



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ESQUIVEL (Costa Rica)

later: 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 (continued) (A/36/75, A/36/116 and Corr.1 and A/36/515; A/C.3/36/L.3)

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(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/18)

(b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/36/453)

(c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (continued) (A/36/454 and Add.1)

1. Mr. NAGY (Hungary) said that in accordance with its foreign policy, Hungary spoke out in all international forums against the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. Moreover, the Government of Hungary lent political, material and moral support to the peoples and liberation movements in their struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Hungary had been among the first to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In compliance with the Programme for the Decade, its provisions and those of the relevant Conventions had been widely disseminated throughout the country in order to keep the public informed of the shameful policy of apartheid and the international documents adopted in the world-wide struggle against apartheid.

2. His delegation attached special importance to some of the measures and objectives provided for in the Programme, in particular, those aimed at stopping all assistance to the racist Governments. The cessation of economic and military aid given to the racist and colonialist régimes was of fundamental importance in ensuring the success of the fight against racism. The Hungarian Government had always strictly and unconditionally complied with Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which condemned racism, colonialism and the policy of apartheid and called for the isolation of the racist régime.

(Mr. Nagy, Hungary)

3. The third periodic report of the Hungarian People's Republic on the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had recently been submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the seventh periodic report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would be submitted before the end of 1981. An increase in the number of States parties to those Conventions would considerably enhance the effectiveness of the international struggle against apartheid and racial discrimination. His delegation was of the view that the General Assembly should appeal to all countries that had not yet done so to ratify the Conventions.

4. The rights of peoples to self-determination constituted one of the fundamental principles of contemporary international law. That principle implied the right of peoples to struggle with every means for their liberation and to choose freely their path of social and economic development. The implementation of a people's right to national, political and economic self-determination was closely related to its efforts to overcome colonial and racist oppression and exploitation and to restructure international economic relations on a democratic basis.

5. The struggle against the colonial and racist régime in southern Africa and the efforts to achieve a lasting and stable peace in the Middle East, including guarantees of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination, were priority tasks in striving for the national and social liberation of peoples. They were all the more relevant because attempts were being made to impose on those peoples settlements that did not serve their legitimate interests. In that connexion, while his delegation warmly welcomed the independence of Belize and Vanuatu and their admission to membership in the United Nations, it should not be forgotten that many so-called small territories and enclaves situated in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and in the Caribbean region were still under the yoke of colonialism.

6. The attempts of the imperialist circles to preserve the last vestiges of colonialism and to undermine the cause of national and social liberation under the pretext of combating so-called international terrorism served to poison the international climate and to impede the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples. The eighth emergency special session of the General Assembly on Namibia had emphasized anew the acute urgency of granting independence to the people of that country. Hungary strongly supported the struggle of the Namibian people for independence under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and favoured comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid régime of Pretoria which illegally occupied Namibia. By vetoing a decision of the Security Council on the application of sanctions, the United States had openly defied the peoples of Africa and the entire world community, thus giving added proof that it was a supporter of the racist régime of South Africa.

7. The large-scale armed aggression committed by Pretoria against Angola had demonstrated the grave danger posed by the collusion of imperialist and racist forces to the cause of peace and national independence of the peoples of southern

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(Mr. Nagy, Hungary)

Africa. The Hungarian Government and people added their voice to the demands for the immediate withdrawal of the troops of the racist régime from the territory of the People's Republic of Angola.

8. The Government and people of Hungary also condemned the expansionist activities of Israel in the Middle East and the continuous bombing of civilian Arab populations, in particular, the Palestinian population, the destruction of their villages, the attacks on and the massacres of innocent civilians in Lebanon and the bombing of Iraq's Centre for Peaceful Nuclear Research. A just and lasting peace in the Middle East could only be based on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories and the exercise by the Arab people of Palestine of the right to self-determination, including the right to establish their own State.

9. His delegation was convinced that, despite the obstacles, the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the liquidation of the colonialist system was an irreversible process. To accelerate that process, the United Nations would have to continue to use every means to help the peoples in their fight against racism, racial discrimination and colonial oppression and for the attainment of independence and the right to self-determination.

10. Miss OBAFEMI (Nigeria) said that Nigeria had always co-operated and would continue to co-operate with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Nigerian society was a constellation of different ethnic groups which were entitled to and enjoyed full and equal human rights. Those basic human rights were enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution which did not discriminate against any person on the basis of sex, colour or religion. The twin problem of racism and racial discrimination therefore did not exist within the Nigerian community. The comparatively small number of alien residents in Nigeria had equal rights with Nigerian citizens before the law and were free to engage in private business and in all but a few economic activities which were reserved for local businessmen. Generous facilities and tax-free incentives were offered to prospective foreign investors, while ample encouragement was given by the Federal Government to investment and risk-sharing between those investors and their Nigerian counterparts.

11. The Nigerian Constitution made adequate and clear-cut provisions for the integration of aliens who so desired into Nigerian society either through registration at birth or naturalization. The Government and people of Nigeria remained fully and firmly committed to the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, in particular apartheid, and would not relent in their efforts to achieve that goal.

12. Of all political issues confronting the United Nations today, none was more urgent than the situation in Namibia and South Africa. Earlier in 1981, there was hope that the Security Council's plans for Namibia's transition to independence would be implemented. Instead, the United Nations allowed itself to be bogged down in inaction by difficulties created by a certain super-Power. There had been too much bending over backwards to accommodate the so-called Government of South Africa

(Miss Obafemi, Nigeria)

that was illegally occupying the Territory. South Africa's intransigence continued to be strengthened by its supporters and friends, who made a ritual of condemning its apartheid policies while increasing trade, investments, arms shipments and transfers of technology to that régime, as well as assistance in the development of a nuclear capability. It was known that Western foreign investments, including loans, credits and other forms of economic collaboration constituted the main source of strength of the apartheid State, and the main obstacle to the liquidation of the inhuman system of apartheid. In the circumstances, divestment was the only credible option left as a means of bringing the champions of racism and apartheid to reason. Nigeria had therefore repeatedly called for immediate and total cessation of all collaboration with the apartheid régime. As the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination drew to an end, all members of the international community that were truly committed to the eradication of all forms of human oppression and humiliation should implement the Programme for the Decade with as much zeal and vigour as they had done when the Programme had first been launched.

13. Commenting on the report on educational activities, and activities of the media in the fight against racism and racial discrimination (A/36/75), she urged an acceleration of efforts to bring about changes in attitudes, habits, customs and practices. Non-governmental organizations as well as governmental authorities had a vital role to play and their cumulative effort represented a strong link in the international drive to end racism and racial discrimination. When preparations were begun for the Second World Conference, those points should be borne in mind and the preparatory body of the Conference should focus on areas where little or no progress had been made. Finally, her delegation expressed its support for draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.3 and commended it for adoption by the Committee.

14. Mrs. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba) said that the policy of apartheid practised by the racist régime of South Africa had been condemned in innumerable resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations system as well as by various international governmental and non-governmental organizations. For its part, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, from its inception, had systematically denounced the apartheid system, emphasizing that it constituted a serious violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recently, the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Movement had reiterated its condemnation of the aggressive South African régime and that condemnation had been reaffirmed by Cuba in its capacity as President of the Movement in the message sent by Comrade Fidel Castro to the International Conference on Sanctions Against South Africa, held in Paris in May 1981. The warning contained in that message had been corroborated by South Africa's criminal invasion of Angola, perpetrated with impunity by the aggressive racist régime with the full support of the United States which had, moreover, blocked any condemnation of that reprehensible act by exercising its veto in the Security Council.

15. The close ties between North American imperialism and the South African régime were obviously based on mutual political and economic interests. North American investments in South Africa, according to the statements of the United States Under-Secretary of State, Chester Crocker, amounted to \$3 billion, its annual trade to \$6 billion and bank credits extended to that country to \$3 billion.

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(Mrs. Florez Prida, Cuba)

16. As the President of Cuba had eloquently demonstrated in his statement to the sixty-eighth Interparliamentary Conference held at Havana in September 1981, there was barbarous and open exploitation of the black population by the whites in South Africa. The figures he had cited proved once again, as the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa, had done in 1980 with respect to the several businesses, banks and other entities which continued to assist racism and colonialism in southern Africa, that without the assistance and complicity of the Governments of developed capitalist countries, neither the racist régime nor its inhuman system would have lasted so long.

17. Cuba condemned the racism, racial discrimination and apartheid of which the peoples of South Africa and Namibia, together with other peoples submitted to discriminatory practices, were victims. Cuba fully supported the national liberation movements of the peoples struggling against all manifestations of racial discrimination and the front-line countries which were the object of aggression by the racist régime of Pretoria.

18. Unfortunately, there were manifestations of racism and racial discrimination not only in Africa where it existed in its most brutal form, apartheid, but in other countries. The suffering people of Palestine were also the victims of racist and discriminatory practices as a result of the war of aggression waged by the Zionist régime of Israel, which had expelled them from their land. Her delegation wished to express its strong support for the heroic struggle carried out by the PLO combatants, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to establish an independent State for that people.

19. Her delegation could not but express its concern at the resurgence and proliferation of ideas and the doctrines based on racial superiority, intolerance and racial hatred as well as the activities carried out by various neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations in various countries. Those activities had been condemned by the sixty-eighth Interparliamentary Conference and by the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

20. Cuba also wished to express its profound indignation and to denounce the segregation and injustice practised against various population groups in the United States, such as the Indian, Chicano and Puerto Rican minorities, as well as the increase in racist violence in that country, which had reached alarming proportions in the assassination of black citizens, especially in the Atlanta area.

21. Despite some progress it had made during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the international community could not be satisfied as long as such situations existed in the world. It should redouble its efforts with a view to achieving the fundamental objectives of the Decade proclaimed by the United Nations for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid. In that connexion, the Second World Conference was of particular importance. Her delegation therefore welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/30, submitted to the General Assembly in document A/C.3/36/L.3.

(Mrs. Florez Prida, Cuba)

22. In compliance with article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Cuba had submitted its fifth periodic report to CERD in April 1981 and that body had expressed its satisfaction at the presentation of the report and the manner in which the Government of Cuba was implementing the provisions of the Convention internally and was promoting the ideals of the Convention at the international level. Her delegation believed that support should be given to the work of CERD; the States parties to the Convention which were able to do so should periodically provide information which would facilitate the work of that Committee. Finally, her delegation wished to reiterate its solidarity with the heroic struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia for self-determination and independence with a view to eliminating forever from their countries the criminal and inhuman régime of apartheid and establishing a truly free and democratic society as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

23. Mrs. BINH THANH (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) said that her country, which comprised 60 national minorities, had always practised a policy based on equality among all nationalities and, in its foreign policy, had always spoken out strongly against racism and all forms of racial discrimination, in particular apartheid, the greatest moral challenge of the contemporary world. In that connexion, her delegation was happy to inform the Committee that Viet Nam had recently acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; its accession had been delayed solely because Viet Nam's admission to the United Nations had been unjustly delayed.

24. Her country was gratified by the results achieved during the past year by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Special Committee against Apartheid and the success of efforts to mobilize international opinion against apartheid and against the aggression perpetrated by the South African racist régime against the People's Republic of Angola. Moreover, the activities carried out in the context of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination reflected the unanimous will of peoples and of the vast majority of Governments to combat the Pretoria apartheid régime. They had also encouraged the heroic struggle of peoples against racist régimes, the most striking example being the victory of the brave people of Zimbabwe.

25. However, the bastions of the racist Pretoria régime in South Africa and Namibia, supported by its allies from America and NATO, were not about to collapse; the peoples of those areas, together with the front-line countries, were still subjected to violent repression and military occupation and aggression by the racist régime. For example, it had recently launched vicious, premeditated attacks against Angola aimed at occupying part of that territory and creating a sanctuary for its mercenaries from which to destroy the Angolan revolution and the liberation movement of the people of Namibia.

26. In the Middle East, the forces of zionism - another form of racism - were still certain of United States support and were arrogantly increasing their indiscriminate bombing of innocent populations in Lebanon, Syria and other Arab countries.

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(Mrs. Binh Thanh, Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam)

27. In other parts of the world as well, millions of black and coloured people were still being subjected to rape, massacre, the looting of their natural resources and the destruction of their civilization. Merely on grounds of colour or race, students and migrant workers were also denied justice and were the victims of restrictive electoral laws, of pollution, occupational diseases and discriminatory measures resulting from a systematic policy of maximum exploitation and "ethnocide". Such phenomena often occurred in the very heart of allegedly civilized States which posed as the champions of human rights. Her country strongly opposed all such acts and supported all efforts to achieve equal rights for people of colour.

28. Referring to agenda item 81, she pointed out that the activities of the United Nations in the past three decades were reflected in the accession to independence and self-determination of nearly 100 countries. However, at the present stage in the struggle for self-determination, a new phenomenon had emerged: former colonial forces were seeking to regain control of the territories they had lost and to impose their own model of society or development. In Asia, Africa and Latin America, manoeuvres by imperialist and hegemonist Powers aimed at subverting and destabilizing States that had chosen an independent economic or political line and different paths of development were aspects of that economic and psychological warfare, which included the destruction of crops by bacteriological weapons.

29. Many such acts of "international terrorism" had been systematically perpetrated in the past year as State policy in violation of the sovereign rights of peoples and States. The imperialist and reactionary Powers used military intimidation against some States, while the weapon of discriminatory food practices was used against small countries that had been seriously affected by natural disasters. Some Powers, which claimed to be strongholds of democracy, plunged headlong into crusades against young sovereign States that eluded their sphere of influence.

30. At a time when many countries were undergoing radical economic, political and social change, it was up to the people, and the people alone, to determine the direction that best suited its national interests. It was shocking that, under the guise of protecting the right to self-determination, some imperialist and reactionary Powers arbitrarily promoted a particular change in government which they then recognized as legitimate, thus interfering in matters that came within the exclusive sovereignty of the people concerned.

31. Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos had achieved national independence only by struggling against successive foreign aggressions for several generations. However, the forces of United States imperialism and Chinese hegemonism were persisting in their efforts to obstruct the task of national reconstruction. Those two Powers, which had failed in their efforts to subjugate Viet Nam in an overt war of aggression, were now trying to subdue it by what was tantamount to a war of attrition. To that end, 400,000 Chinese troops concentrated along the frontiers of North Viet Nam were engaged in armed provocation and daily shelling, several parts of Vietnamese territory had been occupied, mercenaries were being trained in the

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(Mrs. Binh Thanh, Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam)

southern part of China and in Thailand, shadow Governments-in-exile had been set up and groups of armed bandits were engaged in intrusion, infiltration, subversion and destabilization operations against the three countries of Indo-China. Those criminal acts represented a serious threat to the right to self-determination of the peoples of the region.

32. To escape public condemnation of their revanchist policy against the peoples of Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, the United States imperialists and their hegemonist ally in Asia were trying to fabricate the myth of the so-called "Vietnamese threat" in South-East Asia. Viet Nam was convinced that a policy based on lies and slander would not stand the test of time and would backfire.

33. Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos, which were closely linked by a century of suffering and of common struggle against colonial domination, were pledged to provide mutual assistance against the imminent danger of aggression from much more powerful enemies. Such assistance was in conformity with their sacred right to individual or collective self-defence, as recognized by the Charter of the United Nations. The Vietnamese people, who had paid dearly for its freedom and self-determination, would continue firmly to defend the right of every other country to freedom and self-determination.

34. Mr. ALMOSLECHNER (Austria) said that one of the most important goals of the United Nations was to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The attainment of that goal was essential for the maintenance of world peace. The universal realization of the right to self-determination and independence was also necessary for the enjoyment of human rights and for the international community to make effective progress towards peace.

35. Austria fully supported the goals set forth in the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and hoped that the Second World Conference, to be held in 1983, would produce useful results. By concentrating on procedures and activities to ensure the fullest possible implementation of the relevant international instruments and United Nations resolutions, the Second World Conference could assess the results of the current Decade and ensure the continuation of efforts to combat racism.

36. He drew attention to the important role played by information and the involvement of world public opinion in that endeavour and stressed the significance Austria attached to the valuable work of the United Nations in that respect. His delegation also considered the report of the Secretary-General on education activities and activities of the mass media in the fight against racism and racial discrimination (A/36/75) to be most helpful.

37. He welcomes the admission of Vanuatu and Belize to the United Nations, but expressed concern about the continuing policy of apartheid in South Africa. Austria's condemnation of the apartheid policies of the South African Government had been unequivocally stated on several occasions, and he expressed the hope that the necessary changes would soon be brought about in that country in a peaceful manner.

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(Mr. Almoslechner, Austria)

38. With regard to Namibia, Austria fully respected the settlement plan set out in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and welcomed the efforts made by the Secretary-General and by the Contact Group to find a solution to the Namibia question. Moreover, it supported efforts directed against racism and in favour of self-determination in all parts of the world. The resolutions adopted on the question of self-determination at the thirty-fifth session must be followed up so that self-determination could be given its full meaning.

39. In conclusion, he welcomed the fact that, in the past year, Uganda and Colombia had become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and he expressed appreciation for the work accomplished by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

40. Mr. RIGIN (Indonesia) said that, despite the efforts of the international community, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had so far shown no substantive results. Colonialism and imperialism had been largely responsible for creating the twin evils of racism and racial discrimination and, despite some decline in those practices, the former colonial Powers had maintained them in some countries in order to further their interests. That was why in some newly independent countries racial minorities continued to control vital sectors of human endeavour.

41. Nowhere had racism and racial discrimination been so brutally exercised and blatantly practised as in South Africa, whose policy of apartheid had been universally condemned as a crime against humanity and an affront to the dignity of man. However, despite the continuous appeals by the international community to the South African Government, that régime had not displayed any willingness to comply with the numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It had intensified its brutal repression of opponents of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, renewed acts of aggression against the neighbouring independent African States and stepped up support to subversive groups. It had defied all international efforts for a peaceful settlement in Namibia.

42. In the face of such a challenge and at a time when the struggle to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid was reaching a crucial stage, international unity should be maintained and strengthened as any breach in the ranks of those who abhorred such despicable practices would only give comfort to the racist rulers and encourage the South African régime to maintain its abominable system. The efforts of the international community must be redoubled and public opinion mobilized to put an end once and for all to racism and racial discrimination.

43. He reaffirmed his Government's continued support for the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against the policies of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and said that it had taken concrete steps to join measures to isolate South Africa in politics, trade, sport and culture. His Government had no political, economic, social or other relations with any country that practised such

(Mr. Rigin, Indonesia)

injustices. The State philosophy of Indonesia would never condone or tolerate any policy or action that was cruel and degrading to the dignity and worth of human beings. For that reason, the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred was banned, as were organizations, private clubs and institutions based on racial hatred and prejudice or which spread ideas of racial discrimination.

44. He said that while international meetings on a global scale were important and fruitful, meetings at regional and subregional levels, where prominent figures and public leaders took an active part and whose deliberations would be heard by people at the grass-roots level, were no less so. Given concerted and global action by trade unions, students and youth organizations and other important elements in the international community, the struggle to combat racism and racial discrimination would be further advanced.

45. In conclusion, he supported the plan to hold a second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1983 and expressed the hope that the international community would be more successful in devising tactics and strategies designed to make deep inroads in racism and racial discrimination.

46. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) took the Chair.

47. Mrs. TASHIBEKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on agenda item 81, said that respect for the right of peoples to self-determination had been the cornerstone of the policy of the Soviet State ever since its inception and was one of the main foreign policy principles of the Soviet Union in the USSR Constitution and in the Programme of Peace approved at the 24th, 25th and 26th Congresses of the Communist Party. In full accordance with that principle, her country consistently supported the struggle of oppressed peoples for freedom and national independence against imperialist oppression and aggression.

48. The historic Declaration on Decolonization was the essential expression of the right of peoples to self-determination and the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. By adopting the Declaration and the decisions in pursuance of it, the United Nations had given national liberation movements a clear and universally recognized reference point. The years following the adoption of the Declaration saw the shattering of all the colonial empires so that, in the modern world, two-thirds of all States were countries which had been liberated from the yoke of colonialism. Those countries were making a growing contribution to the solution of fundamental and contemporary problems. In that connexion, her delegation heartily welcomed the representatives of Vanuatu and Belize, which had recently achieved independence and become Members of the United Nations. The significant achievements of national liberation movements should inspire the United Nations and the entire international community to fresh and energetic efforts to eliminate completely and finally the vestiges of the system of colonial oppression. In order to accomplish that task, the Committee should concentrate its attention on how to achieve the prompt and complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with no exceptions.

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(Mrs. Tashibekova, USSR)

49. She shared the concerns expressed by other delegations about the situation in southern Africa, which continued to be a centre of racism and colonialism. The inhuman system of apartheid practised in South Africa and the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racists constituted a gross violation of the right of peoples to self-determination and represented an open challenge to the United Nations.

50. The racist régime in Pretoria and its allies were resorting to every possible manoeuvre to stop the decolonization of Namibia. The position in Namibia had recently deteriorated further as a result of the obstruction by the South African racists of the International Conference on Namibia in January 1981 and their growing use of Namibian territory for acts of aggression against Angola and other independent States. The forces of imperialism, were moving towards open collaboration with the régime in Pretoria. Fresh attempts were being made to impose a neo-colonialist solution to the Namibian problem, as was clear from the continuous manoeuvring of members of the so-called "contact group", the refusal of Western Powers to support the decision of the special session of the General Assembly on Namibia, and their blocking of the Security Council decisions aimed at applying international sanctions against South Africa and condemning its armed aggression against Angola.

51. The growing military build-up of South Africa, achieved with the help of a number of NATO members, its nuclear preparations and its growing aggressiveness represented a serious threat to peace throughout the world. That threat was made all the more serious as the overseas backers of the régime in Pretoria were intending to give open military aid to puppet terrorist groups such as UNITA, which were in the service of the South African racists and were helping them to wage an undeclared war against Angola.

52. The Soviet Union was in full solidarity with Angola, Mozambique and other African countries which were subjected to systematic acts of aggression by South Africa. She stressed the need to take active measures to put an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia, secure the unconditional withdrawal of South Africa from that country, and hand over full power to SWAPO, as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. The attempts by the racists in Pretoria and their protectors to settle the Namibian issue outside the ambit of the United Nations and foist a puppet régime on the people of that country were intolerable.

53. She assured the Committee that the Soviet Union would continue to support the just struggle of African peoples against the apartheid régime. That position of principle had been reaffirmed in the greeting sent by L. I. Brezhnev, President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on 25 May 1981 to the States and peoples of Africa on the occasion of Africa Liberation Day.

54. She emphasized that the Declaration on Decolonization set forth the right of all colonial peoples, whether large or small, to self-determination and independence. It was intolerable that a significant number of so-called small territories and enclaves, situated in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans,

(Mrs. Tashibekova, USSR)

still remained under the heel of colonialism and the administering Powers, using a variety of pretexts, were aiming to maintain colonial domination over those territories. She reiterated her Government's position on the matter set forth in paragraphs 10 and 11 of its reply submitted on action taken pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/35 A (A/36/403/Add.1) and noted that the United States was continuing to ignore the decisions of the United Nations on the need for prompt implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in connexion with the Territory of Puerto Rico.

55. She expressed her deep concern about the dangerous development of the Middle East situation, resulting from the continuing expansionist policy of the ruling circles in Israel, which were attempting to deprive the people of Palestine of its inalienable right to self-determination with the encouragement of certain influential forces outside the region, which were seeking to implement the anti-Arab deal concluded at Camp David. Such policies were, however, doomed to failure. Peace and stability in the region could be guaranteed only through a comprehensive political settlement, which, given the current situation, could be achieved only through a specially convened international conference in which all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, participated. Such a settlement would have to provide for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the realization of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to self-determination and the creation of its own independent State, and guarantees for the right of all States in the region to an independent and secure existence and development.

56. The forces of imperialism and colonialism had not renounced their policy of suppressing the national liberation struggle of colonial peoples. Many delegations had drawn attention to the continued aid and support given to the South African régime by the United States and several other NATO members, acting in defiance of numerous United Nations appeals for the international isolation of that régime. She noted that lately the overseas protectors of the South African racists and Israeli expansionists were employing the label "terrorism" for the struggle against colonialism and its vestiges; they were justifying oppressive and reactionary policies as part of a fight against terrorism.

57. The struggle of colonial peoples for their freedom had had a profound influence on the whole world situation. That could be seen from the experience of the 1970s when, owing to the tireless efforts of peace-loving forces, a move was made away from "the cold war" towards détente and a healthier international climate. Recently, however, the aggressive imperialist circles had started to whip up international tension, increasing the military threat in the world, in an attempt to prevent progressive changes and to regain control over the fate of nations, and, if successful, to obstruct the movement of colonial peoples towards national independence. In the circumstances, the international community had the urgent task of lessening tension in the world, stopping the arms race and putting an end to the continuing attempts at imperialist intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States and peoples.

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(Mrs. Tashibekova, USSR)

58. The Soviet Union steadfastly supported the strict implementation of all United Nations decisions and resolutions aimed at putting an end to the vestiges of the colonial system. By giving comprehensive aid and support to colonial peoples in their struggle for self-determination and independence, the Soviet Union intended to continue in every possible way to promote that noble cause.

59. Mr. TE SUN HOA (Democratic Kampuchea) said that his delegation would speak in exercise of the right of reply at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.