



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ESQUIVEL (Costa Rica)

later: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

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

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AGENDA ITEM 82: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/116 and Corr.1, 133, 421 and Corr.1)

- (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. Mrs. DA LUZ (Cape Verde) said that it was disturbing to find that after years of effort expended by the international community, in spite of two solemn Declarations, two international Conventions, in spite of three Committees, one Commission, one Sub-Commission, a Centre and two major Conferences, despite mankind's increased awareness, the scourge of racism continued to exist and the question of racial discrimination and apartheid remained on the agenda.

2. The fortress of racism and apartheid - South Africa - remained untouched and although a few minor adjustments had been made to the system and joyfully announced as reforms, there was nothing to indicate that South Africa planned to put an end to its policy. In fact, during the 35 years of their existence, the structures of apartheid had been strengthened and economic and financial co-operation with South Africa had never ceased to flow from certain countries.

3. While voicing their opposition, in principle, to apartheid those countries had always, in practice, invoked legal obstacles to prevent the international community from bringing pressure to bear on that most barbaric of all régimes. Their co-ordinated actions were designed to conceal the network of national and transnational interests based on exploitation and racial discrimination. Apartheid was a political problem and therefore it could not be solved solely by humanitarian action.

4. The Paris Conference, like many other conferences had stated clearly that the international community must take energetic and concerted action to eradicate apartheid and help the people of South Africa and Namibia recover their rights and

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(Mrs. Da Luz, Cape Verde)

their dignity. The issue of apartheid was not exclusively the concern of the South African people or even of the African nations, although they were determined to secure the liberation of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and to eradicate racism and colonial domination completely. Although the responsibility of the Permanent Members of the Security Council in the matter was commensurate to the powers entrusted to them in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, the issue of apartheid was, in fact, the responsibility of each of the 156 Member States of the Organization if they were to be bound by the Charter and by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

5. Mr. JANKU (Albania) said that racial discrimination in its most hateful form - apartheid - continued to be practised even now in various forms and degrees. Racism, a colonial and imperialist ideology, had been made into a system by the South African régime. It enabled the white racist settlers of Pretoria to rule over the Coloured population of Azania and Namibia even though they constituted the majority. In order to reap fat profits from the exploitation of the natural resources of those territories, while the Namibian and Azanian peoples lived in poverty and were turned into modern-day slaves monopolies and multinational companies, the United States imperialists and those of some other capitalist countries were supporting the South African regime in its barbarous oppression and exploitation of the African peoples.

6. But southern Africa was not the only region where racial discrimination existed. The criminal practices of the Israeli Zionists against the Palestinians and the other Arab peoples in the occupied territories constituted another form of oppression and racial discrimination. The resemblance between the two reactionary régimes could be found not only in their domestic policies but also in the aggressive and expansionist policy they pursued towards neighbouring States such as Angola and Lebanon. The many-sided collaboration and the alliance between the Pretoria régime and that of Tel Aviv was by no means accidental. The two régimes were able to pursue their policies because they enjoyed the support of world imperialism, in particular, that of the United States, otherwise they would not dare to trample the sovereign rights of those peoples under foot and defy with such arrogance progressive world public opinion and the United Nations.

7. The Albanian delegation was of the view that the rivalry between the two imperialist super-Powers - a rivalry which had created tensions and conflicts in southern Africa and in Africa as a whole - was a great help to the racists of South Africa. In their rivalry for hegemony in the area, the United States and the Soviet Union had been intriguing in order to pit the African peoples against one another and to undermine their solidarity with the just liberation struggle of the Azanian and Namibian peoples; the political and diplomatic machinations (whether they were called "political settlement" or "an internal constitutional settlement" for Namibia) were part of the efforts of the Western imperialist Powers to perpetuate the Pretoria regime. However, armed with a higher political consciousness the African peoples were now confronting the super-Powers and courageously challenging neo-colonialism and other forms of exploitation and racial discrimination. The victory of the Zimbabwean people was a vivid example in that regard.

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(Mr. Janku, Albania)

8. Although South Africa was the bastion of racial discrimination that was not to say that racial discrimination did not exist in other countries, including those which claimed to be the champions of "human rights" and "genuine democracy", as demonstrated by the economic and social situation of the Coloured population in the United States, if official statistics were to be believed, and the violence used by the forces of order in repressing anti-racist protestors. The people and Government of Albania had always condemned racial discrimination and apartheid in all its forms and would continue to offer unflinching support to the just struggle waged by the African peoples against racist and colonial oppression.

9. Mr. CHUGHATAI (Pakistan), speaking on agenda items 74 and 82, said that it would be appropriate to make an assessment as to whether actions undertaken under the Programme for the Decade were adequate. While his delegation continued to believe that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was the most suitable way for the international community to achieve its objectives, with the experience of the past eight years of the Programme of Action it should be possible for the international community to reshape and strengthen its future efforts.

10. Pakistan had fully supported General Assembly resolution 35/33 in which the Assembly had decided to hold, in 1983, a second world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination which would make it possible to assess the efforts made so far and to formulate future programmes. His delegation pledged to support and co-operate with the Economic and Social Council and with all the agencies involved in the convening of the conference. It also endorsed the measures proposed by the Council in draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.3. The functions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be strengthened and its scope widened so as to enable it to examine the situation prevailing in all signatory States in regard to racial discrimination, and all other matters for which article 15 of the Convention gave the Committee a special mandate.

11. His delegation had read with interest documents A.36/75, A/36/454 and A/36/515 and it appreciated the efforts being made by the United Nations to fight racism and racial discrimination. The role of education and of the mass media in combating racism and racial discrimination was vital. It was to be regretted that the mass media in some advanced countries which influenced media in other parts of the world had not joined in those efforts. His delegation supported the recommendation, contained in document A/36/75, that further research should be undertaken to study racism in the communication process at the social, political, economic and cultural level and it also believed that the attitude of the staff working in the mass media should be examined.

12. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the total number of signatories to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had reached 108. Being committed to Islamic values and ideals, which totally rejected racism and racial discrimination, emphasized equality and the brotherhood of man, and forbade any distinction between human being on grounds of race, colour or national or ethnic origin, Pakistan had been one of the first

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(Mr. Chughtai, Pakistan)

countries to raise the question of racism at the United Nations and to sign the Convention. Pakistan considered it had a duty to assist all peoples of the world to struggle against racial discrimination, and thus supported the South West Africa People's Organization and the African National Congress. It favoured the imposition of mandatory sanctions against the minority régime in South Africa and it trusted that it would soon be in a position to sign the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

13. Despite the unanimity of views on the subject, much remained to be done to achieve the total elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and racism. His delegation was concerned at the appearance of new prejudices and had already had occasion to point to the discriminatory treatment of Muslim minorities in certain countries of the world. His concern was purely humanitarian and should not be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of any State.

14. His delegation supported the proposals relating to the drafting of a convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families; everyone was aware of the conditions such persons had to endure because of traditional prejudice or to ethnic, religious or economic factors. The holding of seminars and conferences on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in countries where traces of such practices still remained despite the great efforts which the Governments concerned were making to eliminate them, would encourage and facilitate those efforts. His delegation proposed that one session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be held in a developing country, preferably in Africa, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/40 and it also supported the idea of holding regional seminars. Pakistan pledged its full moral and material support to the measures taken by the United Nations for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

15. Miss BROŠNAKOVA (Czechoslovakia) said that the prohibition of all discrimination based on race, language or sex, which was one of the bases of the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms embodied in the Charter, was binding not only on States which had ratified the various international instruments but also on those which had not.

16. No one today would reject the spirit and the letter of the Charter. Nevertheless, certain States continued to disregard or even violate its provisions. Some, such as Israel and, especially, South Africa, contravened a number of its provisions with impunity.

17. Concrete results could be achieved only through joint efforts by all Member States of the United Nations. Yet such efforts had been paralysed for a number of years by the attitude of the Western States. Not only had some of them failed to accede to United Nations treaty instruments, but they torpedoed every effort by the Organization, and particularly by the Security Council, to adopt immediate and effective measures against Governments which practised the shameful policy of racism and apartheid. Because of their desire to make fabulous profits and to defend "strategic" interests, man was shamefully degraded in certain parts of the

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(Miss Brošáková, Czechoslovakia)

world, such discrimination being all the more odious in that it was based solely on race and affected hundreds of thousands of people daily.

18. Israel's adventurist policy, which had led it during the past year to launch several piratical attacks, and South Africa's open aggression against Angola had added to the threats to international peace and security.

19. Her delegation considered that more energetic measures should be taken against flagrant violators of the Charter and that the Security Council in particular should adopt mandatory, comprehensive sanctions, under Chapter VII of the Charter. Czechoslovakia particularly wished to see implementation of the conclusions reached by the Paris International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, and the emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia.

20. Nor should it be forgotten that racism was still rife in a certain number of countries, as was apparent from the annual reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Her delegation was convinced that such countries could prevent discrimination by legislative measures and information activities, the importance of which had been stressed at the Berlin Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in the International Mobilization against Apartheid.

21. Racism was practically non-existent in Czechoslovakia, as measures had been taken 13 years earlier to ensure the coexistence, within a federation, of the Czech and Slovak peoples. The Government had, for many years, been directing its attention and resources to the integration of the gipsy population. The development of national minorities was guaranteed both in law and in practice.

22. The Government and socialist organizations of Czechoslovakia provided various forms of assistance to the peoples who were struggling against colonialism, racism and apartheid. Czechoslovakia valued the activities of the United Nations in that field and would continue to play an active part in them.

23. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) said that racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, as well as the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination, were anachronisms which, unfortunately, were still widespread. Together with social inequality, they were the main causes of flagrant and massive violations of human rights.

24. The shameful system of apartheid - condemned by contemporary international law as a crime against humanity - was beyond any doubt the most striking example of such violations. The racist régime in South Africa continued to defy world public opinion due to the direct assistance it received from Western transnational corporations, and was able to remain in existence because the United States and Western Powers refused to comply with General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The veto cast against proposals for economic and political sanctions and the plans for a neo-colonialist settlement of the situation in southern Africa merely represented a diplomatic manoeuvre aimed at preserving the position of imperialism in the region so that it might continue the merciless exploitation of

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

the human and natural resources of southern Africa. The Security Council should impose on Pretoria the sanctions envisaged under Chapter VII of the Charter.

25. The policy practised by Israel against the Arab and Palestinian population in the occupied territories provided another example of institutionalized racial discrimination.

26. Racial discrimination, which was closely linked with social discrimination, was still a part of capitalist society. His delegation was concerned over the renaissance of Fascist, neo-Fascist, neo-Nazi and racist organizations, and the plight of migrant workers, the more so since such manifestations of racism were presented as an "exercise of fundamental freedoms".

27. Bulgaria, which had always spoken out against racism and racial discrimination, had been one of the sponsors of a number of major resolutions adopted by the United Nations in that field. It had been one of the first countries to ratify the International Covenants on Human Rights, 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.

28. There were no manifestations of racial discrimination in Bulgaria, as the social and economic causes of racism had been eliminated with the suppression of private ownership of the means of production. The principle of the equality of citizens was enshrined in the Constitution and guaranteed by the entire political organization of the country.

29. His delegation supported the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/36/L.3 on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and stressed the role to be played in that respect by United Nations organs and, in particular, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

30. With regard to the report of that Committee (A/36/18), which contained information on the consideration of Bulgaria's sixth periodic report (pages 76 to 79), he pointed out that the position of his Government had been stated clearly and unambiguously in Geneva on 1 and 2 April 1981, when the Committee had considered Bulgaria's report. That position had been faithfully reflected in the summary records of the Committee's proceedings (CERD/C/SR.514 and 515). It was to be regretted that an important element of that position, which appeared in the summary records, had been omitted from the Committee's report.

31. The right of peoples to self-determination and independence, which was embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, was recognized by many Member States as a basic human right and a prerequisite for the exercise of other human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

32. The struggle of colonial peoples, the legitimacy of which was recognized by the United Nations, had always been linked to the struggle of all progressive forces for national and social liberation and had always enjoyed the support of the socialist States. The imperialist powers, nevertheless, continued to stifle the legitimate desire of peoples that remained under foreign domination for independence. Israel, for example, was continuing its illegal occupation of Arab territories against the explicit will of the international community, and denying the Palestinian people the right to self-determination and independence. Worse yet, during the past year it had carried out acts of provocation and aggression against Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. The illegal occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria régime, which was imposing upon Namibia its own jurisdiction and military presence, was another case in point. In view of the intransigence shown by South Africa during the recent United Nations Special Emergency Session on Namibia, it was clear that patient negotiations resulted, in effect, in making concessions to South Africa at the expense of the Namibian people. Furthermore, other front-line States (Angola, Zambia and Mozambique) had also been the targets of aggressive acts by South Africa.

33. There were still about 20 colonial countries and territories with a total population of 3 million people, in the Caribbean, and in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans which had not yet been able to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. The fact that some Western States maintained military bases and a number of installations in those areas, constituted a further obstacle for these territories. Delaying their independence, which was what the administering Powers were doing, was contrary to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and violated the right of the peoples of those territories to self-determination.

34. In resolution 35/119, the General Assembly had decided to take all necessary measures to eliminate the last remnants of colonialism. His country would continue, as it had done in the past, to support and actively co-operate with the United Nations and with progressive and democratic forces to achieve that goal.

35. Mrs. YANISHEHITS (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the General Assembly by proclaiming the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, had shown that the international community was determined to eliminate totally and unconditionally racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and apartheid, which impeded the social and economic progress of peoples, prevented human rights and fundamental freedoms from being respected and posed a direct threat to international peace and security. Thanks to the struggle of peoples supported by progressive forces and based on the right, which the United Nations had recognized, to use all means at their disposal, the past eight years had yielded positive results.

36. However, racism and racial discrimination had not disappeared, as was evident from the grave situation in southern Africa where the apartheid régime was expanding its racist domination, its policy of bantustanization, its brutal repression of and its policy of terror against the indigenous population and opponents of the régime (thus transforming the country into an immense prison) and

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(Mrs. Yanishehits, Byelorussian SSR)

was carrying out new acts of aggression against Angola and other African States, all in defiance of United Nations resolutions and the protests of the international community. United Nations documents contained countless examples of the inhuman and criminal policy of South Africa.

37. The major Western powers supported the apartheid régime because it suited their political, economic and strategic interests to do so and because South Africa was a base for them in the struggle against independent African States and a theatre of operations in the South Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean. They, therefore, continued to undermine United Nations decisions designed to bring about the boycott and isolation of the racist régime and continued to impede, through their opposition, the implementation of Security Council resolution 418 (1977). Their attitude in fact was tantamount to encouraging racism. The Western countries continued, by invoking legal pretexts, to refuse to adhere to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid in order to be able to continue co-operating with South Africa. Friendly relations between the South African racist régime and the United States had further expanded since the new American Administration had taken office.

38. The United Nations and the international community should immediately take measures to force South Africa to put an end to its policy of apartheid and its illegal occupation of Namibia and, in particular, the Security Council should impose global sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Western countries and their monopolies must cease all co-operation with South Africa so that it might be completely isolated. Likewise, the support given to the legitimate struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia for self-determination, freedom and national independence should be strengthened.

39. The Israeli Government was also carrying out a criminal policy of racism and racial discrimination against the Arab population both in the occupied territories and in Israel itself. Taking advantage of the Camp David Accords Israel - not content with continuing the annexation of the occupied territories - was currently extending its territorial designs and acts of aggression to other countries, such as Lebanon and Iraq, with the assistance of the United States. It was no longer possible to ignore the unholy alliance between Israel and South Africa which was based on economic and military (including nuclear) co-operation.

40. Racism and racial discrimination, which were a direct result of capitalism, were still being used to exploit workers, arouse hostility between various groups and undermine the struggle of workers for the recognition of their rights.

41. His delegation expressed concern at the resurgence of fascism and neo-fascism and shock that such manifestations, which were in direct violation of Article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, should be condoned by countries which themselves were parties to the Convention. The United Nations must take further measures to deal with that situation.

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(Mrs. Yanishehits, Byelorussian SSR)

42. The Byelorussian SSR was a 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 and scrupulously observed all the obligations which they imposed. Furthermore, the Byelorussian constitution guaranteed the equality of all citizens before the law, regardless of their race or nationality.

43. The Byelorussian SSR fully supported the decisions of the United Nations designed to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and felt that they should be implemented by all countries; it also supported the draft resolution of the Economic and Social Council contained in document A/C.3/36/L.3 and was ready to support all other measures taken for that purpose.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.