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THIRD COMMITTEE

5th meeting

held on

Thursday, 27 September 1979

at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOBHY (Egypt)

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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6. The CHAIRMAN said that it would be normal for the Bureau to consider the matter raised by the Soviet representative. He would inform the Committee of any recommendation which the Bureau might make in that connexion.
7. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that all the regional groups should be consulted if the Bureau considered that matter.
8. The CHAIRMAN said that, without prejudice to any recommendation the Bureau might make, which would be communicated immediately to the Committee, he was not quite sure how to interpret the remarks of the representative of Ireland.
9. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that, since the Committee had decided to be flexible in carrying out its programme of work, the normal thing would be for the Bureau to consider the programme of work with the participation of representatives of all the regional groups.
10. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee), speaking in his capacity as Chief of the New York Office of the Division of Human Rights, informed the members of the Committee that the Director of the Division of Human Rights, owing to urgent circumstances beyond his control, was unfortunately unable to introduce the two important items on the agenda of the current meeting. Until such time as the Director could attend the Committee's meetings and provide all the necessary information, he would himself provide some information regarding documentation.
11. With regard to item 73 on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it would be recalled that, by resolution 33/99, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council a report containing concrete and detailed suggestions on specific activities to be undertaken during the Decade. On the basis of that report, the Council had adopted a draft resolution which it was recommending for adoption by the General Assembly. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would adopt a five-year programme of activities designed to accelerate progress in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. The task of drawing up a list of activities to be undertaken had been entrusted to the General Assembly under item 73, which had been allocated to the Committee. The Secretary-General had formulated suggestions in that regard in document E/1979/15, which were based on the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and on the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.
12. With regard to item 86 concerning the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, he drew attention to decision 1 (XX), referred to in chapter VIII of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, concerning future meetings of the Committee. By that decision, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had recommended to the General Assembly, inter alia, to consider the adoption of appropriate measures to facilitate the holding of Committee sessions in various regions by taking into account the difficulties of the developing countries with respect to the payment of the costs for holding such meetings. It would be recalled that that decision had been

(Mr. Papademas)

adopted in response to one of the recommendations of the World Conference for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to the effect that States in different regions should consider extending invitations to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with a view to acquainting the peoples of their region with the provisions of the International Convention and the activities of that Committee.

13. With regard to the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, he drew the Committee's attention to resolution 10 (XXXV) of the Commission on Human Rights, in which the latter had, inter alia, called on States parties to implement fully article IV of the Convention and, to that end, to adopt the necessary legislative, judicial and administrative measures to prosecute, bring to trial and punish, in accordance with their jurisdiction, persons responsible for, or accused of, the acts specified in article II of the Convention; requested the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Convention to suggest ways and means for the establishment of the international penal tribunal referred to in article V of the Convention; and decided that the group of three members of the Commission appointed in accordance with article IX of the Convention should meet for a period of not more than five days before the thirty-sixth session of the Commission to consider the reports submitted by States parties.

14. He also drew the Committee's attention to the letter whereby the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination transmitted the report on its activities (A/34/18) to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session through the Secretary-General.

15. In conclusion, he begged the Committee's indulgence in view of the many difficulties confronting the Division of Human Rights and expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to complete its considerations of those two items within the scheduled time-limits.

16. The CHAIRMAN noted that the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could be considered at the beginning of the current session, whereas its issuance had been later at previous sessions.

17. Mrs. RICHTER (Argentina) asked the Chief of the New York Office of the Division of Human Rights what measures had been taken by the Secretariat with the view to obtaining the necessary resources for carrying out activities relating to the Programme for the Decade.

18. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee), speaking as Chief of the New York Office, replied that the relevant sections of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981 contained detailed information on the resources allocated for those various activities.

19. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that he would like to have some clarifications concerning the suggestion made in paragraph 6 of document A/C.3/34/L.1 that the

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(Mr. Fyankye, Ghana)

report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be considered independently of the other items on the Third Committee's agenda.

20. The CHAIRMAN replied that that suggestion had been made before the date of issuance of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been announced. Since the report had been issued at the beginning of the Third Committee's session, it could be considered together with items 73 and 76, both of which related to racial discrimination. With regard to the letter of transmittal addressed to the Secretary-General by the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in which was recalled that the Committee had expressed the wish that the General Assembly should consider its report separately from other items on its agenda, it was his understanding that the Committee merely wanted its report to be considered in the general context of the combating of racial discrimination, to the exclusion of any other question. The report would therefore be studied when the Third Committee considered items 73 and 86, it being understood, of course, that it would be accorded special attention.

21. Mr. LOFORTE (Mozambique) recalled that his country was located at the heart of the struggle between racist régimes and national liberation movements by reason of its geographical situation and its history. Because of its colonial past and the struggle which it had had to wage for independence, Mozambique took an active part in efforts to eliminate apartheid and racial discrimination.

22. Despite the many resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and despite condemnation by the international community, racism and apartheid still survived in South Africa, thanks to the military, economic and moral support which the Western countries, which claimed to be defenders of human rights, continued to extend to the minority régime. The same countries were continuing to support a régime which, during its three years of existence, had deprived more than three million human beings of the most fundamental right, namely, the right to life.

23. The People's Republic of Mozambique vigorously condemned the establishment of Bantustans by the South African régime, which was calculated to perpetuate the economic dependence of the blacks, stifle their patriotic sentiments and thereby delay their true independence. Mozambique appealed to all peace-loving countries which believed in freedom and human dignity to support the just struggle for liberation being waged by the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa in order to eliminate racism, colonialism, and apartheid and to establish a new society in which the colour of a person's skin would no longer be a criterion and in which there would be an equitable distribution of wealth.

24. Mrs. SIBAL (India) drew the attention of the representative of Ghana, who had requested clarifications on that point, to the fact that, at the preceding session of the Third Committee, the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been considered at the same time as the Secretary-General's reports on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination

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(Mrs. Sibal, India)

of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and also at the same time as the Secretary-General's report on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. It had therefore not been possible to consider it as fully as would have been desirable, and, in the Third Committee's report, the wish had been expressed that the question of the right to self-determination should be dealt with separately from the question of racial discrimination. In the programme of work of the present session, the question of the right to self-determination was to be considered separately, and the members of the Third Committee would be able, when considering the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to accord it the attention which it merited.

25. Mrs. RICHTER (Argentina) expressed gratification that the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was to be considered in the larger context of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in which it played an essential role.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

26. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to proceed to the election of the second Vice-Chairman.

27. Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) nominated Mr. Jainendra Kumar Jain (India).

28. Mr. Jain (India) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

29. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines), Chairman of the Third Committee at its thirty-third session, congratulated the officers of the Committee on their election.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

30. The CHAIRMAN requested delegations to inscribe their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible and to begin consultations promptly on draft resolutions, so that the Committee could keep to the time-table which it had set for its programme of work.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.