continent, had shifted to Europe and also to Africa, according to the vagaries of colonial strategy. In a group of islands with limited economic resources and doomed to isolation by colonialism, emigration had often been encouraged by the colonial authorities as a way of dealing with unemployment, and as a last resort when successive droughts threatened the survival of the population.

(Mrs. Santos, Cape Verde)

6. Emigrants from Cape Verde, poorly adjusted to the demands of a new tempo of life which conflicted with their cultural values and lacking protection and adequate information, became docile instruments to be discarded once they had been used. Even if their work was essential for the development of the host countries, the treatment accorded to emigrants was in most cases blatantly discriminatory, whether in terms of acceptance, employment, social welfare or trade union rights. The reasons for that special treatment were often racial and xenophobic, unworthy of the objectives which Member States had set themselves and contrary to the ideals embodied in the Charter. How inhuman and depersonalizing the everyday life of the emigrant was could be seen from the high percentage of patients receiving psychiatric treatment. For the emigrant, human rights were very often simply a matter of declarations of principle.

7. Many emigrants, realizing how they had been exploited and discriminated against, had joined the national liberation struggle. Upon attaining sovereignty four years previously, the Republic of Cape Verde had included among its priorities the protection and defence of the interests of emigrants. It had concluded emigration agreements with some countries and was at present negotiating further agreements on social security for emigrants. In July 1978, at the first meeting of Cape Verdean communities abroad, the emigration problem had been discussed in depth and recommendations essential for the formulation of a comprehensive emigration policy had been adopted.

8. The situation of Cape Verdean workers in Europe was a matter of concern. Because of the economic crisis, some countries were adopting restrictive measures in contravention of international conventions on migrant workers. In addition, propaganda blaming migrant workers for unemployment was creating unacceptable hostility towards them.

9. Her delegation supported all the provisions of ILO Convention No. 143 concerning migrant workers.

10. Mr. TUBMAN (Liberia) said that he wished to express his delegation's special interest in the report of the United Nations Seminar on the Establishment of Commissions on Human Rights with Special Reference to Africa, held at Monrovia from 10 to 21 September 1979. The Seminar was the first to have recommended concrete proposals for a human rights commission for Africa. The Monrovia Proposal, as the proposal adopted by the Seminar was known, provided a framework for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The commission which it was proposed should be set up would conduct studies and research on African issues in the field of human rights, examine alleged violations, make reports and propose for consideration legislation related to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11. Liberia's commitment to the cause of human rights was rooted in its history; for Liberia had been founded as a country where all citizens, including those whose ancestors or who themselves had been subjected to slavery, could enjoy their fundamental rights. Ensuring that human rights were enjoyed by all people as an inalienable right was thus the *raison d'être* of Liberia.

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(Mr. Tubman, Liberia)

12. The history of Africa justified the holding of many human rights seminars. Subjected first to a shameless system of exploitation of its human resources in the infamous slave trade, Africa had been robbed of its natural resources by colonialism, a process in which the peoples of Africa had lost their right to sovereignty and self-determination. Today, one of the lingering evils of colonialism was the barbarous and inhuman system of apartheid practised in southern Africa. A large portion of the history of Africa was a struggle for human rights, the right to self-determination and human dignity. With the exception of pockets of racism in southern Africa, the struggle for the liberation of Africa from colonialism had been largely won. However, it was a sad commentary that the achievement of freedom and independence had too often been followed in many parts of the continent by systems of indigenous rule ten times more harsh than those inflicted upon Africans by colonialism. That situation made a mockery of the principles advocated in the United Nations and weakened the basis of the lofty pronouncements in favour of justice and liberty which were made there.

13. In those circumstances, the Organization of African Unity, at its 16th Summit, had resolved to draw up an African Charter on Human Rights. That resolve was both a realization and a determination - a realization in the sense that violations of human rights could no longer be accepted as proper conduct even of sovereign States, and a determination in the sense of fostering acceptance of the view that development and human rights were mutually related processes, which confirmed the concept of man as the centre and object of development as the only meaningful purpose of mankind's efforts for peace, security, co-operation and prosperity. Liberia fervently hoped that the Monrovia Proposal would receive the full support of Africa and of the international community. President Tolbert, for his part, had said that it would be given the closest attention, with a view to the establishment of a Human Rights Commission for Africa consisting of Africans.

14. Mr. PARDO PARRA (Colombia), referring to the question of migrant workers, said that the diversity of political systems explained the slowness of the progress made in the field of human rights at the international level. At the same time, man's greater mobility had increased the scope of his rights and raised new problems which went beyond the traditional concept of sovereignty. Measures intended to improve the situation and ensure respect for human rights and the dignity of all migrant workers should therefore be based on the fundamental principles in article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provided that everyone was entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind.

15. The temporary importation of manpower into the developed countries was a systematic phenomenon of long standing, attributable both to unemployment and to the fact that the immigrants represented a cheap supply of labour. In addition to those causes, which were based on imbalances in development, there were political and monetary considerations. The phenomenon of worker migrations, which had taken on disturbing proportions, required co-ordinated action by the various agencies of the United Nations with a view to the adoption of a minimum normative statute that would guarantee such workers the rights proclaimed since 1948 and specified in the International Covenants on Human Rights. At the initiative of the General Assembly

(Mr. Pardo Parra, Colombia)

and the Security Council, the organizations of the United Nations system had been concerning themselves with various aspects of the problem, particularly since 1970. The most important achievements undoubtedly were ILO Convention 143 (Supplementary Provisions), 1975, which unfortunately had been ratified only by five States, and ILO Recommendation 151. The principle of equal treatment and protection without discrimination, which must be guaranteed by the legislation and authorities of the host country, should be the subject of a convention prepared under the auspices of the United Nations in order to make it obligatory. Convention 143 and Recommendation 151 of ILO could serve as the basis for that convention. Colombia favoured that general solution, which would put an end to many injustices, and it had therefore voted for draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.55.

16. However, there were also local phenomena caused by particular geographical situations, which should be the subject of bilateral agreements and regulations. Only the complementary action of the two systems - a global statute and bilateral or regional conventions - under the auspices of the international community could bring solutions consistent with the principles of the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenants which developed it. He cited as an example decision 116 of the Andean Group, relating to migrant workers, which the five States of the subregion - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela - had undertaken to incorporate into their legislation within the 12 months following its adoption. That decision granted migrant workers rights in the labour field equal to those of the host country's workers; furthermore, it regulated the situation of seasonal migrant workers and workers with irregular employment. Colombia had established an administrative infrastructure to deal with the problems of migrant workers, in particular a Migrant Workers Office in the National Employment Service. Decision 116 could be usefully consulted when a draft convention on the rights of migrant workers was prepared.

17. In its resolution 1979/13, the Economic and Social Council, reaffirming the principle that the relationship between workers and employers was in itself a source of rights and obligations, had requested the Secretary-General to invite ILO, UNESCO, WHO and other interested United Nations bodies to continue their co-operation towards the preparation by the General Assembly of an international convention on protection of the rights of all migrant workers. The time had come to take that decisive step to ensure full implementation of article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

18. Ms. MELČICKÁ (Czechoslovakia) observed that the policy of mass repression of the Chilean population practised by the Pinochet régime had already lasted several years, in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. The responsibility for that fact rested in large measure with the reactionary and imperialist circles which had contributed to the overthrow of the legitimate Government of Salvador Allende.

19. Document A/34/583 and Add.1 showed that the human rights situation in Chile had deteriorated since the preceding year and that the Chilean Government obviously had no intention of changing its policy. The decision it had taken not to hold

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(Ms. Melčická, Czechoslovakia)

elections for 10 years constituted a manifest violation of the rights of the Chilean people. Moreover, a constitutional text introducing fundamental changes in Chilean institutions was in preparation and would be submitted to a plebiscite. That text had been prepared by persons who fully shared the views of the junta. The Special Rapporteur pointed out that persecutions by reason of political or trade-union activities had increased and that the National Information Agency (CNI) had assumed abusive powers, making illegal arrests and conducting interrogations in secret places other than those provided for in the legislation in force. In those circumstances, it was not surprising that the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment tended to increase and that a large part of the population had been totally deprived of its social, economic and cultural rights. The disappearance of Chilean patriots also gave cause for profound concern. Since 11 September 1973, 1,000 to 2,000 persons were reported to have disappeared as a result of the activities of the Chilean authorities; only in a few cases had it been possible to ascertain where the missing persons were or what had happened to them. In many cases, the bodies of missing persons had been discovered in other regions of the country. Those facts, among others, showed that despite the Chilean Government's efforts at deception, the régime remained profoundly repressive and reactionary.

20. The Czechoslovak people had always shown its solidarity with the Chilean people against the Fascist junta and appreciated the efforts of the competent United Nations bodies to follow developments in the field of human rights in Chile. It was essential to exert further pressure on the Chilean Government to restore those rights. In that regard, her delegation fully supported the recommendations on pages 179-185 of the Special Rapporteur's report.

21. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) thanked Mr. Dièye, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, and Mr. Ermacora, the Expert on the Question of the Fate of Missing and Disappeared Persons in Chile, for their reports, which convincingly showed that the human-rights situation in Chile had deteriorated, particularly in the field of legislation. In that connexion, he drew attention inter alia to decree-law No. 2347, which severely restricted the right of association, and decree-law No. 2621, on illegal associations, promulgated in October 1978 and April 1979 respectively. The security services had assumed new powers and prerogatives with the tacit consent of judges and courts. That situation had brought a resurgence of cases of arrest and ill-treatment of Chilean democrats who had the courage to oppose Pinochet and his junta and of persecutions for political or trade-union activity.

22. Another matter of great concern was the fate of the Mapuche Indians, whose very existence was threatened by the new legislation which forced their integration into the socio-economic system.

23. With regard to the missing persons, his delegation deplored the refusal of the Chilean authorities to co-operate with Mr. Ermacora. Those authorities should without further delay throw light on the fate of those who had disappeared and should in no way hinder the judicial investigation which had been initiated following the recent discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves in the main cemetery of Santiago. The General Assembly should continue to exercise vigilance with

(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

regard to the situation of human rights in Chile, as the Special Rapporteur recommended in his report.

24. His delegation welcomed the position adopted by the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the right to development as a human right, and it hoped that that concept would be further developed; it therefore supported the proposal for a study of the regional and national dimensions of that right.

25. With regard to the regional arrangements to be taken to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights, his delegation wished to reaffirm that the United Nations could hardly propose any uniform recommendation in that area since the situation regarding human rights differed from one region to another and even within some regions. It should therefore be left to States to decide what regional arrangements should be made; for that reason, there was no urgent need to organize the seminars proposed in paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.40.

26. Turning to the question of narcotic drugs, he observed that, despite the efforts made by the competent United Nations organs, including the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, to combat illicit production, demand and trafficking, the situation in that area was still unsatisfactory. The problem was due mainly to the fact that the production of both psychotropic substances and raw materials used in the manufacture of narcotic drugs was increasing more rapidly than consumption, a trend which particularly affected the developing countries which were the traditional suppliers of narcotic drugs. In that connexion, his delegation fully supported resolution 1979/8 in which the Economic and Social Council called upon importing countries to support the traditional supply countries and give all possible practical assistance in preventing the proliferation of producing and manufacturing sources for export. In that area, multilateral assistance was urgently required.

27. Finally, he drew attention to the fact that the good offices used by the Secretary-General to discover the fate of missing persons in Cyprus had met with no success. He hoped that, with the help of the Secretary-General, the parties concerned would be able to find a solution to that important humanitarian problem in the near future.

28. Mr. BLUM (Israel) noted with regret that one of the worst violators of human rights in the world today was also one of the most powerful countries in the United Nations. For years, his delegation had drawn the attention of the Third Committee to the Soviet Union's ongoing violations of the human rights of its Jewish community.

29. The documentation available on those violations was overwhelming. It revealed that the Soviet Union continued to oppress and persecute the Jewish minority, denying it the most elementary rights recognized for other minorities in that country. In the USSR, Jews were forbidden to teach and study their own language. Hebrew books had been confiscated. Hebrew teachers had been intimidated and arrested. The Jewish religion and culture had been systematically suppressed and dozens of synagogues had been closed. Recently, on the eve of a great Jewish

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(Mr. Blum, Israel)

festival, a religious service which was to have been held in the only synagogue which remained open in Moscow had been forbidden. There was not a single Jewish school in the Soviet Union, in flagrant violation not only of the Soviet Constitution itself, but also of the Convention against Discrimination in Education adopted by UNESCO on 4 December 1960 and ratified by the USSR on 1 August 1962.

30. A matter of even greater concern was the campaign of anti-semitism currently being waged in the Soviet Union with the official support of the authorities, which recalled the darkest days of Stalinist oppression. Millions of copies of anti-semitic books, pamphlets and magazines were circulating under official auspices. Earlier in 1979, the Academy of Sciences had published 45,000 copies of a book entitled The Ideology and Practice of International Zionism, which attacked Judaism as a religion and alleged that "Zionist centres" controlled the Western media and were spearheading an attempt to attack the Soviet Union (The Washington Post, 14 July 1979). The propaganda had reached such a level of crudity that it could only be interpreted as a deliberate attempt to incite the Soviet population against the Jews. According to the New York Times of 27 June 1979, the official campaign against zionism had been particularly intense during 1979 and some Soviet intellectuals were drawing a parallel between the current situation and the wave of repressions of the Stalin era.

31. The Soviet Union also engaged in an even more subtle form of racial discrimination which was no less dangerous in the long run, by forbidding intellectuals, in particular Jewish mathematicians, to publish articles and to attend international conferences abroad. There had also been a marked decline in the number of Jewish students in institutes of higher learning, which proved that an attempt was being made to close academic and professional avenues to Jews.

32. If the Soviet Union was not prepared to accord its Jewish nationals their basic human rights, it should at least allow them to leave the country. However, while the number of exit visas issued by the Soviet authorities had increased in recent months, a development which Israel welcomed, the number of Soviet Jews applying to leave the country had also increased. The number of unprocessed applications for visas was increasing each month. The applicants were obliged to wait for months, even years, before receiving a reply. In the meantime, they were subjected to harassment, dismissed from their employment, interrogated, publicly denounced, accused of "parasitism", beaten or imprisoned on fabricated charges. There were many Jews, such as Anatoly Shcharansky and others, languishing in Soviet prisons, in concentration camps or in exile for no other crime than that of having expressed a desire to live in Israel.

33. The minimum that could be asked of the Soviet Union was to honour the agreements to which it was a signatory, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, the Universal Postal Convention and the Helsinki agreements. Recently, the Soviet authorities had refused to deliver hundreds of letters sent by Israelis to relatives in the USSR. Finally, the Soviet Union was violating its own Constitution, which guaranteed freedom of conscience and freedom of religious worship for all its citizens. Israel would not rest until the Soviet Union lived up to its international obligations

(Mr. Blum, Israel)

under those agreements and until all Jewish prisoners of conscience in the USSR had been released and allowed to join their families, wherever they might be.

34. Israel could also not remain silent about the fate of the Jewish community in Syria. It was a small community, numbering only 4,500, which was kept under constant surveillance by the Syrian secret police and not allowed to emigrate. Recently, the Syrian authorities had hardened their attitude towards it. Jews who were suspected of helping Jewish families to flee the country had been beaten and arrested. The situation had become so serious that the Council of Europe had requested the Syrian Government to put an end to the persecution and to allow the Jews to leave the country. He hoped that the plea by the European leaders would be heeded.

35. Ms. WELLS (Australia) observed that for some years the question of human rights had figured prominently in international relations, as was shown by the development of the United Nations human rights programme, particularly as a result of the new procedures for the consideration of communications relating to violations of human rights established by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII).

36. The question of the response of the international community to violations of human rights could be approached at three levels. At the most fundamental level, it was hardly possible in practice for the United Nations to devote attention to all the violations of which individuals were victims. Nevertheless, certain issues must give the international community cause for concern. For example, there had been instances of summary executions of political opponents. Another type of response was necessary when reports came in from a variety of countries of systematic violations of human rights. For example, on the question of disappeared persons, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 33/173. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had adopted an important resolution proposing that emergency action should be entrusted to a group of experts of the Sub-Commission and that the available information on disappeared persons should be transmitted in the meantime to the Secretary-General. Finally, the United Nations must give priority consideration to certain situations. For example, there were country situations which revealed a systematic pattern of gross and flagrant violation of human rights. The situation in South Africa, where the policy of apartheid constituted a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind, was an example. The disaster facing the people of Kampuchea was another. On that subject Australia had clearly expressed its views, in particular through its Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had said at the United Nations Pledging Conference on Kampuchean relief that the disaster which had befallen the Kampuchean people was possibly without parallel in modern times.

37. In response to certain gross violations of human rights, the United Nations had been able to develop machinery with a view to establishing some form of co-operation with the Government concerned. That was the case in Chile and it had also been the case at the time when bloody régimes were holding sway in Uganda and Equatorial Guinea. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the human rights situation in Chile required continuing vigilance.

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(Ms. Wells, Australia)

The Australian Government supported that recommendation and recognized that the standards by which Chile was judged should be applicable to all countries and that the mandate of the special group set up in response to the situation in Chile should become universal.

38. Her delegation fully supported the principle of the interdependence and the indivisibility of all human rights and recognized the need to give special attention to the exercise of economic social and cultural rights and to achieve a better understanding of the conceptual right to development.

39. At its thirty-fifth session, the Commission on Human Rights had adopted resolution 23 (XXXV) in which it urged all Governments to consider action to give publicity to United Nations activities in the field of human rights and had requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the measures that had been taken to develop public information activities in that field. Australia hoped to participate actively in the work to be done on that initiative.

40. Turning to the question of narcotic drugs, Australia was actively participating in international efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking. It had undertaken to at least triple its contribution to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control during the period until 1981. It was also prepared, in co-operation with the major producers, to significantly restrict its poppy planting in 1979.

41. It was therefore with regret that her delegation had witnessed the introduction into the discussion of the idea of control, which could lead to discrimination among producing countries. The problem of over-supply was a global problem. Australia considered that the exclusion from world markets of a producer country or countries would not only entail a disproportionate sacrifice on the part of those unjustly excluded but would be of short duration. What was needed was a detailed and constructive examination of the structure of world supply and demand for licit opiates on the world level. Australia was ready to participate in such an examination.

42. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Economic and Social Council had taken several important steps to strengthen the campaign against flagrant and massive violations of human rights which continued to occur in several countries. At its thirty-fifth session the Commission on Human Rights had rightly devoted special attention to the violation of human rights perpetrated in southern Africa; thus, in resolution 12 (XXXV) it had expressed "its profound indignation regarding the situation which continues to prevail in southern Africa and which is characterized by a flagrant denial of human rights to the African population". It had also examined the flagrant violations of human rights in the Arab territories occupied by Israel and in that respect had expressed "its grave anxiety and concern over the deteriorating serious situation in the occupied Arab territories" (resolution 1 (XXXV)).

43. The Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique had rightly been condemned by the international community for the extermination of 3 million Kampuchean and for the considerable suffering, both moral and physical, inflicted on the 4 million survivors. That régime was conducting a policy of massive repression in the whole country, aimed at demoralizing the Kampuchean people and annihilating it physically and morally, as

(Mr. Maksimov, Byelorussian SSR)

could be seen from the judgement of the People's Revolutionary Tribunal of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which had met at Phnom Penh from 15 to 19 August 1979 to judge the crime of genocide committed by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique (A/34/491).

44. There were also grounds for indignation in the face of the flagrant and massive violations of human rights which continued to occur in South Korea. Many people had been murdered for having participated in peaceful demonstrations and for having opposed the régime of terror. The acts of torture against political prisoners were common and there had been countless arrests.

45. For more than six years public opinion had been concerned about the situation of human rights in Chile. In spite of the repeated appeals of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the whole international community, the military junta continued its systematic and flagrant violations of human rights. The two reports submitted to the Commission (A/34/583 and A/34/583/Add.1) showed that the situation had become still worse during 1979: arrests had continued on a massive scale and the number of cases of physical and psychological torture inflicted on detainees whether guilty or not, had risen. The facts showed that the secret police were trampling underfoot the right to life of Chilean citizens. Repression had intensified against trade union organizations whose very right to exist had been denied. Unemployment was rife throughout the country and a large part of the population, including children, were suffering from malnutrition and hunger. The social services had been considerably reduced and a large number of Chilean citizens had been deprived of their right to education. The lot of the indigenous communities had become worse and even their existence had been seriously threatened.

46. The Chilean authorities had not yet replied to the inquiries made by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights concerning the fate of persons reported as missing or disappeared. In that respect, the discovery of hundreds of bodies buried in the central cemetery of Santiago was particularly disquieting. The fate of missing persons was the responsibility of the junta. Thus it was clear from the report of the expert appointed to study the question (A/34/583/Add.1) that those persons were in custody and their fate had been decided upon arbitrarily by the agents of the junta without any trial.

47. Since the overthrow of the Allende régime, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Byelorussia had always supported all the decisions in which the United Nations had requested an immediate end to the violations of human rights in Chile. It was convinced that international solidarity would lead to the strengthening of the campaign against tyranny in Chile.

48. Mr. LAEMMERZAH (German Democratic Republic) pointed out that for years the international community had been demanding the restoration of human rights in Chile. No one could deny that the Fascist régime in Chile was becoming more and more isolated and was meeting growing resistance from the Chilean people. As a result, it was seeking to preserve its power by new means and it had sought recently to adopt a semblance of legality by claiming a so-called "democratization" and to pretend that its policy had changed.

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(Mr. Laemmerzahl, German Democratic Republic)

49. However, the facts showed that that was not the case. During the World Conference on Solidarity with Chile which had been held in Madrid in November 1978, the representatives of the anti-Fascist resistance had reported a reduction in the number of arbitrary detentions, illegal searches and other terrorist practices by the Chilean secret services in July 1978. Unfortunately, later, the reprisals against the Chilean people had again risen drastically in both scope and intensity. In October 1978 the junta had again arrested 200 people for political reasons.

50. It could be seen from the report of the Expert on the Question of the Fate of Missing and Disappeared Persons in Chile (A/34/583/Add.1) that the Chilean authorities had not been able to reply satisfactorily to the questions put to them concerning the fate of the 2,500 persons arrested by the junta who had disappeared. The representatives of the junta maintained that there were no missing persons in Chile; yet the recent discovery of 320 bodies buried in irregular conditions in the central cemetery of Santiago proved that those statements contradicted the reality.

51. The junta's attitude towards the trade union movement was illustrated by the fact that in October 1978 the seven major trade unions had been banned and their property confiscated. The economic and social policies of the junta had resulted in mass unemployment and raised doubts about the supplying of large sectors of the population with basic necessities. According to the public health service of Chile, 15 per cent of all children in Chile were suffering from malnutrition. Meanwhile, international corporations were benefiting from the misery of the Chilean people.

52. The struggle which the United Nations had been waging for six years against the Chilean dictatorship showed that the greatest fear of dictators was that they would be exposed to world public opinion. The United Nations should therefore persist in denouncing the mass and systematic violations of human rights in Chile. The Chilean democrats were counting on its help. It was thanks to international pressure that they had been able to strengthen their position and that on 1 May 1979 some 10,000 patriots had been able to march in a demonstration against the junta. In accomplishing that noble task, the United Nations could count on the active support of the German Democratic Republic, which would do everything in its power to support the heroic struggle waged by the Chilean anti-Fascists for the restoration of human rights, freedom, democracy and socialism.

53. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom) said that his Government's position with regard to human rights was based on two fundamental principles: the paramount importance of the individual and the need for consistency in applying human rights standards.

54. The very real efforts of the United Nations to promote respect for human rights could not, any more than could high-flown rhetoric, conceal the fact that in the United Nations the problem had a political connotation and was studied selectively: South Africa, Israel and Chile were always comprehensively condemned but certain Governments which practised the most cruel forms of oppression escaped unscathed. If the Members of the United Nations really believed in the principles to which they subscribed, they must first and foremost show the political will to

(Sir Anthony Parsons, United Kingdom)

apply those principles, to encourage others to do likewise and to condemn those who showed a cynical and callous disregard for the lives and well-being of individuals.

55. Freedom of the individual and his relationship to the State had for centuries constituted for the people and the Government of his country a fundamental concern, going back even before the Magna Carta of 1215. For example, Englishmen had had the good fortune to enjoy for more than seven centuries protection by the law against arbitrary imprisonment; 1979 marked the 300th anniversary of the Act giving statutory force to the remedy of habeas corpus. Concern for respect for economic and social rights had also long characterized the evolution of British society, as attested by the legislation on the subject developed during the past two centuries. The Government of the United Kingdom held the different categories of rights - political, civil, economic, social and cultural - to be morally indivisible and considered that they must all be implemented with the same vigour and determination.

56. Obviously, the affirmation or denial of human rights would vary according to circumstances, but concentration on one particular aspect of those rights could never justify suppressing another. Denying freedom of political expression could not be justified by the desire to improve material well-being; thus the poverty and narrow range of economic choices which characterized the life of millions of human beings should not be used as a pretext for the exercise of arbitrary authority and for political oppression. In dealing with the world as it was, difficult choices had frequently to be made with regard to the question of ways of ensuring progress or of economic and social priorities, but when it came to human rights, moral dilemmas and the problems of priorities should not be confused.

57. Human rights should be the concern of all States without exception, for under Article 55 of the Charter they had the duty to promote "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion". That duty had evolved over the past 35 years and, as the Secretary-General had stated, there was now developing an acceptance of the principle implicit in the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the recognition and promotion of the worth and dignity of every human being was a legitimate concern of the world community.

58. During the current year some of the more notorious tyrants in Africa, Asia and Latin America had come to grief, but, regrettably, the United Nations could claim little credit for that development. Statements made at the current session of the General Assembly by the representatives of such countries as Uganda, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Nicaragua should give their hearers pause. For several years the United Kingdom had tried to raise the question of Uganda in the Commission on Human Rights. It had also tried to raise the question of the situation of human rights in Democratic Kampuchea. Nearly two years earlier the United Kingdom had submitted material which tallied in every respect with the evidence that was now being circulated by Viet Nam and deplored so eloquently by the Eastern European group of States and its friends.

59. The United Kingdom Government firmly condemned apartheid; no one could defend a social and legal system which divided citizens of a country according to their

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(Sir Anthony Parsons, United Kingdom)

colour. Recent developments and certain pronouncements by the South African Prime Minister suggested that some of the premises on which apartheid was based were perhaps at long last being called in question and that that might be the start of a new trend toward dismantling the racist foundations of South African society.

60. In Namibia violence was continuing, bringing with it suffering and abuses of the rights of innocent persons, both in the Territory and in neighbouring countries. His delegation once again urgently called for the release of members of the internal branch of SWAPO who had been detained without trial.

61. Africa was the continent with the largest number of refugees, who were among the human beings that were most deprived in terms of human rights. The United Kingdom hoped that the parties would agree on a just settlement which would permit Zimbabwe to go forward to independence and prosperity, thereby allowing all the refugees in neighbouring States to return to their homes. It was likewise to be hoped that old conflicts and old animosities in the Horn of Africa would eventually die out.

62. In Asia the danger of mass expulsions on ethnic, ideological and cultural grounds remained, as evidenced by the case of the "boat people". With regard to Kampuchea, his delegation deplored any moves to restrict or divert for political reasons the provision of humanitarian relief and especially food aid to sections of the population which were manifestly in need of it.

63. In Europe, the Helsinki Agreement of 1975 had confirmed that human rights were a legitimate subject for discussion and comment among all countries of Europe. The United Kingdom regarded human rights as a fundamental element in the improvement of international relations, and the implementation of the provisions of the Final Act of the Conference relating to human rights as a yardstick for measuring the progress made. Individuals had a part to play in the implementation of the Final Act and had the right to draw to the attention of their Governments and their fellow citizens, without prejudice to their own situation, cases where the implementation of the Final Act could be improved. It was therefore dismayed that obstacles were being placed in the path of progress in the application of the Final Act, such as the recent arrest and trial of some who were seeking to improve implementation.

64. In parts of the Americas the situation of the indigenous population gave cause for concern. The disappearances of persons for political reasons were still a cause for grave concern in some countries of Central and South America. He hoped that the Commission on Human Rights would make progress with the study of the subject entrusted to it by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. One encouraging development had been the release of political prisoners by Cuba, which at one time had had the highest total of political prisoners.

65. If the United Nations was not to lose the confidence of public opinion, it must deal seriously with human rights problems. It was imperative that the United Nations should translate its convictions into action.

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66. Mr. GÜRAKAN (Turkey), referring to the question of drug abuse control, said that, in 1979 for the sixth consecutive year, the Turkish Government had applied strict and effective measures to control poppy straw. In the course of the year, efforts for the further promotion and strengthening of law enforcement measures had continued, involving several governmental units and an interministerial committee set up in 1978. The policy formulated in 1978, according to which the area marked for cultivation had been substantially decreased, had continued to be applied.

67. However, during the same period the Turkish Government had continued to face the serious problem of transit trafficking. Because of its geographical location, Turkey constituted a convenient route for smugglers. It was very unfortunate that some Turkish nationals, used as couriers by organized criminals, had become victims of that new development. The Government, which was committed to fight resolutely against transit trafficking, was seriously concerned about the erroneous impression in certain circles that the nationality of the trafficker was a sufficient indication to determine the country of origin of the seized drug. The country in which the seizure had occurred should act in a responsible manner and should be extremely cautious while communicating to the Division of Narcotic Drugs any information containing conclusions about the country of origin of the seized material, especially if such information was not supported by concrete evidence and a thorough laboratory analysis.

68. The increase in transit traffic was not confined to narcotic drugs but also applied to psychotropic substances. His delegation expected the countries of manufacture of psychotropic substances, namely the industrialized countries, to assume their responsibilities and to take effective measures to control the illicit manufacture and exportation of psychotropic substances. Although Turkey was not a manufacturer of psychotropic substances, the Government had nevertheless decided to ratify the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and hoped that some of the major countries of manufacture of psychotropic substances, which had so far refrained from ratifying the Convention, would do so at an early date. The full co-operation of the international community was required, and it was unfair to expect the developing countries to shoulder the primary burdens.

69. The question of bringing about a world-wide balance between the supply and demand for narcotic materials was a matter of the utmost importance. As the report of the International Narcotics Control Board clearly indicated, world supply of opiates was expected to exceed demand by 50 per cent in coming years. It had therefore become urgent that measures should be taken to stabilize the supply of raw materials, since over-production would serve no one's best interest. The Turkish Government had therefore decided to reduce the permitted area for cultivation by more than 50 per cent, and hoped that other producing countries would follow suit. The main reason for the surplus supply of opiates had been the proliferation of the sources of production, namely, the recently started cultivation of poppy straw by some countries. Furthermore, other countries exported the seized illicit opiates as a source of income. Those two factors had had the effect of upsetting the balance between supply and demand. In that connexion, his Government welcomed the adoption by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, of resolution 1979/8, which urged the Governments of major producing countries which had set up additional capacities in recent years

(Mr. Gürakan, Turkey)

to take effective measures to restrict their production programmes so as to restore a lasting balance between supply and demand and to prevent drug diversion to illicit channels.

70. The Turkish Government was also concerned about the question of migrant workers which had assumed considerable dimensions and complexity during the last two decades. The economic growth of the industrialized countries had considerably increased the phenomenon of migrant labour. At earlier stages such labour had been viewed by both the host countries and the countries of origin as an economic phenomenon. The migrant worker was considered merely as a factor of production who would eventually return to his country of origin and whose main object was to earn the highest wages available in the host country. Some countries of origin viewed the migrant worker as a substantial source of income and as a partial remedy to the problem of unemployment.

71. In recent years, the international community was focusing its attention increasingly on the humanitarian and social aspects of the question. Bilateral agreements had been concluded and practical measures had been taken with a view to improving the living and working conditions of the migrant workers and their families. Despite those efforts, the migrant workers and their families still faced serious problems, which called for immediate and concerted action on the part of the international community. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption by the Third Committee of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.55 and hoped that the Working Group to be established under that resolution would be able to conclude its task successfully and without delay.

72. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, deplored the fact that the representative of Israel had tried to divert the Committee's attention to questions which had nothing to do with the item under discussion, namely, the report of the Economic and Social Council. He himself had already replied to the allegations of the Israeli delegation concerning the Jews in Syria. Those Jews, whose number the representative of Israel had exaggerated, were fully recognized Syrian citizens who had been living in the country for several decades in full enjoyment of their fundamental rights under the Constitution. The Syrian Arab Republic was an open country visited by eminent persons and journalists who had been able to assess the situation. They had been able to observe that the Syrian Jews had the same rights as the other citizens in the fields of education, labour and religious practices. The Syrian Jews, who were to be found in many liberal professions, could leave the country freely on business. In the Syrian Arab Republic there were no ghettos where Jews were imprisoned.

73. If the representative thought that the Syrian Government was going to force the Syrian Jews to leave Syria and go to Israel so that they could take part in the expropriation of the Arabs and the massacre of the civilian population, he was mistaken. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would never accept, even indirectly, to be an accomplice in such crimes. For years, the international community had been expressing its concern at the violation by the Israeli authorities of the human rights of the Arab population in the occupied territories.

(Mr. Al-Hussamy, Syrian Arab
Republic)

However, the Israeli authorities took no account of the resolutions adopted on that question and once more the Israeli delegation had sought to divert the Committee's attention and to make it forget the flagrant manner in which it was flaunting world public opinion.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.