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6th meeting  
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at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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

AGENDA ITEM 74: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/36/75; A/36/116 and Corr.1; A/36/515; A/C.3/36/L.3) (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 81: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT 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 (A/36/116 and Corr.1; A/36/403 and Add.1; A/36/421 and Corr.1; A/C.3/36/4) (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 82: ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/36/116 and Corr.1; A/36/138; A/36/421 and Corr.1) (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/36/18)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/36/453)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (A/36/454 and Add.1)

1. Mr. FIDER (Philippines) said that the right of peoples to political self-determination was enshrined in the United Nations Charter and had been reaffirmed in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. His country was therefore gratified by the fact that the majority of Non-Self-Governing Territories had already won their independence. The right of self-determination, however, had not only a political dimension but also possessed economic, social, cultural and legal implications. Thus, Article 1 of the International Covenant on Human Rights provided that by virtue of the right of self-determination, all peoples could freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development and could freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources for their own ends. The Covenant further stated that in no case could a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. In his view, that meant that all human rights and fundamental freedoms were indivisible.

2. Political and economic issues, in particular the problems of development, were inextricably linked. Their global character called for concerted international action because economic emancipation was an essential factor in the elimination of political domination. Thus, the social strategy had become an integral part of the global strategy for the second United Nations Development Decade. That was the spirit behind the International Development Strategy unanimously adopted by all Member States in 1970 and its concept of integrated development.

3. Moreover, the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted by the General Assembly at its Sixth Special Session declared that such an order should be based, inter alia, on the broadest co-operation of all

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(Mr. Fider, Philippines)

the members of the international community as well as the full and effective participation on the basis of equality of all countries in the solving of world economic problems in the common interest of all countries, bearing in mind the need to ensure the accelerated development of all the developing countries. It followed that social and cultural development fell within the broad compass of international economic co-operation, particularly in such important areas as agricultural and rural development, family planning, housing, health, environment, credit, financial aid and assistance, industrial investment, education, science and technology and other aspects of development. He stressed the need for changes in political attitudes as an essential first step in achieving a new international economic order.

4. In connexion with the right of self-determination, it was essential to mention the continuing plight of the peoples of Palestine, Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The problem of Palestine, as old as the United Nations itself, was a time bomb which could explode at any moment unless prompt measures were taken to defuse it. It had already given rise to terror and counter-terror of unsurpassed violence. The related issues of Afghanistan and Kampuchea also involved flagrant violations of the United Nations Charter, namely the use of force and the denial of the right of the peoples of those two countries to choose their own government freely and without external coercion. His delegation refused to condone the use of naked force by some countries to impose their will on others. It supported a peaceful and comprehensive solution of all issues, leading to the restoration of the rights of peoples, which had been violated in defiance of world opinion.

5. Turning to the plight of the refugees forced to leave their countries as a result of war and its destabilizing effect he said that, despite the exemplary efforts of the relief agencies, the problem could not be adequately solved unless the source of conflict was removed. His delegation would support all necessary measures to relieve the plight of the helpless victims of conflict.

6. His delegation associated itself in the collective protest against racial discrimination in all its forms, particularly the unspeakable crime of apartheid, which was an offence against all the principles of decency debased the very concept of human dignity and degraded all human beings. At the same time apartheid was a serious threat to world peace.

7. In recent years, the focus of the struggle against apartheid had been Namibia, a ward of the United Nations illegally occupied by South Africa, an occupation which added yet another dimension to the explosive situation in southern Africa. His delegation continued to hope for a peaceful solution of the problem of Namibia, but felt that any solution which did not grant the people of Namibia the right to determine their own destiny and did not extirpate rampant racism in that country would prove illusory and certainly unacceptable to the members of the Committee.

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(Mr. Fider, Philippines)

8. In South Africa itself there had been no diminution in the practice of apartheid. Recent events had demonstrated that, if anything, the régime in Pretoria had become more repressive. The heartless character of apartheid was symbolized by the forced evacuation of women and children. But violence bred violence and South Africa, having sown the wind, might find itself reaping the whirlwind as guerillas roamed the land, fully aware that they had the moral support of the entire human community.

9. He noted that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had received over 100 ratifications and accessions and expressed the hope that the forthcoming World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would provide a fitting occasion for the submission by States which had not yet done so of signatures and instruments of ratification for all the human rights conventions.

10. Referring to his country's record in the struggle against racial discrimination, he said that the Philippines had signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on the very day that it had been opened for signature and had ratified it on 15 September 1967. The Philippines was represented in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by an acknowledged expert, a Deputy Foreign Minister. It had also promptly signed and ratified the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and remained strongly convinced that ratification of that Convention on a universal basis was required if its provisions were to be implemented. He regretted that, as of 1 September 1981, only 63 countries had ratified or acceded to that Convention. He drew the Committee's attention to the comments of the Philippines on the recommendations and conclusions of the Group of Three established under article IX of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid contained in document A/36/454 and assured it of his country's firm support in the unrelenting struggle against racial discrimination, including reverse racial discrimination, and in particular against apartheid, which it considered to be the most abhorrent of crimes.

11. Mrs. MBAPILA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had reflected the collective will of the majority of the members of the world community to co-operate in a common fight against that practice. From the reports before the Committee, it appeared that some genuine efforts had been made by some Member States to implement the provisions of the Programme. She was concerned, however, because those efforts were being made by countries in which racism and racial discrimination were almost non-existent. The architects and practitioners of racism and racial discrimination were either silent or gave a rather vague picture of what was happening in their respective countries.

12. Her delegation wished to express its appreciation of the manner in which some specialized agencies, in particular UNESCO, had attempted to implement some parts of the Programme. However, a number of other organs of the United Nations had not

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(Mrs. Mbapila, United  
Republic of Tanzania)

been able fully to play a positive role because of their structure and had been unable to secure the support of their governing bodies for certain activities which could have gone a long way to combat racism and racial discrimination. Her delegation appealed to the conscience of those countries which had a controlling role in these organs and urged them to recognize that the fight against racism and racial discrimination was the expression of the collective will of the majority of Members of the United Nations.

13. Her delegation took pride in the fact that the singular achievement of the United Nations was in the struggle for the liberation of colonial countries and peoples. General Assembly resolution 35/35 A had been adopted because a majority of Members of the United Nations had felt that there was a great need to reaffirm the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle. As in the past, her country was fully committed to the struggle and would continue to contribute the little it had to achieve the liberation of colonial countries and peoples.

14. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the progress in the ratification of, accession or succession to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was looking forward to still better results in the 1982 report. However, ratification or accession were not ends in themselves; the primary objective of that Convention was the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. Her delegation therefore noted with concern that the reports indicated that racial discrimination still persisted even in some countries that were parties to the Convention. It was also evident that not all States parties to the Convention were actively engaged in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. Her delegation appealed to those countries that were not engaged in that struggle not to prevent others from doing so.

15. The report on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (A/36/454 and Add.1) was not encouraging. Even though that Convention had entered into force in 1976, total ratifications numbered only 65. Her delegation noted with appreciation the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on the Implementation of the Convention. Apartheid had been declared a crime against humanity and her country in co-operation with all others that had the moral courage to treat apartheid as a crime, would work hard within the terms of the Convention to combat it. Peace and security in the world could not be achieved unless colonialism, racism and apartheid were totally eliminated.

16. Mr. VOICU (Romania) expressed appreciation for the documentation prepared by the Secretariat in connexion with agenda items 74 and 82 and for the introductory remarks made by the Director of the Division of Human Rights.

17. Romania had always favoured the adoption and implementation of all United Nations resolutions by which Member States affirmed their resolute support for the

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

struggle for national liberation and against racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and foreign domination. As the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania had stressed, by firmly condemning the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination, which represented a challenge to mankind, a flagrant violation of the Charter and of the most fundamental human rights as well as a grave danger to international peace and security, socialist Romania was resolutely supporting the struggle of the people of South Africa for freedom and democracy and for the exercise of their sacred right to a free, dignified and independent life. Romania also continued to give its full support to the struggle of the people of Namibia, under the leadership of SWAPO, to put an end to the illegal occupation of their country and to assert their right freely to choose the path of its future development in accordance with its legitimate aspirations and interests. As in the past, the Romanian Government resolutely condemned the policy of racism and apartheid pursued by the Pretoria régime against the African population; it also condemned its armed attacks against neighbouring countries and called for an unconditional cessation of all military activities threatening the independence and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola.

18. Romania actively supported the adoption of General Assembly resolutions calling on all Member States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to expand their activities with a view to attaining the objectives of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Romania had respected and implemented Security Council and General Assembly resolutions relating to practical measures to be taken against the colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa and favoured the adoption of a programme that best served the legitimate aspirations of the majority population. As a matter of priority, the recommendations adopted at the 1978 World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be fully implemented.

19. As in previous years, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been celebrated in Romania on 21 March 1981; the same date had marked the beginning of the Week of Solidarity with Peoples Combating Racism and Racial Discrimination. The many events organized on that occasion had reflected the continuing interest of the Romanian public in efforts to eliminate racism, apartheid and related practices which were in flagrant violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

20. As a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Romania welcomed the fact that that instrument had been ratified by more than 100 States. However, unflagging efforts were needed to achieve its universal ratification and to ensure that all its provisions were put into practice by every State.

21. Romania was also a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Accession to that instrument by more than 60 States reflected the international community's commitment to efforts to eliminate the deeply anachronistic phenomenon of apartheid, however, the ratification of that Convention must also become universal. He pointed out that,



(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

in January 1981, the Working Group established to consider ways and means of ensuring the implementation of the Convention had discussed the initial report submitted by Romania. Those discussions had highlighted his country's unswerving position of principle against all forms of discrimination based on race, nationality, sex or religion and its active support for efforts to eradicate the crime of apartheid.

22. During its current session, the General Assembly had an important role to play in preparing for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in 1983. In that connexion, the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.3 provided a practical and useful frame of reference for the work of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference. Among the many provisions which could considerably further the objectives of the programme for the Decade, his delegation wished to stress those contained in paragraph 12.

23. On a broader level, his delegation felt that all Members of the United Nations, had a duty consistently to promote humanist education based on the ideals of peace and understanding, freedom and social justice, friendship and mutual respect. Special attention should be given to activities to protect young people from the negative influence of neo-fascist, racist circles and from the degrading impact of certain industries of the subculture, which fostered violence and racial hatred. A vigorous world campaign should be undertaken to combat racial prejudices and to promote the education of young people, in accordance with the Programme for the Decade.

24. As had been recommended in many of the texts adopted by the General Assembly and by world conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations, the resolute commitment of women was especially important in the formulation and implementation of measures to combat racism and apartheid.

25. Within the Programme for the Decade, due attention should also be given to the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions calling on all States to accede to the international conventions on the elimination of racial discrimination and apartheid.

26. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the discussion of agenda items 74 and 82 would advance the preparations for the Second World Conference.

27. Mrs. LOUKYANOVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) referring to items 74 and 82, said that it was gratifying to note that the vast majority of Member States were united in their opposition to apartheid, racism and racial discrimination.

28. The Ukrainian SSR strictly complied with its obligations under such important legal instruments as 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, as could be seen from its prompt submission of periodic reports in accordance with the provisions of those documents, and by

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(Mrs. Loukyanova, Ukrainian SSR)

how favourably they had been received by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Group of Three of the Commission on Human Rights. Her Government was actively contributing to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Its activities in that sphere were described in detail in the information which it regularly submitted under paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade. In March 1981, as in previous years, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been widely celebrated in the Ukrainian SSR and the mass media in her country constantly featured material exposing the criminal nature of ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. Such phenomena were, by definition, quite alien to socialism and were non-existent in the Ukrainian SSR whose constitution guaranteed equality for all, regardless of racial or national origins. Moreover, under Ukrainian law, any propaganda or agitation aimed inciting racial or national hatred and any direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of race or nationality were serious offences.

29. Notwithstanding the efforts of the international community to combat racism, apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, those shameful phenomena continued to exist. Especially serious was the position in southern Africa, where the authorities in Pretoria were not only ignoring the demands of the world community but were making a last-ditch effort to perpetuate the criminal system of apartheid both in South Africa itself and in the occupied territory of Namibia in order to prolong its rule over the non-white peoples of those two countries. That was demonstrated by the continued repression against freedom fighters in South Africa and in Namibia, in the blocking of United Nations efforts to achieve independence for Namibia, and in acts of aggression against neighbouring States. Its armed aggression against the People's Republic of Angola had once again revealed the true face of racism and had underlined the urgent necessity to take decisive measures against the racists in Pretoria and to broaden support for the national liberation movements in southern Africa.

30. The racist régime would not dare to behave so impudently and defiantly unless it was confident of receiving support for its acts of aggression from the forces of international imperialism and reaction. Some recent instances of that support included the refusal by the United States and a number of other countries members of NATO to take part in the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held at Paris in May 1981, the blocking of a resolution in the Security Council condemning the armed aggression of South Africa against Angola and demanding the immediate withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory, the refusal to support the resolution calling for an Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on Namibia, and the failure to implement the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Economic, military and other assistance was also provided to South Africa by those States and their transnational corporations, as well as by Israel. According to recently published information, 350 branches of major American corporations were operating in South Africa and the total direct capital investment of the United States in the economy of the apartheid régime amounted to more than \$2 billion.

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(Mrs. Loukyanova, Ukrainian SSR)

31. Encouraged by its Western protectors, the racist régime in Pretoria continued increasing its military potential, actively preparing for the production of nuclear weapons, carrying out acts of aggression against its neighbours, and creating a grave threat to international peace and security. She fully endorsed the comment made in the final documents of the International Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in the International Mobilization against Apartheid, held at Berlin, German Democratic Republic, from 31 August to 2 September 1981, that the United States of America and other Western Powers bore a great responsibility for the continuation of apartheid. Her delegation supported strict implementation of Security Council sanctions against the South African régime and wholeheartedly endorsed the decisions of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, particularly the programme for comprehensive sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

32. The problem of eliminating racism and racial discrimination in the modern world was not, however, limited to the system of apartheid in southern Africa. Racism and racial discrimination continued to exist wherever imperialism ruled and the vestiges of colonialism remained. The international community had often justly condemned such forms of racism as zionism which lay behind Israel's scandalous conduct in the occupied Arab territories. There, too, the aggressor, encouraged by an agreement on a so-called "strategic alliance" with its patrons continued its sustained aggression against neighbouring Lebanon and its policy of expelling Palestinian Arabs from their lands.

33. Guidelines for conducting the struggle to eliminate apartheid, racism and all forms of racial discrimination were contained in the Programme for the Decade and the Programme for the Second Half of the Decade and were given concrete form in many United Nations decisions and resolutions. They were reaffirmed in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.4 submitted by the Economic and Social Council for adoption at the current session of the General Assembly. Her delegation supported that draft but stressed that what mattered was not the adoption of the resolution but the implementation of its provisions. In that connexion, there was good cause to be perplexed by the refusal of a number of NATO countries to associate themselves with the implementation of the goals of the Decade by acceding to or ratifying the relevant international legal instruments. It was significant that not one country in the Western Group had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

34. She expressed the hope that the General Assembly at its current session would adopt useful decisions concerning the elimination of racism, apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, and expressed her delegation's readiness to support such decisions and contribute to their implementation.

35. Mr. BORCHARD (Federal Republic of Germany), referring to agenda item 81, stressed that the fundamental importance of the right of all peoples to self-determination was reflected both in the United Nations Charter and in the two International Covenants on Human Rights. Nevertheless, there had been repeated

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(Mr. Borchard, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

violations of that right and of the independence of nations, especially in recent years, some of which involved military intervention. In the circumstances, it was important for the United Nations to make sure that the old form of colonialism was not superseded by an ideologically motivated neo-colonialism and a new policy of hegemony.

36. The Federal Republic of Germany had consistently supported efforts to secure the exercise of the right to self-determination throughout the world. By the same token, it demanded that right for the German people, who were divided against their will. The declared aim of his Government's policy was to achieve a state of peace in Europe in which the German nation could be reunified by freely exercising its right to self-determination.

37. Article 1 of both International Covenants on Human Rights stated that all peoples should be free to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Accordingly, a nation must have an opportunity to express its free will in referenda and elections. Moreover, an individual could only share in his nation's right to self-determination if he enjoyed the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech and the right to move freely in his own country or to leave any country, including his own. The implementation of the basic rights of the individual and the implementation of the right to self-determination of peoples were inseparable: one goal could not be attained without the other.

38. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the right of peoples to decide freely and without foreign interference on their political status and their economic, social and cultural development was a fundamental principle of current international law. The full implementation of that right, in conformity with the demands of the legitimate representatives of peoples, represented success for peace and security; progress towards that end was reflected in the admission of Vanuatu and Belize to the United Nations.

39. However, such repudiations of colonialism and racism prompted feverish manoeuvres to regain control, including intervention by the most aggressive imperialist circles in the internal affairs of other States. Entire regions were claimed as spheres of national interest, military bases were established and expanded in colonial and dependent territories and reactionary régimes were bolstered by military alliances. Those imperialist policies violated the right to self-determination and directly threatened the vital interests of all peoples.

40. The world was deeply concerned about the further deterioration of the situation in southern Africa where, encouraged by imperialist policies of superarmament and confrontation, the racist proponents of apartheid were depriving the African majority of its right to self-determination. Moreover, Pretoria's systematic aggression against sovereign States had reached new heights with the brutal invasion of the People's Republic of Angola. Employing the fascist strategy of "scorched earth", South African bands of murderers had devastated vast parts of

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(Mr. Schlegel, German  
Democratic Republic)

Angola, thus revealing once again the anti-peace and anti-human nature of the apartheid régime. The German Democratic Republic energetically condemned such brutal aggression and firmly demanded that the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of Angola should be strictly respected. His country declared its unqualified solidarity with the heroic Angolan people in their struggle to defend their country's national independence and sovereignty.

41. The recent emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia had furnished new and convincing evidence that, despite such violations of international law and threats to peace, the South African racists could continue to rely on the support of the most aggressive representatives of imperialism. Many United Nations documents unmistakably proved that they not only earned huge profits from the exploitation of South African and Namibian natural and human resources but also provided the racist régime with lethal weapons. They used every means to sustain the racist régime, to insulate it from United Nations decisions and to provide the materials enabling it to attain a nuclear capability. By supporting the apartheid régime as an imperialist stronghold to block the African peoples' desire for freedom, the aggressive imperialist circles were nurturing a threat to peace on the African continent.

42. With that support and encouragement, the South African racists, in defiance of numerous United Nations decisions, employed brutal terror to prevent the people of Namibia from exercising their right to self-determination. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) must be implemented to pave the way for a peaceful solution to that problem. Manoeuvres designed to modify the United Nations plan for Namibia jeopardized United Nations efforts in defiance of the will of the majority of Member States. They served South Africa's interests and were aimed at imposing a neo-colonialist settlement on the Namibian people in order to perpetuate white minority rule. Comprehensive sanctions imposed by the Security Council were needed urgently to force South Africa to withdraw from Namibia and to help the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, to gain its freedom and independence.

43. Referring to the raid by the Israeli Air Force on the nuclear research center in Iraq, a dangerous example of escalating violations of the rights of the Arab people, he pointed out that peace and security in the Middle East could not be ensured unless Israel completely withdrew from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and unless the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization, were guaranteed. His country supported the Soviet proposal for the convening of an international conference to find a comprehensive and just settlement of problems in the Middle East.

44. His Government supported the just struggle of the peoples of Latin America for peace, democracy, national independence, self-determination and social progress, and deplored the methods employed by reactionary régimes to try to maintain their position. It condemned aggressive imperialist circles for supporting reactionary and terrorist dictatorships, discrediting freedom fighters by calling them terrorists and threatening progressive Governments; it energetically rejected all

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(Mr. Schlegel, German  
Democratic Republic)

imperialist attempts to use terror and oppression to prevent the peoples of Latin America, especially in El Salvador, from exercising their right to political and social independence and to self-determination.

45. The people of the German Democratic Republic had steadily increased its support for peoples struggling for national independence and social liberation. At its tenth congress, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany had reiterated that the German Democratic Republic would continue to give unqualified support to peoples struggling to exercise their inalienable rights.

46. Referring to the comments of the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, who had purported to speak on behalf of the German people, he stressed that the people of the German Democratic Republic had established a socialist German State and were building socialism through the exercise of their right to self-determination. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic had said in his statement to the General Assembly on 25 September 1981, ideas that were unrealistic and incompatible with international law were not helpful to good neighbourly relations. On the contrary, they were bound to encourage revanchist and right-wing extremists to poison the atmosphere and thus to create obstacles to normal relations with other States.

47. Ms. RADIC (Yugoslavia) welcomed the admission to the United Nations of Vanuatu and Belize. However, she pointed out that peoples in various parts of the world were still being denied their rights to national independence and, the Committee would be compelled to reiterate its condemnation of the persistent denial of the right to self-determination of the peoples of Namibia and Palestine.

48. The perpetrators of the abhorrent policy of racism and apartheid turned a deaf ear to the demands of the overwhelming majority of nations, whether expressed in the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement or the Organization of African Unity. However, her country had always provided political, humanitarian or economic assistance to peoples under colonial or foreign domination and to their liberation movements. For example, each year Yugoslav universities offered a variety of facilities to students from Namibia and Palestine, inter alia.

49. Her delegation earnestly hoped that the recent decision of the Organization of African Unity concerning Western Sahara would contribute to a just and peaceful solution to that problem. Yugoslavia also supported the struggle for self-determination of the peoples of the small territories of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

50. Her delegation attached particular importance to another aspect of the right to self-determination, namely the right to development, without which there could be no peace, real freedom, progress or prosperity for mankind. In that connexion, she expressed appreciation for the very useful study prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the right to self-determination.

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(Ms. Radčić, Yugoslavia)

51. Her delegation attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and felt that it was proceeding in the right direction, particularly in connexion with the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa and with preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should seriously consider the possibility of elaborating together with studies on articles 4 and 7, a study on the implementation of article 5, paragraph (e), and article 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Committee with its wealth of experience could make a significant contribution to the work of the Second World Conference and help to improve the position of minorities and the protection of their rights throughout the world. In view of the expert qualifications of its members, such a study would complement, but would not duplicate, other papers in the field. Moreover, she suggested that consideration should be given to the possibility of enabling a representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to participate, as an observer, in the work of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference.

52. Her delegation supported the position of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the need for the summary records of its meetings to be issued on time and concerning the provision of the necessary material on the implementation of the Convention on Non-Self-Governing Territories and other territories covered by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Without that information, that Committee could not carry out its duties under article 15 of the Convention.

53. In conclusion, she drew attention to the fact that a large number of Member States have failed to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in good time. In her delegation's opinion, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should give more attention to that problem and should not merely send out routine reminders.

54. Mr. AVILES (Nicaragua) said that the General Assembly would have to do more than prepare draft resolutions or strengthen existing resolutions on the social and humanitarian items before it at the current session. The Committee should send forceful messages to the international community urging peoples and Governments to put into place new and more effective machinery for the improvement of living conditions in the political, economic and social spheres. Only thus could the Committee satisfactorily complete its work in the field of traditional human rights and political and economic rights designed to ensure the preservation of justice, peace and development with the equal participation of all.

55. His delegation wished to announce that from 14 to 22 December, Nicaragua would be the host of a seminar on ways of combating racial discrimination and on the protection of indigenous groups. That seminar would consider measures adopted by each country to assist ethnic and linguistic minorities and the resources made available to ensure the human rights of such groups. The seminar, at the Latin American level, would be held under the auspices of the United Nations within the context of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

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(Mr. Aviles, Nicaragua)

56. In all United Nations forums, the oppressive régime of South Africa, its odious practice of apartheid, its inhuman bantustanization policy and its illegal occupation of Namibia had been fully condemned. As stated by the Nicaraguan Minister for Foreign Affairs at the current session of the General Assembly, Nicaragua believed that the persistent and illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa as well as that country's campaign against the front-line States enjoyed the indirect support of certain Western Powers. He was referring not only to the participation in the illegal exploitation of the resources of Namibia by some members of the Contact Group, but also to the manoeuvres aimed at frustrating the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and to helping to impose a neo-colonialist solution in Namibia which would exclude SWAPO, the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people. The international community could be neither patient nor neutral in the fight against the scourge of apartheid and the new version of that diabolical system which South Africa was attempting to establish in Namibia.

57. Among the messages which should be sent to the international community, should include an urgent appeal to all countries which in any way supported the racist Pretoria Government to withdraw their support and complicity in its criminal actions. While there was almost a consensus on the international isolation of the Government of South Africa, that consensus should be total and should seek to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the policy of apartheid.

58. The international community should establish effective machinery to enable States to eliminate all types of action by persons or groups which promoted or practiced activities which discriminated against other human beings on grounds of sex, social or cultural factors. His delegation believed that education of youth and widespread teaching of human rights could play a significant role in achieving that objective, as had been stated by the Director of the Division of Human Rights. In that way, the moral values of the individual and society could be strengthened in observance of the principle of equality of all, without distinction to race, sex, religion, political belief or education.

59. Nicaragua had already initiated a dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and, as his Government had informed that Committee, the state of emergency in force at the time of the triumph of the war of liberation had been lifted in April 1981 in accordance with article 49 of the Fundamental Law. Article 7 of the Law on Rights and Guarantees of the Nicaraguan people remained in force; it proclaimed the unconditional equality of all Nicaraguans in accordance with Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In connexion with measures to prohibit apartheid, in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, his Government had incorporated that article in the law establishing the National Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Furthermore, tangible expression was given to article 4 of the Convention in article 22 of the Law on Rights and Guarantees of the Nicaraguan People, which prohibited all propaganda against peace and any defence of national, racial or

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(Mr. Aviles, Nicaragua)

religious hatred. The rights enshrined in articles 5 and 6 of the Convention were covered for in title III, articles 3, 4, 8 and 11 of the Law on Rights and Guarantees of the Nicaraguan People. With a view to implementing article 7 of the Convention, the Government of Nicaragua had established the Nicaraguan Institute for the Atlantic Coast (INNICA), with exclusive competence to meet the needs of the main ethnic and linguistic minorities in the country, particularly with respect to teaching, education, culture and information. A trilingual literacy campaign had been promoted for those minorities and was continuing through the intervention of the Vice Minister for Adult Education. INNICA had promoted the establishment of several co-operatives as part of the programme of integrated land reform and the first titles to property had already been granted. Furthermore, a television channel and special radio broadcasts had been provided in the indigenous languages; the establishment of INNICA could serve as a model or pilot project for other countries.

60. Nicaragua also guaranteed the right of peaceful assembly and public demonstration as well as free association to organize political parties or groups in articles 23, 24 and 25 of the Law on Rights and Guarantees of the Nicaraguan People. Nicaragua's relations with the International Labour Organisation were satisfactory with respect to the Conventions to which Nicaragua was a party. His Government hoped to maintain the fruitful dialogue already initiated with CERD at its next session. Nicaragua would support and sponsor any draft resolution or decision condemning all forms of racial discrimination and the political ideologies they supported. It would also join in any consensus appealing to countries which in any way supported or promoted relations with the South African Government to suspend the relations until that Government revised its attitude of contempt and indifference to all appeals, criticisms and condemnations emanating from United Nations forums.

61. Mrs. OJIAMBO (Kenya) said that with regard to the items under consideration, the international community had to bring about a change in moral and legal beliefs and attitudes which would generate to action that went beyond expressions of political goodwill. What was needed was strict implementation of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by the parties. Those who were not yet, for whatever reasons, parties to the Convention should at least be guided by the Convention.

62. Her delegation supported the views contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/36/75) on educational activities and activities of the mass media in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. The mass media could effectively play a role in the mobilization of public opinion against the evils of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. If only the oppressed people of South Africa had the means to publicize the atrocities of apartheid in that country to the international community through the mass media, the world would have a better understanding of the abhorrent system of racism and apartheid. The new world information order recognized information as a social need and not a mere commodity and the poor should therefore be given the means effectively to express themselves.

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(Mrs. Ojiambo, Kenya)

63. The increasingly sharp imbalances in economic development and social progress had created political instability and widespread racial tensions. It was therefore imperative that the attention of the world community be focused on actions aimed at narrowing the economic and social gap between nations and peoples. It was that disparity which the new international economic order was intended to remove; the North could not survive without the South and vice versa. Her delegation hoped that the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, planned for 1983, would revive world attention to racial issues.

64. The item on self-determination would continue to be discussed until countries and peoples still under colonial, racist and apartheid régimes were independent and free. As the President of Kenya had stated in the General Assembly, for the continent of Africa, freedom and independence were indivisible and must be maintained regardless of cost to life and property.

65. The people of Western Sahara, the Palestinian people, the people of Namibia and the people of South Africa were prepared to sacrifice their lives to assert their right to self-determination, independence and freedom. Namibia should be free in the first quarter of 1982. What was needed today in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and elsewhere, was enforcement of the principles of love, peace and unity which were prerequisites for racial harmony, economic development and social progress.

66. The CHAIRMAN said that since the closure on Tuesday, 29 September of the list of speakers on the items under consideration, he had received requests from delegation wishing to speak. Since it was the first group of items under consideration and since all delegations might not have been aware of the progress achieved, he would suggest that, without establishing a precedent the Committee should permit their inclusion in the list. If there was not objection, he would take it that on that understanding, the Committee agreed to his suggestion.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.