

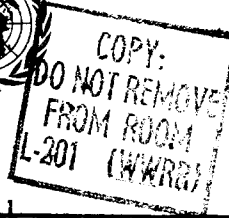
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
17th meeting
held on
Thursday, 15 October 1981
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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30 October 1981

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR, PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
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AGENDA ITEM 90: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT:
REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/442)

1. Mr. KHMEL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on agenda item 78, said that, in treating the question of far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, it was important to consider, not only the experience of the developing countries themselves, but also the historical experience of the developed countries. The broader the range of national experience presented, the easier it would be to define possible ways for the developing countries to proceed in their development, as well as the causes of the difficulties those countries had inherited from the past.

2. Turning to the experience of his own country, he said that while the Ukrainian SSR was now a highly developed State, until 1917 it had suffered oppression at the hands of both domestic exploiters and foreign capital. The Ukraine had been bled dry as a result of the removal of profits by foreign capital, which prevented the development of the country, whose social and economic structure retained vestiges of feudalism. The situation, very similar to that experienced by many developing countries, was further aggravated as a

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian Soviet
Socialist Republic)

result of the First World War and the subsequent civil war and foreign military intervention. In 1921, the country had to start out all over again as a result of the barbarian fascist occupation during the 1941-1945 war, during which some five million Ukrainians were killed, 714 cities and towns, more than 28,000 villagers and numerous agricultural and industrial enterprises were destroyed, leaving 10 million persons homeless. Taking into account the time needed for its economy to recover from the Second World War, the Ukrainian SSR had reached its present level of development in three decades. Through socialism and the selfless assistance rendered by the other republics in the SSR, that recovery had been complete.

3. The experience of his country showed that Governments bore ultimate responsibility for ensuring the social progress and prosperity of the people, and that the State's capacity to fulfil the aspirations of its people was dependent on the strength of its own economic base, which could be established only through the abolition of private ownership and the socialization of the means of production. Only the State, and then only if it controlled the key sectors of the economy, could provide real development planning in the interests of all the people, could mobilize available resources to the fullest extent, could impose limitations on the activities of foreign capital in order to strengthen the economic independence of the country, and could achieve in its external relations the requirements laid down in documents on the establishment of a new international economic order.

4. He said that the key problem was that of investment. His country had solved the problem of investment not only on an entirely different basis from that of the Western countries, who had built their industrial might by exploiting the resources and peoples of other continents, but in conditions which had been significantly less favourable than those which currently existed in the developing countries. In the 1920s and the 1930s, when his country had been overcoming the problem of industrialization, the imperialist countries had imposed an economic blockade on the Ukrainian SSR, had refused it all loans and credits, and had blocked its access to world markets. Nevertheless, the problem of investment had been solved by drawing exclusively on domestic resources. In order to concentrate material and manpower resources to achieve the development aims fixed in plans, the State assumed control over prices and incomes, financial and fiscal policies, and took direct administrative measures to achieve an equitable distribution of national income in accordance with the demands of mass production using modern technology and to ensure a rise in the living standards of the people.

5. He stressed that achievement of those goals had been made possible by public ownership of the means of production, the equitable distribution of national income and the active participation of the entire population in development, and consequently, in the achievement of social progress. Even at the beginning of

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the 1930s, the rapid development of industry and agriculture had led to the elimination of unemployment in towns and agrarian overpopulation in the country.

6. The historical experience of the Ukrainian SSR in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress was shared by all the Soviet republics and by other socialist countries. It represented a viable alternative to the experience of the developed capitalist countries. The major difference between the two systems was the nature of ownership of the means of production, public, under socialism, and private, under capitalism.

7. In view of its historical experience, the Ukrainian delegation felt it was anachronistic to maintain that development would be best achieved by stimulating individual economic activity. While it was true to say that the individual was the key element and it was the individual who ultimately benefitted from the process of development, it was incorrect to conclude that modern development could be achieved solely by individual hard work and resourcefulness of farmers, workers and entrepreneurs. In view of the interdependence of different branches and areas of specialization of production, and the fact that the aim of production was to satisfy the requirements of society as whole, the development of production itself should use the resources and the potential of the whole society to the fullest possible extent.

8. Those who maintained that that objective could be achieved by private initiative usually gave as an example the experience of the developed capitalist countries of the West. Their development had, however, started with colonialism and had developed into a system of exploitation of the people and natural resources of the less developed countries. That imperialist exploitation, either in the form of traditional colonialism or neo-colonialism, had fueled and continued to fuel Western capitalism. It had supplemented available resources at the expense of others.

9. The problem facing the developing countries was one of mobilizing their own resources and potential for development and social progress and, at the same time, subordinating the activities of foreign capital to those aims. The problem could be solved through the State, for it was the principal instrument in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes.

10. His delegation, in view of its own experience, whole-heartedly supported the provisions of the Declaration of Social Progress and Development that every State and Government should focus its activities on rapidly increasing national income and wealth and distributing it justly, and that every State had a paramount role to play and bore final responsibility in achieving social progress and improving the living standards of its people.

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11. Co-operatives were one way of fully mobilizing and making the best use of the available resources of every country. His delegation noted with appreciation the report of the Secretariat on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/36/115). The report showed that that movement was still not sufficiently broad as 72 per cent of co-operative members belonged to consumer and credit co-operatives, rather than agricultural or other productive co-operatives. His delegation generally supported the recommendation in the report and hoped that the United Nations would devote great attention to the co-operative movement in the future. It should also give greater consideration to other aspects of national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress. He noted that decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the holding of regional seminars on the subject had not yet been implemented.

12. There were serious deficiencies in the methods used by the United Nations Secretariat in compiling documentation and undertaking research. In the report contained in document A/36/115, for example, the capitalist countries were described as "developed countries with a market economy", while the socialist countries were termed "countries with a centrally planned economy". However, the major difference between the two systems was the nature of ownership of the means of production, and that was how the two systems should be distinguished in United Nations documents. Secondly, the nature of ownership of the means of production should be seen as an extremely important factor in social and economic development and should be taken into account in all United Nations papers, surveys and reports on the subject. The documentation should also present separately the experiences of capitalist and socialist countries. The current United Nations practice of combining the experience of both groups of countries was unsound methodology and achieved little in practice.

13. Mr. LIGAIRI (Fiji) said that his delegation supported most of the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General on International Youth Year (A/36/215). Fiji wished International Youth Year to be seen not as a special group of events but as part of the long-term and continuing planning and development effort to increase knowledge and understanding of the challenges confronting youth during the present decade. The role of youth in discharging their responsibilities in community development was important in establishing a new international order, not only in the economic field but also in social, environmental, cultural and spiritual matters, which would ensure that the dignity of man was the foundation of world peace and security.

14. The activities of International Youth Year could more effectively and less wastefully be carried out at the national and local levels rather than at the international level. Accordingly, the Government of Fiji recognized and gave assistance to the efforts of youth to participate positively in rural and community development programmes undertaken by governmental and non-governmental agencies. The creation of a separate Ministry of Youth and Sport in Fiji

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(Mr. Ligairi, Fiji)

reflected the country's growing awareness of youth problems and that Ministry, together with private organizations, was the prime supplier of development capital and the co-ordinator of development activities among youth organizations. Working closely with the Fiji National Youth Council, the Ministry had supported Fiji youth representatives in overseas conferences, seminars and training programmes.

15. Like many of the countries of the region, school and university attendance had risen sharply in Fiji and so had expectations of cash jobs. Fiji was making a concerted effort to increase employment opportunities for young people. Because of the social, economic and political problems that could arise among unemployed youth, the Government was turning its attention more and more to out-of-school youth programmes. The Government understood that most aspects of the youth problem, even in urban areas, could be tackled by the development of the rural areas. Emphasis was thus placed on the rural youth programmes and the organizations involved in those programmes.

16. His delegation noted with satisfaction the successful outcome of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year. As stated in its report, 300 million young people were in search of work in the developing world alone. If no remedy was found, that frightening increase posed a serious challenge to the economic growth and social progress of humanity as a whole. Fiji therefore urged the United Nations to focus on that problem during the coming years and to come forward with recommendations for action to support national and local efforts.

17. Mr. ZIELONKA (Poland) said that there was hardly a political, social or economic issue that could not be linked with the attitudes and aspirations of the young generation. A stable development of youth called for a just and universal system of education and opportunities for work and establishing a family. Young people wanted to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of their countries and to play an active role in development, sports and culture. They also knew that in order to fulfil those aspirations, there must be a just and lasting peace throughout the world; hence, the active involvement of young people in the struggle for détente, disarmament and development.

18. Participation in the International Youth Year implied that a person was recognized as potentially able to judge and decide on matters which concerned his life and had the opportunity to do so as a member of a social group. Participation should cover all areas of development and all phases of planning, decision-making, implementation and evaluation. By the same token, development should be construed as a process of social, economic and political change which increasingly enabled all people to realize their full human potential by eliminating hunger, disease, illiteracy, unemployment, inequality and other symptoms of poverty.

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(Mr. Zielonka, Poland)

19. Peace was an essential condition for the future of youth as there could be no development without peace. Preservation of peace required progress in disarmament, establishment of a system of mutual security and détente on a regional and global scale, and conditions designed to enhance international understanding and co-operation and respect for individual and collective rights as well as national sovereignty. There could be no peace without the elimination of every form of exploitation, domination and occupation in the political, economic and social spheres.

20. Poland was now in a process of developing a new democratic system of participation of youth in every form of social activity. The new system of self-management ensured young workers increased participation in industry and students had developed their own forms of participation in the functioning of universities. Poland was also introducing a more efficient system of production in its socialist industrial enterprises and in agriculture, where the young generation had an outstanding role to play.

21. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year had proved to be very successful and the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/215) represented a sound basis for discussion of the subject. Policies and programmes for youth must be geared to the existing priorities, circumstances and experiences of each country and region. That implied that the main preparatory efforts for the Year should be concentrated at the local, national and regional level. Non-governmental organizations had the capacity to serve as a major force in creating an awareness of the situation, motivating and obtaining the support of the public and stimulating governmental action by providing innovative approaches and pragmatic programmes of their own. They should therefore be fully included at every level in the process of preparing for the Year.

22. By including representation of youth in the Polish delegation to the current session of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee, Poland was able to intervene more authoritatively in matters directly related to the items under consideration. At the international level, the Geneva informal meeting should be commended as a broad framework for independent consultation among non-governmental organizations and as an important channel for communication between youth and the United Nations. However, there was still a need for persistent efforts to improve the existing models of co-ordination, co-operation and communication in the field of youth within the United Nations system.

23. The International Youth Year should not be seen as an isolated event, but as part of an ongoing process. The implementation of the programme should start as soon as possible by assessing and evaluating the situation, needs and aspirations of youth in their respective countries. Such an analysis would help to strengthen the policies and programmes related to youth within the context of over-all planning. Youth policies and strategies should be aimed at the full and active participation of young people in the process of

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development, the elimination of all forms of domination, discrimination and poverty and the achievement of international peace and disarmament.

24. Mr. OTTO (Austria) said that although the holding of the World Assembly on Aging in Vienna would have to be decided formally by the General Assembly, his Government and the competent Austrian authorities, in close collaboration with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Secretary-General of the World Assembly, had been busy preparing the organizational groundwork for the Assembly. Austria would also be host to other meetings on the eve of the World Assembly at the regional or NGO level. All efforts would be made to guarantee mutually satisfying results.

25. To co-ordinate national activities for all those preparations, the Government of Austria was establishing a National Committee for the World Assembly on Aging and a new division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

26. In a world where the aged represented an ever-increasing proportion of the population, no effort should be spared to find world-wide acceptable solutions to the problems affecting them. In the coming year, Austria intended to support all non-governmental activities in preparations for International Youth Year. Austria envisaged a number of national events by youth organizations and would like to extend those events to a regional level. Austria was working in close co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna and believed that it was only in close co-operation with that lead agency for questions related to youth that the goals of the Year would be achieved.

27. The search for solutions to the complex issue of crime prevention and criminal justice was becoming more urgent. Austria highly appreciated the efforts of the United Nations unit in Vienna and was prepared to lend the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs all possible support. It agreed with the Centre's assessment that crime prevention and control was intrinsically related to socio-economic issues and should therefore be placed in the perspective of over-all development planning.

28. Mr. URIARTE (Chile) recalled that his delegation had repeatedly stated that the work of the Third Committee had been side-tracked by long political debates and it had not had the time necessary to deal with specific problems requiring urgent attention.

29. Chile, which had participated actively in the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, was convinced that the United Nations should give more emphasis to the role which youth could play in the development of today's world and its aspirations for the world of tomorrow. The Year would serve to mobilize efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels to foster better educational, professional and living conditions for youth, thus permitting young people to participate actively in all aspects of

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development. Moreover, the preparation and observance of the Year would contribute to a reaffirmation of the objectives of the new international economic order and the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Consequently, Chile endorsed the specific programme of measures and activities to be carried out prior to and during the International Youth Year. Chile agreed that the basic thrust of those activities should be at the national and local levels, with regional and international support, and that policies and programmes for youth should be brought into line with the priorities, circumstances and experiences existing in each country and region.

30. In Chile, all preparations for the Year had been centred in the National Youth Secretariat, which was directly answerable to the President of the Republic. Its objective was to unify the youth of Chile through work and activities for the good of the country and the community; co-operate with the authorities in development plans; seek solutions for the problems affecting youth in the country and channel their concerns and interests; promote and carry out youth activities in sports and in cultural and social fields; act as the channel of communication between the Government authorities and youth for purposes of integrating young people in Government activities and conveying their concerns to those authorities; instil in youth a basic spirit of the values of Christianity, love of country and personal creative effort.

31. Chile had also participated actively in the work of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging and noted with interest the account given in document A/36/70 of various technical meetings held at the regional level, especially the one held in Costa Rica in December 1980. Chile believed that one of the best ways of preparing for the World Assembly was by holding such regional meetings at the technical level.

32. Chile had established the National Council for the Protection of the Aged, which operated various old peoples' homes and provided technical and professional assistance to various private and public entities. His delegation was pleased to note that the various recommendations, and decisions contained in recent General Assembly resolutions on the question were largely in conformity with the work being done by the National Council for the Protection of the Aged. It was important that programmes for the development of activities in support of the elderly be institutionalized within the United Nations. Chile also believed that the technical and specialized work for the preparation of the World Assembly should be continued.

33. Mr. ERDOS (Hungary) referring to agenda items 76 and 77, said that Hungary was following with keen interest the work of Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and supported the measures that were being taken. The word "participation" summed up what had to be done in the International Youth Year, since there could be neither development nor peace without the

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widest participation of youth, youth organizations and other governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned with the problems of youth.

34. The objective of the International Youth Year was to make young people aware of the urgent need for their contribution to the solution of the manifold problems facing mankind. Unless they had a sense of community and of being an integral part of human society, there could be no progress in achieving the objectives of the Year.

35. The theme of peace merited a special place because of its obvious links with economic, social and other forms of progress. It must be remembered, however, that peace was not a political slogan but a state enjoyed by everyone whatever their political or philosophical convictions, and it was only in a state of peace that youth could play its part in human society.

36. With regard to items 80 and 84, Hungary had first recognized the need to care for old people in 1945, when the socialist system was being established and social welfare had been taken over by the State. The old idea of charity for the aged had been replaced by planned, co-ordinated Government action. The object was to provide the elderly and the aged with a reasonable existence and to integrate them in the active life of the country so that they would not be isolated from society. It was important to guard against adverse effects of retirement. The existing laws in Hungary encouraged and enabled people to carry on working after retirement - at the age of 55 for women and 60 for men - thus relieving the shortage of manpower and giving them a sense of material security.

37. Aged and elderly people also helped to run community groups and were concerned with national problems; 80 per cent were regular listeners to the radio and 65 per cent viewers of television, 59 per cent were regular readers of daily newspapers, 28 per cent were regular readers of books and 44 per cent were readers of monthly magazines. Those statistics showed a high degree of awareness on the part of senior citizens of the problems facing Hungarian society.

38. The International Plan of Action, which would provide the basis for the work of the World Assembly on Aging must be prepared with care and should contain an unequivocal statement that the maintenance of peace and the halting of the arms race were essential prerequisites to the solution of the problems of the elderly. The programme should also concentrate on national activities so that the Assembly could have a real impact on the day-to-day life of the elderly and the aged, bearing in mind national objectives and needs, the particular characteristics of the different countries and the needs of the populations concerned, in both the developed and the developing countries.

39. As far as the agenda for the World Assembly was concerned, it would be preferable to have one agenda item for all matters concerning organization, so that the Assembly could concentrate on its essential work, namely, humanitarian

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and developmental issues and the International Plan of Action on aging. It would, he felt, be advisable to convene two further sessions of the Advisory Committee to complete the preparatory work and settle the questions still outstanding. He also stressed the need for moderation in the matter of finance.

40. Hungary had now established a national committee for the Assembly, headed by the President of the Hungarian Academy of Science, which was evidence of its wish to tackle the problems of the elderly from a practical and scientific point of view.

41. He wished to express his appreciation to the Government of Austria for its offer to act as host country to the World Assembly on Aging.

42. Mr. GILMAN (United States of America) said that the problems of youth and aging in the world were partly the result of policies for reducing morbidity and mortality, eradicating killer diseases and promoting physical health. His Government had long supported such policies at home and abroad, but had now recognized that they contributed to population growth throughout the world. The world population, which now stood at about 4.6 billion, had almost doubled since 1945 and was likely to reach 6.5 billion by the year 2000. That would mean increases in the young and aging populations. The Report of the Advisory Committee on International Youth Year stated that the world youth population would increase from 738 million in 1975 to 1,180 billion by the year 2000, an increase of 60 per cent; while according to a 1980 United Nations General Assembly report the number of people aged 60 or over would increase from about 307 million in 1970 to about 580 million by the year 2000, an increase of 54 per cent. Both reports indicated that well over half of the increases would occur in developing countries. Those facts had important implications for the social well-being of societies in the industrial and the developing world alike.

43. Youth offered hope for a better and more stable world. Young men and women between the ages of 15 and 23 faced similar challenges the world over in growing up to become adult and productive members of society. They faced particular difficulties in societies which restricted their participation in mainstream activities and thus contributed to their sense of well-being and self-esteem. In recent years, integrating beginners into the work force had become a difficult problem throughout the world and the long years of training required to meet the demands of industrial society for highly skilled persons with technical competence prolonged young people's dependency and forced some of them to drop out. The resulting high unemployment among young people was a matter of serious concern because of its direct bearing on the increasing incidence of crime.

44. In the past 10 years the United Nations had tried to increase Member Governments' awareness of the problems of particular disadvantaged social

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groups, such as women, children and the disabled, through the proclamation of International Years. His delegation had noted the reports relating to the International Youth Year and particularly welcomed the Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (A/36/215 and Add.1), with its excellent guidance for all United Nations members. It stressed the importance of the Secretary-General's statement in paragraph 4 of the addendum to that report that he would endeavour meet expenditure for the International Youth Year from existing resources in the regular budget through internal redeployment of staff and financial resources. Preparations for the International Youth Year should include an assessment by national Governments of their existing policies for youth, with an evaluation of existing legislation for young men and young women between the ages of 15 and 23, together with proposals for legislative measures to improve their employment, education and health care situation.

45. With the world's elderly population rapidly increasing as a result of advances in medical and social sciences, every nation must devise a strategy for maintaining the necessary services and life support systems to counter the despair and disillusion which so often accompanied old age. In his own country, the White House Conference on Aging, to be held later in the year, would explore solutions to problems of health, income, housing, and employment and education opportunities.

46. The special needs - and the special contributions - of the disabled and the handicapped was an important problem, particularly in view of the opportunity offered by the current International Year of Disabled Persons. In the United States, efforts were being accelerated to bring disabled individuals into society by the systematic removal of architectural barriers, by more extensive education for handicapped children and by a concerted effort to increase public awareness of the needs of the handicapped.

47. The United States delegation welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General on the World Assembly on Aging (A/36/472) and the Report of the Advisory Committee appended to it. In order to achieve the goals set forth in General Assembly resolutions 33/52 and 35/129, Member States must be urged to contribute sound and practical proposals for an International Plan of Action on the Aging and to promote national activities, both private and public, on the problems of the aging in all societies. Plans for the forthcoming World Assembly on the Aging were behind schedule and only one of the two preparatory meetings planned for the current year had been held. He trusted that the Third Committee would approve the convening of the preparatory meetings tentatively scheduled for the first week in February and the first week in May 1982.

48. The results of the White House Conference on Aging, to which he had referred earlier, should enable his country to make a constructive contribution to preparatory meetings and to the World Assembly itself. Meanwhile his

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Government had recently contributed \$400,000 to the United Nations Secretariat towards the cost of the Assembly and trusted that other countries would also contribute. His delegation would be submitting a draft resolution on the item for consideration by the Committee.

49. In connexion with agenda item 90, his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and Development (A/36/422) and supported the Secretariat's continued efforts to prepare for the seventh meeting of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in 1982. It was imperative to find measures to counter the increasing crime throughout the world. In examining the root causes of crime, attention must be given to the direct relationship between narcotics abuse and trafficking - in his country the cost of drug-related crime had been estimated at over \$20 billion a year - and criminal activity, and to the relationship between youth unemployment and the vulnerability of the aged - as victims - as contributing factors to the growth of crime.

50. Mr. VONGSALY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the initiative taken by the General Assembly in proclaiming 1985 as International Youth Year indicated the importance which the United Nations system attached to the role of youth in today's world and the need for them to take an active part in the building of the world of tomorrow. His delegation welcomed that initiative. The report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (A/36/215) showed that the Committee had made great progress in its work. His delegation found many of the proposals it contained useful and constructive and felt that they could be used as guidelines for Member States in taking measures at the national level in the preparations for the Year.

51. His delegation, however, was concerned about the lack of resources made available to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The Centre undertook activities which were covered neither in the current programme budget nor in the draft programme budget. His delegation hoped that appropriate ways and means would be found, without incurring additional expenses for the United Nations budget, to ensure adequate preparations for the Year.

52. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic Lao youth had participated actively in the war of national liberation and had continued to participate in national reconstruction and the building of socialism. In 1949, the Lao Revolutionary Youth Organization had been established and was regarded as the right hand of the Party and Government. The purpose of that organization was to instruct Lao Youth on their responsibility to contribute to safeguarding the homeland and achieving the objectives of national reconstruction. Lao youth participated at all levels in various activities both in the urban and rural areas, particularly in the literacy campaign. They also contributed to the dissemination of culture and national traditions through their information bulletin. The Lao Revolutionary Youth Organization also instructed young people

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(Mr. Vongsaly, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

on their international duty by establishing ties with young people throughout the world, actively supporting the struggle of oppressed peoples against colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, international reaction, racism, including zionism, and apartheid and for their right to self-determination and national independence and by supporting campaigns for disarmament, strengthening of international peace and security and the establishment of a just and equitable new international economic order.

53. The international situation was complicated by the efforts of some militarists in NATO and by international reactionary forces to rekindle the cold war, increase tension throughout the world, accelerate the arms race and intervene militarily in the internal affairs of small and medium-sized countries, which constituted a serious threat to peace and stability throughout the world. Young people in all countries, regardless of their social environment, had a major duty to put an end to those dangerous trends in international relations. History had clearly shown that it was always the young people who paid the price for wars and armed conflicts provoked by the war-like and expansionist policies of militarist circles which sought only to subjugate people and plunder their natural resources.

54. The establishment of the so-called "Rapid Deployment Force" in the Indian Ocean and in the Persian Gulf and the creation under the aegis of the United States of a strategic alliance comprising certain countries of the Middle East and Israel clearly demonstrated the diabolical plan of imperialism to transform the youth of that region into cannon fodder and to deprive the people there of their sovereign right and their natural resources.

55. In the face of that serious threat, his delegation did not doubt that the youth of that part of the world as well as their brothers in other parts would fully assume their responsibilities with respect to the maintenance of peace and security.

56. Mrs. BROMLEY (Honduras) said that her delegation attached great importance to questions concerning youth and commended the Secretary-General and his staff on their preparatory work for the International Youth Year. The meetings, seminars, round-tables and conferences which would take place prior to and during the Year would be invaluable in bringing young people together and giving them an opportunity to exchange views and experience. It would be useful if the United Nations could encourage States Members to include more young women in their delegations. Her country was particularly interested in the programmes and activities concerning sports exchanges, health and nutrition.

57. The International Youth Year and the wide publicity it was to be given would also promote greater knowledge and interest in the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

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(Mrs. Bromley, Honduras)

58. She particularly welcomed the reference in paragraph 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (A/36/215, annex) to the concept of responsibilities and duties of youth, the promotion of idealism among youth and the need for articulation of religious values and artistic expression. While idealism and religious values were too controversial to deal with in a generalized way, it was essential for educational programmes to emphasize spiritual development. Education should also include an objective review of the values inherent in different cultures, since freedom was not merely doing what one wished, but freedom from prejudice and the ability to question and to discern what was false in traditions.

59. With the poverty and insecurity of the present-day world, education and society tended inevitably to concentrate on employment and material security, which resulted in narrow and superficial attitudes of mind. Those attitudes should be broadened so as to encompass an awareness of responsibility towards others. All that must be part of education to enable young people fully to develop their personality.

60. The young people of today would be the leaders of tomorrow and they must produce a better world. Youth, with its inspiration and vitality, was the time when personalities were shaped and lifetime values established. International Youth Year was of vital importance, since united efforts and active co-operation in working to achieve its aims would help to influence youth and produce wise and compassionate leaders for the future.

61. Mr. ISSACS (Observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that the youth of his country had a vital interest in international co-operation among young people, particularly in the effort to promote development and peace. They were an integral part of the economically exploited and politically oppressed people of Azania and their situation had to be viewed within the context of the apartheid system. As long as the black youth of Azania was subjected to devastating humiliations in the political, economic and social fields, the freedom of young people everywhere was diminished.

62. The youth of Azania had a long history for struggle for national liberation and self-determination. They had participated actively in the earlier wars of resistance against the settlers and, when blacks had organized themselves politically, youth again had played a prominent role. The formation of the Congress Youth League in 1943 had marked the beginning of the contemporary liberation struggle in Azania. The League had advocated the formulation of a programme of action by the national liberation movement to attain national freedom and the eventual establishment of socialism in Azania. That programme had been adopted at the annual conference of the African National Congress in 1949 and the 1952 defiance campaign, when thousands of people courted arrest because of their defiance of six specific apartheid laws, testified to its success as membership of the ANC grew by several thousand.

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(Mr. Issacs)

63. The Pan Africanist Congress, formed in 1959, was the custodian of that programme of action, many of the members of the League being in the forefront of the movement. The youth had also played a prominent part in the positive action campaign which had culminated in the Sharpeville massacre of 21 March 1960 and was a watershed in the history of the struggle for national liberation and self-determination in Azania. Sharpeville had marked the end of non-violent passive resistance and had begun an era of armed struggle. It had also ushered in a period of intense repression that included the banning of the two national liberation movements, PAC and ANC, the declaration of a state of emergency and the detention of thousands of opponents of the régime. That repression had climaxed with the crushing of the military wings of ANC and PAC in 1963. In that year, six young men, members of PAC and most of them teen-agers, had been sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island, where they still remained.

64. The period between 1963 and 1968 had been used by the régime to pursue its policy of fragmentation through bantustanization, the purpose being to divide blacks into manageable ethnic units. Through legislation, the régime had created a climate of fear among the black community and encouraged the idea that the only legal political activity was collaboration. Black youth were, however, instrumental in the revival of black political organization and opposition during the period of the late 1960s and early 1970s. The Black Consciousness Movement which emerged during that period had produced many youthful leaders, some of whom had been killed or imprisoned, while others had been banned, restricted or forced into exile.

65. They did, however, succeed in reviving black resistance and promoting the ideas of self-reliance among blacks through community development projects. They had conducted literacy training in various black communities, encouraged co-operatives and cottage industries, given financial aid to ex-political prisoners who were unable to find employment, created a trust fund to help the families and dependants of political prisoners and, in the Eastern Cape, they had established a clinic which provided free medical services for blacks in neighbouring townships. In all, they had reinforced the idea of independence as a goal which blacks had to achieve through their own efforts.

66. In 1976, black youth had again stood up to the awful might of the apartheid régime. Hundreds had been killed and thousands maimed at Soweto and countless other black ghettos in Azania. Indeed, the first victim of police terror at Soweto in June 1976 had been a ten-year old child.

67. Black youth was currently waging a struggle against Bantu education in Azania, under which black schools had more pupils per class, cheaper equipment and less well-qualified teachers than white schools. Blacks had to pay for their education while it was both free and compulsory for whites. The 1980 school boycott had resulted in the closure of almost 60 schools in various parts

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(Mr. Issacs)

of the country, affecting some 60,000 black students. At a time of so-called change in South Africa, the daily order for the black majority and for the youth of Azania continued to be the dehumanization and degradation of life under apartheid. It was for that reason that thousands of black youths were leaving the country to join the national liberation movement.

68. PAC hoped that the International Youth Year would highlight the role of youth in the Azanian struggle for national liberation, mobilize the youth of the world in support of that struggle and raise material support for the national liberation movements, particularly for projects relating to youth. He urged all Member States of the United Nations and all United Nations agencies to undertake an intensive and extensive educational campaign directed at the youth of the world. He also urged them to involve the national liberation movements in that campaign as far as possible.

69. Sports exchanges among young people were an important means used by the apartheid régime to break out of the isolation to which it had been subjected by the international community in protest against its racial policies. He firmly believed that youth, particularly in the developed countries, could play an important role in countering the increasing collaboration with the apartheid régime in the field of sport. That collaboration had been accompanied by propaganda aimed at gained legitimacy for the régime's apartheid policies. He urged Member States to promote sports exchanges between the youth of their countries and the youth who were still struggling for freedom. Such exchanges would contribute towards promoting understanding among youth and, in turn, promoting international peace.

70. In view of the need for continuity in the struggle for the liberation of Azania, the training of youth and the development of appropriate institutions was imperative. PAC had a Department of Education and Manpower Development which co-operated with United Nations agencies in the training of human resources. For example, UNESCO provided scholarships for the education of Azanian students at all levels, from primary school to university, and a large number of students who were placed at various educational institutions in Africa and abroad had benefited from that assistance. PAC was currently assisting scores of young men and women who had been forced to flee from the repressive régime of apartheid and, consequently, had had their education interrupted. His organization had experienced difficulties in securing placement for them at educational institutions and, because of the shortage of funds experienced by several United Nations agencies, students currently enrolled at institutions were facing acute hardship. He urged Member States to examine ways and means of expanding educational assistance to youth from the unliberated territories of southern Africa, either through the United Nations system or bilateral agreements.

71. He drew attention to the transit centre in Tanzania, established with the support of the Government and people of that country, and for which PAC had

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(Mr. Issacs)

received support from UNDP and FAO. Besides providing sanctuary for the victims of repression, it gave Azanians an opportunity to exercise control over their environment in a manner denied to them in their own country. There were plans for the establishment of a self-sufficient community, where Azanians could acquire skills which would be beneficial to the liberated Azania of the future. At the same time they gained experience in managing a large community and the necessary social services. The centre was an integral part of the programme for liberation, namely, fostering self-reliance among the people while at the same time developing manpower. At the same time, PAC was establishing an Azania Institute in the Sudan, which would be an institution of higher learning, including teacher-training, for Azanians.

72. Those were some projects which the international community could support as part of their over-all support for the struggle of the people of Azania. Since they were geared towards the development of youth, he believed that they should be part of the focus of the proposed International Youth Year.

73. Mr. VELLA (Malta) informed the Chairman that, through no fault of his own, he would be unable to meet the deadline for submitting draft resolutions under agenda item 80. His delegation had a long tradition of excellent relations with the Secretariat and until the present year had never had any cause for complaint. Now, however, it had been impossible to hold proper consultations and progress was being hampered because of the absence from New York of certain key members of the Secretariat who had long been involved in the question and were well versed in the needs of the developing countries. It was particularly unfortunate in the case of item 80, concerning the elderly and the aged, which had been on the General Assembly agenda long enough for considerable expertise to have accumulated.

74. His complaint - which should in no way be construed as a reflection on the professional competence of the staff who were present - was that they did not include a single member from the developing world. The staff members with the relevant experience had been present in previous years and he saw no reason why they should not be present during the current session. Distance from headquarters had surely never been intended to militate against the interests of the developing countries. He wished, through the Chairman, to request an explanation of the situation and that the situation be remedied. Otherwise, he would be unable to meet deadlines. He regretted having to make his statement, but the matter had so far not, as he had hoped, been settled unofficially.

75. The CHAIRMAN said that he had noted what the representative of Malta had said concerning deadlines for submitting draft resolutions on one agenda item. He suggested that the matter should be kept under review, as it was too early at the present stage to extend the deadline.

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76. The question of the availability of Secretariat staff was a matter for the Secretary-General, but he was sure that the points raised by the representative of Malta would have been noted.

77. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that the recruitment of international staff was a matter for the Secretary-General. Professional staff were generally recruited on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, but there were other considerations, such as a country's quota and the retention in the Secretariat of persons who, once recruited, no longer represented their country, but made their contribution to the Secretariat through special knowledge of the problems of various regions of the world. She therefore joined the representative of Malta and asked that those considerations should be taken seriously by the Secretary-General and by the heads of departments.

78. Commenting on agenda item 80, she said that although at present it was more of a problem for the developed countries, it would ultimately become a problem for the developing countries and it was essential for a member of the Secretariat representing the peoples of the developing countries to contribute to the solution and to the preparation of documents and programmes.

79. Miss TAKIGDDINE (Lebanon) endorsed the statements made by the representatives of Malta and Morocco.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.