



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZAWAWI (Malaysia)

later: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary).

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The meeting was called to order at 6.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (E/1985/16 and Add.1; A/40/3, 173, 320, 398, 416, 694 and Add.1, 750)

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- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
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1. Mrs. BUTIKU (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, although action to combat racial discrimination was in its second decade and a number of conventions had been in force for several years, the elimination of apartheid had come no closer. Apartheid was an issue of serious concern, for it was a negation of that common humanity which the international community sought to foster by its commitment to the ideals of the Charter. Despite that fact, South Africa had been afforded the time and the means to entrench its apartheid policy and use Namibia as a springboard to attack neighbouring States and so destabilize southern Africa. It was dismaying to see that a country that had continually supplied armaments to South Africa, despite its expressed support of an arms embargo, had abstained on a provision of Security Council resolution 574 (1985) requesting Member States to help Angola strengthen its defence capability against attacks by South Africa.

2. Her Government remained concerned at the implications of the United States policy of "constructive engagement", which not only encouraged South Africa's intransigence but also meant continued suffering for the black majority in South Africa and Namibia. It was encouraging that apartheid was rejected by public opinion, even in States which supported South Africa: that trend should be fostered, since the responsibility for eliminating apartheid belonged to all mankind. There was also an urgent need for all Governments to impose mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter. The argument that sanctions would be ineffective was a false one designed to deceive the international community.

3. There could be no neutrality on apartheid, otherwise the people of South Africa would come to believe that the world community was indifferent to their plight. It was particularly important, as the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations was being celebrated, that action should be taken.

/...

(Mrs. Butiku, United Republic
of Tanzania)

4. The situation was no better in the Middle East, where the key to the problem lay in the restoration to the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in an independent Palestine. The interests of all countries in the Middle East, including Israel, required that acts of State terrorism, as recently committed against Palestinian premises in Tunis, should be abandoned and an atmosphere conducive to peaceful coexistence established.
5. Peace in the world could be achieved only if all countries made a commitment to implement the principles of the Charter with regard to the maintenance of peace and security. Such a resolve was nowhere more greatly needed than in southern Africa, for the struggle against apartheid was the responsibility of all Member States.
6. Ms. BRENNEN (Bahamas) said that the tragic situation in South Africa not only gave renewed urgency to the issues of racial discrimination and self-determination, but also served as a reminder of the destructive potential of any form of racial oppression. The Bahamas rejected the abhorrent political, economic, social and legislative structure of apartheid. There was a pressing need to terminate that debased system so that, in addition to ending oppression, it might not give comfort to those who believed in racial superiority.
7. The rising tide of protest by the oppressed majority of South Africa clearly demonstrated that it would no longer accept continued disenfranchisement and dehumanization, denationalization through the bantustan system, or constitutional adjustments that excluded the black majority. South Africa had failed to heed the appeal of the international community; instead, it had begun to offer semblances of change which amounted to a mere adaptation of apartheid to recent political and economic events. Increasing international pressure, the threat of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, and the effects of voluntary action by an increasing number of States had, however, clearly taken their toll. That trend should encourage the international community to rethink past policies with a view to taking a common position on ways of ending apartheid. It was clear that decades of investment and political, economic and other support for the apartheid régime had not brought about the demise of apartheid.
8. Only a resolute stance by the international community would prevent South Africa from weathering the storm of current domestic protest and withstanding international pressure. The Bahamas supported comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under the Charter. It called for the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, and for negotiations with representatives of the oppressed majority.
9. The blatant racism inherent in apartheid must serve to make the international community sensitive to the dangers of racial discrimination wherever it occurred. It was not sufficient, however, to deny the existence of racial discrimination in member countries. The international community had an obligation to adopt measures that would ensure that racial discrimination could not exist without challenge. In that regard, the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and

(Ms. Brennen, Bahamas)

its Programme of Action provided an excellent framework for such action. The activities prescribed in the Programme should serve as incentives to Member States, while the results of various studies, seminars and other activities would complement national initiatives.

10. The Bahamas was confident that international co-operation in that area would be further enhanced by the current Meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in Nassau. The issue of racial discrimination, particularly concerning South Africa, would be prominent on its agenda.

11. The Bahamas had evolved as a multiracial society which guaranteed the full enjoyment of human rights to its citizens and residents. In its 12 years as an independent nation, it had maintained the protection of human rights as a basic priority and had provided constitutional guarantees for redress in cases of violation. While no case of alleged violations of human rights had so far come before the Supreme Court, the Bahamas continued to promote activities to ensure that the current conditions were maintained. The Bahamas sought to inculcate in its people a respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and, in that regard, it was cognizant of the vital role which non-governmental organizations could play in endeavours to eliminate racial discrimination.

12. Her delegation looked forward to far-reaching achievements during the Second Decade. In its view, progress could best be achieved through genuine commitment and political will. Ratification of or accession to the relevant human-rights instruments, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, could contribute to the objectives of the Decade. The Bahamas was a party to both those instruments.

13. The constraints experienced by many countries in meeting their reporting obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could, in her delegation's opinion, be alleviated by technical and advisory assistance. The number of overdue reports and the volume of reports to be considered, however, were a clear indication that the reporting system should be reviewed.

14. Her delegation joined the appeal to those States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid to do so expeditiously, in the light of recent events in South Africa and the need to give credence to the international community's rejection of apartheid.

15. While action in the area of decolonization could be regarded as a great success for the United Nations, the case of Namibia had shattered hopes that all remaining colonial situations would be terminated. South Africa's failure to terminate its illegal occupation of Namibia and its installation of a sham interim government had made the situation there more volatile. The Bahamas considered that there should be no linkage between the independence of Namibia and extraneous political issues, and that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) remained the blueprint for the Territory's independence.

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16. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) said that there could be no respite in the fight against racism because it created barriers between individuals and peoples and negated all the great moral values that bound mankind together. Its eradication was thus a primary goal, although the task would be one of long duration since its achievement depended on the will of all countries to apply appropriate measures.

17. The first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had succeeded in making international opinion aware of the problem and its harmful effects and had revealed unexpected sources of determination to eradicate it. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade was less ambitious, but included a number of useful activities. For example, progress had been made in the review of the effects of racial discrimination on the education, training and employment of the children of minority groups and migrant workers. It was hoped that that review would soon be completed.

18. However, the struggle against apartheid did not appear to figure largely in the Programme of Action. The situation in South Africa had become very disturbing following the sudden increase in repressive measures against those resisting apartheid. During the first two months of the state of emergency, 500 people had been killed, mainly in clashes with the security forces, and nearly 8,000 arrested; and the level of brutality, torture and repression had greatly increased. Furthermore, the régime's policy of separate development perpetuated discrimination against an oppressed people and accentuated its poverty and deprivation, at the same time as its acts of aggression, terrorism and destabilization continued against neighbouring independent African States.

19. Despite the international condemnation that had followed the introduction of the state of emergency, the South African Prime Minister had reaffirmed his régime's intention to strengthen apartheid. It was thus imperative that comprehensive and obligatory sanctions should be imposed by the Security Council and that countries should end any relations they still maintained with the racist régime, in the interests of the speedy eradication of apartheid and the achievement of a just and democratic society in South Africa.

20. Zionism was the parallel of apartheid in the Middle East and a major cause of the conflict and tension there. The political, military and economic co-operation between the Zionist and South African régimes consolidated their ideological affinities. Evidence of nuclear and military co-operation had been provided by the African Educational Fund and the British Anti-Apartheid Movement.

21. The Zionist entity had been trying for over 40 years, by the use of methods that included aggression and expansionism, to merge with an environment to which it would be forever alien. It thus continued to pursue a racist policy aimed at modifying the nature of the occupied Arab territories and grievously repressing the Palestinian people. The international community should express its condemnation of the Zionist régime and should make every effort to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people and restore its legitimate rights as the only way to restore peace and stability in the Middle East.

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

22. Algeria was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and maintained a fruitful dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was making a valuable contribution towards the elimination of racism. Algeria fully endorsed the Committee's interpretation of article 3 of the Convention, as reflected in its decision 1 (XXXII) on the question of apartheid. Algeria also noted with interest that the Committee was considering the possibility of holding a seminar on racial discrimination and of carrying out further studies on the implementation of articles 5 and 6 of the Convention.

23. It was hoped, however, that the Committee would in future be more vigilant when considering the reports of States parties. At its 718th meeting, the Committee had considered a report (CERD/C/117/Add.1), one chapter of which was devoted to measures taken by the State party in a territory it occupied by force. That decision was a serious breach of the Committee's terms of reference and of article 15 of the Convention. By that act, the Committee had set a dangerous precedent by arrogating to itself the authority to decide on the territorial sovereignty of States parties. A primary responsibility of the Committee was to protect the right of entire peoples to self-determination and independence, and it should avoid endorsing action directed against that right.

24. Twenty-five years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of which Algeria was still a strong supporter, colonial problems of grave concern to the international community still existed in places such as Namibia, the Western Sahara and Palestine. The international community should make greater efforts to remove those last bastions of colonialism.

25. Another area of concern was the increasingly difficult situation of migrant workers and their families, who had recently been suffering a recrudescence of racist and xenophobic action. Hundreds of thousands of Algerian nationals lived abroad, and Algeria was making every effort to ensure that their living conditions were compatible with health and dignity and the protection of their fundamental rights. For that reason, it was actively involved in the work of the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. Algeria invited the international community and particularly the countries concerned to make greater efforts to ensure that the safety and rights of migrant workers and their families were scrupulously respected.

26. Mr. Zador (Hungary) took the Chair.

27. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America), replying to the claim made by the representative of the Byelorussian SSR at an earlier meeting that the United States had said no word about South Africa, said that the United States did not feel it necessary to deliver several speeches on the same cluster of items, unlike another country that was represented by a troika of delegations. A full explanation of the United States position on South Africa had been made on 11 October. Moreover, it

(Mr. Amselem, United States)

went without saying that the United States remained fully committed to bringing about the independence of Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

28. Mr. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian SSR), speaking on a point of order, asked whether the United States representative was making a statement in the general debate or speaking in exercise of his right of reply.

29. The CHAIRMAN replied that the statement was being made in the context of the general debate.

30. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America) said that the delegations of the Soviet Union and the Byelorussian SSR had expressed great concern over alleged United States military activities in "dependent territories" such as Guam and Puerto Rico. He, too, was concerned about foreign military activities in dependent territories, for example Soviet military activities in Afghanistan and in the "sovereign" Republic of Byelorussia. The Soviet Union, while expressing concern over the operations of the Ford Motor Company and other United States companies in South Africa, did not seem to be prepared to cease dealing with such firms itself, since it had invited Ford to build a truck factory in the Soviet Union.

31. The Soviet representative had claimed that South Africa had obtained a nuclear-weapons capability through United States help. The implied compliment to the United States that it was the only country with the technical know-how to develop such a capability confirmed a long-held suspicion about how the Soviet Union had obtained its own nuclear capability.

32. It was gratifying to note from the Soviet representative's citing of the The Washington Post that he had become an avid reader of America's free press, thus acknowledging the unreliability of his own press since he did not quote it. He would also do well to quote American press comments on Afghanistan and Soviet anti-semitism. The Soviet delegation's concern about "American" anti-semitism was particularly touching, in view of the fact that every member of the American delegation present was Jewish. Perhaps that pre-occupation with anti-semitism might be translated into permission for thousands of Jews to leave the Soviet Union.

33. The remarks of the representative of Afghanistan on self-determination and freedom-fighters were not worth commenting on. The Kabul authorities and those who pulled their strings should be informed that United States troops had gone to South Korea to fight under the United Nations Command against an invasion from North Korea.

34. Miss AL-ZAYANI (Bahrain) said that the subjects of the three items under discussion were indivisible and were linked by a concern for the right of peoples to self-determination. She noted that the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-first session had adopted a number of important resolutions dealing with the right of peoples to self-determination, the Palestinian people and the situations in Kampuchea, Afghanistan, South Africa and Namibia.

(Miss Al-Zayani, Bahrain)

35. With regard to apartheid, the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was of great importance. Her delegation agreed with previous speakers who had condemned the inhuman practice of apartheid, and with those who had supported the right of the Palestinian people to regain their own territory under the leadership of their legitimate representatives, and had upheld the principle of non-interference in the affairs of the Afghan people. Bahrain supported the call for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. It was still uncertain whether such efforts would succeed in allowing the peoples of Palestine, Afghanistan and Kampuchea to regain their freedom, and it was fitting on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations to exert every effort to restore the rights and freedoms of those peoples regardless of the difficulties involved.

36. Mr. SY (Mauritania) said that genocide was being perpetrated in South Africa. Every day there were new deaths in that land of apartheid, where most whites, like the Nazis, were imbued with feelings of racial superiority. His delegation wondered how long apartheid would persist. It appealed to those countries which had not imposed sanctions against South Africa to review their policies.

37. Moral and material support for the victims of racial discrimination, apartheid and zionism in their struggle for freedom, equality and dignity must remain a priority. The first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had aroused considerable hope among the peoples suffering racial discrimination because it had symbolized a universal awareness of the despicable character of that scourge and the will to eliminate it. The achievements, however, had not matched earlier hopes. The oppression and exploitation experienced by the victims, particularly in South Africa, continued. In fact the racist régimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv were the beneficiaries of the failure of that Decade. The cause of failure was the narrow-mindedness and partisan attitudes of certain Western circles motivated by political and economic interests.

38. At the present point in the Second Decade, it was vital for all other interests to give way to genuine support for the victims of racial discrimination, apartheid and zionism. It was time for United Nations action to be focused on reinforcing the political, economic and military isolation of the barbaric régime in South Africa. The credibility of certain countries and of the international community as a whole was at stake. Mauritania considered apartheid a crime against humanity and unreservedly supported those struggling for their inalienable rights, dignity and freedom. A sustained effort by all peace- and freedom-loving countries was required for the success of the Decade.

39. In Namibia the war of independence was proving to be more than a struggle for national liberation. In its nature and scope, it was comparable to the stubborn, universal struggle against racism, the successful outcome of which had resulted in the founding of the United Nations.

40. The dismantling of apartheid and the independence of Namibia would remain elusive as long as certain countries continued to support racist South Africa.

(Mr. Sy, Mauritania)

Mauritania reaffirmed its support for the struggle of the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization. It also reaffirmed its unswerving support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence and to the creation of a national State in Palestine under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

41. Mr. ODOCH-JATO (Uganda) said that, while over the previous 20 years the United Nations had intensified international action against racial discrimination, that phenomenon remained widespread. That grim reality brought into focus the serious set-backs suffered in the endeavour to achieve universal recognition of the equality, dignity and worth of all human beings. Uganda remained concerned at all manifestations of racial discrimination. In the light of Africa's colonial experience, it was familiar with the debasement and deprivation to which victims of racial discrimination were subjected. It was keenly aware of the traumatic existence of indigenous peoples, migrant workers, and minorities of African descent in the Western hemisphere, and was constantly reminded of the devastating effects in the countries of Africa of the ruthless exploitation of ethnic or tribal differences by external and internal forces.

42. The situation in South Africa had reached the crossroads in both its domestic and international dimensions. Throughout the long struggle against apartheid, the racist régime had been intensifying its oppression in order to stem any increase in the tide of opposition. Its attitude had been one of blatant defiance. The current direction of the struggle was, however, most significant. The oppressed people, particularly the young generation, had donned the mantle of liberation with unprecedented determination. They had defied the military power of the racists and had set out to make apartheid unworkable and the country, under the current system, ungovernable. The choice lay between the immediate dismantlement of apartheid and a civil conflagration whose dimensions could not be predetermined.

43. The question now before the international community was whether to succumb to South Africa's defiance or to act decisively on the side of freedom and justice in order to hasten the demise of apartheid. Uganda noted with appreciation the emerging international consensus in favour of isolating the racist régime. The gravity of the South African situation demanded more than tokenism. Uganda renewed its call to the Security Council to adopt comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter. It continued to condemn those Western and other countries which, by their collaboration with South Africa in the economic, military and nuclear fields, provided the material and psychological tools for the perpetuation of apartheid.

44. It was most unfortunate that those who demanded far-reaching action against apartheid were at times accused of engaging in demagoguery. The issue of apartheid, however, was no longer one of fair treatment of the black population but of freedom and justice for all the people of South Africa. Indeed, to the peoples of Africa, that had always been the issue. In any case, the people of South Africa had pronounced themselves in favour of mandatory sanctions. They were prepared to withstand any consequent hardships for the sake of obtaining their fundamental rights.

(Mr. Odoch-Jato, Uganda)

45. Uganda remained deeply concerned over the question of Namibia's independence. In the dying days of colonial domination, the people of Namibia were victims of the inextricable confluence of racism and colonialism. Uganda rejected any linkage between Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Linkage, like all earlier pretexts, had clearly been contrived by South Africa to further its own objectives in Namibia. Uganda unreservedly condemned South Africa's installation of an interim government in Namibia. It also condemned the repeated use of Namibian territory to launch acts of aggression and destabilization against the front-line and other African States. South Africa's determination to continue its illegal occupation of Namibia was founded upon its strategy for the defence of apartheid.

46. Uganda supported the legitimate calls of the people of Western Sahara. It urged the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro to commence immediate and direct negotiations in accordance with the recommendations of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

47. The continued denial to the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination remained a source of great concern; it impeded any resolution of the Middle East conflict. In recent years, efforts to break the impasse had been thwarted by Israel's irredentism and its aggression against Arab States and the Palestinian people. Uganda supported the proposals advanced by the League of Arab States and called for the early convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

48. The fortieth birthday of the United Nations provided a unique opportunity for rededication to the common endeavours of all humanity. As to the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid, there must emerge a new commitment to build upon the foundation laid by the victory over racist and fascist forces 40 years previously. Similarly, it must be the common determination of all to widen the frontier of freedom through the eradication of all pockets of colonial occupation and alien domination.

Rights of reply

49. Mr. TORRES (Nicaragua), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the remarks made by the United States representative at an earlier meeting were untrue. The United States had subjected Nicaragua to political oppression and to economic and military intervention, in violation of its right to self-determination. What had begun as covert operations had become institutionalized under the State Department, the operations being organized and led by the United States Army.

50. The war imposed on Nicaragua, with the aim of bringing down its legitimate Government, had taken a heavy toll. Yet despite the hostilities, elections had been held in November 1984, and had confirmed the Government in power. The electoral process had been monitored by several hundred observers and journalists

(Mr. Torres, Nicaragua)

from other countries. The Government had won 62 per cent of the votes, and had therefore a greater claim to legitimacy than that of the Government of President Reagan, which had secured less than a third of the votes.

51. According to reports in the United States press, a senior United States official had called for new pressure, including military pressure, to be put on Nicaragua. The United States was clearly seeking to escalate the crisis by undermining the efforts of the Contadora Group, by failing to recognize the competence of the International Court of Justice and by committing acts which violated international law.

52. Mr. AL-HARTHY (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation categorically denied the Israeli allegation that oil was being shipped from the Gulf to South Africa. Furthermore, his Government had no dealings whatsoever with the South African régime. The aim of the remarks by the Israeli representative was to distract attention from the relations between Israel and South Africa.

53. Mr. ZAWAWI (Malaysia) said that, notwithstanding the remarks made by the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, there was as yet no regional dialogue on the question of Kampuchea, although there had been contacts between some members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), including Malaysia, and the Lao Government. The international community must continue to exert pressure on the parties involved so as to find a solution to the problem of Kampuchea and to promote peace and stability in South-East Asia.

54. Mr. AL-MUKHAINI (Oman) said that his country condemned all racial discrimination, particularly apartheid, and that there was no co-operation between South Africa and Oman.

55. Miss NGUYEN THI KIM XUAN (Viet Nam) said that her delegation rejected the squalid allegations made by the representative of China. In fact, China had backed the Pol Pot régime and thus bore responsibility for the slaughter of 3 million people.

56. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the United States had failed to answer the Soviet charge that it was supporting the apartheid régime, a fact which was clear from objective reports produced by United Nations experts. With respect to the activities of United States corporations in South Africa, the essential point was that those activities provided support to the régime. The United States must stop its support for apartheid. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had denounced the so-called enlightened policy followed by the United States, which simply encouraged the apartheid régime in its policy of aggression, blackmail and destabilization.

57. As to why the Soviet delegation frequently quoted from the United States press, it was simply because the United States delegation would believe information from that source.

(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

58. With respect to United States technology, a recent report in The New York Times revealed that a Nazi war criminal, Mr. Arthur Rudolph, had participated in the United States rocket programme.

59. As for the indigenous population of the United States, more than one million Indians had been eliminated in what was a clear case of genocide.

60. Mr. BENNOUNA (Morocco) said that the reference made by the Algerian representative to the report considered at the 718th meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination contained a distortion. Morocco had simply regained its southern territories, and it was Algeria that had employed mercenaries against Morocco. Article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was irrelevant to the situation. It was regrettable that Algeria had sought to engage in polemics, thereby diverting the Committee's attention from the need to eliminate apartheid.

61. Ms. GUO Yuanhui (China) categorically rejected the remarks made by the Vietnamese representative. The responsibility for the situation in Kampuchea lay not with China, but with the Vietnamese Government, which had ordered the occupation of an innocent State. That action had been opposed by the majority of Member States.

62. Mr. YEDID (Israel) said that the information he had provided on Saudi Arabia's links with South Africa was entirely reliable. In January 1985, a weekly air service had been set up between Johannesburg and Jiddah, operated by an aircraft provided by South Africa. The Saudi Arabian delegation was making a mockery of the proceedings of the Committee.

63. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in his previous statement he had merely wished to commend the efforts to achieve greater co-operation in South-East Asia: it was true that a dialogue existed between his country and members of ASEAN, and his country only wished to foster it.

64. Mr. RIACHE (Algeria) recalled the concern for the rights of colonial peoples expressed in the Moroccan delegation's statement on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and trusted that Morocco's concern would extend to the people of Western Sahara. As laid down in General Assembly resolution 39/40 and other pertinent resolutions, the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization, under the terms of the Declaration. The Moroccan Government had prevented the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on the subject and had inhibited the self-determination and social and economic development of the people of Western Sahara.

65. Under article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the competent bodies of the United Nations were responsible for providing to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination all information concerning Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories

(Mr. Riache, Algeria)

and all other Territories to which General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) applied. Information on Western Sahara should therefore be provided by the competent United Nations body, namely, the Special Committee on Decolonization, and not by Morocco.

66. Miss NGUYEN THI KIM XUAN (Viet Nam) appealed to China to cease its support for Pol Pot.

67. Mr. RAZZOQI (Kuwait) categorically denied the Israeli representative's allegations, which were clearly designed to divert the Committee's attention. The Special Committee against Apartheid had included in its report (A/40/22) an annex describing the collaboration between Israel and South Africa in many fields. Israel should attend to its own actions and to the fate of the Palestinians who had been imprisoned or exiled by the Israeli Government.

68. Mr. BENNOUNA (Morocco) said that Algeria had attempted to put pressure upon Western Sahara by sending mercenaries to perform acts of armed subversion. His country had attempted to organize a referendum in the area, but the Algerian Government had raised objections because it feared the verdict of the people. If Algeria agreed, the Moroccan Government would be quite willing to refer the issue of the status of Western Sahara to the United Nations Legal Counsel.

69. Mr. ZAWAWI (Malaysia) said that his country's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs had visited the Lao People's Democratic Republic because of traditional ties between the two countries. In his earlier statement he had protested against the reference by the Lao representative to links between ASEAN members and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. No regional dialogue on the subject of Kampuchea had yet begun, but his country would continue its efforts.

70. Ms. GUO Yuanhui (China) said that, if the Vietnamese Government really wished to ensure self-determination for the people of Kampuchea, it should withdraw its troops from that country.

71. Mr. ABDELKADER (Algeria) said that the overwhelming weight of international opinion was that the question of Western Sahara was one of decolonization, as indicated in the resolutions he had cited. Morocco was the only State which opposed that view.

72. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the contacts between his country and Malaysia had merely helped to pave the way for a possible solution. The Malaysian representative would surely agree on the need to foster dialogue. He had been gratified by the Malaysian representative's reference to the traditional links between the two countries, and hoped that those links would serve to improve the atmosphere in the region.

73. Mr. YEDID (Israel) said that, in a case before the United States Federal Court in Houston, it had been revealed that a Greek tanker carrying oil from Kuwait to Europe had been diverted to Durban, South Africa, where 90 per cent of its oil cargo had been unloaded. That oil had been paid for in South African minerals, including gold and diamonds.

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74. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America), referring to the subject of former Nazi war criminals and collaborators, said that it would be interesting to know when the USSR intended to bring to trial the former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Molotov.

75. The Washington Post of 17 October 1985 had featured an article which stated that the Government of Nicaragua was exerting increased pressure on the Church. That was one more example of the tightening of control in Nicaragua, which went beyond the previous state of emergency by suspending, rather than limiting, basic freedoms. That action reflected the Nicaraguan Government's fear of its own disillusioned people.

76. Mr. RAZZOOQI (Kuwait) said that, as a result of the trust it enjoyed within the international community, his country had chaired the Group of Experts on the Supply of Oil and Oil Products to South Africa, appointed by the Special Committee against Apartheid in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/69 J. Indeed, Kuwait and other Arab States had decided to step up their oil embargo.

77. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country's former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Molotov, had contributed to the drafting of the Treaty of Potsdam and the Charter of the United Nations.

78. His delegation was still concerned at the human-rights situation in the United States, especially the genocide of the indigenous Indian population and the persecution of other national minorities. For instance, Leonard Pelletier, a leading campaigner for Indian rights, was still serving two concurrent life sentences under the harshest conditions of imprisonment, although more than 10 years had passed since his alleged crimes had been committed. Johnny Harris, who had fought for Negro rights, faced the death penalty under a law enacted in 1862, during the era of slavery in the United States. The persecution of those and other minority leaders was universally condemned.

79. Mr. TORRES (Nicaragua) said that the United States was exerting diplomatic pressure to block the Contadora peace initiative and had financed mercenary raids to sabotage the production of cotton and coffee in his country. However, life in Nicaragua went on as normal; only criminal elements, the tools of the Reagan Administration, were affected by the state of emergency. The Government would continue to defend the country's way of life, independence and territorial integrity.

80. Mr. AMED (Afghanistan) said that the United States had no authority to speak on the right of peoples to self-determination. There was a long history of United States aggression against other countries. In that connection, he cited 56 instances of United States intervention of various kinds from 1833 to 1983 affecting the following countries in Latin America alone: Antigua (one instance), Argentina (three instances), Bahamas (one instance), Bermuda (one instance), Brazil (one instance), British Guiana (one instance), Chile (two instances), Colombia (one instance), Costa Rica (one instance), Cuba (nine instances), Dominican Republic (five instances), Grenada (one instance), Guatemala

(Mr. Almed, Afghanistan)

(two instances), Haiti (three instances), Honduras (six instances), Jamaica (one instance), Mexico (one instance), Nicaragua (ten instances), Panama (seven instances), Paraguay (one instance), Peru (one instance), Puerto Rico (one instance), Saint Lucia (one instance), Trinidad (one instance) and Uruguay (three instances).

81. The representatives of the 80 countries that had gained their independence during the latter half of the twentieth century well knew where United States sympathies had lain in the course of their liberation struggle.

The meeting rose at 9.05 p.m.