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**GENERAL
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THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 27 September 1983
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.3/38/L.1; informal paper containing the draft meetings timetable)

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that at a previous meeting the Committee had decided that it would complete its work by 9 December and that it would allocate 11 meetings to the working group on migrant workers and 9 meetings to the working group on the rights of individuals who are not citizens of the country in which they live, it being understood that any time remaining after a meeting had risen could be allocated to the working groups. Moreover, the report on the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be introduced at the meeting to be held on the morning of Friday, 7 October.

2. With regard to pending matters, the Bureau, having considered the proposal put forward by one delegation that consideration of agenda items 87 (Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination) and 96 (International Covenants on Human Rights) should be reclassified, had reached the conclusion that agenda item 87 should be considered in the context of the first cluster of items, in accordance with the draft programme of work. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to leave agenda item 87 in the first cluster of items.

3. It was so decided.

4. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee would take up its substantive work on 5 October with the consideration of agenda items 82, 83, 86 and 87 and said that the Secretariat was making a considerable effort to prepare the documents relating to those items and would take the necessary steps to see that the relevant Secretariat officials were present at the meeting on 5 October to introduce the items.

5. He suggested that the deadline for inscription on the list of speakers for the first cluster of items should be set at 6 p.m. on Monday, 10 October and that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions concerning those items should be set at 6 p.m. on Monday, 17 October. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the programme of work, which would be issued, as adopted, in document A/C.3/38/L.2.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. BELL (Canada), referring to the recommendations made by the General Committee of the General Assembly concerning the right to smoke in the conference rooms suggested that smokers should be requested to smoke only at the back of the room, by way of a compromise and in order to maintain the physical well-being and keep up the morale of the delegations on the Committee, but without making an absolute prohibition, which would be a decision that could be described as totalitarian and would exceed the General Committee's recommendations.

8. Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil) said that that proposal would be tantamount to encouraging representatives to hold social gatherings at the back of the room, under the pretext of going there to smoke. The practice of going and holding consultations was already constantly disrupting the Committee's work. Moreover, tolerance was one of the hallmarks of civilization, and there was no reason to rise up in arms so heatedly as to lose sight of it. Although non-smokers did indeed find smoke unpleasant, it was not dangerous. Smokers were reasonable people and would therefore restrict their smoking as much as possible and smoke only if it did not inconvenience their immediate neighbours.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee should leave it to the smokers, of whom he was one, to decide, in all conscience, where and when they could smoke without inconveniencing their neighbours and that it should not take a formal decision that would exceed the recommendations made by the General Committee of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.