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at 10.30 a.m.

New York

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil)

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## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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

AGENDA ITEM 84: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE (continued)  
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(b) DRAFT CODE OF MEDICAL ETHICS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/37/264 and  
Add.1 and 2)

1. Mrs. RASI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Denmark,  
Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, said that every effort should be made to limit  
the imposition of the death penalty and to formulate international norms so that  
more and more countries would refrain from using the death penalty. The proposal  
being considered under agenda item 87 was one possible way of promoting the  
attainment of that objective, which was already embodied in the penal codes of the  
Nordic States.

2. The choice of approach was very important for such questions as the death  
penalty, on which opinions were divided both at the national and at the

(Mrs. Rasi, Finland)

international levels. The Nordic States therefore attached particular importance to the forthcoming debate on the proposal to elaborate a second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

3. The Nordic States wished to underscore the objectives of the proposal contained in document A/C.3/35/L.75, namely, the definitive abolition of capital punishment. They hoped that the debates at the current session of the General Assembly would prompt movement in that direction.

4. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic), referring to item 85, said that the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind was a very positive achievement and covered all substantial questions of human rights and scientific and technological developments. His delegation had been a sponsor of resolutions 35/130 A and 36/56 A, which provided guidelines for an efficient implementation of the Declaration.

5. Future debates on the question of human rights and scientific and technological developments should include three focal points. First, it was essential to consider the threats posed to human rights by the misuse of such developments and to examine ways of mobilizing all forces against those threats. One outstanding achievement in that connection was resolution 1982/7 of the Commission on Human Rights, which underlined the need to achieve general and complete disarmament.

6. Secondly, it was necessary to study the enormous possibilities offered by scientific and technological progress for the development of mankind. For instance, valuable results had been achieved by science and technology in the struggle against hunger, disease and illiteracy. High technology was an outstanding factor of productivity. All those questions had a direct connection with the task of restructuring the international economic order. The Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order emphasized that the developing countries should be given access to the achievements of modern science and technology.

7. Finally, the effects of scientific and technological developments on the right to work and on working conditions should be studied in more detail. In that connection, the direction taken in the 1976 analysis by the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1194) should be further pursued.

8. With regard to agenda item 86, the German Democratic Republic supported the speedy continuation of work on a convention on the rights of the child. That position was reflected in its co-sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.3/37/L.46.

9. Mr. NORDENFELT (Sweden), referring to agenda item 87, said that it was not enough for States to accede to international conventions in order to guarantee the maintenance of orderly and peaceful inter-State relations. The fulfilment of

(Mr. Nordenfelt, Sweden)

treaty obligations by States parties, and mechanisms for dealing with cases where commitments had been disregarded were also essential. The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was one such mechanism. The readiness of a State party to declare itself bound by the Optional Protocol was a reflection of the seriousness with which it viewed its commitments to human rights and to the fulfilment of its treaty obligations.

10. In one State party to the Covenant which had also acceded to the Optional Protocol - Uruguay - violations of human rights had reached tragic dimensions over the past decade. Despite the repeated findings of the Human Rights Committee, Uruguay had failed to take corrective measures, and was thus disregarding its treaty obligation with regard to other States parties. Sweden hoped that the Government of Uruguay would, without further delay, take the measures recommended by the Human Rights Committee, so that that Committee could report to the other States parties that the situation had been remedied.

11. Miss CARTA (France), referring to agenda item 87, said that her delegation had examined with much interest the report of the Human Rights Committee (A/37/40). Of particular significance were the general comments made by that Committee in the annexes to the report. As to the periodicity of reports by States parties, France noted with satisfaction that the Human Rights Committee had defined the modalities and set the time-limits for the submission of initial reports by States parties, as well as the time-limits for additional information provided by States in connection with the reports.

12. Also very interesting were the general comments arising out of the consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant. The review system was a most important means of protecting human rights, since it afforded an opportunity to monitor actual respect for human rights and to identify the most frequent omissions or the most frequent breaches of the Covenant. The observations regarding articles 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the Covenant also deserved special attention; they contained basic elements which could be included in a separate document and circulated among the main United Nations organs dealing with the protection of human rights.

13. The work of the Human Rights Committee should be widely publicized and should attract the interest of as broad a public as possible. Her delegation had studied the report of the Secretary-General (A/37/490) and the letter from the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee on that subject (A/C.3/37/6). For States, non-governmental organizations, universities and research workers throughout the world, the reports of the Human Rights Committee constituted a source of extremely valuable information about the measures taken under different legal, political and social systems. Therefore the annual publication of those reports seemed fully justified.

14. The report of the Human Rights Committee should be the subject of genuine debate in the General Assembly. The Assembly should not merely investigate violations of human rights; it should be guided by the principles and practices

(Miss Carta, France)

described in the general comments made earlier. The General Assembly would thus make its own contribution to the elaboration of a practical guide for use by States parties.

15. As a reflection of the importance France attached to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, her country's Premier had stated in the General Assembly on 30 September 1982 that France would recognize the right of either a State or an individual to have recourse in the Human Rights Committee to the provisions of article 41 and of the Optional Protocol to the Covenant. In addition, she expressed the hope that progress would be made in elaborating a second optional protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

16. In view of its interest in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, during the last session of the Economic and Social Council, her delegation had participated with other delegations in the elaboration of the draft resolution directed towards improving the machinery to monitor the implementation of the Covenant. She expressed the hope that the changes made in the methods of work and functioning of the Sessional Working Group on the Implementation of the Covenant would help to improve the effectiveness with which the Economic and Social Council monitored the implementation of the Covenant and would increase interest in that aspect of its work.

17. Mr. DIAGNE (Senegal), referring to agenda item 87, said that the results produced by the International Covenants on Human Rights were still insufficient, particularly with regard to the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Senegal, which was a State party to both Covenants, believed that the ratification of those instruments constituted a sovereign act and reflected a State's political will to respect human rights. Accordingly, he urged all States that had not yet done so to ratify those two international instruments, which were of unquestionable importance. The main difficulties that prevented some States from ratifying the Covenants resulted from incompatibilities with their national legislation. To overcome such problems, the States concerned should consider the possibility of bringing their domestic laws into line with international law on the subject of human rights. Perhaps the competent United Nations bodies could contact Governments, through the Secretary-General and request information about the difficulties that prevented them from ratifying the Covenants.

18. In accordance with the recommendations the Human Rights Committee had made more than a year previously when Senegal had submitted its report, his country had eliminated the visa and security desposit that Senegalese had been required to pay before leaving the country and had abolished the constitutional provision limiting the number of political parties. Also on that Committee's recommendation, Senegal had made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant, and it could therefore be said that his country was complying fully with all the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee.

(Mr. Diagne, Senegal)

19. Senegal attached great importance to the work of the Human Rights Committee and of the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He urged the Human Rights Committee to persevere in its task of assisting and advising all States wishing to promote and protect human rights. In order to give greater publicity to that Committee's work, perhaps it should meet from time to time at locations other than New York and Geneva.

20. The members of the Group of Experts should be independent experts, proposed by their Governments but chosen for their personal merits. It should be noted that the Group's effectiveness had not fulfilled the expectations either of States or of those entitled to exercise their economic, social and cultural rights. Therefore, the philosophy, mandate, character, composition, functioning and methods of work of the Economic and Social Council's Group of Experts should be reviewed.

21. As to the elaboration of a second optional protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, Senegal believed that the sponsor's philosophical and humanitarian motives were commendable but it did not share them. It was essential to consider that question in the light of the social and political situation of each country.

22. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that scientific and technological progress offered enormous possibilities for accelerating the economic and social development of peoples and for guaranteeing fundamental human rights. However, some forces in the world were trying to use such progress for destructive purposes and they threatened the very existence of civilization and of the basic right to life.

23. Realizing that scientific and technological progress must serve mankind's aspirations for peace, the Soviet Union had been one of the countries that had taken the initiative in connection with the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind.

24. The peril of nuclear war, fuelled by the policy and the activities of the most aggressive circles of imperialism, threatened all mankind. Means of mass destruction continued to grow, and increasingly sophisticated and destructive weapons were being created constantly. The arsenals of certain countries were being filled with new types of weapons designed expressly to eliminate every living thing, in other words, with neutron bombs and chemical weapons. The possibility of being the first country to use nuclear weapons had become an official military doctrine, and the notion of the admissibility of nuclear conflict was emerging. There was speculation about the number of human lives each side would lose, but there was a reluctance to acknowledge the simple truth that, in a nuclear war, there could be no winners.

25. The war preparation strategy was reflected in programmes designed to increase military strength. In the next five years, the United States planned to invest no

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

less than \$1.5 billion in that sector. Moreover, it intended to increase its offensive weapons by stationing new nuclear missiles in Western Europe. That strategy was aimed at setting back the liberated peoples and depriving them of the achievements they had won in their long and difficult struggle, so that they were denied their proper role in world politics.

26. The Soviet Union felt that it was essential to prohibit the threat or use of nuclear weapons and that such weapons should be destroyed before they destroyed life on earth. By the same token, the arms race must not be allowed to extend into outer space.

27. The Soviet Union had taken important unilateral steps in the field of disarmament, particularly in connection with nuclear disarmament. It had reduced its armed forces and armaments in Central Europe, had halted the deployment and had limited the number of medium-range nuclear weapons and had pledged not to be the first country to use nuclear weapons.

28. In addition to the danger that it might lead to a nuclear disaster, the arms race represented a senseless squandering of vast amounts of material resources, which should be used to try to solve the enormous social and economic problems facing the majority of mankind. The reallocation of such resources for peaceful purposes would benefit the developing countries in particular and, with the increased assistance thus provided, they could overcome the backwardness they had inherited from the colonial era.

29. Respect for human rights and the planning of nuclear war were incompatible and mutually exclusive. If the other nuclear weapon Powers followed the example of the Soviet Union and pledged not to be the first to use those weapons, the practical result would be the banning of the use of nuclear weapons, which would constitute a guarantee of the right to life. The efforts of all organs of the United Nations, including those bodies dealing with human rights, should focus on the task of protecting the planet from the threat of nuclear war. The interests of all States or groups of States, regardless of their social, political or economic differences, must converge to that end.

30. As indicated by the new General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in a statement made on 22 November 1982, the goal of the USSR's policy continued to be to safeguard peace and the right of peoples to independence and social progress. The difficulties characterizing the current international situation must be overcome. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union was opposed to the transformation of the ideological struggle into a confrontation between States and peoples.

31. Mr. WALKATE (Netherlands), referring to agenda item 87 (d), said that the Parliament of his country had, on 11 May 1982, adopted an amendment to the Constitution abolishing capital punishment for all crimes, without exception.

(Mr. Walkate, Netherlands)

32. The question of the death penalty was very controversial. It was not prohibited as such by the Covenant, although its application was strictly limited by the provisions of article 6. His delegation therefore supported the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Covenant through which the States parties would go a step further and undertake to abolish capital punishment and not to reintroduce it in their legal systems. Algeria's reply to the Secretary-General concerning the elaboration of an optional protocol to the Covenant, designed to abolish the death penalty was also very encouraging as it left open the possibility of a de facto abolition of capital punishment in time (A/37/407, para. 10).

33. The most suitable organ to undertake the elaboration of an additional optional protocol was the Commission on Human Rights, which had had recent experience in the drafting of instruments based on the articles of the Covenant. It seemed a most opportune time to entrust the Commission with the elaboration of a convention based on article 6 of the Covenant. In that way, due effect would be given to general comment 6 (16) of the Human Rights Committee. His delegation appealed to other delegations to consider that proposal in the spirit that had led them to vote in favour of General Assembly resolution 37/1, calling upon the South African authorities not to execute three members of the African National Congress of South Africa who had been sentenced to death on 6 August 1982.

34. Mr. KASTEN (United States of America) recalled, with reference to item 84 that, the previous year, following almost two decades of study and discussions, the General Assembly had adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, according to which, freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief was based on "the dignity and equality inherent in all human beings" and was a right of all humanity which existed independently of the prerogatives of States. Nevertheless, with the adoption of that Declaration the problem of religious intolerance had not been solved, since there continued to exist many specific cases of religious intolerance and discrimination, which could be of two types.

35. The first type was classic intolerance, which had existed for centuries, and was practised by undemocratic Governments which were controlled by the dominant religion. In Iran, for example, the present Government seemed determined to destroy the Baha'i religion. The houses of worship of the Baha'ists had been closed and their publications burned. Baha'i marriages were illegal and the children of those marriages were considered illegitimate. The Baha'ists working for the government had been dismissed and were not entitled to retirement benefits. Since 1979, Baha'ist merchants could no longer exercise their trade. Some Baha'ist elders had been abducted and publicly executed; others had joined the ranks of the thousands of "disappeared" persons.

36. The second type of religious intolerance practised by States was characteristic of modern times. It was practised by totalitarian Governments, which sought to control and organize all aspects of life, culture and society and did not tolerate



(Mr. Kasten, United States)

any religion, since they considered that religions could wrest influence from them or lessen the obedience which they demanded from their citizens. For those Governments, religions were institutions which must be destroyed. Such situations existed in Viet Nam, Albania, Nicaragua, the Soviet Union and Poland.

37. In Viet Nam, the three principal religions (Buddhism, Christianity and Islam) were treated with great hostility. Catholic priests and nuns and Protestant ministers were subject to continual police surveillance and, according to the Catholic newspaper, The Tablet, some 200 Catholic priests were in prison at the present time. Islamic schools had been closed and the traditional pilgrimage to Mecca had been forbidden. A large number of Buddhist monks had been sent to re-education camps.

38. According to Amnesty International, Albania had in 1967 been officially proclaimed the first atheist State in the world and churches and mosques had been closed or demolished. Religious leaders of the Catholic, Orthodox and Moslem faiths had been prohibited from exercising their functions and persecuted. The Albanian Constitution flatly prohibited religious organizations and activities, and its penal code punished such activities with 3 to 10 years of imprisonment. Albanian law thus openly contradicted the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief which demanded that all States enact or, when necessary, rescind laws, in order to prohibit religious intolerance and discrimination. The Albanian Government thus had a clear moral obligation to remove the legislation which prohibited the exercise of religion in that country.

39. In Nicaragua, the Minister of the Interior, Tomás Borge, had stated that the future of religious sects in Nicaragua would depend upon their attitude thenceforth towards the revolution. But the people of Nicaragua were deeply religious and the confrontation between the Nicaraguan Government and the Catholic Church had been a source of growing consternation. The Government had repeatedly closed down the Church's radio station and had encouraged crowds to throw stones at priests, attack them with chains, harass them and occupy churches. Those acts, which had profoundly alienated the population, could not be accepted by the international community either.

40. The world pioneer in the suppression of religion was the Soviet Union. Although article 52 of the Soviet Constitution guaranteed freedom of religion, in practice, as Stalin had said, the party could not be neutral towards religion but must conduct propaganda against every religious prejudice. Soviet authorities considered that the individual must be completely subservient to the State and, consequently, could not accept a transcendent view of man and the world. Moreover, those authorities believed that specific churches and religions were carriers of a nationalist spirit which worked against Russian domination. In some cases, as in the case of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, the churches were openly prohibited and, in other cases, there was recourse to corruption and subversion from within, as in the case of Islam in the Soviet Central Asian Republics. The Soviet Union, in addition to persecuting the Jewish minority on religious grounds, as it did

(Mr. Kasten, United States)

Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox worshippers, also denied that minority their basic human rights on racial grounds. The State and the party had published an enormous quantity of anti-Semitic books and newspapers.

41. The United States delegation had in its possession a letter from Natalia Solzhenitzyn, the wife of the Nobel laureate, dated 5 November 1982, which contained a moving picture of religious persecution in the Soviet Union. In it, she brought to the attention of the delegation the remarkable document entitled "Report of the Council for Religious Affairs to Members of the Central Committee of the CPSU", which demonstrated that the Council, a party-governmental organization, controlled the Russian Orthodox Church on all levels, from the Patriarch to the clerk who sold candles.

42. In her letter Mrs. Solzhenitsyn said tha the number of churches in the Soviet Union was far below the population's needs and, consequently, during services they were always crowded and older people fainted. All across the country there were many churches that were being used as warehouses or offices, and some simply remained empty, but the authorities refused believers' requests that they should be allowed to use them for services. It was impossible to purchase a copy of the Bible or any other kind of religious literature, because they were not sold in any bookstore. The hunger for Bibles and New Testaments was very great, not only among believers but also among young atheists, all of whom were forced to take courses in "scientific atheism" in all institutions of higher learning. Such books, however, could be bought only on the black market.

43. According to the letter, there was a lack of priests in the country and believers had to wait for hours to make confession. Even then it was often impossible to make confession individually and parishioners had to take part in "collective confessions". Priests were forbidden to conduct private services outside of churches and if a person who was ill or dying was unable to go to church he might die without communion. Sermons were rarely given in churches. Thus people were left with virtually no form of spiritual guidance, a lack which was particularly felt by young people.

44. Mrs. Solzhenitsyn stated that in Soviet schools a hostile attitude toward religion was inculcated in children. Practically every lesson and every school-book, whether on history, literature, physics or biology, contained attacks on religion and on Jesus Christ, formulated in the crudest terms. All children had to join the Pioneers, a children's communist organization under the jurisdiction of the Komsomol, the Communist Youth League, which in turn was under the direction of the CPSU. The charter of the Pioneers obliged every Pioneer actively to combat belief in God and to work for the eradication of religion. She had known many families whose parents had lost their jobs after the Council for Religious Affairs had made it known that they had baptized their children. Thus the authorities' pronouncements concerning "freedom of conscience" were empty words.

45. Religion could not be taught even within the confines of churches, and in private homes it was forbidden to set up groups of more than three children for the

(Mr. Kasten, United States)

study of religion. That meant that in practice Russian children were deprived of the opportunity to learn the thousand-year-old faith of their forefathers. Everything was done to prevent children from participating in the liturgical life of the Church. For example, children did not have the right to sing in church choirs, something which children had done in all countries of the world in all ages.

46. The number of candidates accepted for study in theological seminaries was far below the number who wished to attend. Mrs. Solzhenitsyn had said that she could give a great many more examples of the ways in which the Communist régime was engaged in a struggle against God. In her letter she compared the official church statistics for 1907 with those given in the report of the Council for Religious Affairs to which she had referred. In 1907 there had been 51,413 churches and 840 monasteries, as against 7,062 and 16 respectively in 1975. Of the 20,113 chapels and 19,659 church libraries existing in 1907, none had been left by 1975.

47. He drew the Committee's attention to the case of Zoya Krakhmalnikova, a famous Soviet essayist who had been arrested in Moscow on 3 August 1982 and taken to Lefortovo Prison, although she had not participated in any kind of political activity. She had been arrested solely for engaging in religious-educational activity. She had been editor of the samizdat Christian reader called Nadezhda, which meant "hope" in Russian. It contained texts written by church fathers beginning with the first centuries of Christianity, along with excerpts from the works of famous Orthodox theologians, material on the Christian tradition in literature, testimony from contemporaries describing their conversion to religion, articles on culture and so forth. The writings published were purely religious, with no political content. At no time had the Soviet authorities warned Krakhmalnikova that her work was illegal or undesirable. Her arrest represented a blatant case of religious persecution. However, such persecution would not snuff out the fire of religious belief.

48. Every day on Victory Square in Warsaw the people came to lay flowers in the form of a giant cross, and every night the authorities swept it away. It was a ritual which was repeated daily: the people demonstrating in the light of day their undying faith and the régime trying unsuccessfully in the dark of night to erase the symbol of their belief. That would not work - not in Poland nor in the Soviet Union nor in any country in which the authorities sought to destroy the human soul for the greater glory of the State. The human soul would prevail.

49. Mr. ALMOSLECHNER (Austria) noted with satisfaction that, according to the Secretary-General's report in document A/37/406, the number of States that had ratified or acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights had increased since 1981. That was proof of the beneficial effects which their implementation was having for the entire world.

50. During its fifteenth session the Human Rights Committee had engaged in an exchange of views on the possibility of altering the format of the meetings of States parties to allow for the inclusion of additional items in the agenda if

(Mr. Almoslechner, Austria)

necessary. His Government was in favour of adopting a broader approach than in the past so that the meetings could provide an opportunity to inform the States parties about the activities of the Committee. To that end, the Chairman of the Committee would furnish the States parties with a comprehensive account of the Committee's sessions held since their previous meeting, and suggest ways of improving the organization of the Committee's work. The States parties could also deal at their meetings with questions of a technical nature concerning the reporting procedure.

51. He wished to endorse the view expressed earlier by other delegations that it would be useful to have the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights exchange views on practical matters, since they faced similar problems. For that purpose the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular of the Human Rights Centre, should identify in a special document those problems which were common to the work of the three bodies and the Chairmen of those bodies could meet at regular intervals to discuss them.

52. His delegation took a favourable view of invitations by various Governments to the Human Rights Committee and the Sessional Working Group to hold meetings in their countries, in other words, away from Headquarters. In such cases, however, there should be assurances that, without exception, the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 31/140 on financial criteria for holding meetings away from Headquarters would be fully respected.

53. Mr. NGO PIN (Democratic Kampuchea) said that the rights most precious to mankind, namely, the right to life, the right to live in freedom, independence and equality, the right to retain one's national identity, without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion or ideology, and the right to participate in the progress of science and technology were all rights that had been denied to the Kampuchean people ever since the Vietnamese forces had invaded and occupied his country four years previously.

54. Through the many debates in all United Nations organs, the overwhelming majority of Member States had acquired a clear understanding of the Kampuchean problem and had condemned without appeal the invasion and occupation of that country by the Vietnamese forces. However, the unspeakable crimes committed against the Kampuchean people by the Vietnamese invaders were not clearly known to anyone, and that lack of knowledge contributed to the occupying Power's propaganda to the effect that the Vietnamese colonization had been accepted by the Kampuchean people with enthusiasm. Data, however, were available which clearly showed how the Vietnamese expansionists were undertaking the long-term extermination of the Kampuchean people and the absorption of the Kampuchean nation into the great Viet Nam, namely, the "Indo-China Federation", in the same way as had been done with the Islamic Kingdom of Champa in the 17th century and, more recently, with the 4 million Kampuchean people and the more than 65,000 sq. km. of Kampuchean territory which formed the present South Vietnam.

(Mr. Ngo Pin, Democratic Kampuchea)

55. In the areas still under their control, the invaders continued to plunder and destroy temples and pagodas and to mistreat or massacre Buddhist monks, simply because they had preached the teachings of Buddha, namely, love, solidarity, mutual aid and national union. In addition, several pagodas had been transformed into military strongholds. By contrast, freedom of belief and religion were guaranteed in all areas controlled by the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

56. Furthermore, in addition to using all kinds of Soviet-made chemical and bacteriological weapons to exterminate the Kampuchean people, the Vietnamese invaders were attempting to destroy the achievements realized in Kampuchea thanks to the progress of science and technology. With the aim of eliminating all national resistance, they had almost entirely destroyed the agricultural infrastructure, irrigation dams and canals, and agricultural tractors and machinery, and they had brought about the death of several hundreds of thousands of persons by deliberately creating famine. Innumerable factories, workshops, handicraft centres and research laboratories had been looted or destroyed. It was therefore clear that after liberation, Kampuchea would need massive assistance for a long period from friendly countries for purposes of reconstruction. The Vietnamese invaders continued to use sophisticated Soviet weapons to destroy the Kampuchean population, and evidence of the intensive use of Soviet-made chemical and bacteriological weapons by the invaders was becoming daily more conclusive. Such weapons were prohibited by the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1972 Convention on the Use of Bacteriological Weapons. Those prohibited weapons not only caused appalling suffering to the victims before death but also brought about after-effects which jeopardized the physical and mental development of the survivors and their descendants, and posed a great danger to the human and ecological environment.

57. His delegation welcomed the efforts being made to draw up a convention on the rights of the child, for Kampuchean children had been the ones most affected by the Vietnamese aggression. Owing to the war, there were currently tens of thousands of orphaned children in Kampuchea. In the areas under their occupation, the invaders were trying to denationalize the children by teaching them the Vietnamese language. By deliberately fabricating history in order to convince them that the territory of Kampuchea was really an integral part of Viet Nam, and by transforming them into faithful followers of the expansionist policy being carried out by Viet Nam in South-East Asia. There were actually tens of thousands of Kampucheans, especially intellectuals, who were opposed to the Vietnamese invasion and the idea of the "Indo-China Federation", and who as a result had been jailed, tortured or assassinated, if they had not simply disappeared.

58. The list of crimes committed by the Vietnamese expansionists in Kampuchea was endless. In view of that situation, the only genuine solution to the problem of Kampuchea was, as had been stated by His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk before the General Assembly on 30 September of the current year, was the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces of occupation from Kampuchean territory and the prompt holding of free elections under the control of the United Nations. That was the solution put forward in General Assembly resolution 37/6, which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States on 28 October 1982.



59. Mr. ZARIF (Iran, Islamic Republic of), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the Netherlands had repeated the same allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran as had been made by the representatives of many Western European countries. Those representatives had vainly resorted to various tactics in their eagerness to restore a pro-Western and anti-human régime compatible with their own interests.

60. The imperialist forces were attempting to create a false image about the Islamic Republic of Iran in their own countries. The imperialist and Zionist forces were trying to use the same deceptive tactics in the Committee not only to discredit the Islamic Republic but also to divert the Committee's attention from the savage crimes of the apartheid régime and the Zionist entity.

61. It was regrettable that a declaration which had been adopted to promote the sacred concept of human rights in the world was being misused by Western imperialist and reactionary forces in order to promote their own political ambitions. The imperialist Powers had traditionally used the weapon of alleged human rights violations in order to bring political pressure to bear on the progressive countries whose crime was their struggle against colonialism, imperialism, zionism, racism and apartheid.

62. The Islamic Republic of Iran was striving to implement an Islamic legal system with its own procedures, codes and processes. If Islam was recognized as a viable alternative to the Western legal system, it might be wondered why time and energy were being wasted on baseless accusations instead of being devoted to really promoting human rights, seeking means to end imperialist exploitation of third-world masses and eliminating the savage Pretoria régime and the Zionist entity.

63. His delegation had prepared a pamphlet in which it tried to present that side of the story which the imperialist media had found not fit to print and the Western Governments had found not worthy of consideration. The pamphlet contained a documentary account of the terrorist activities of the Islamic régime's political opponents. A close and honest examination of that pamphlet would be conducive to a better understanding of the realities of human rights in Iran.

64. Mr. BEIN (Israel) noted that some delegations habitually referred to Israel as the Zionist entity, as had just been done by the Iranian representative in his statement. He personally was very proud that they referred to it as Zionist, for that was the name of the Jewish people's national liberation movement, which was a positive movement not directed against any people or person. What he objected to was the reference to a State Member of the United Nations as an entity. His delegation might also have referred to Iran as a religious, fanatical, dictatorial and terrorist entity but it felt that Member States should be referred to by their official names, even when they were being criticized.

65. The CHAIRMAN said he agreed that delegations must use the official names of Member States when referring to any one of those States.



ORGANIZATION OF WORK

66. Mr. GONZALEZ DE LEON (Mexico) said that he would like to know whether the deadline for submitting draft resolutions also applied to those relating to item 12, which had not yet been considered.

67. The CHAIRMAN said that after 26 November, the date fixed as the deadline, the only draft resolutions that could be submitted were those not having financial implications.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.