



UN/SA COLLECTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

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IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/35/65, A/35/146 and A/35/419)

1. Mr. ABDUL RAHIM (Malaysia) said that Malaysia, a multiracial society, understood how essential racial harmony was to the well-being and development of a nation. Despite the efforts of the international community, the racist régime in South Africa continued to practise the inhuman policy of apartheid, which was contrary to the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and represented the most extreme form of racial discrimination. Malaysia condemned such a policy and wished to renew its solidarity with the oppressed people in South Africa in their just struggle to bring an end to that evil and oppressive system.

2. The draft resolution recommended in document A/C.3/35/L.3 for adoption by the General Assembly was appropriate because a decision to hold in 1983 a second world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination would provide the international community with an opportunity to evaluate what had been done and to establish further concrete measures to eliminate those intolerable policies.

3. Unfortunately, the efforts of the international community were being impeded by the continued collaboration of some countries with South Africa, contradicting their own expressions of condemnation, and his delegation feared that steps might actually be taken to develop relations with the racist régime instead of discouraging

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(Mr. Abdul Rahim, Malaysia)

them. It joined other delegations in urging those countries to desist from all such collaboration and to follow the example of countries that had no dealings whatever with the racist régime in South Africa.

4. The situation in other parts of the world in which people were deprived of their freedom and their enjoyment of basic human rights, such as the occupied Arab territories, continued to be of concern to his delegation. Malaysia was steadfast in its support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, a homeland and independence.

5. He reaffirmed Malaysia's full support for all United Nations efforts aimed at eliminating racism and racial discrimination. It was imperative to change views and attitudes in order to make Member States more sensitive to the dangers inherent in those evils.

6. Mr. SALEK (Bangladesh) said it was distressing to note that apartheid, racism and racial discrimination still survived as political doctrines. South Africa's record continued to be one of the grimmest chronicles of human history. While humanitarian consideration alone demanded a total eradication of apartheid, there could be no doubt today that politically its continued existence constituted a serious threat to international peace and security. South Africa's aggressive acts were not confined to its own territory but had repeatedly been carried out beyond its international frontiers, thus constituting a direct threat to peace and security in the entire region.

7. Continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime of Pretoria was yet another manifestation of its abhorrent policy. South Africa had extended its genocidal attacks on Namibian refugees, pursuing them into the neighbouring States of Angola and Zambia, thereby violating the territorial integrity of those sovereign States. Regrettably, despite an arms embargo imposed by the Security Council against South Africa, arms and related matériel continued to find their way into South Africa under one pretext or another.

8. Racism and racial discrimination were not confined to the African continent. The rights of the Palestinian people had been denied, their existence as an entity ignored and their status as a people obliterated. The General Assembly had rightly declared that zionism was a form of racial discrimination. Bangladesh was fully committed to the eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination; as enjoined by its great religion Islam and as enshrined in its Constitution, it firmly believed in the equality of all men and women irrespective of race, religion, heritage, culture or creed.

9. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the programme of activities for the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; in that connexion, he stressed the need for a vigorous and concerted campaign to isolate the racist régime of Pretoria. Bangladesh believed that there was a clear consensus among the great majority of nations that any form of relations with South Africa directly bolstered the apartheid régime and could only be viewed as appeasement or abetment of that criminal policy.

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(Mr. Salek, Bangladesh)

10. The achievement of independence by the people of Zimbabwe was an indication that there was no place for racism in the world. His delegation looked forward to a future in which peoples, irrespective of colour, caste, creed or social or cultural difference, could live together and share common values in peace and harmony.

11. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his delegation had voted for all the resolutions in which the United Nations reaffirmed its firm support of the struggle for national liberation and against racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism and foreign domination. Its position stemmed from the consistent policy of Romania, which had given active political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the struggle of peoples to eradicate racial discrimination and apartheid. Romania believed that the elimination of racial discrimination and the assurance of full equality of rights for all peoples were today necessary for the realization of the aspirations of all peoples for peace and economic and social progress.

12. On several occasions, the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania had vigorously reaffirmed the solidarity of the Romanian people with the struggle of peoples to end racism and apartheid once and for all. Romania had hailed the triumph of the people of Zimbabwe and the proclamation of independence by the Republic of Zimbabwe, which was a new victory in the struggle for the final liquidation of colonialist domination in Africa. That victory had forcefully demonstrated that the world's peoples were determined to end imperialist and colonialist domination in order to ensure their independence and to build a new life of their own choosing.

13. Romania actively supported the people of Namibia, led by SWAPO, and the struggle of progressive forces in South Africa against the policy of apartheid. It provided support to the peoples of southern Africa in their struggle to eliminate apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination and to stop the South African régime's aggression against neighbouring independent countries. It unreservedly supported and implemented the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly against the colonial and racist régimes of southern Africa. Within the framework of activities aimed at the implementation of the Programme for the Decade, Romania had supported the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, had taken an active part in its work and believed that the documents adopted by it contained useful proposals for the liquidation of racist practices.

14. Romania was party to 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. In April 1980 the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had examined the report submitted by Romania pursuant to the first-named Convention and in its 1980 report (A/35/18) had commended the measures taken to promote the social and cultural development of the national minorities in Romania and their equitable representation in political and cultural bodies.

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

15. In 1979 his delegation had commented on the need to make more accessible to members of the Third Committee the contents of national reports submitted to CERD and the proceedings of CERD meetings dealing with those reports. However, the 1980 report's analysis (A/35/18, paras. 16-17) of the Romanian comments showed that a practical conclusion had not yet been envisaged with regard to the solution which should be applied in future CERD reports. For example, it would be useful if the summary records dealing with CERD discussions of the national reports of States parties were more detailed and if the symbols of those summary records appeared in the part of the report in which the discussions were summarized.

16. Broadly speaking, his delegation believed that it was necessary, within the framework of the Programme for the Decade, for all States to accede to the relevant international instruments adopted under United Nations auspices and to take practical measures with a view to their implementation. In that way, the legal framework for international co-operation to eliminate racism and apartheid could be broadened in accordance with the objectives of the Decade. His delegation believed that the convening of a second world conference for action against racism and racial discrimination could bring notable progress towards their total elimination.

17. Mrs. GU (China) said that the universal realization of the right to national self-determination involved not only the gaining of national liberation and independence by peoples in certain regions but also the need to ensure that States which were already independent did not lose their independence and sovereignty and become once again enslaved and oppressed as a result of foreign aggression.

18. The most remarkable event of 1979 in southern Africa had been that after a protracted, heroic struggle, the people of Zimbabwe had finally shaken off the yoke of colonialism and won their independence. That victory had both historic and practical significance. As a heavy blow to the racist forces of South Africa and an impetus to the just struggle of the people of Namibia and Azania for national independence and liberation, it would surely expedite the great historic process of eradicating colonialism and racism from the entire African continent.

19. At present, more than 20 million people in Namibia and Azania were still suffering from brutal oppression and exploitation by colonialism and racism and were living in dire misery. Although the Namibian people continued to win new victories and the mass movement of the Azanian people was developing continuously, the racist authorities of South Africa were putting up stubborn resistance in suppressing those peoples and were invading Zambia, Angola and other neighbouring countries. In Namibia, the racist authorities were pressing ahead with the hoax of an "internal settlement" in an attempt to legitimize the puppet régime they had established. The existence of the South African racist régime was therefore the biggest obstacle to the settlement of the Namibian question. The realization of genuine national independence and liberation in Namibia, on the basis of territorial integrity and national unity, and the national liberation of the people

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(Mrs. Gu, China)

of southern Africa would depend on active struggles in various forms by the African people, particularly the people in southern Africa. At the same time, the international community should adopt effective sanctions against the South African authorities with a view to compelling them to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. It was only by the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and the realization of the right to self-determination that human rights could be effectively guaranteed and respected.

20. The situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine were also of universal concern. Since its first war of aggression against the Arab countries in 1948, Israel had been stubbornly pursuing a policy of aggression and expansion. It had illegally occupied Palestine and large stretches of Arab territories, driving more than 1 million Palestinians out of their homeland and rendering many thousands jobless and homeless. The Israeli authorities had disregarded the strong desire of the international community, had brazenly proclaimed Jerusalem as the "capital" of Israel and had launched new aggression against Lebanon. In order to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East question, the international community must continue the struggle against all forms of super-Power interference and sabotage by relying on the unity and struggle of the Palestinian and other peoples and by uniting all forces in the world that could be united. China sincerely hoped that the Palestinian people would return to their homeland in triumph and establish their own State.

21. The items under consideration should also cover the real problems of the loss of sovereignty and national independence by already independent countries as a result of foreign aggression. In their statements at the current session of the General Assembly, many representatives had expressed deep concern about the flagrant Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the military occupation of Kampuchea by Viet Nam with the support of the Soviet Union. The struggle of the people of Afghanistan had won deep sympathy and wide support all over the world. The resolutions and decisions adopted in the United Nations and in other forums vividly reflected the indignation of the world's peoples at the Soviet Union's armed aggression and its oppression of other nations.

22. Viet Nam's aggression against Kampuchea had brought grave suffering to the Kampuchean people, which was now struggling for the survival of its homeland and the maintenance of peace in South-East Asia. The meetings of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations and of the European Economic Community and the Commission on Human Rights had all voiced their demand for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. The General Assembly too had adopted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Kampuchea. However, refusing to implement that resolution, the Vietnamese had continued their aggression against Kampuchea and had even expanded the war to Thailand, a neighbour of Kampuchea, thus threatening peace and stability in the entire region. The international community must therefore adopt effective measures against the aggressors.

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23. It had been 35 years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and China was gratified to see that a great number of newly emerged countries had won their independence and had joined the United Nations. However, people in some regions were still fighting for their national liberation and independence. At the same time, one could not fail to notice that countries which had already achieved independence were now being subjected to armed aggression and were in danger of losing their political independence and national sovereignty. Events had proved that armed aggression and military occupation would inevitably and immediately lead to violations of human rights and the right to self-determination and would inflict inhuman suffering on countless innocent men and women. The decade of the 1980s would be fraught with crises. Her delegation therefore hoped that the Third Committee would make its contribution in the struggle against colonialism, racism and aggression in order to win and defend national independence and sovereignty. Her delegation was prepared to join in the common effort for the success of the present session.

24. Mrs. AMAILUK (Uganda) congratulated the people of Zimbabwe on its success in achieving national independence after many years of bitter struggle.

25. That success gave fresh momentum and encouragement to the Namibian people's present struggle to achieve national independence. Despite the passage of 20 years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and despite numerous subsequent resolutions by the United Nations, South Africa had continued its illegal occupation and administration of Namibia. South Africa had also continued to use the Territory of Namibia as a base from which to launch attacks on neighbouring countries and was attempting to impose an "internal settlement" scheme in Namibia in a desperate attempt to exclude SWAPO. Her delegation supported the struggle of the people of Namibia for independence under the leadership of SWAPO as the sole authentic representative of that people. It believed that it was the responsibility of the United Nations to protect the territorial integrity of Namibia and to ensure that its people gained independence. Uganda would co-operate with all efforts by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity to achieve that end.

26. She joined previous speakers in deploring and condemning the racist régime of South Africa. Apartheid was a crime against humanity. Uganda supported the struggle of all the oppressed peoples in South Africa through their nationalist groups, a struggle for the very principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

27. Her delegation noted with regret that some States Members of the United Nations were still collaborating with the racist régime of South Africa for the sake of economic and strategic gains. That collaboration had strengthened the hands of the racist régime, enabling it to continue the oppression, torture and

(Mrs. Amailuk, Uganda)

degradation of the majority of the people of South Africa. Uganda appealed to those Member States to co-operate fully in efforts to isolate the racist South African régime economically and politically until the goal of eliminating racial discrimination was achieved and until every man, woman and child in South Africa, white, Coloured or black, enjoyed equal rights and equal status.

28. Her delegation had observed with great concern the rapidly deteriorating state of affairs in the Middle East. It believed that the question of Palestine formed the heart of the Middle East conflict. Her delegation supported the struggle of the people of Palestine for self-determination in a homeland of their own and recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

29. Every Ugandan still had bitter memories of the eight years of terror during which almost half a million Ugandans had lost their lives; thousands of Ugandans had "disappeared" through kidnappings, arrests, torture and murder, acts perpetrated by an oppressive régime against its own people. Her delegation was therefore particularly committed to the cause of human rights and the strengthening of human-rights enforcement machinery within the United Nations and within the various regional organizations. In that connexion, it noted with satisfaction the efforts by the Organization of African Unity to design a human-rights instrument for Africa. Her delegation would continue to lend full support to those efforts because it did not want another group of people to undergo the horrifying experience the people of Uganda had suffered during eight years of fascist oppression.

30. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that it was a source of immense satisfaction for the international community that the people of Zimbabwe had gained freedom and independence as a result of its struggle, its unshakable courage and its determination. The victory of the people of Zimbabwe was another landmark in mankind's advance towards the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, of which the most odious manifestation was still apartheid.

31. Despite the international community's condemnation of apartheid, the racist régime of South Africa was continuing to pursue that policy and to pursue cynically its policy of oppressing the South African and Namibian black population. South Africa was assured of impunity so long as its Western partners did not resolve to isolate it, reconsider their political relations with it and accept the imposition of mandatory sanctions against it under Chapter VII of the Charter. Meanwhile, the world continued to deplore the daily sufferings endured by the South African people and the increasing oppression of South Africa's black majority through escalating terror, arbitrary arrests, sham trials and concentration camps. The Namibian people, whose territory was still under the illegal occupation of South Africa, were also subjected to the criminal practices of the apartheid régime, and the peoples of the neighbouring States, particularly Angola and Zambia, were continuing to serve as its target for repeated aggression.

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(Mrs. Senichi, Algeria)

32. Her delegation reaffirmed its solidarity with the peoples of South Africa and its support for the Namibian people struggling under the leadership of SWAPO, its sole representative, towards which the international community had undertaken a further commitment at the session of the United Nations Council for Namibia held at Algiers in May 1980.

33. There were similarities between the policies and practices of the South African régime and those of the Zionist régime, and the two régimes were shamelessly acting in collusion to perpetuate their oppression. Her delegation continued to feel deep concern at the fate inflicted upon the Palestinian people and upon all of the Arab population under Zionist occupation. It was convinced that the implementation of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would help put an end to the sufferings of the peoples being oppressed on account of their colour or ethnic or religious origin. Her delegation would fully support the preparations for the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

34. With regard to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the detailed consideration of periodic reports submitted by States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination constituted an important foundation in the collective efforts undertaken in the struggle against the scourge of racism throughout the world. It was evident that that action could not be successful without co-operation among the members of CERD and the States Parties on the basis of the provisions of the Convention. It was therefore regrettable to note the absence of co-operation and the arrogance which had been displayed by the representative of the Zionist State during the consideration in CERD of its initial report; the report of CERD should have reflected that attitude more fully. The contribution of CERD to the implementation of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was consistent with the objectives of the Convention and was based on the tireless efforts of the members of CERD to denounce, in particular, all forms of collaboration with the apartheid régime, in pursuance of article 3 of the Convention. Thus, CERD had stressed the need for States Parties to adopt measures against companies operating in South Africa, as evidenced in General Assembly resolution 34/24. Her delegation felt that it would be useful to declare that the fact that each State Party had the duty to combat racial discrimination within its own country did not detract from its urgent obligation to ensure that companies under its jurisdiction effectively terminated all forms of co-operation with the apartheid régime. Furthermore, it had no doubt that participation by CERD in the preparations for the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would contribute to its success.

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(Mrs. Semichi, Algeria)

35. Her delegation wished to thank Mr. Khalifa, the Special Rapporteur, for the work he had done. The detailed information which he had provided about the companies, banks, and commercial and other enterprises which were collaborating with the Pretoria régime despite repeated appeals by the international community strengthened her delegation's belief that South Africa would continue in its arrogance and its oppression of the South African people so long as it was assured of the support, if not the complicity, of its partners and that only the effective and complete isolation of the apartheid régime and the imposition of mandatory sanctions against it would enable the black people of southern Africa to overcome oppression and injustice and regain their dignity and national rights.

36. Mr. MUCORLOR (Liberia) said that his Government's position regarding racial discrimination was well known; over the years, his Government had attacked racial discrimination in the world and supported all United Nations sanctions and other measures that could bring about the downfall of all régimes which practised discrimination. Despite Africa's determination to cure the disease of racism, all efforts had been thwarted by the attitude of certain countries which had wantonly defied United Nations resolutions against minority régimes that oppressed people in various parts of the world. It was clear that the collaboration of certain countries with the racist régime of South Africa was continuing to block the efforts of the United Nations. His delegation believed that the number of countries that had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was still too small. Regrettably, moreover, some of the countries which had acceded to the International Convention were themselves violating its principles for example by continuing to collaborate with the South African régime in the military field, especially by restrictive interpretation of the arms embargo. It was important that the Convention should be strictly implemented by all States.

37. It was alarming to note that there were over 2,500 Western companies in southern Africa which had ignored and violated all the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. His delegation called upon all nations to put a stop to deception and heed the United Nations resolutions calling for action against racist régimes. It was convinced that until the actions of Member States coincided with their positive votes, they would be doing a disservice to the world body. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had referred to the deceitfulness of some Member States in its report to the General Assembly. His delegation hoped that positive action would be taken to make the Convention meaningful for all nations.

38. Liberia supported the programme for the Decade for Women, the programme to assist refugees throughout the world, and the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights to bring relief to suffering people throughout the world.

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39. Mrs. KARPENKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the struggle for the complete and final elimination of racism, all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid continued to be an important international problem whose early solution would help strengthen international peace and security and ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms and the socio-economic progress of the world's peoples. It was therefore highly significant that so much attention was being paid in the United Nations to that struggle and to the mobilization of efforts to eliminate the shameful policy and practice of apartheid. A major role was played by the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and joint action must be taken by all States Members of the United Nations to attain the objectives set forth in the programme of the Decade and further developed in the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. At the 1978 World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, its detailed analysis of progress in the implementation of the programme of the Decade had shown that there were still serious obstacles on the road towards attaining the Decade's goals. The Conference's adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action had provided new impetus for international efforts in the struggle to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

40. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that the beginning of the second half of the Decade had been marked by the victory of the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe as a result of their heroic struggle for freedom and independence and for the elimination of the racist order which the courageous people of Zimbabwe, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front and with the support of the socialist countries and all the progressive forces of the world, had waged for many years.

41. However, her delegation was deeply disturbed by the fact that racism, racial intolerance and other forms of racial discrimination continued to subsist in some parts of the world. The main hotbed of racism was still South Africa. The inhuman policy and practice of apartheid pursued by the South African racists had been justly branded in the United Nations as a crime against humanity and a threat to peace and international security. The situation which had developed in South Africa as a result of the incessant efforts of the racist régime to strengthen and consolidate racist domination and pursue a policy of bantustanization, cruel exploitation and repression against the indigenous population and all opponents of apartheid was cause for grave concern. In suppressing the struggle of the masses of the people against apartheid and striving to maintain control over southern Africa, the racist régime of South Africa had made war preparations and aggressive actions against national liberation movements and independent neighbouring African States a central feature of its domestic and foreign policy. In those circumstances, continuing co-operation by certain Western countries, primarily members of NATO and also by Israel with the South African racists, particularly in the military and economic fields, could not be regarded as anything but de facto complicity in South Africa's pursuit of its policy of apartheid. In violation of United Nations decisions, including the Programme for the Decade, the Western countries were continuing to strengthen and develop relations with the apartheid

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(Mrs. Karpenko, Byelorussian SSR)

régime in various fields, and the activity of transnational corporations in southern Africa was also expanding. The reasons for that phenomenon were well known: through their economic ties with South Africa, the countries concerned were seeking enormous profits based on cruel exploitation of the indigenous population. In the light of the growing aggressiveness of the South African racist régime, co-operation with it in the military and nuclear fields was particularly ominous. The imperialist circles' direct and indirect violations of the Security Council arms embargo against South Africa, sabotage of other United Nations decisions against the South African régime, and actions aimed at preventing the United Nations from adopting effective sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter were the main reasons why a hotbed of racism, apartheid and colonialism still existed in southern Africa.

42. The liberation struggle of the people of southern Africa against racism and colonialism was also complicated by the actions of a State which aspired to hegemony in the Third World and was trying to divide the ranks of the national liberation fighters. The statement made by the representative of that State was a distortion of reality and constituted an attempt to mask those actions.

43. As had already been noted many times in various United Nations bodies, the constant deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, further aggravated by the conclusion of the separatist Camp David deal, resulted primarily from Israel's continuing illegal occupation of Arab territories, systematic and large-scale violations of the rights of the Arab population, including the legitimate right of the Arab people of Palestine to establish its own independent State, expansion of the number of Israeli settlements on Arab lands, the annexation of Jerusalem and other aggressive actions by the Israeli military. Such actions were an embodiment of zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination which had been resolutely condemned in the United Nations.

44. Racism and racial discrimination were engendered in conditions of capitalist exploitation of man by man and of class and social inequality. Since the concepts and theories of racial supremacy and the practice of racial discrimination suited the interests of imperialist and monopolist circles, they were being forcibly implanted and maintained by those circles. That had been shown with particular clarity by the brutal reprisals, including armed reprisals, which had been taken against the non-white population in certain Western countries in 1980. Reprisals against those protesting against the fetters of discrimination and racial oppression, which had grown more unbearable in conditions of economic crisis, were a graphic illustration of the racist essence of the capitalist system. Millions of migrant workers from African, Asian and Latin American countries were subjected to numerous forms of discrimination in capitalist countries and continued to be deprived of elementary civil and socio-economic rights. A further example of the encouragement of racism was the dissemination of racist theories and connivance at the activities in those countries of organizations and groups with fascist and neo-fascist leanings which incited hatred and enmity between peoples. All of those facts were indicative of the real reasons why the Western countries were failing to

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(Mrs. Karpenko, Byelorussian SSR)

implement major decisions in the context of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. If the aims of the Decade were to be achieved, it was important that States should accede to and implement the provisions of 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. In those circumstances, the continuing refusal of the Western countries to assume their obligations under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid must inevitably be regarded as an expression of their intention to continue to maintain close ties with the apartheid régime of South Africa.

45. In the Byelorussian SSR the principle of national and racial equality, as one of the basic elements of the socio-political and socio-economic system of socialist society, was proclaimed and guaranteed under the new Constitution (Basic Law) of the Byelorussian SSR adopted on 14 April 1978. The guarantees of the equal rights of citizens of the Byelorussian SSR and the prohibition of national and racial discrimination contributed to further unity and fraternal solidarity among the hundred or so nations and nationalities living in the Republic. At the international level, in accordance with the Leninist principles of foreign policy, the Byelorussian SSR consistently advocated the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations and the complete isolation and boycotting of racist régimes. At the same time, it expressed solidarity with the liberation struggle of the patriots of Namibia, South Africa and other peoples against apartheid, racism, racial discrimination and colonialism. Detailed information about the participation of the Byelorussian SSR in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination could be found in the report of the Secretary-General (A/35/371). As a State Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the Byelorussian SSR was rigorously implementing the obligations it had assumed under those instruments, as had been shown during the consideration of its sixth periodic report at the twenty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Her delegation noted the generally positive role played by that Committee in implementing the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and also by the group established under article 9 of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which had recently begun its useful work. At the same time it was absolutely essential that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should deal in a more active and purposeful manner with the problems of the struggle against Fascist, Nazi and Zionist ideology based on racial hatred and discrimination. Attaching great importance to the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and fully supporting them, the Byelorussian SSR advocated the strict implementation by all States of the Programme for the Decade and the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. It also believed that the current session of the General Assembly should take effective decisions to help attain the goals of the Decade.

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46. Ms. HUYEN (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her delegation categorically rejected the allegations made by China against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Those allegations contained nothing new: they merely revealed China's continuing hostile policy against Viet Nam and the Indo-Chinese peoples. Although China talked loudly of human rights, it could not hide its horrible crimes of aggression against Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea. China and its instrument, the Pol Pot clique, must be held responsible for the death of 3 million Kampucheans. Her delegation reserved the right to revert to the question at an appropriate time.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.