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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 26th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/215 and Add.1; A/C.3/36/9; A/C.3/36/L.15, L.20)

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AGENDA ITEM 90: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/442; A/C.3/36/L.22, L.24)

1. Ms. SAMPSON (Guyana) said that cooperatives had long been a part of the Guyanese tradition. In 1970, Guyana had become the first co-operative republic in the world. Co-operative socialism - the attainment of socialism through the use of co-operatives - had been adopted in the country's ideology.

2. Different conditions required different approaches to socialism, and Guyanese history provided many examples of co-operativism. It was both an economic and a social form of organization, intended to define the everyday relationships between people both at work and at home. It was a humane and

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productive way of life, which the Government was trying to establish in accordance with the objectives contained in the Constitution. The Guyanese Constitution stated the essential role of co-operativism, as the dynamic principle of socialist transformation, pervading all interrelationships in society. It was a unifying principle in the total development of the nation.

3. The observance of a Co-operative Week, in which attention was focused on various types of co-operative societies, offered a perspective of the development of co-operatives. Some 30 per cent of the co-operative societies in Guyana were school co-operatives. Co-operatives were potentially the simplest and surest way of promoting personal development, but it was important to begin developing that potential in schools. Education in co-operativism helped children to grasp the opportunities provided for them in later life and to be useful citizens.

4. There were many agricultural co-operatives throughout the country, which mobilized people to farm the land. Such co-operatives helped to feed the nation and to provide food for export.

5. Housing co-operatives provided shelter for thousands in Guyana. They could take on a long-term role in the management of the community and the maintenance of its facilities.

6. The ideology underlying co-operatives had to be understood by the population if the latter was to make a significant contribution to the development of the co-operative sector. The Government was making efforts to develop a more systematic approach to the infusion of the philosophy of co-operativism into every aspect of national life. That philosophy underlay national development.

7. Emphasis had been placed on the role of the co-operative as an economic decision-making mechanism in some of the larger public enterprises. It gave the worker an opportunity for genuine ownership and participation in decision-making. Management was not exclusively for those few traditionally termed "managers" but should involve all workers concerned with production.

8. Her Government's policy on co-operatives reflected the considerations referred to in the concluding remarks contained in paragraphs 111 (a) to (e) of the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/36/115). Co-operativism continued to be the fount of national consensus in creating a just society in which every citizen could enjoy a full life.

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9. Miss KHAPARDE (India) said that issues of concern relating to specific sectors of society should be viewed in the context of development in general. Her delegation was gratified that the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging had finally begun its work. It was not surprising that the Advisory Committee had been unable to agree on a comprehensive plan of action immediately, given the diverse viewpoints it represented. The Chairman's proposals contained in appendix I of document A/36/472 represented a useful contribution. It was also important to have inputs from regional meetings.

10. India was a young country and a majority of its population was also young, only 5.5 per cent being more than 60 years of age. The problem of caring for older citizens was only just emerging, although it had begun to receive attention. In the past, family groups had cared for the older members, but family relationships were changing in the wake of industrialization, urbanization and migration to urban areas. The Government was considering the policy issues involved. Her delegation approved of the emphasis placed on humanitarian aspects in the plan of action, although ultimately the family and society had to assume responsibility for caring for older people, with Government playing a catalytic role. The plan of action should emphasize programmes for the care of senior citizens among the self-employed in low-income groups and for strengthening the role of voluntary organizations. India did not favour costly institutional care. The older members of society should be viewed as contributors to it in that they perpetuated socio-cultural values. The question of drafting an international instrument on their rights required further study.

11. With respect to crime prevention, her delegation noted that steps were being taken to implement decisions adopted at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and to prepare for the Seventh Congress. The relationship of crime prevention and criminal justice to development, considered at Caracas, deserved special emphasis. It might also be useful to study the impact of economic development on crime prevention and criminal justice. Victimology should also be studied.

12. Although her delegation appreciated the humanitarian concern underlying the advocacy of the abolition of capital punishment, countries had to decide on the issue in the context of their particular social and cultural characteristics. In democracies public opinion was also an important factor. The death penalty was rarely used in India; only a small percentage of convicted murderers were executed.

13. India had a wide range of co-operatives including agricultural co-operatives, which encompassed almost half of the total rural population. Her delegation trusted that the co-operative movement would continue to receive support.

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14. Mr. BA (Mauritania) said that his Government was greatly interested in the preparatory work for the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. The problems of young people were inseparable from those of development. Developing countries had to face serious economic and social problems due to the anachronistic international economic system. Those problems and the lack of meaningful communication with the industrialized countries endangered the future of the developing countries. It was essential to impart new vigor to global and negotiations and dialogue between North and South, so that developing countries could be helped to resolve their problems.

15. Young people constituted an essential element in economic and social development. It was no more than just to provide them with a new international and social development. It was no more than just to provide them with a new international economic order, since tomorrow's world would be theirs. More than half of the population of Mauritania was under 20 years of age. The Government placed particular emphasis on education, which accounted for 30 per cent of the national budget. Careful planning was needed to avoid unemployment among young people, particularly those with higher educations. Such policies would help to reduce juvenile delinquency and crime in urban areas. The establishment to channel their energies into the country's development efforts.

16. His delegation supported the objectives determined by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, as well as the measures proposed in the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/215). Continuing contact between young people of different nationalities would undoubtedly promote international understanding and help to guarantee peace and security. UNESCO's work in that regard was of particular value.

17. Mauritania young people were in the vanguard of the campaign against apartheid and zionism.

18. His delegation wished to see an expansion in the programme of internships at various United Nations duty stations to promote the ideals of the Organization. It welcomed efforts by governmental and non-governmental organizations to popularized the Organization, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/163.

19. Mauritania's population contained only a small percentage of elderly and aged persons, who occupied a privileged place in Mauritanian society. They were respected for their wisdom and experience and were the guardians of Mauritanism culture, which had traditionally been handed down orally from generation to generation.

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20. His delegation approved of the Advisory Committee preparations for the World Assembly on Aging and of the international plan of action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/472).

21. His country was in favour of improving international co-operation in the field of crime prevention. The comments on international co-operation contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/442) were of interest. The Organization of African Unity attached great importance to the question. His delegation hoped that at the next United Nations pledging conference for development, assistance would be given to the United Nations Trust Fund for Social Defence.

22. Mr. JHMEL (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that his delegation was sympathetic to the concern over the rise in crime and violence in certain regions of the world and believed that the phenomenon must be combated. It welcomed the stress laid in the Secretary-General's report (A/36/442) on the fact that crime prevention and criminal justice must be regarded in the context of development. It had to disagree, however, with the pervasive assumption that rising crime was the inevitable consequence of any kind of development. That assumption would not stand the test of scouting: development in his country was proceeding apace, yet crime rates not only had not risen but had actually declined as development progressed. The same could be said of other socialist countries. The crime situation was hardly critical in the developing countries either, for all their economic difficulties. Thus, the cause of crime lay not in development as such but in the conditions under which development took place.

23. The authors of the report, despite their repeated emphasis on the need to consider crime in the context of development, had failed to consider the nature of ownership over the means of production in that context. They had mentioned a large number of other contributing factors, but all of those derived from the status of the individual with regard to the means of production and from the manner in which his share in the national output and the benefits of society was determined. Public ownership of the means of production under socialism implied identical attitudes towards those means on the part of all members of society, and legally guaranteed employment was the yardstick for an individual's share in social production. There was thus no room for the exploitation of man by man or the alienation of the individual from society, and hence no reason for the emergence of phenomena such as crime. Private ownership, on the other hand, implied the exploitation of the work force for profit, thereby opposing the interests of capital and labour in the development process, and it caused discrepancies between development and the over-all interests of society, which included the jobless, the young, the

handicapped and the old. The resulting alienation and antagonism were the precursors of crime. Accordingly, his delegation felt that the context of development within which crime prevention should be considered implied the context in each individual country, with the nature of ownership over the means of production as the determining factor.

24. No less unjustified than the suggestions that crime was a by-product of development per se were the attempts to establish a link between crime prevention, the introduction of a new international economic order, and the International Development Strategy for Third Development Decade. He feared that behind such attempts lay the purpose of frightening the developing countries away from the notion of development.

25. The United Nations bodies concerned with the prevention of crime and criminal justice had neglected the call made at the twenty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development for making the medium-term plan on the topic more effective and for concentrating efforts on the social aspects of the problem. In view of the methodological flaws his delegation questioned the justification for expanding them in the proposed programmes.

26. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the Caracas Declaration adopted at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was a landmark in crime prevention. It was important to implement all parts of the Declaration, particularly since both the Declaration itself and the General Assembly resolution endorsing it had been adopted by consensus; but such implementation would never be achieved without an intensification of the joint efforts of the United Nations, the regional organizations and the Member States. In that connexion he congratulated the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat's Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on its work and urged that it should be given greater administrative and material support to enable it to meet the volume of work it was expected to carry out, particularly in the light of its modest existing capabilities and its special responsibility as the main unit responsible for carrying out the relevant policies.

27. He also suggested that attention to the following points might contribute to the success of United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: the importance of improving United Nations information services on the question and encouraging the publication of relevant studies; supporting technical co-operation and making the technical expertise of the United Nations and the specialized agencies available to member States, especially the developing countries, to help them to establish

their own organizations and institutions for dealing with crime; intensifying co-ordination with due regard for regional balance and for the fact that certain parts of Africa had not received adequate attention; the importance of respecting customs and traditions and of bearing in mind the different cultural, social and economic conditions of different countries; and emphasis on the role of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in formulating general policy and preparing for international conferences, and the importance of co-operation between the Committee and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

28. His country believe that effective strategy should be viewed in the context of a rational social development policy. For that reason, it welcomed the Secretary-General's report (A/36/442) and was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.22. The Secretary-General should be encouraged and empowered to take all necessary measures to ensure the success of the preparations for the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

29. Mrs. DEVAUD (France), referring to agenda item 78, said that France attached great importance to the development of its co-operative movement, which provided economic hope and in some cases an effective response to the need to humanize economic relations in both production and consumption. In keeping with new activities in the context of promoting the social economy, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Planning had recently announced a number of measures, including changes in the status of co-operatives, financial networks, co-development and new co-operative relations between France and other countries. Studies on production workers' co-operatives, craft co-operatives, and joint production, distribution and credit co-operatives were being prepared.

30. The social economy was only one of many possible forms of organization in the country's economic life, given the diversity of people, conditions, traditions, experience and character. It would be wrong to presume that the experience of one country could be transplanted to another. Accordingly, commending the Secretary-General for his achievements, she cautioned against an over-hasty systematization of the lessons to be learnt from the experience set forth in his report.

32. Mr. TEKLU (Ethiopia), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that his country attached great importance to the participation of youth in nation-building. Ethiopia regarded youth as an asset whose energy, enthusiasm and creativity - with appropriate guidance and material support - could be harnessed to speed up the process of peaceful development throughout the world and to strengthen international peace and security. As one of the sponsors

of the draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.15, his delegation was glad to note the international community's concern in advancing the cause of youth and launching programmes for youth participation in issues of national, regional and international concern. Youth indeed represented the hope of mankind.

32. Ethiopia welcomed the designation of 1985 as International Youth Year and undertook to support and co-operate in all the relevant programmes. It recognized and valued the participation of youth in all aspects of life, including government and decision-making. All opportunities, including free education, freedom of association and employment, were open to youth in Ethiopia. In view of the growing needs of young people and the country's limited financial resources, his Government continue to allocate substantial amounts for exchange programmes with friendly countries. Opportunities were also provided in sports and the mass media, through the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

33. Ethiopia was justifiably proud of the contribution made by youth to the struggle to abolish the now defunct feudal order and its system of oppression and exploitation, through participation in worker's strikes, peasant uprisings, defence by the armed forces, and demonstrations. Young people were now in the forefront of cultural, literacy and economic development campaigns. The Government had given them all possible assistance in organizing themselves and in establishing the Revolutionary Ethiopia Youth Association, which was responsible for organizing over 8 million young people, including Ethiopian youth abroad. The Association provided a means of strengthening the relationship between the Ethiopian youth movement and the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

34. Mr. ABAWI (Afghanistan) said that the problems of the younger generation had become a major concern in all societies. In the least developed countries little had been done to improve young people's conditions, mainly because of economic constraints and various social problems.

35. Youth, with their lack of experience and knowledge, needed the guidance of older people; but they were aware of the corruption, nepotism and inefficiency in their societies, regarding those as the main sources of injustice and the main obstacles to economic, political and social progress, and therefore they sought revolutionary reforms.

36. The problems of youth were often neglected through lack of a unified approach. Youth development and participation programmes must be co-ordinated, and that could be achieved by the establishment of national co-ordinating bodies to assist planning bodies in the preparation of programmes and

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supervise the implementation of policy and programmes in general. The International Youth Year would contribute to the achievement of those goals and ensure proper co-ordination at the educational, social, economic, cultural and other levels.

37. Since the April 1978 Revolution, Afghan youth had freed itself from the effects of feudalism and the revolutionary Government had formulated a national youth policy. Under the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which served as the country's constitution, the Government had assumed responsibility for youth, including general education, vocational training, employment, spiritual and moral education, and physical growth, so as to promote their broad participation in building a new society. At the international level, Afghan youth called for peaceful co-operation and mutual understanding for the participation of youth, along with the revolutionary forces of the world, in the struggle against imperialism and racism; for support for national liberation movements; and for respect for human rights. His delegation supported the idea of a charter of rights and duties of youth, based on the Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2037 (XX).

38. Mr. ZIDA (Upper Volta), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that his country welcomed the designation of 1985 as International Youth Year and supported the programme proposed by the Advisory Committee. The Upper Volta recognized the importance of youth in the country's current development efforts, and youth activities would be co-ordinated through ministerial departments responsible for youth and sports, rural development, social affairs, the status of women, and education.

39. In an important statement on 1 May 1981, the Head of State had described plans for recognizing the social and cultural sector by decentralization of social action to provide suitable coverage for the entire country, with emphasis on rural development; promotion of the role of women, in order to speed up their participation in economic and social development; and co-ordination of social activities throughout the country.

40. Development plans for the country also covered health policy, employment and housing, and reorganization of the educational system. The Government was intensifying activity for organizing youth and for improving training with a view to preventing idleness which gave rise to delinquency, but much remained to be done. In that connexion, he stressed the important part played by international governmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of youth development projects in his country.

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41. Miss GORDON (Trinidad and Tobago), referring to agenda items 76, 77 and 80, said that in a number of societies, the interests of both the young and the old tended to be subordinated to those of the more influential intermediate group of adults who had greater control over policy and decision-making. Yet all three groups were integral and valuable parts of society.

42. Young people were the pillars of the society of the future and were the most vulnerable to the ills of present-day society. In many developing countries, inadequate nutrition, lack of access to good educational and health facilities, and increasing urbanization had plunged them into unemployment, restlessness, drug abuse and delinquency. Effective national programmes were needed to ensure that their energy, creativity and ingenuity were not dissipated but were harnessed to the tasks of nation-building and working for a more just world. In connexion with the International Youth Year, her delegation welcomed the valuable guidelines and proposals contained in document A/36/215. Young people needed to feel that they were active members of society, able to participate in shaping policy and in decision-making and to contribute to development. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago paid particular attention to youth, and its policies were designed to help young people become useful citizens. Primary and secondary education were free, and school-leavers had the choice of university study, vocational or technical training, or apprenticeship. They were encouraged to participate in community services, in formulating policy and in decision-making through the youth wings of some of the political parties.

43. Since the needs, rights, and interests of youth could be catered for only conditions of peace, young people must be made aware of the interdependence of the world's peoples and educated to see beyond the narrow interests of their own country. Young people, with their idealism, were ready to see the dangers of racism, economic exploitation, the arms race and other present-day ills and to embrace the spirit of humanism, co-operation and understanding which were essential for a new world order; but they must be given the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures and races through education and through sports and cultural visits and exchanges. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago sponsored such activities and provided scholarships for young nationals to institutions abroad and for overseas students at institutions in Trinidad and Tobago.

44. The elderly and the aged had traditionally been accorded honour and respect. Despite increasing urbanization, it was still customary for them to live with their families, although those without families had access to homes run mainly by voluntary and church organizations with governmental assistance. Governmental measures to lessen the burden of inflation on older citizens, who lived on

fixed incomes, included increased pensions, free public transport and health care, and a food stamp system.

45. As a comparatively new developing country, Trinidad and Tobago recognized that youth, with their energy and idealism, and the elderly and the aged, with their experience and wisdom, were integral parts of society, and it valued their respective contributions to the development process.

46. Ms. JORDAN (Barbados) said that young people under the age of 20 constituted 46 per cent of the entire population of Barbados and the Government had taken steps to ensure their involvement in the process of national development. More than 30 per cent of the national budget was spent on education, which was provided free of charge from primary school to university level and was compulsory until the age of 16. Under a national programmes of co-education, young women would have an opportunity of pursuing technical and vocational training and young men would have opportunities in areas hitherto preserved to women. A Department of Culture had been established in order to create a cultural environment which would facilitate youth participation in development, and interest in agriculture and its value to the national economy was encouraged by clubs attached to the schools.

47. In order to alleviate unemployment among young people, which was a matter of great concern in Barbados, the Government, in co-operation with local businesses, had created a Skills Training Programme to offer career guidance and training. A special section in the Community Development Division, with a community development officer, had been set up to involve youth in national development activities.

48. Her Government was confident that the International Youth Year would give added impetus to its efforts to involve youth in the national development programmes. Her delegation therefore supported the Year and the proposals made by the Advisory Committee in document A/36/215. In her delegation's opinion, regional activities were more important than national, particularly in the Caribbean, whose countries had similar historical, sociological and cultural backgrounds. Accordingly, it supported the Advisory Committee's proposal for regional meetings to be convened for the purpose of sharing experiences and stimulating youth activities in development.

49. While it was customary in Barbados for the family unit to take care of its older members, the Government recognized the need for additional support for the aging and was now providing pensions for everyone over the age of 65, a home help programme, and a housing welfare service. Barbados welcomed the convening of the World Assembly on Aging and endorsed the plan of action recommended by the Advisory Committee in document A/36/472.

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50. With regard to agenda item 90, she said that her delegation supported the principles embodied in the Caracas Declaration adopted at the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Mrs. Masmoudi (Tunisia) took the Chair

51. Mr. CHIMBUZO (Malawi) said that his country had long recognized the importance of youth, who had taken part in the fight for independence and continued to be involved in daily political, developmental and administrative affairs, including local district and national level decision-making. The Malawi Young Pioneers Organization, which had been set up to mobilize youth for development work, particularly in agriculture, provided boys and girls with a year's intensive training in soil, animal and crop husbandry and other agricultural subjects.

52. Education was expanding rapidly at all levels, and vocational training in construction and service trades was provided at a number of institutions. The Government attached particular importance to discipline and the preservation of culture, and youth were also expected to show respect for their elders and to help the needy. The response from Malawi's young people had been tremendous, and Youth Week, during which boys and girls carried out self-help projects, such as building schools and clinics, clearing roads and constructing bridges, and providing special assistance to the aged, was observed every year.

53. Special attention was given to sports and physical fitness through the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Council for Sports.

54. Non-governmental organizations and churches had contributed greatly to youth welfare. A Council for the Handicapped had set up a number of commercial workshops for handicrafts and clothing manufacture, employing mainly crippled, blind, mute and deaf boys and girls, who were thus able to contribute to national development.

55. The Government attached great importance to the needs of the elderly and the aged, although Malawi was still one of the developing countries in which the problems of older people were taken care of by traditional relationships. Senior citizens, who had made a great contribution to development and had transmitted the country's unwritten history and culture to successive generations, were entitled to proper care and attention,

56. Mr. AZAR-GOMEZ (Uruguay) said that his delegation's thinking on agenda items 76 and 77 centered around the forgotten people living and dying on or near

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the fields of battle between ideologies and because of the arbitrary policies of certain political leaders who forgot that the primordial purpose of the United Nations was, as the Charter put it, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Young people were the succeeding generations to which the Charter referred. Redoubled efforts must therefore be made to integrate young people into national activity and prepare them to take part in economic and social development within a peaceful and harmonious environment. It would not do to proceed in a fragmentary and unco-ordinated fashion: action must be based on an over-all policy, thereby eliminating the need to rely on emergency measures, which, by their nature, always brought an element of risk and improvisation, or on arrangements based on experimentation more proper to a laboratory - human beings should not be treated as experimental animals.

57. It was important, before taking action, to study the proposed area of activity in depth and ascertain whether the necessary material and financial means would be available. In many cases the lack of such resources meant that results were ephemeral and mediocre, and the resulting disappointment was particularly grave when it affected lost or marginal generations. Well-being was a psychological as well as material condition; social policies based on improvised demagogical posturing and fleeting political interests tended to lead to frustration and disorientation.

58. Uruguay supported the observance of the International Youth Year but wished to point out that merely because time had been allowed for the exchange of valuable experience, the Committee should not, simplistically suppose that the topic would thereafter fall out of fashion or recede to the background.

59. His delegation would support all moves to inculcate in young people respect for moral and legal standards and the concept of the family as a basic unit. Such moves must be accompanied by a programme to guide the young in their careers, education and training. Standards and institutional structures must be modified so as to deal with the problems of the growing number of young people through modern methods and flexible arrangements. There was a need for greater efforts to arrive at a technically coherent social policy extending to all young people. The aim should be to give young people firm humanistic guidance, recognizing the value of the individual, which totalitarian philosophy denied.

60. His delegation would continue to work for the success of the World Assembly on Aging with a view to encouraging the exchange of experience and the formulation of programmes to deal with the problems of the elderly and the aged. It would seek to improve the protection available to them in the form of social security, whether organized by the State or by related institutions; encourage research into the biological, ecological, physiological, pathological,

demographic and sociological problems; ensure that people protected by social welfare programmes could participate in morally and materially satisfying creative activities; strive to secure for older people effective and honourable protection based on fundamental human rights and see to it that they remained physically and intellectually active; and seek to integrate them into their families and the community. It would be willing to place its experience at the disposal of other nations.

61. Mr. OBADI (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation recognized the paramount importance of young people in shaping society and the contribution they could make in various spheres. The preparations for the International Youth Year would provide a useful opportunity to direct further attention towards the status of young people and would help to mobilize national and local programmes. The programme of work proposed by the Advisory Committee should be continuously revised in the light of Member States' experience.

62. The United Nations and its organs should provide support for the young people of Palestine and South Africa struggling to gain independence and to eliminate foreign domination, colonialism, racism and apartheid. His delegation favoured the idea of drafting a charter on the rights, duties and responsibilities of young people as a part of the activities of the Year.

63. Young people formed the great majority of his country's population and were engaged in all economic, social and cultural fields; some held office in the executive branch of government and in the people's assemblies, while others held high positions in artistic and professional associations. They exhibited great interest in the history, culture and social structure of other countries.

64. His Government believed that it was important to give young people the opportunity to contribute to society in all spheres of activity. It had enacted special legislation establishing their rights and responsibilities, giving them a legal entitlement to education and participation in cultural activities; encouraging their involvement in the arts, the cinema and the theatre, as well as the mass media, and fostering their interest in the fine arts, folk culture and music.

65. One important contribution young people could make was in promoting the authority of the State: young people had been involved in formulating the rules governing the highest legislative authority of the country and had participated in the free elections to that body. They were involved in drawing up production schedules and economic plans, as well as political schemes to enhance the awareness of the masses.

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66. The State played a paramount role in the life of young people, working to bring them into the revolutionary mainstream of society, a task in which popular associations were also engaged. The country had enjoyed modest triumphs, but it was aware that much still remained to be done.

67. Mr. ROUCOUNAS (Greece) commented with satisfaction on the report of the Advisory Committee (A/36/215 and Add.1), which provided useful information on the situation of young people and the activities needed to enhance their status and role throughout the world. His country's efforts in connexion with the International Youth Year would concentrate on participation by young people in the formulation and execution of decisions. Beginning in areas such as education and jobs, which affected them directly, young people would be given increased rights to express their positions, make claims, criticize, take decisions and put them into effect. Their involvement in other areas of life would also allow for adjustments of the kind which modern society constantly needed. The young played a decisive part in the re-establishment and maintenance of democratic institutions in Greece.

68. The importance his country attached to youth participation did not mean that the problems of development were not subject to serious consideration. Young people met and mingled across national frontiers, and their understanding of the aspirations of different peoples contributed to mutual understanding. Emphasis should be placed on the part which young people played in preserving national and universal cultural values: if young people were aware of them and supported them, it meant that such values were worth preserving. The International Youth Year should provide an opportunity to secure the large-scale involvement of young people in the protection of cultural values.

69. It was important to view the situation of the aged as a new category of human rights. The concept of human rights had been developing over a period of time, but it was only recently that international organizations had begun to speak of various new categories of protection, including the rights of senior citizens to health, housing, a clean environment, social protection, a secure income, education, family life and the like. His delegation endorsed the distinction made by the French delegation between the aged, who were dependent on others, and the elderly, who could contribute to society. Such issues must be discussed during the World Assembly on Aging, so as to arrive at solutions beneficial to all concerned.

70. Mr. ODOCH-JATO (Uganda) expressed satisfaction at the thoroughness with which the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year had considered the issues relating to youth and had elaborated the specific Programme of Measures and Activities for the Year. Under present world conditions, which

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included an intensification of the arms race and a deterioration of the political and economic situation, young people had an especially significant role to play. They realized that the resources used to produce weapons could be devoted to peaceful development and that consequently the arms race was depriving them of the right to a peaceful and prosperous future. Accordingly, their mission was to avert the danger of world destruction and to stop the wasting of resources.

71. Moreover, the ever-growing gap between the North and the South and the resulting poverty held out the prospect of a very grim future for young people in the developing world. Even the education they received depended on the income their countries earned by selling their basic commodities, and that income, was in turn subject to the extremely inequitable world market. Until the international community made faster progress towards a more equitable global economic structure, those young people would be condemned to a life of perpetual poverty.

72. Many young people also continued to suffer the grievous effects of racism, racial discrimination and denial of the right of peoples to self-determination. They were condemned to a substandard education and subhuman living conditions. In that regard, he drew attention to the young people of South Africa and Namibia, who, together with the adult population, had been brutally treated and banished to barren lands by the perpetrators of apartheid. Those young people were called upon to take part in the struggle against racial oppression and alien domination.

73. Among the ways in which young people could participate in the Programme of Measures and Activities for the International Youth Year, his delegation particularly welcomed the dissemination of information through the publication of special material and through seminars and youth conferences aimed at creating a common awareness among young people.

74. In addition, his delegation strongly supported the Advisory Committee's view concerning the need to identify the aspirations of young people and to include them in over-all policies and strategies. It also supported the elaboration of specific programmes, for example for rural, urban and peri-urban youth and for young women, but care must be taken to ensure that such programmes did not ultimately offer unequal opportunities for certain identifiable categories.

75. Uganda's own national youth policy emphasized participation, development and national unity. After eight years of fascist dictatorship, during which Ugandan youth had been abandoned and repressed, his Government had taken steps

to restore the role young people had played prior to 1971. Several youth organizations banned by the dictatorship had been re-established in December 1980, specifically to help in national economic reconstruction and to revive the spirit of national unity. Furthermore, in the 1981-1982 budget, funds had been appropriated to the Ministry of Culture and Community Development for that purpose.

76. In keeping with the importance it attached to the education and training of young people, his Government devoted a substantial proportion of the current budget to education and offered special assistance to the orphans left by eight years of genocidal dictatorship. Moreover, it actively participated in the raising of voluntary contributions to aid orphans and to provide educational and training facilities for the urban youth population which had become dependent on the black market and on robbery for its livelihood.

77. In all those endeavors, his Government relied on the support of the international community and hoped that Ugandan young people would benefit from the programmes conducted by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations in the context of the International Youth Year. Accordingly, he noted with satisfaction the Advisory Committee's recommendation that youth programmes should be given due consideration in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

78. Because of the intrinsic social and cultural value of physical education and sports, they represented a major part of the school curriculum at all levels in Uganda. Furthermore, the Ministries of Education and of Culture were actively encouraging sports exchanges between schools and colleges and also between the less privileged rural and urban young people. In principle, the Government also supported sports exchanges among the young people of all nations, for they could help to foster friendly relations among peoples. However, his Government had always steadfastly condemned all sports links with South Africa, and it unreservedly condemned those who had collaborated or participated in the recent tour of New Zealand and the United States by the racist South Africa's Springbok rugby team.

79. The lack of compassion for the elderly and the aged in the industrialized world was a cause of concern, and, therefore, their problems must be studied in a wider context during the World Assembly on Aging. However, the social and material conditions of older people in the developing countries also had deteriorated rapidly in recent years. New international programmes should focus on the welfare of the elderly and the aged world-wide, and in the case of the developing countries, they should emphasize the provision of such necessities as

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agricultural implements, building materials and adequate water supplies, with a view to maintaining the social homogeneity represented by the extended family.

80. The co-operative movement in Uganda played a particularly vital role in the collections, distribution and marketing of crops. However, between 1971 and 1979, it had largely disintegrated to a large extent because members of the primary co-operative societies had failed to obtain due remuneration for their primary produce from State corporations. The co-operative processing and transport systems had also broken down because of State neglect. As a result, most of the crops produced had been smuggled out of the country, thus depriving the State of whatever foreign exchange it could have earned from their sale. Since December 1980, his Government had been combating smuggling and had formulated policies to reactivate the co-operative movement. As in all efforts directed towards economic reconstruction, his Government continued to experience financial and material short-falls and would therefore welcome international assistance to its efforts in that connexion.

81. Referring to agenda item 90, he pointed out that his Government was fully committed to restoring the rule of law and ensuring the security of the person and of property for all residents. He expressed appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council for having recommended that the United Nations should assist his Government in its efforts to restore the rule of law. He hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council in that regard.

82. Mr. CORTI (Argentina), speaking on agenda items 76, 77, 80 and 84, pointed out that the development of any particular sector of society could not be achieved without economic development. His delegation therefore shared the concern expressed by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs about the current world economic situation - in particular the alarming situation of certain developing countries - which hindered the attainment of the objectives set in respect of young people, the elderly and the aged, women, and the disabled. The plans of action adopted by the United Nations must be revised in light of the real possibilities of implementing them. In other words, his delegation believed that the agenda items allocated to the Committee should be considered from a realistic perspective, so that the goals pursued were ambitious but not unattainable.

83. Statistics showed that by the year 2000, the youth population would increase by 80 per cent in the developing countries, whereas it would increase by scarcely 5 per cent in the developed countries. His delegation fully agreed with comments made by the representative of UNESCO about the need for a

multisectoral and interdisciplinary approach to the problems of youth and with the Advisory Committee, which had indicated in its report that there was already a health and employment problem among the 300 million young people seeking jobs in the developing countries.

84. Moreover, in addition to unemployment, illness and delinquency - problems which affected developed societies as well - the developing countries were constantly threatened by the emigration of young people who failed to find personal fulfilment in their own countries.

85. He stressed the need to pool efforts in that connexion and to avoid any duplication or competition between the work of the United Nations programmes and agencies and that of the non-governmental organizations. To that end, it was especially important for national authorities to co-ordinate the relevant activities, since it was the Member States that contributed to the programmes and dictated and applied the appropriate domestic policies. Similarly, his delegation felt that communication between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations should be maintained through the Government.

86. Referring to the problem of the elderly and the aged, he pointed out that longer life expectancies were creating a larger social category of older people, and millions of them were currently dying in poverty and loneliness. Urgent attention must therefore be devoted to the individual fate of older citizens, who were less capable of working but who had the same rights as the other members of society. As in solving the problems of young people, the strengthening of the family unit could help to avoid unnecessary discrimination and could promote individual fulfilment at all stages of life and in all areas of activity. However, the Committee must be careful not to infringe on the competence of such specialized bodies as the Population Commission in that effort.

87. He welcomed the clarity and thoroughness of the report contained in document A/36/115 concerning the co-operative movement. The purpose of that movement should be analysed in the light of the experience acquired thus far, particularly in connexion with women, young people and the disabled, who suffered from discrimination. Argentina had acquired many years of experience in the co-operative movement and was prepared to share its experience with interested countries.

88. Lastly, the Secretariat should ensure that the study on which document A/36/115 had been based was kept up to date. It was important to make more frequent use of co-operatives in the establishment of national, regional and international structures that were especially useful for social, cultural and economic development, particularly for the least-favoured sectors of the international community.

89. Mr. OSMAN (Djibouti) said that because young people accounted for a large percentage of his country's population, it was deeply interested in the question of youth. It had therefore become a sponsor of the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the International Youth Year and was currently a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.15. His delegation hoped that the International Youth Year would help the world community to find the necessary short-term and long-term solutions to the specific problems of young people at the national, regional and international level.

90. In the developing countries, the most serious problems of young people were unemployment, malnutrition and illiteracy. With a view to remedying those problems, his Government, and in particular the Ministry of Education and Youth, was implementing a special plan in the field of vocational training and health and was preparing future programmes to enable young people to play an effective role in national development. He expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by friendly Governments and international organizations in that connexion. It was worth pointing out that young people 18 years of age already had the right to vote in Djibouti.

91. His delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the report contained in document A/36/215 and to the Advisory Committee for the work it had carried out in connexion with the International Youth Year. He also thanked the Secretariat bodies, the specialized agencies, and governmental and intergovernmental organizations for the efforts they had made in that regard. The International Youth Year should highlight the importance of achieving development in order to establish a world of prosperity and peace for young people.

92. Mr. KHOROSSANI (Iran), speaking on agenda item 80 concerning the elderly and the aged, described the institutions which Western societies had established for that group to compensate for the reduced affection among family members but noted that those institutions did not seem to satisfy all the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of older people. In fact, the elderly and the aged were thus treated as an entirely separate class of society and lived in segregation. His delegation believed that they would be much happier to remain in a family atmosphere, where the material provisions might be more modest but where they could find natural human relationships and could continue to live as they always had. For that reason, his country's approach to the question of senior citizens was slightly different from that of Western societies.

93. In that connexion, he quoted from Surah 14, verses 23 and 24, of the Holy Quran, to the effect that every individual must respect and care for his parents. In Iran, older people always remained active participants in their own families.

Those who had no children received the funds they needed from the local mosques. Moreover, those not covered by any medical insurance plan received the same medical service as was available to others, almost free of charge.

94. Referring to agenda item 77 concerning youth, he noted that, in accordance with the teachings of Islam, his country had decided, as a first step, to remove the destructive factors from society in order to create healthful conditions for the natural, physical, psychological and spiritual growth of its children. Drinking, gambling and other licentious activities were strictly forbidden, and the bars and restaurants encouraged by the former Shah had been banned. Moreover, with the strong backing of the people, his Government had been able to eliminate centres of corruption very quickly and had replaced them with libraries, schools, mosques and youth centres. In addition, films and theatre activities were closely supervised, and as a result, the incidence of crime had declined considerably. Iran's efforts to prevent the smuggling of drugs into the country had also been quite successful, although international smugglers were often supported by prestigious and powerful international institutions.

95. In Iran, young people were recognized, not merely patronized, and were allowed to participate in the activities for which they were suited. According to Islam, physical maturity entailed social rights and responsibilities and in his country a young person could assume social, administrative or political responsibilities as soon as he could prove that he could perform the duties required of him. Young people could thus develop along the lines of their choice.

96. In the area of sports, which his Government had been able to introduce as a public necessity instead of as a race-winning activity, special emphasis was placed on teaching young people how to swim and on the playing of traditional sports.

97. The various measures adopted by his Government had also resulted in the production of countless art masterpieces, inter alia, drawings, poetry, films, and particularly calligraphy, all of which were created in a divine state of mind, because the Holy Quran was never forgotten. In the connexion, he had received copies of art works produced by young Iranians which he wished to present to the Chairman as a token of Iran's respect for his work.

98. Hundreds of thousands of young people read holy writings and observed religious disciplines each day. They also worked voluntarily for the Government and for revolutionary organizations. Because of their sincere devotion and ever-increasing efforts, the Islamic Republic of Iran had been gaining strength, stability and progress by day.

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99. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the same healthy and constructive atmosphere and the same protection from the dangers of immorality could be provided for all the young people of the world.

100. Mr. OLSVOI (Mongolian People's Republic), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that his country supported the observance of the International Youth Year in 1985, since it would provide an additional opportunity to draw the attention of Governments and international organizations to the needs and aspirations of young people so that wide-ranging national measures might be taken to overcome the social and economic problems facing the younger generation in many countries and so that young people might become involved in studying and solving major international and national problems.

101. The situation of young people was not the same all over the world. While youth in the socialist countries were assured the most important rights and the social and economic conditions to satisfy their needs, the younger generation in the capitalist world was deprived of the most elementary rights, and most suffered from unemployment, discrimination and exploitation. The conditions of exploitation in those societies were a fertile breeding ground for criminality, drug addiction and other social ills. Young people in the developing countries were affected by the consequences of colonialism and the policies of neo-colonialism. It therefore followed that the problems of young people were closely related to specific social and political conditions and that the main activities of the International Youth Year and the years preceding it should be based on a correct analysis of the position of young people in the world within the context of existing social and economic conditions and the state of international relations.

102. As could be seen from the experience of many countries, including his own, the achievement of profound social and economic changes within a country favoured the final and comprehensive solution of the problems of the young. Young people would also have a brighter future if they themselves participated actively and imaginatively in the work of society.

103. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the work of the Advisory Committee on the International Youth Year and supported the draft Programme of Measures and Activities to be undertaken prior to and during the Year, set forth in document A/36/215, on the understanding it would be constantly reviewed and amended where necessary. The outstanding feature of the draft Programme was the major emphasis on activities at local and national levels. Concerning the motto of the International Youth Year, he suggested that the Programme should become an integral part of a supplement to the International Development Strategy for the 1980s and the measures which would be undertaken as part of the Third United Nations Disarmament Decade.

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104. The main aim of the International Youth Year was to ensure the active participation of young people in the defence of their social and economic and political rights, first and foremost the right to life. In view of the prevailing international situation, young people were playing an increasing part in the struggle for peace, security and disarmament, in the defence of their sacred right to a tranquil and creative life. The right to a peaceful life was the most important right of all, since the fulfilment of young people's needs, rights and interests was dependent on conditions of peace. Imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, hegemonism, racism, apartheid, and foreign occupation and aggression hindered the establishment of the social and economic and political conditions necessary to solve the problems of young people; youth must therefore oppose those criminal phenomena.

105. International organizations could and should promote an exchange of experience on the subject of youth among all the countries of the world. Youth, student, women's and other international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, such as the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, the World Peace Council and the International Democratic Federation of Women, should be involved in activities prior to and during the Year.

106. In Mongolia, the social, economic and political rights of young people not only were proclaimed in the Constitution and other laws but were secured by the social and economic conditions which had arisen since the people's revolution of 1921. Like other sectors of the population, they enjoyed a broad range of rights, including the right to work, education, social security and medical care. Such social ills as unemployment, drug addiction and loss of jobs did not and could not exist in his country. The Mongolian Revolutionary Union of Youth (Revsomol), which included in its ranks more than 200,000 young men and women, participated in governing the country. The First Secretary of the Central Committee of Revsomol was a member of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural of the Mongolian People's Republic, in which 12 per cent of the deputies were Revsomol members. Revsomol also had the right to sponsor draft legislation. The youth of Mongolia played an active role in defending the revolutionary achievements of their people, in strengthening State independence and in building a new society. More than 80 per cent of industrial workers in his country were aged under 35, and young people were also prominent in agriculture.

107. Revsomol supported a broad exchange of experience among youth organizations of different countries; international organizations had a major part to play in that regard. His country supported the activities of ESCAP in studying the role of young people in the social and economic development of the developing

countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean and welcomed regional measures on the subject. A group of young workers from Asian and Pacific countries had recently visited Mongolia and had displayed a great interest in the activities of Mongolian youth and in their experience of work organization.

108. Last, he stressed that the period up to and during the International Youth Year was an appropriate occasion to take legal, administrative and other effective measures to implement fully the rights of young people in all countries. Since the initiative should come not only from Governments but also from international organizations, a number of delegations, including his own, had sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.20 on measures for securing the rights of youth, with special regard to the right to work. He hoped that that draft resolution would win the support of all delegations.

109. Mr. GANGA-MBALLA (Congo), speaking on agenda items 76, 77 and 78, said that he appreciated the efforts of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, which would give young people a chance of reviewing their situation and hope for a better future. He stressed the importance of explaining to the public the role of the United Nations system with respect to young people. The United Nations could and should play a special role in informing and providing ideas for youth, many of whom, especially in developing countries, felt that the United Nations was an inaccessible body.

110. The young had to be viewed as people with potential skills and abilities who could participate actively in development. Policies for youth must aim at involving them actively and totally in the development process and at reducing and gradually eliminating all social evils such as unemployment, malnutrition, illness, inequality and other manifestations of poverty. Such an approach would lead to peace and disarmament and would promote international understanding and co-operation and the new international economic order. The International Youth Year would give young people an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and creativity. Its success depended to a large extent on regional organizations. He suggested that an international conference on youth should be held during the Year as a way of giving young people a chance to display their creative spirit, to meet their fellows and to unite in their common cause.

111. The Institutions of the Congo had given dignity to the young. Self-management had been encouraged in schools and universities, and young people played a role in making decisions and formulating policies, which reflected the aspirations of the young. Brazzaville, the capital of his country, had hosted many gatherings of young people, including the recent meeting of the Pan African Youth Movement. The Congolese Union of Socialist Youth had

proclaimed its support for struggling people throughout the world and for the Congo's current five-year plan. He drew attention to the tragic fate of the young in South Africa, who were suffering under the oppressive system of apartheid and had no freedom to reflect on the future or to participate in the economic development of their country. His delegation supported all United Nations efforts on their behalf.

112. With regard to agenda item 78, he said that the Secretary-General's report on the co-operative movement did not devote enough attention to the poorer countries. His own country had proclaimed agriculture as the main priority, and many co-operatives had been formed in all regions of the Congo. In order to improve the situation in rural areas and stop the drift towards cities, his country wished to develop the existing micro-villages into larger settlements with the appropriate infrastructure. The Government had devoted much attention to co-operatives and had recently taken measures to promote their development and to increase certain agricultural prices, and efforts were being made to educate the rural population. The process of rural development was the largest programme ever undertaken by his country and would require much time and sacrifice. As domestic resources were insufficient, his country relied on the solidarity of the international community and friendly countries to build a sufficiently strong co-operative movement. Lastly, he said that his country had undertaken a policy of decentralization in order to create the best possible conditions for the success of the programme.

113. Mrs. ARUNGU-OLENDE (Kenya), speaking on agenda item 76, 77, 80 and 84, said that the actions undertaken to solve the problems of youth and of the elderly and the aged should reflect the needs of the particular regions and societies. A number of youth problems had resulted from the difficult social and economic conditions in which the majority of young people lived. In the past eight years, her Government had put a good deal of stress on youth and youth activities, establishing various centres for youth programmes and training and embarking upon research on youth, the aim being to intensify the areas of development, work programmes and work opportunities for young people, especially in rural areas. Currently the majority of underemployed rural workers were young people, who also accounted for the majority of the unemployed in urban areas. In order to stem the drift of young people to the cities, her Government was working to increase employment opportunities and recreation facilities in the rural areas. That might, in turn, attract unemployed youth from the cities back to the rural areas. There was also a move to improve formal education with a view to preparing young school-leavers to become self-employed wherever they lived. Those efforts required the contribution of young people from time to time.

114. Her Government was committed to the involvement of youth in all spheres of the country's development. One aspect of that commitment had been the lowering of the voting age from 21 years to 18 years in order to encourage youth participation in political issues. There was an annual Harambee (self-help) Youth Week, followed by a National Youth Day, to give young people an opportunity to highlight their activities and speak out about their needs. Her Government also planned to revitalize the Kenya Association of Youth Centres. Particular emphasis was placed on helping the illiterate and vocational training programmes for adults and youth had been initiated in different regions of the country.

115. Her delegation fully supported the General Assembly's decisions to designate 1985 as the International Youth Year and pledged its full co-operation and the Year's success. It had taken note, with appreciation, of the views expressed and the recommendations made in documents A/36/135 and A/36/427 and welcomed the publication of document E/CN.5/587 on programmes and policies for social integration of youth.

116. Kenya was devoting more attention to the elderly and the aged and what laid ahead for them in modern society. The idea of old peoples' homes was not readily acceptable in Kenya and had, in fact, caused some old people to go into hiding. Such homes might, however, become a reality sooner than expected, as rapid modernization and urbanization had eroded the traditional roles and thus the support for older citizens. Assistance given to them by extended families was slowly but surely disappearing, and soon they would have to turn to the State for their existence and well-being. Her Government, with the assistance of the Red Cross and the Kenya National Council of Social Services, in collaboration with various voluntary and church organizations, had started experimental old peoples' centres to meet the needs of senior citizens. Those organizations were convinced that many old people in Kenya, unless they were destitute, were psychologically better off living in their own familiar homes and villages. Therefore, whatever assistance they might require should come in the form of food, clothes, medical attention and proper help to maintain their homes wherever they lived. In order to preserve traditional values, it was essential to make old people feel needed and to adopt an attitude of acceptance towards them. Unless efforts were made today to prepare the young to accept old people, for example by letting the two groups mingle and interact, such acceptance might be impossible to achieve at a later stage. The World Assembly on Aging would be a means of publicizing some of the concerns expressed by her delegation and other members of the Committee.

117. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said that her delegation represented a developing country whose growth plans for its young population was similar to that outlined by the Under-Secretary-General for International, Economic and Social Affairs in his introduction to agenda items 76 and 77. Of the

total population of the Bahamas, 67.4 per cent were under 30 years of age, and 47 per cent under 14. Her country had therefore welcomed the designation of 1985 as the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace, and it had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 34/151.

118. The 1970s had been a time of political revolution in her country, during which the Bahamas had become an independent and sovereign nation. During the 1980s, the Government was committed to effecting a social revolution, among whose objectives the theme "Guide our Youth" was prominent. The Minister for Youth, Sports and Community Affairs had recently stated that if the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was to maintain its belief in the capability of the majority to govern themselves and in the opportunity that that belief offered for emphasizing the people's own national competence, it must make every effort to ensure that its youth assumed its proper role. Her delegation had therefore welcomed the report of the Advisory Committee on its first session (A/36/215), particularly the conclusion that the primary thrust of the International Youth Year must be at the national level. While some of the national guidelines in the draft programme had to be given careful consideration in the formulation of further youth policies and programmes in the Bahamas, many of its aspects covered activities already undertaken or planned.

119. Her Government had adopted a twofold approach to the question of youth: firstly, through the initiation of policies and programmes, to harness the energy and talents of youth for their social well-being, economic progress and nation-building; and, secondly, by means of consultation and partnership, to make young people aware of their duties and responsibilities to themselves and their country. One area in which the Government was seeking to stimulate such awareness was that of employment. There was no lack of employment for those who were willing and able to work. Unemployment problems were associated with a persistence of thinking in terms of colonial and traditional values - white-collar work, for example, was regarded by many as more desirable than manual labour - and there was a consequent shortage of technical people with the necessary skills and training to maintain a steady rate of economic growth. The Government was therefore endeavouring to depict work in the light of its contribution to the economy and national development rather than in terms of status. Education played a vital role in that regard. Basic education was offered to all young people, and education policies were being broadened to prepare them for rewarding jobs, particular emphasis being placed on vocational, technical and industrial training. There were numerous youth programmes in such sectors as agriculture, fisheries, co-operatives, the media and business. A particularly successful project was "Operation Experience", which provided young people with on-the-job training and the opportunity for decision-making.

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120. Because of the country's tourist economy, young people in the Bahamas were influenced by many different cultures and customs, and most of such contacts had been useful, but there was one group which had had a detrimental influence: the international drug traffickers. Increased youth criminality in the Bahamas was undoubtedly linked to the increasing volume of illicit drugs being channelled into the country. Young people in the Bahamas were not immune to the temptation of making a speedy and effortless gain, particularly through involvement in drug trafficking and drug abuse, the results of which included loss of values, loss of identity and unrealistic expectations and aspirations. Her country was mobilized against the drug invasion, which threatened its youth, its nation and its future. Young people were taught to develop a sense of civic pride, responsibility and respect for law and order, discipline and honesty. Character-building and moral and spiritual development also formed part of the curriculum. Government ministries and advisory councils, joint ventures between the Government and the private sectors, and national non-governmental organizations provided young people with adequate opportunities for expressing their views and aspirations and for increased participation. Each year, the Government proclaimed a National Youth Week culminating in a National Youth Recognition Day, which the Prime Minister had described as a time when the nation recognized and saluted the efforts and energy of its youth and their commitment to the orderly development of the young nation.

121. The Bahamas had made great progress towards the suggested measures and activities to be undertaken prior to and during the International Youth Year. In the light of the interest and enthusiasm of young people, national non-governmental youth organizations, and Government ministries and departments, the selection of a national co-ordinating committee should present little difficulty.

122. Her delegation welcomed the Advisory Committee's guidelines with respect to regional and international activities in support of the International Youth Year. The proposed meeting in Latin America and the Caribbean should focus attention on the common problems of youth in island developing countries and in the region as a whole. Exchanges of views, ideas and experience should further the development of both national and regional objectives.

123. Her country's relations with the international youth community would be maintained and expanded through its affiliation with international youth bodies, the Commonwealth Youth Programme and United Nations activities in support of the International Youth Year.

124. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General (A/36/409), she said that participation in sports exchanges was beneficial to youth, firstly, because

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it exposed them to other peoples and cultures, thus promoting tolerance, mutual understanding and friendship, and, secondly, because it increased their sense of national identity and national pride. The Bahamas had developed a philosophy of "sports power", an important aspect of which was the encouragement of its young people to participate in local, national, regional and international sports competitions. The Government was enhancing its sports facilities in the hope of holding major international sports competitions in the Bahamas. her delegation hoped that sports exchanges would be encouraged and developed in the context of the preparations for the International Youth Year.

125. She welcomed the work carried out by the United Nations specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, to promote youth programmes, which would greatly enhance the success of the International Youth Year and open further channels of communication between young people and the United Nations. The Bahamas had great hopes for its young people and the young people of the world, and it was confident that the International Youth Year would lay the proper foundation for ensuring their development and participation and teaching them the ideals of peace and mutual respect.

126. Mr. KHORASANI (Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said at an earlier meeting that the United Kingdom representative had accused Iran of carrying out the death penalty on children and of punishing political prisoners as criminals and without adequate process of law.

127. Following the explosion in the office of the Islamic Republican Party, in which more than 73 leaders and administrators had been killed, the Imam Khomeini had issued a statement warning the judicial bodies not to go beyond Islamic justice because of anger or emotion. He could make the relevant documents available to anyone who wished to see them. The United Kingdom delegation must have been preoccupied with the case of Bobby Sands and others who had sacrificed their lives for recognition as political prisoners which had not as yet been granted. Political or other opposition was not a crime in Iran. The Tudeh Party, which was communist and therefore anti-Islamic, was freely selling its newspapers at every crossroad in Tehran; copies were sent regularly to his office and were also available in London.

128. Terrorists, spies, murderers and drug smugglers were all punished according to Islamic law, which his Government would never allow to be violated. Justice was implemented meticulously and without any discrimination. The United Kingdom representative's allegation about the application of the death penalty to children was false. Islamic law allowed no prosecution of children.

129. With respect to the United Kingdom representative's call for adequate process of law, he said that it required far more hard work to qualify as a

judge in an Islamic court than was required at universities in the United Kingdom. In addition to the academic qualities required, the Islamic judge must be pious, self-controlled and a strictly observing Moslem. The legal procedures were explained in detail in the legal sources, and judges observed them carefully. Instead of making irresponsible accusations based on false information and propaganda material from the imperialistic news media, the United Kingdom representative should consult his legal adviser in order to learn more about Islamic law. What Iran was meticulously trying to achieve was the implementation of the divine laws of Islam in all aspects of life.

130. There were two reasons why Iran could not violate the law. The first was that it believed the divine law to be the best law for bringing peace and happiness to society. It strongly believed that murderers must be punished by death. The second reason why it could not violate the law was that the whole philosophy of the revolution was the establishment of a social order organized according to Islam. The extent of popular support for the Islamic regime was shown by the result of the recent presidential election. Of a total population of 35 million, nearly 17 million had participated in the election, and over 16.2 million had voted in favour of Mr. Khomeini. The new President had lost one of his hands in a bomb explosion set off by terrorists who evidently had some supporters in the Committee. Public opinion could not be ignored in a democracy such as Iran, for if it was, the country's leadership might share the same fate as the mercenary regime of the former Shah. Iran was committed to following Islam and would not manipulate the Islamic law to please others. It respected all the peoples of the world, though not necessarily all their Governments.

131. He recommended certain works by United Kingdom authors that could give the United Kingdom representative a better understanding of Islam and a greater sympathy towards Iran.

132. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its general debate on agenda items 76, 77, 78, 80, 84 and 90.

133. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that, following a discussion with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.18, during which a new text for operative paragraph 3 had been agreed upon, her delegation had become a sponsor of that draft resolution and had withdrawn draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.19.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.

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