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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/36/3, chaps. II, V, VIII, XIX, XXIII (parts I and II), XXIV, XXVII, XXVIII, XXXII (part I and Corr. 1 and 2 and part II), XXXIV (parts I and II), XXXVI and XXXVII; A/36/61, A/36/117, A/36/136 and Add.1 and Corr.1, A/36/138, A/36/179, A/36/187, A/36/209 and Add. 1, A/36/214, A/36/216 and Add. 1, A/36/255, A/36/284, A/36/354, A/36/355, A/36/378, A/36/383, A/36/421 and Corr. 1, A/36/423, A/36/500, A/36/524, A/36/540, A/36/560, A/36/566, A/36/584, A/36/594, A/36/608 and A/36/705; A/C.3/36/3, A/C.3/36/7 and A/C.3/36/10; A/C.3/36/L.5, L.6, L.55, L.59/Rev. 1, L.60-64, L.66, L.67/Rev. 1, L.68, L.69/Rev.1, L.70-75, L.77, L.78, L.81-83, L.87-89)

AGENDA ITEM 129: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE DRUG TRAFFIC (continued) (A/36/193; A/C.3/36/L.80)

AGENDA ITEM 138: NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER (continued) (A/36/245; A/C.3/36/L.65)

AGENDA ITEM 30: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS (continued) (A/36/471 and Add.1, and 2, A/36/363 and A/36/491; A/C.3/36/L.70 and L.90)

1. MR. SOLLER (Philippines), speaking on agenda items 12 and 129, welcomed the Committee's continuing concern with the problem of drug abuse and with world-wide drug trafficking. Drug abuse eroded the moral fibre of civilization, sapped its creative energies and ultimately destroyed the national will for progress and development. The near-universal addiction to dangerous drugs, especially among young people, brought to mind the fatal decline and fall of previous civilizations, all of which had shared an addiction to toxic substances that destroyed the determination that was essential for the attainment for national greatness.

2. Drug abuse was in itself reprehensible, but the commercial traffic in drugs was criminal. The fact that the drug traffic was institutionalized through a system of underground connexions made intensified international co-operation essential if it was to be eliminated. However, the question of the source of drugs was very complex and involved economic considerations. For example, the sale of drugs was the only source of income for some people. Without going into the details of that situation, his delegation merely wished to express the hope that, as a result of the Committee's discussions, other committees might consider the possibility of providing economic assistance as an incentive to halt the growing of plants from which dangerous drugs were produced. In the past, a few States had taken such initiatives; perhaps the time was ripe for broadening their base.

3. In the Philippines, drug trafficking, which was a threat to national security and stability, was a capital offence. In the past 10 years, his country had been engaged in a massive drive against drug trafficking, especially in connexion with hard drugs, and considerable progress had been achieved in that undertaking. Nevertheless, unremitting international vigilance was necessary, because every border was subject to infiltration by drugs.

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(Mr. Soller, Philippines)

4. As the President of the Philippines had stated, a drug pusher was a dangerous criminal, just like other subversives who sought to destroy the Republic. Committing the Government and people of the Philippines to a firm policy to combat the proliferation of drugs, the President had signed the Dangerous Drugs Act in March 1972 and, shortly thereafter, had amended that law to include not only narcotics but also psychotropic substances. Massive enforcement efforts in 1972 had resulted in the closing of a clandestine heroin laboratory operating in Metro Manila in 1972, and no other clandestine laboratory had been discovered since. In addition, the President had declared in 1973 that the Government would take care of the victims of drug abuse, while penalizing drug pushers and imposing the extreme penalty on convicted manufacturers.

5. While in the period 1974-1980 heroin abuse among Filipinos had remained almost non-existent, marijuana and pharmaceutical drugs had become more popular. Because of the scope of the activities of drug manufacturers and pushers, who victimized even children, the military and the police had been ordered to conduct a saturation drive, and in 1980 alone three presidential decrees on the subject had been promulgated. Special rehabilitation centres for all persons arrested for drug abuses had also been established.

6. In helping with the relevant legislation, the Philippine Dangerous Drugs Board had launched a nation-wide programme of enforcement, rehabilitation, education, information and research, and the Government had mobilized all sectors of the population in the effort to promote awareness of the nature, extent and underlying causes of drug abuse. The Philippines had also participated in many United Nations meetings on the subject and had hosted the Asian Interpol General Assembly and other regional meetings on various aspects of the problem.

7. The Philippines believed that Government leadership was of paramount importance in combating drug abuse; in his opinion, the low incidence of drug abuse in his country could be attributed both to the drug control policies implemented as early as the beginning of the twentieth century and to the Philippines' former isolation from drug supply routes. The Philippines believed that the fight against drugs depended on the will of the political leadership, on the will of the community and on the will of the nation itself, all of which were strong pillars of its own law enforcement system.

8. Law enforcement also had international dimensions and the Philippines, as a current transit area for the international drug traffic, was actively participating in international exchanges of information, which had already led to the arrest of international traffickers.

9. In conclusion, he stated that his delegation was prepared to help in developing a more meaningful international programme of action to combat all dangerous drugs and, accordingly, he suggested that serious consideration should be given to the need for international leadership, international will and commitments - perhaps in the form of an international campaign - and a more comprehensive information and surveillance system.

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10. Mr. KHMEI (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on the human rights aspects of the report of the Economic and Social Council, said that international co-operation in the field of human rights should be based firmly on respect for all the principles of the United Nations Charter, notably the principles of sovereign equality of all States and non-interference in their internal affairs. When the rights of entire peoples were violated and international peace and security were threatened as a result of the imperialist policy of aggression, colonialism, apartheid, racism, fascism and neo-fascism, national and social oppression and the repression of national liberation movements and democratic forces, the international community had the right, and indeed the obligation, to take steps to eliminate those mass and flagrant violations of human rights. That basic aspect of co-operation between States was embodied in United Nations decisions, particularly General Assembly resolution 32/130. The Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights rightly concentrated on cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights and the formulation of appropriate recommendations.

11. Turning to the question of human rights in southern Africa, he noted the statement in the fourth preambular paragraph of Commission on Human Rights Resolution 5 (XXXVII) as set forth in document A/C.3/36/L.6, that the South African authorities, far from changing their criminal policy of apartheid, were strengthening it by various means and were continuing to occupy Namibia illegally. The Pretoria authorities were endeavouring to perpetuate the system of apartheid in South Africa itself and in Namibia, were blocking United Nations efforts to achieve independence for Namibia and were carrying out acts of aggression in neighbouring independent States. The reason for the regimes's defiance of the numerous United Nations decisions demanding an end to its mass and flagrant violations of human rights was the essential support which it received from the forces of international imperialism and reaction. Thus, the revised report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (document E/CN.4/Sub.2/469) contained a list of banks, insurance companies and firms which, in disregard to the appeals of the international community, were co-operating with South Africa in the political, economic, military and other fields. Naturally enough, the list was headed by firms and banks in the United States, whose representatives so often dwelt on the so-called protection of human rights. Also mentioned were economic organizations from the Netherlands and a number of other Western countries whose representatives cast aspersions on certain countries in order to distract the Committee from discussing the real issues. As an active member of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, the Ukrainian SSR resolutely condemned the imperialist practice of colonialism and apartheid and favoured the strict implementation of Security Council sanctions. It fully supported the decisions of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa and also agreed with the conclusions of Commission on Human Rights Resolution 5 (XXXVII) and supported the proposals set forth in that text.

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics)

12. The Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights rightly paid attention to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine. As was the case with South Africa, Israel, encouraged by an agreement on so-called "strategic co-operation" with its overseas sponsor, was continuing its aggression against neighbouring Arab States and was carrying out a policy of expelling Arabs and colonizing the lands seized. The scale of the arbitrary rule and repression prevailing in the occupied territories could be seen from the fact, reported in document A/36/381, that, during the 14 years of occupation, almost a quarter of a million inhabitants of those territories, or approximately one-fifth of the total population, had spent time in Israeli jails. As that document pointed out, a situation parallel to that in South Africa was arising as a result of the actions of the Israeli authorities. In continuing its flagrant and increasingly wide-scale violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and carrying out activities aimed directly at changing their legal status, geographical character and demographic composition, Israel was continuing to sabotage the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. He reaffirmed that the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine and its sole and legal representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, had always enjoyed and continued to enjoy the sympathy and support of his Government and the Ukrainian people. His country demanded an end to the criminal practices of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories and to the occupation itself, and supported the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State.

13. With regard to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights taking place in Chile, he noted that, despite the many United Nations resolutions and decisions calling on the Chilean authorities to respect and promote the implementation of human rights in accordance with their obligations under various international instruments, the military Fascist Junta continued to carry out a policy of terror and repression against the patriots of that country. It was evident from the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/36/594) that the situation with regard to human rights in Chile not only had not improved but had actually deteriorated. The new Constitution, imposed on the people by the military Junta, contained a number of measures which openly violated the norms set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments which were binding on the States parties to them. An example of the continued limitations on democratic rights and freedoms was the establishment in the new Constitution of a "state of risk of internal disturbance," (A/36/594, para. 497) which had been added to the state of emergency in force since the regime came to power. As stated in paragraph 498 of the report, the combination of two states of emergency had created a more serious situation than had previously existed, given that the executive branch now had discretionary powers which the judiciary was not equipped to monitor and which impinged upon the rights to liberty, physical and moral integrity, and security of person. As a result, hundreds of people fighting for democracy had been imprisoned by the Junta, the country was gripped by the violence and terror imposed by the Junta, and arbitrary arrests, the disappearance without trace of persons arrested on political grounds, exile, torture and execution had all become commonplace. As paragraphs 509 and 510 of the report pointed out, the number of individual arrests in Chile had increased since 1980 and torture was still being used.

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics)

14. It should also be noted that the activities of the Junta during the eight years it had been in power had caused economic difficulties, aggravated social problems and led to a sharp decline in the standard of living of working people. As noted in paragraphs 519 and 520 of the report, 20 per cent of the population of Chile still lived in extreme poverty, and the situation of the indigenous population had continued to deteriorate. His delegation resolutely condemned the crimes of the Chilean Junta and supported resolution 9 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Human Rights. It felt that the General Assembly should take effective measures to make the Junta put an immediate end to terror and repression and restore fundamental human rights and freedoms, and it supported the proposal to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights. It could not, however, accept the draft resolution in document A/C.3/36/L.5 on transforming the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile into a so-called Voluntary Fund for Assistance to Victims of Torture, since that proposal ran counter to the original aim of the Fund, which was to help the victims of Chilean reaction.

15. Turning to the question of El Salvador, he said that, as a result of the terror unleashed in that country, both patriots fighting against the regime and peaceful inhabitants had been killed. According to press reports, the Salvadorian military clique had killed more than 30,000 people, and more than 300,000 fleeing from the Junta's terror, had left the country as refugees. The interim report on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador, in document A/36/608, testified to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights in that country. There again, as in the situations to which he had referred earlier, the United States was directly participating in the bloodshed. Despite General Assembly resolution 35/192, the United States not only had not stopped supplying military equipment to that country but had sent military advisers to train units carrying out punitive expeditions and to participate in military operations against Salvadorian patriots. His delegation resolutely supported the restoration of fundamental rights and freedoms in El Salvador and called for an end to the flagrant foreign interference in that country's affairs.

16. The United States, by its military presence and open interference, was also helping to perpetuate the terror and repression imposed on South Korea by the military Fascist regime in that country. Tens of thousands of people were detained in South Korea military concentration camps, where they suffered torture and inhumane treatment. Moreover, there were many other dictatorial, totalitarian and anti-popular regimes which exercised repression against the forces of democracy with the tacit agreement and the direct assistance of the so-called "proponents of human rights."

17. Despite the defeat of Fascism at the end of the Second World War, in which 50 million people had died as a result of the reactionary imperialist policy of racial supremacy, the threat of a revival of such policies and practices still existed and, in a number of countries, appeared especially dangerous. That was why his delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 35/200. The report contained in document A/36/209 and Add.1 reinforced his delegation's conviction that the

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(Mr. Khmel, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics)

international community should take active steps to prevent a revival of fascism and nazism. Section IV of that document contained proposals from a number of States, including the Ukrainian SSR, to combat neo-fascism. In the belief that there should be no reoccurrence of fascism and that it was necessary to take appropriate steps to that end, his delegation had joined as sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.70, and it hoped that all those who believed in peace and democracy would support it.

18. Mr. ERDOS (Hungary), speaking on measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror, said that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/200, his country had provided the Secretary-General with its comments on those problems, referring particularly to the various laws and regulations in force in Hungary which afforded legal protection against any revival of such ideologies or totalitarian practices in the country. The social system in Hungary was the best insurance against their recurrence on Hungarian soil. He noted with satisfaction that 29 States had responded to the request contained in that resolution, but felt that that number was not high enough. The reason for the lack of response could not have been indifference, since the ideologies and practices in question had never been limited by national frontiers.

19. Neo-fascism and ideologies based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror were currently reappearing but, fortunately, the international community was now well aware of their dangers. Indeed, the United Nations had been established as a result of the heroic struggle against the tyranny of fascism. He hoped that mankind had gained sufficient experience and wisdom to prevent a repetition of the events which had led to the Second World War, but, as could be seen from the replies submitted by Governments to the Secretary-General, it would be a serious mistake to believe that the danger had been eliminated. Fascist groups and organizations continued to exist, sometimes as parties sheltering behind the law and "constitutional respectability"; they were engaged in frenetic activity and maintained contacts with similar organizations abroad. Hungary was well aware of the danger represented by such movements. Although they were not mass movements or even representative ones, their aims, ambitions and policies were more than clear and it would be unforgiveable to overlook them. By resorting to extremist demagoguery combined with physical violence, they could exercise a destructive moral influence on society as a whole which could destroy the pillars of human civilization. One such organization was the so-called Hungaria Freedom Fighters Movement which operated in the United States and, in 1979, had had the audacity to apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In January 1979, the organization's newspaper, Scythian Horn, had stated that it was dedicated to the spirit of a certain Szalasi, a soldier and politician who was the Fascist leader of Hungary during the last days of the Second World War. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, Szalasi's programme was based on chauvinism and anti-Semitism. He had been installed as the leader of the country in October 1944 and had co-operated completely with the Germans, and under his rule Hungary had experienced one of the most bloody periods in its history. In August 1981, the

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(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

same newspaper glorified that rule as an attempt to save the Fatherland and the ancestral honour of the nation. He read out passages from that newspaper and other publications of the organization which said that its aim was to reconquer the historical Hungarian living space, glorified Hitler and attempted to justify the rise of Nazism, described the extermination of 6 million Jews as a lie, extolled the purity of the Hungarian race and its language above all others, described resistance to the advancing Soviet troops in the Second World War as heroic and condemned support for the national liberation movements in southern Africa. Such writings showed that vestiges of ideologies which had been discarded 40 years previously still remained and attempted to insinuate themselves into society whenever circumstances permitted. Such ideologies and practices might change their forms and vary their methods, appearing as apartheid, racial intolerance, national chauvinism, discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin or belief, exclusivism, elitism, political extremism combined with a certain false morality, and ultra-conservative obscurantist propaganda, but they still remained a form of fascism. That could be seen from a recent incident in the United States when a plaque dedicated to the memory of black slaves who had been brought from Africa to the New World had been stolen by the Ku Klux Klan just before it was to be unveiled.

20. Turning to more conventional forms of fascism, he noted that a neo-Fascist meeting had been held in Madrid to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Franco. The report of the Polish Central Committee responsible for investigating Nazi crimes in Poland and circulated in the United Nations as document NV/81/33 of 13 October 1981 was further eloquent testimony to the relevance of the political, diplomatic and legal struggle against neo-Nazi trends. There were many other examples of open or veiled neo-Fascist or totalitarian activities in Europe and other continents. No one should ignore the revival of neo-Nazi activity, since no country and no person was immune from fascism and its related ideologies. It was time for a change of attitude and a general recognition that democracy and the dissemination of Nazi, Fascist, neo-Fascist or other ideas based on intolerance and hatred were incompatible. To allow such theories to be propagated without hindrance showed a misunderstanding of democracy, and democratic institutions could only gain from legal measures to put an end to such fundamentally anti-social activities.

21. In view of the grave responsibility which societies had towards young people, it was essential to ensure that the younger generations who had not personal experience of war should learn the true history of the 1930s and the 1940s. It was therefore desirable to disseminate objective information on the subject. Educational activities should be accompanied by national measures as well as joint activities on a world-wide scale. His delegation was therefore firmly in favour of a declaration on Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist ideologies and practices, as provided for in the relevant resolution of the Commission on Human Rights. For the same reasons, Hungary had co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.70.

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(Mr. Erdos, Hungary)

22. In conclusion he said that his Government considered it the duty of the whole international community to combat nazism, fascism, neo-fascism and other totalitarian practices and ideologies, and that the success of that campaign was closely linked to the maintenance of peace and international security and to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. He therefore appealed to all countries to participate actively in that historic undertaking.

23. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) said that one of the most important aspects of the question of human rights was the relationship between society and the individual on the one hand and between the people and the State on the other. Certain Western delegations held that human rights were rights per se and that they had nothing to do with the concrete political and economic conditions of a given society. That theory tended to regard the individual apart from his or her natural environment and was one which his delegation could not accept because it did not place the question of human rights in its proper perspective. The question of human rights could not be viewed merely as a question concerning certain limited inherent individual rights. It was a more complex problem that was closely related to the social and political system of the State.

24. Democracy as a form of political organization of society based on recognition of the people as the source of power, their right to participate in the conduct of State affairs and the exercise by citizens of certain rights and freedoms was a historical phenomenon which changed as a society developed. The "bourgeois democracy" which had emerged as one of the forms of political expression of the capitalist economic system was the most highly developed historical type of system in an exploiter society characterized by a manifest contradiction between what was declared to be the "rule of the people" and what was actually the rule of the exploiters. The functions of the institutions of "bourgeois democracy" which had a direct bearing on the enjoyment of human rights - so-called "free elections," "self-government," lawful opposition and so on - disguised the oppressive system that guaranteed the privileges of the exploiter class. There could be no enjoyment of human rights without the political, economic and social conditions that were essential for their promotion and observance.

25. The right to life was a basic human right, sacred and inalienable. His delegation could not but be concerned at the fact that imperialism, colonialism and racism were continuing to violate that right and to threaten it by intensive military preparations, acceleration of the arms race, proclamation of the concept of so-called "limited nuclear war" and development of new sophisticated weapons of mass destruction such as the neutron bomb. Today more and more people understood the need to struggle to safeguard that fundamental human right. A clear manifestation of that was the proliferation of anti-nuclear movements in many Western European countries in protest against the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

26. The most flagrant encroachment upon human rights and fundamental freedoms was unquestionably the ideology and practice of fascism. The growing social insecurity in the Western countries was creating favourable conditions for the reactivation of the forces of nazism, fascism and neo-fascism. That could not be regarded as a harmless phenomenon. History showed that in the 1920s and 1930s their emergence in Germany had been underestimated and even tolerated by ruling circles in capitalist countries, an attitude for which mankind had later paid a heavy toll in suffering and loss of life. It was imperative, especially in countries where Fascist ideas were propogated and Nazi and neo-Nazi groups and organizations were proliferating, to counter that growing threat. Such countries should take all necessary legislative measures, in conformity with their legal systems, to ban the activities of such organizations, the dissemination of Fascist ideas and incitement to war, especially among young people. A prominent role in that respect was being played by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, in particular, the provision in article 20 which prohibited propaganda for war and advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred. Unfortunately, it was the very countries where the various Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist groups had been on the rise that expressed reservations with respect to that article of the Covenant.

27. One speaker in the Committee had expressed the view that United Nations activities in the field of human rights were too politicized and, in effect, had accused the majority of delegations of using the question of human rights for attacking certain isolated non-communist States such as South Africa, Israel and Chile. It was true that those States, whose policies had provoked understandable concern in the United Nations, were non-communist. It was also true that despite the flood of Western propaganda through the so-called "international" mass media, people in all countries and on all continents were aware that the most flagrant and mass violations of human rights were actually being committed by those States. However, the accusation that international co-operation in the field of human rights was politically biased was completely without foundation. No one could deny that certain Western States shared common ideological, political, military and economic interests with the regimes which committed the most blatant and mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Nations had repeatedly condemned the support which those States, as well as the transnational corporations, extended to racist and dictatorial regimes in many parts of the world.

28. There had been several attempts in the Committee to justify the presence of transnational monopolies in South Africa and Namibia on the ground that they had allegedly bettered the working conditions of the local workers. In fact, the transnational monopolies were now using more subtle methods in exploiting and pillaging the peoples of South Africa and Namibia. The shameful system of apartheid in South Africa, which was condemned by contemporary international law as a crime against humanity, subjected millions of people in South Africa to discrimination and humiliation, denied the Namibian people their fundamental right to self-determination and independence, and continued to commit acts of aggression against foreign African States. At the same time, the advocates of Pretoria were

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(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

trying, through their veto in the Security Council and diplomatic manoeuvres aiming at a neo-colonial solution of the problem, to preserve the positions of imperialism and the system of apartheid so that they could perpetuate the inhuman exploitation of the human and natural resources of that part of the world.

29. The proclamation of the so-called "strategic alliance" between the United States and Israel had aroused deep anxiety in the Middle East because its basic goal was to deny to the people of Palestine and the Arab population of the occupied territories their right to self-determination and independence, to obstruct the establishment of an independent Palestinian State and to prevent any progressive changes in the region. The main consequence of that alliance was the continuation of the sufferings of millions of people in conditions of brutal and mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

30. The Fascist Junta in Chile continued its policy of mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was now trying to set up a legal facade for its dictatorship. Laws were being enacted and election farces were being engineered aimed at legalizing the status quo, in other words, legitimizing the Fascist terror. The essence of the military regime was best characterized by the economic and social policy of the Junta. That policy was subservient to the interests of the imperialist monopolies, and there was no doubt that the purpose of the Fascist coup was not only the overthrow of the elected progressive Government, but also the return of Chile to the sphere of imperialist economic exploitation. His delegation fully subscribed to the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur that the international community must continue to pay attention to the basic human rights situation in Chile and to use all available means to remedy that situation.

31. El Salvador was another tragic example of flagrant and mass violations of human rights as a result of the intervention of imperialism and its overt support of the dictatorial regime. The people of El Salvador were deprived of elementary civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Encouraged by the support and assistance of imperialism, the Junta in El Salvador had been pursuing a policy of mass terror against its own people and was massacring tens of thousands of innocent people without trial, in defiance of world public opinion and the decisions of the United Nations.

32. The support extended by the international imperialist forces and, above all, by the United States to the dictatorial regime in Seoul was at the core of the tragic plight of the population in South Korea, which was subjected to mass repressions and terror.

33. The forces of imperialism would not cease to defend their political, military and economic interests throughout the world by interference and terror, by open support of the forces of colonialism, racism, apartheid, fascism and reaction, and by blatant and mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There was no question that the efforts of the United Nations in the field of human rights must continue, in accordance with its Charter, to be aimed at exposing and eradicating those violations.

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34. Mr. ROA-KOURI (Cuba), speaking on agenda item 12 and in particular on the question of human rights, observed that the situation of the Palestinian people, the Namibian people and the black population of South Africa provided striking examples of mass and flagrant violations of human rights. While the regime in South Korea, long supported by United States military forces, was brutalizing the people of that country and obstructing national reunification, in Latin America there was a long list of tyrannical regimes which had been established and maintained with the support of the United States Government: Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay, among others, had been joined by El Salvador and Chile.

35. With particular reference to Chile, he noted that the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, far from improving, was deteriorating daily, as was clear from the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/36/594). He expressed his delegation's appreciation of the work done by the Special Rapporteur and of his impartiality and sense of responsibility, particularly in view of the Chilean Government's refusal to co-operate in that connexion. In response to arguments about "selectivity" in the attitude of some delegations with regard to El Salvador, he would say only that evidence of the deterioration of the situation in Chile could be found in the destruction of Chilean democratic institutions, in the growing restrictions placed on the exercise of human rights, in the many instances of arbitrary arrest and torture, in the lack of any guarantees for citizens and in the prevailing sense of fear and insecurity.

36. At its sixty-eighth Conference held in Havana from 15 to 23 September 1981, the Inter-Parliamentary Union had also expressed concern about the human rights situation in Chile; at that time, it had adopted a resolution to the effect that the new Chilean Constitution violated the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Human Rights Covenants and, accordingly, that the Chilean military regime was at a variance with the United Nations system.

37. His delegation believed that the international community must reiterate its position on the human rights situation in Chile by condemning the military Junta for its violation of those rights. It had therefore co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.60, which listed the main causes for the international community's profound concern and which again strongly urged the Chilean authorities to comply with the obligations they had assumed under the various international instruments to which Chile was a party. His delegation was firmly convinced that, in view of the situation in Chile, the Special Rapporteur should continue his work and the draft resolution therefore also requested that the Special Rapporteur's mandate should be extended for another year.

38. Referring to the serious situation in El Salvador, he drew attention to the profound concern expressed in various United Nations forums about the grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country and in particular about the thousands of deaths occurring and the climate of repression and insecurity prevailing there; moreover, according to the mass media, that situation was becoming increasingly serious. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries,

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(Mr. Roa-Kouri, Cuba)

at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs held in February 1981, had warned against any direct military intervention in the area, for such intervention would result in an extension and regionalization of the conflict and would compound the suffering of the peoples there. Those same Ministers, meeting recently in New York, had again expressed concern about that situation. In addition, the sixty-eighth Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union had adopted a resolution appealing to the international community to guarantee the protection of the population of El Salvador and to recognize the alliance formed by the Frente de Liberacion Nacional Farabundo Marti and the Frente Democratico Revolucionario as a politically representative force, which should participate in the search for any negotiated solution to the conflict.

39. Those who sought to distort the events in El Salvador disregarded the international community's position on the matter and claimed that there too the approach of certain delegations was "selective." Yet the fact was that for more than 50 years the Salvadorian people, struggling for its self-determination, had been consistently subjected to cruel exploitation, repression and poverty and had been deprived of its most fundamental rights. Throughout those years of struggle, through peaceful and legal means, successive dictatorships had responded to the people's demands with repression, electoral fraud, disregard for individual and collective rights, persecution, systematic torture and mass murders. The Frente Democratico Revolucionario and the Frente de Liberacion Nacional Farabundo Marti, were the authentic representatives of the Salvadorian people, struggling for self-determination, for the defeat of oligarchical forces and for a truly democratic transformation of society.

40. The genocide committed by the Junta in El Salvador, supported by the political and military intervention of the United States Government and its allies, was a futile attempt to stifle an entire people's struggle to realize their right to self-determination. The scope of the military violence engendered by the Junta was illustrated by the fact that it had claimed more than 20,000 in the past 18 months. In addition, more than 600,000 Salvadorians had sought refuge in neighbouring territories or had formed refugee camps in their own territory, where they were subjected to military control and repression.

41. He drew attention to the importance of the support which United States imperialism provided to the Salvadorian military Junta - as it did to all the reactionary regimes on the continent - for the execution of the Junta's policy of exterminating the popular forces. In addition to its systematic opposition to any economic and social change that might benefit the majority of the population, the Government of the United States had recently launched a crude publicity campaign against certain socialist and progressive countries, including Cuba, pointing to alleged proof of so-called "Cuban intervention" in the internal affairs of El Salvador.

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42. However, no one was misled by such manoeuvres. Only the United States was intervening in El Salvador; it was trying to justify the increase in its supply of weapons and military advisers to the Junta so as to lay the foundations for future military acts of aggression in Central America. Thus it was not surprising that it had been unable to provide any proof of its allegations. Currently it was accusing others so as to divert attention from its own policy of exploitation, intervention, aggression and interference. Many peoples and Governments of Latin America, Western Europe and other continents, and even the people of the United States, had spoken out to prevent United States threats from being put into practice.

43. In keeping with its short-sighted, intransigent policy towards the situation in El Salvador, the Government of the United States had reacted violently to the important, responsible initiative embodied in the French-Mexican Declaration, which was directed towards finding a negotiated political solution to the Salvadorian tragedy. It had also disregarded the fact that, as President Fidel Castro had indicated, the search for a negotiated solution was the formula proposed by the Governments of Canada, Panama, Nicaragua, the Nordic countries, and the Non-Aligned countries, and by the Socialist International and all the progressive forces in the world. President Castro had further stated that the United States was slandering the socialist and progressive countries in order to prove that the situation in Central America had resulted not from the people's just revolt against crimes, oppression and merciless imperialist exploitation but from alleged international conspiracies. He had also noted that the United States was seeking to intimidate the revolutionary people of Nicaragua and to undermine any Latin American Government that tried to improve the lot of its people, while supporting the most corrupt and criminal dictatorships and revealing its true intention of ruling the hemisphere with an iron hand.

44. As to the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in El Salvador, he expressed his delegation's appreciation of the information it contained and expressed the hope that the final report would be more comprehensive and would evaluate the events occurring in that country in greater detail.

45. His delegation also wished to express its appreciation to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.62, in particular to the delegation of Mexico, for their elaboration of an objective, well-balanced text which incorporated the main concerns expressed in connexion with the situation in El Salvador. His delegation supported the draft resolution and believed that it would enable the international community, in particular the United Nations, to make a valuable contribution to the search for a just solution to the tragedy occurring in El Salvador.

46. The representative of the United States, speaking in the Committee, had recently attacked revolutionary Cuba. That was hardly surprising, for the United States was the ally of racist South Africa, of apartheid and zionism, the author of letters which threatened the sovereignty of non-aligned countries, a state which proclaimed its "right" to intervene militarily anywhere in the world and to provide

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military assistance to counter-revolutionary bands in Afghanistan and Angola, a country which kept the Puerto Rican people under colonial domination, challenged the international community's decisions, paralysed the Conference on the Law of the Sea and obstructed the global negotiations on and progress towards the new international economic order. That same United States had gone on to defend its Latin American satellites, as though words could erase its crimes and its historical responsibility for the survival of reactionary regimes. The United States imperialists, who amassed their fortunes by invading countries, expropriating their land and natural resources and exploiting and impoverishing their peoples, particularly in Latin America, had no moral authority to speak of freedom or human rights. Those who had dropped atomic bombs on defenceless cities just to show the world their power, who had brutally committed acts of aggression against the young Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who had dropped more bombs on the heroic Vietnamese people than had been used throughout the Second World War, had no moral authority to speak of freedom or human rights.

47. The United States directed its fury against the Cuban Revolution because it could not forgive it for having toppled the tyrannical regime of its protege, Fulgencio Batista, or for preventing United States monopolies from looting the Cuban economy. Above all, it could not forgive the Cuban Revolution for having set an example. Because Cuba had shown what could be done when a people was master of its destiny, the representatives of the United States had voted against draft resolutions on the right to development for three consecutive years, despite universal agreement that the right to development was a fundamental component of human rights. The great strides Cuba had made in the fields of employment, social progress, literacy, education and health services since freeing itself from United States domination were in stark contrast to the draconian cuts in the United States medical and social welfare budgets. Despite the criminal United States economic blockade, all sectors of Cuban industry had been growing and, although Cuba was still an under-developed country, it provided assistance and civilian technicians to non-aligned countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as fellowships for foreign students to study in Cuba. The right to development was the basis for the genuine exercise of other rights.

48. The anti-Cuban furore created by a country which had almost exterminated its own indigenous population, which discriminated against its black and Latin American citizens, which had created McCarthyism and the Ku Klux Klan, could not fool anyone and could not change the truth. The United States bore primary responsibility for the victimization of millions of Latin Americans, Africans and Asians and for violations of human rights throughout the world. That whited sepulchre of capitalism should heed the words of the Sermon on the Mount to the effect that those who hungered for righteousness would be fulfilled. The peoples of the world, including the people of the United States, would, through their efforts, undertake to ensure that that prophecy came true.

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49. Miss LORANGER (Canada) said that the United Nations would be failing in its duty if it proved itself incapable of effectively attacking violations of human rights. The credibility of the United Nations was at stake and the time had come for it to design and set up a new procedure to deal rapidly and effectively with all urgent situations involving serious violations of human rights. No State should enjoy any immunity whatsoever in that regard. Her Government intended to recommend that the appropriate bodies should seriously consider the problem in the near future.

50. A group of experts had again demonstrated the odious consequences of the policy of apartheid preached and practised by the Government of South Africa. The systematic and institutionalized violation of human rights was a matter not to be taken lightly, and the United Nations must continue relentlessly to denounce such racist practices, which were the shame of humanity.

51. The Government and people of Canada had been shocked and concerned by the continued revelations and reports of assassinations, atrocities and other violations of human rights perpetrated by the opposing forces in El Salvador. Canada called upon all parties involved in that tragedy to exercise restraint and to bring about an immediate cessation of the senseless violence prevailing at the present time. It noted that the Government of El Salvador was making an attempt to impose discipline on its military forces and to punish those guilty of violations, and it urged the vigorous continued implementation of that policy. Canada welcomed the intention of the Government of El Salvador to seek a political solution to the problem by the electoral process in March 1982, and it called upon all political groups in that country to participate in the achievement of that objective. In that connexion, she said the Government of Canada had offered technical assistance with a view to the organization of elections and would consider participation in any international monitoring of the elections when held. It had also offered it to provide a venue in Canada or at a Canadian embassy abroad for any talks which representatives of the Government of El Salvador and representatives of the political parties might wish to hold on the organization of elections or other aspects of an electoral process.

52. The human rights situation in Guatemala was a source of very serious concern to her Government because of the frequency of human rights violations there. Considering the seriousness of the situation, her delegation regretted that the Secretary-General had not been able to submit a more substantive report to the General Assembly. Under the mandate given to him, the Secretary-General had communicated with the Guatemalan Government, but to date it had not been able to formulate an agreement on modes of discussion by which the United Nations might gain more detailed knowledge of the situation in that country. It was essential that the Guatemalan Government should co-operate with the Secretary-General in order to shed more light on the allegations of human rights violations there. The United Nations was seeking not to condemn but rather to understand, and her delegation was therefore appealing to the Guatemalan Government to facilitate the task of the Secretary-General by receiving one of his representatives.

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(Miss Loranger, Canada)

53. Obviously, the situation in Chile was far from ideal and much remained to be done to ensure respect for human rights in that country. However, that situation could no longer be regarded as so urgent that the General Assembly must continue to watch it very closely. One might ask whether the energies and limited resources of the United Nations would not be better spent on genuinely urgent situations. Her delegation therefore felt that the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/36/594) could be submitted to the Human Rights Committee, which would then be responsible for maintaining a continuous dialogue with the Government of Chile in order to encourage it to fulfill its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which it was a party. The General Assembly would be kept informed of the situation in that country through the annual report of the Human Rights Committee. Although the situation there was no longer urgent, the fact remained that the Chilean Government had institutionalized a system that deprived its citizens of basic freedoms. The United Nations therefore could not turn its attention away from the human rights situation in the country.

54. One current situation which was urgent was that in Iran. The summary executions carried out there had aroused the indignation of the international community. No State should claim to have the right to eliminate its citizens for the sole reason that they were suspected of not adhering to the official morality. The Iranian Government must protect its people against individuals or groups who adopted the behaviour of inquisitors. Failing that, the Commission on Human Rights must study the situation in Iran, which was a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and was thus obliged to comply with the provisions of that treaty. At its recent session, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had adopted a resolution drawing attention to the fate of adherents of the Baha'i religion in Iran. International opinion must not be given the impression that the Baha'i was the only group with which the United Nations was concerned. However, it was significant and disturbing to note that the new Iranian Constitution provided protection for only three minority religious groups and that the Baha'i enjoyed no constitutional protection whatever.

55. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the United Nations had emphasized the Afghan people's legitimate right to self-determination. However, that was not enough. The United Nations had created a group of experts to study the practices affecting the human rights of those living in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. The Commission on Human Rights should similarly consider the Soviet practices affecting the human rights of those living in the occupied territories of Afghanistan. At the same time, it would be desirable to consider the question of Vietnamese practices and their effects on the fundamental rights of the people of Kampuchea. Many reports indicated that the international community had every right to be concerned with those situations.

56. The seriousness of the refugee problem in the world could not be ignored when discussing respect for human rights. Her Government was pleased with the decision of the Commission on Human Rights, ratified by the Economic and Social Council, to assign Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan the task of studying the report on mass exoduses and violations of human rights.

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57. Mr. ASANTE (Ghana) said that since the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Guatemala (A/36/705) had been distributed after the Committee had decided to close the list of speakers on the item and set a time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions, his delegation was formally requesting that it be allowed to submit a draft decision on that report to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said that the report had indeed been distributed after the time-limit for submission of draft resolutions and he therefore saw no objection to the request from the representative of Ghana. That representative had already submitted to the Secretariat the text of the draft decision, which would be reproduced and distributed to members of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.