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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING



Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/460 and Add.1; A/C.3/38/L.12, L.13)

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AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/506; A/C.3/38/L.18)

1. Mrs. RANA (Nepal) said that the adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons was a major step in promoting the interests of more than 5 million disabled people, 80 per cent of whom lived in developing countries. Nepal supported that decision and believed that it provided the international community with a sound basis for strengthening and expanding technical co-operation. Nepal sincerely hoped that the adoption of the World Programme of Action would inspire all Governments and international bodies to launch effective programmes to improve the situation of the disabled throughout the world.

2. Nepal had done everything possible to promote the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons. The Year had had a significant impact on world awareness of that complex human problem of disability which called for a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary global approach. It had also aroused the hopes and aspirations of millions of disabled persons and those hopes must be fulfilled by their socio-economic rehabilitation. Her delegation, therefore, supported the proclamation of the Decade of Disabled Persons and her Government had established a social services national co-ordinating council under the chairmanship of Her Majesty the Queen which had carried out various programmes on behalf of disabled persons. The role of the Trust Fund for the disabled was crucial and she favoured the continuation of the Fund during the Decade and strongly advocated that it continue to be administered by the Vienna Centre.

3. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the prospects facing youth the world over were sombre: political tensions continued unabated and the world economy was being seriously undermined by an unprecedented structural crisis the solution of which depended mainly on the will of the developed market economy countries. His delegation fully supported International Youth Year and would do all in its power to ensure its success.

4. Faced with an international situation in which imperialist forces transgressed international law, the main task of the international community must be to make young people aware of the need to maintain peace and of their duty to support peoples struggling to rid the world of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination and oppression.

5. In view of the important role young people would have to play, it was disturbing to note from information given by the ILO that one half of the unemployed were young persons under the age of 30. They had little chance of achieving their full potential or realizing their creative capacity. Governments must take steps to remedy that situation. For its part, his Government had educated its youth in a spirit of peace, liberty, justice, patriotism, internationalism, international co-operation, mutual respect and understanding between peoples. In the fight to the finish against colonialists and imperialists, many of his country's young revolutionaries had sacrificed their lives in order to free their country. In the present period of reconstruction and national defence, young people were taking an active and effective part in all work at all levels.

6. The young men and women of his country were increasing their contacts with youth organizations of socialist countries and certain friendly countries and with many progressive organizations throughout the world. They also took an active part in meetings of solidarity with the youth organizations of other countries fighting for peace, détente, freedom, disarmament and the independence of peoples. In April 1983, revolutionary Lao youth had held its first congress, thus asserting itself as a vital force in the country's new society. That congress, in which all youth organizations of the socialist countries had participated, had been a landmark in the annals of the struggle for peace and social progress. It had also testified to the determination of the young people to join together and organize effectively in their struggle to serve the people and the country.

7. In conclusion, he said that his delegation wished every success to the initial Advisory Committee for International Youth Year and would do all it could to ensure the success of its work.

8. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the International Year of Disabled Persons had set in motion a great variety of activities that would have long-lasting effects. 1981, the International Year of Disabled Persons, had been only the beginning of a new approach in many areas. A fundamental change of outlook was not to be expected within the space of only one year. Future success would depend on whether the new movement was continued and how the trigger effects were converted into concrete measures. In order to ensure further work on behalf of the disabled, the National Commission of the Federal Republic of Germany had

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic of Germany)

submitted its evaluation of the Year to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The reproach by the handicapped that all the good intentions of the Year would soon be forgotten would prove to be unfounded only if all Governments and private organizations and agencies took a real interest in the fate of the disabled and backed up that interest with time, money and goodwill.

9. The integration of disabled persons into the life of society must be seen as a lifelong process. That meant beginning by educating the handicapped together with the more fortunate from childhood on and throughout their school life. The rehabilitation system in the Federal Republic of Germany, in spite of many shortcomings, was a highly developed one. In the task of solving rehabilitation problems at the international level, the Federal Republic of Germany was therefore expected to play an active role commensurate with its means. That implied an obligation in a field which would certainly acquire considerable political weight internationally in the next few years. His delegation regarded the Decade of Disabled Persons as an appropriate means of achieving the aims of the Programme which set forth further priority areas for future work at the national and international levels.

10. Mr. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) stressed the need for a unified approach to the goals of the International Youth Year. The activities connected with the Year must focus on the world-wide mobilization of youth to participate in preserving and strengthening peace. Young people could not but recognize the danger which the stockpiling of weapons, including nuclear weapons represented for mankind. The situation was exacerbated by the imperialist policy of diktat and gross intervention in the internal affairs of States. The barbaric aggression of the United States against Grenada, a small and defenceless non-aligned country, had aptly illustrated for the entire world the unpardonable adventurism of the current American Administration. The whole people of the Byelorussian SSR, including its youth, roundly condemned that policy and demanded that the United States immediately curtail its bloody crimes against the people of Grenada and its attempts to subvert Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries in Central America, in Africa and throughout the world.

11. Youth had an important role to play in the struggle against colonialism, apartheid, neo-colonialism, racism and racial discrimination. The International Youth Year should serve to increase young people's political activism and their participation in the social and economic development of their countries. The various forms of discrimination against young people which persisted in some countries prevented full use being made of their creative potential and abilities. It was a tragic paradox that the arms race and the inflated military budgets of the capitalist countries increased unemployment among young people, who constituted one fourth of the hordes of the unemployed in the United States.

12. The rights and interests of the younger generation were guaranteed and supported by State and public organizations in socialist society. An integral part of socialist democracy was the participation of youth in the management of State affairs. Anyone over 18 years of age could be elected to the Soviet of People's

(Mr. Komissarov, Byelorussian SSR)

Deputies, and the number of young people working in government agencies had grown significantly in recent years. One third of the deputies to local soviets and one fifth of the deputies to the country's highest legislative body were under 30 years of age. There were permanent commissions on youth affairs in the Supreme Soviet and in local soviets. All decisions concerning youth taken by government agencies took into account the desires expressed by youth organizations.

13. The Komsomol, the largest and most representative youth organization which included 1.5 million people aged 14 to 28 among its members, played an important role in involving young people in political, economic and cultural life, and that role was to be expanded under the recently adopted Law on Labour Collectives.

14. All citizens, including youth, were guaranteed the right to work and to select a profession. Young people under 30 years of age had represented 27 per cent of the working population in 1982. Although the normal work week did not exceed 41 hours, young workers were not allowed to work more than 36 hours or to do overtime, and they received one month's paid leave.

15. The right of youth to education was guaranteed by the Constitution and was enhanced by free education, State stipends and benefits for students. Over 350,000 young men and women were studying in 33 higher and 138 specialized secondary educational institutions.

16. Byelorussian youth took an active part in Soviet youth activities in the struggle to achieve peace, prevent the threat of nuclear war, curb the arms race and promote democracy and social progress. In 1982 alone, thousands of anti-war meetings attended by over 700,000 young men and women had been held, and in 1983, hundreds of anti-war meetings and demonstrations had taken place. Byelorussian youth was expanding its contacts with its foreign contemporaries. Over 100 youth organizations from 87 countries had been the guests of Byelorussian youth over the past four years, and the Byelorussian SSR had often been chosen as the site for international youth forums.

17. The main emphasis of the International Youth Year must be on activities at the national level. There was no need to create new intergovernmental bodies or to expand the existing departments of the Secretariat. The opportunities for co-operation with non-governmental organizations, primarily those in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and with other competent organizations, should be used more effectively. His delegation was determined to continue to contribute constructively to the achievement of the goals of the International Youth Year.

18. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that her delegation appreciated the conclusions reached in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/63) concerning the difficulties faced by developing countries in promoting the co-operative movement. Morocco had a long experience in the field of co-operation because ancient Moroccans had built their civilization and preserved their economic, social and

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(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

educational identity through co-operative action and community life in accordance with the teachings of Islam and Sunna. It had now become evident that the State did not have sole responsibility for solving the problems of underdevelopment and, indeed, that it was incapable of doing it alone, regardless of the material means available, if it could not count on the effective participation of its citizens. That participation was all the more necessary in the case of co-operatives. Today, Morocco had more than 3,200 co-operatives working in various fields.

19. Popular participation was an important factor in development and the enjoyment of human rights. In Morocco, the past two decades had seen the enormous success of movements in favour of decentralization and local democracy, motivated by the growing complexity of tasks and the impossibility of ensuring central control, but above all by the clamour of populations for greater participation in the management of their own affairs. Today the commune was regarded as the third partner in social and economic development of the country, together with the State and the private sector, and the State had taken action to enable the commune to assume progressive control of all services and equipment necessary for the life of the community. Many countries, like Morocco, had done much to encourage popular participation with a view to promoting development and to ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by all.

20. However, that was certainly not sufficient to solve the special problems faced by some countries, problems such as economic crises, balance-of-payments deficits, prohibitive interest rates, the low price of raw materials while the price of manufactured goods continued to rise, customs barriers, inflationary pressures and armed aggression such as declared or undeclared wars and the arms race. Added to that, there were natural disasters, such as drought, famine and the influx of thousands if not millions of refugees which threatened the already shaky economies of some host countries and endangered political stability.

21. The seriousness of the situation was compounded by the ever-widening gap which separated developing countries from the industrialized countries, with their highly sophisticated technology. Furthermore, the lack of progress towards the establishment of the new international economic order, the launching of global negotiations, the rescheduling of debts or the remission of some debts was a setback to international co-operation for development.

22. The conclusions reached at the recent meeting of the International Monetary Fund with respect to solving global financial problems were merely ink on paper. The fact was that in today's world there was endemic hunger accompanied by unemployment or chronic underemployment, which, as the Director-General of the ILO had stated, condemned 500 million people of the third world to misery. At the same time, the world continued its unbridled arms race with increasingly sophisticated, increasingly terrifying weapons which gobbled up increasingly exorbitant sums. On the other hand, assistance from the developed countries to the developing countries was modest and not commensurate with the real needs of the latter.

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(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

23. It would be useful to have a study on the situation of the most deprived young people in the world. She referred to children that were the object of terrible exploitation which reduced them to a state of slavery, children who were sold into servitude or prostitution. Even though article 9 of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child stated that the child should in no case be caused or permitted to engage in any occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education, there were hundreds of thousands of children being subjected to abuse or forced to work in deplorable conditions. According to ILO estimates, there were 52 million children that were working and being exploited. However, those figures and the data obtained by the ILO were merely the tip of the iceberg. While it was undoubtedly true that the elderly could give young people a wider perspective of life, only young people who were happy because they were free from hunger, uncertainty, fear and prejudice could bring comfort and joy to those in the autumn of their lives.

24. Mrs. SHERMAN PETER (Bahamas) said that in developing countries like the Bahamas, youth policies and programmes had to be improved to ensure proper utilization of that valuable resource. Her Government viewed the proclamation of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace as a significant step forward in United Nations efforts to deal with various problems as they related to youth. The progress outlined in the documentation before the Committee augured well for the success of the Year. Her delegation attached particular importance to regional meetings and hoped to be able to review the programme produced by the Latin American regional meeting.

25. Her delegation had listened with interest to the proposals and programmes formulated by various specialized agencies, including UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO, and non-governmental organizations. It was particularly pleased that bodies concerned with drug control were committed to the objectives of the Year because criminality among youth in the Bahamas could be directly traced to the volume of illicit drugs transiting the country.

26. In planning its youth policy, her Government had always taken account of the need for the support and participation of youth. The Department of Youth had recently implemented one of the most important recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the International Youth Year by designating the Youth Advisory Council as the national co-ordinating committee for the Year. The national co-ordinating committee represented youth organizations, Government ministries and departments and the private sector, and its work was co-ordinated by the Director of Youth. Aware of its important role as a liaison between the United Nations and youth and its responsibility for promoting and publicizing the International Year, the committee would base its work on a plan which took into account specific national problems affecting youth, including unemployment, education and training. In addition, the committee had drawn up a programme of action for the years 1983-1985 to provide a general framework for activities to be undertaken before and during International Youth Year, as well as follow-up activities. The programme was to culminate in 1985 with the presentation to Parliament of a comprehensive national youth policy.

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(Mrs. Sherman Peter, Bahamas)

27. In addition to those activities each youth community group would be encouraged to plan activities around the theme of the International Youth Year. Her Government hoped that those efforts would complement and strengthen its ongoing annual special events which had been designed to give to youth an active role in the country's economic development.

28. It was clear that national Governments and the international community shared the aspirations of youth. Her delegation hoped, therefore, that the International Youth Year would serve as the medium through which youth might direct communities, national Governments and the international community to translate their concern into meaningful action. For its part, the Bahamas would endeavour to support its youth by participating in youth matters through the Commonwealth Youth Programme, within the United Nations system and through national policies and programmes.

29. Mrs. MARCOULLIS (Cyprus) said that youth had rightly been described as the catalyst of hope. But, for hope to materialize, young people must be enabled to participate in the decision-making process, to learn to identify areas for change and to acquire the necessary preparation for responsible citizenship. Equality of opportunities for education for young men and women and for different population groups was of particular importance and education should embrace the inculcation of values, principles and ideals that aimed at humanizing people and teaching them how to co-operate with others for the general welfare.

30. Educational opportunities should be coupled with increasing opportunities for self-fulfilment and social advancement. The prospect of unemployment facing young men and women all over the world and particularly in the developing countries had a destructive effect on young people, depriving them of basic human rights including their fundamental right to development and social progress. The early integration of young people in society and their total involvement in socio-economic activities would promote the establishment of a more equitable and just world economic order.

31. The youth of Cyprus were the young children who had experienced the tragic events of 1974. They had grown up in deprivation, despair and sorrow but with the determination that the international community could not allow anarchy and lawlessness to prevail. They had the inalienable right to return to the lands of their forefathers and to live there in peace and security without suffering discrimination for racial or religious reasons.

32. The Government of Cyprus, despite the many problems facing it, had always shown particular concern for its youth. It drew up plans and organized programmes to encourage the widest possible participation of youth in community development, higher education, cultural development, the elimination of illiteracy and the preservation and improvement of the physical environment.

33. Her delegation fervently hoped that the year 1985 would bring closer the achievement of the aspirations of youth all over the world. Cyprus looked forward to observing and celebrating the International Youth Year in a free, unified and peaceful Cyprus for all its people, be they Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Maronites, Latins or others.

34. Mr. CHANG GERMAN (Cuba), commenting on the world social situation, said that the efforts of the developing countries to resolve the economic crisis, which was reflected in the social situation, were constantly being thwarted by lack of understanding, egoism and the economic, military and political power of imperialism. Nevertheless, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country had said at a recent meeting of the Group of 77, the developing world, whose main strength lay in the fact that it constituted by far the greater part of humanity, had no alternative but to fight in order to achieve its aims. The developing countries had taken great pains to prepare adequately for the Sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and positive results had been achieved at the Buenos Aires meeting of the Group of 77. Nevertheless, those efforts had come to naught because the members of the Group of 77 had met with the open opposition of the United States and other developed capitalist countries.

35. In his message to the Sixth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro had said that the developing countries were faced with a crisis which clearly revealed the nature of the unjust structures that characterized international economic relations. Those structures maintained the system of dependency which facilitated exploitation through unequal terms of trade and the monopolistic activities of transnational corporations and accounted for the poverty and backwardness of the developing countries. It was also a generalized crisis which went beyond trade, monetary and financial problems to penetrate areas such as food, health, education, energy and other natural resources. The crisis was compounded by its translation into reactionary political behaviour and aggressive interventionism such as that facing Nicaragua, other Central American countries, Cuba itself, certain African countries and the Palestinian people.

36. The specialized agencies, including UNESCO, FAO and WHO, had made careful studies describing the critical situation confronting the developing countries. FAO had shown that 40 million people, half of them children, died each year of hunger and malnutrition and estimated that in 10 years' time that figure would be increased by a further 150 million people. According to WHO, in 1981 infant mortality had fluctuated between 10 and 20 deaths for every 1,000 live births in the developed countries as a whole but was 10 times higher in the poorest group of countries. Life expectancy in the developed countries fluctuated between 72 and 74 years, whereas in the developing countries it was only 55 years. In a recent study, UNESCO had calculated that in 1980 there were 814 million adult illiterates in the world, with the overwhelming majority in the developing countries.

37. Faced with that situation, the developing countries had no alternative but to continue fighting for realization of their just aspirations, for the introduction of a just and equitable new international economic order and to improve the living conditions of their peoples. In that struggle for their just and legitimate rights, the developing countries would not yield to pressure or allow themselves to be intimidated because, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba had said, that struggle constituted the only guarantee for the success of their efforts and would be their greatest contribution towards the preservation of peace and achievement of development.

(Mr. Chang German, Cuba)

38. Popular participation in economic and social development was a fundamental feature of Cuba's socialist society and was guaranteed through the system of people's assemblies and committees, the discussion by workers of the annual and five-year plans and the activities of trade unions and mass organizations.

39. The people's authorities administered many important activities at the municipal and provincial levels. As the fundamental organs of State power composed of representatives elected democratically by the masses, it was through those organs that the people participated directly in the management of social affairs. At every level, it was not the elected individuals who had the highest authority, but rather those who had elected them: the masses exercised paramountcy and conferred that power upon the delegates, who were accountable for their activities to those who had elected them.

40. The people's assembly and committees had the right to appoint, and replace if necessary, the directors and other heads of the branches comprising the administrative apparatus of the people's organs. In those organs, there was full freedom of discussion, criticism and self-criticism, and the people were kept well informed about their work.

41. The strengthening of democratic principles played a significant role in production. State control over the means of production consolidated the political power of workers and led to their effective participation not only in production but also in management. Each Cuban worker had the right to join in the discussion of the production plans of State enterprises. Worker involvement in the economic planning connoted a commitment to ensure high productivity and the most rational utilization of available resources. Through their trade unions they conveyed their concerns and suggestions to administrators and regularly attended meetings of the governing boards of enterprises.

42. The mass organizations performed a dual function, serving as a pipeline for channelling contributions of the various economic sectors to the building of socialism and conveying the specific demands and problems of each sector to the institutions which bore the primary responsibility for implementing the strategic objectives of the revolution.

43. Cuba would soon celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its victorious revolution. In reviewing those twenty-five years, the Cuban people could proclaim proudly and confidently that despite imperialism's criminal blockade, aggressive plans, infiltration of weapons, acts of sabotage, and deployment of counter-revolutionaries, it had made significant progress and was prepared to defend its territory against anyone who attempted to seize it.

44. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) noting the interrelationship between youth problems and the world situation, said that that situation had been aggravated by the aggressive, militaristic policy of the imperialist forces, primarily the United States, whose foreign policy was tantamount to a show of force and muscle-flexing. The latest example was its brutal armed aggression against the tiny island State of

(Mrs. Ider, Mongolia)

Grenada, an attack which had been vehemently condemned by many States Members of the United Nations, including the closest allies of the United States.

45. The International Youth Year should focus on mobilizing youth to make a tangible contribution to the international community's efforts to maintain and strengthen international peace, end the arms race and achieve disarmament and should contribute to the active participation of youth in the struggle against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and apartheid and for the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and the establishment of the new international economic order. The activities connected with the Year should be aimed at improving the socio-economic situation of youth, implementing their right to work, education, and health services and creating conditions allowing them to participate actively in the political life of their countries, particularly at the decision-making level.

46. Her delegation endorsed the conclusions reached by the regional meetings held in preparation for the Year and was impressed by the scope and content of the activities undertaken by the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO.

47. The majority of her country's population consisted of young people. They had every opportunity to receive education free of charge at all levels, to choose their own profession and to take advantage of free medical services and social allowances. 12.2 per cent of the members of the Great National Khural (Parliament) and 24.4 per cent of members of local khurals were young people.

48. The national co-ordinating committee for the International Youth Year was planning to take steps to devote greater resources to youth education and culture. Mongolia would actively participate in the activities of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other international organizations to facilitate the successful observance of the Year.

49. Mr. SEKULIC (Yugoslavia) said that the 1982 Report on the World Social Situation had convincingly illustrated the dangerous degradation of the social situation, particularly in the developing countries, brought about by the world economic crisis coupled with the worsening political relations among States. A global approach had to be taken to the solution of social problems, especially in the developing countries, by applying a strategy favouring the unimpeded economic and social development of all countries. An in-depth analysis of the causes of social problems at both the international and national levels was of the utmost importance.

50. The Report had devoted much attention to the problems of migrant workers, problems of a magnitude which could create serious international difficulties. All possible efforts should be made to facilitate remedial action.

51. For several decades, many countries had been trying to introduce various forms of popular participation into management and other decision-making activities. The role of popular participation in the realization of human rights had been widely

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(Mr. Sekulic, Yugoslavia)

accepted. It was a means of achieving goals, but it was also a goal in itself. Its legal basis consisted of a number of international instruments on economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The analysis of the right to popular participation called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/31 must be related to all those instruments.

52. His delegation supported all activities aimed at implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. Special attention should be paid to the needs of the developing countries which had the largest concentration of disabled persons. Yugoslavia had already organized a seminar for participants from developing countries on local rehabilitation services and locally-produced prosthetic aids and equipment. It strongly supported the continuation of the Trust Fund for the International Year throughout the Decade.

53. His delegation hoped that the International Youth Year would facilitate more direct contact and the flow of information between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations. It should reflect both the vital interest of youth in their problems and the active participation of youth in the search for their solutions.

54. Following the World Assembly on Aging, activities aimed at implementing the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging had been carried out in his country. Useful co-operation and communication had been established with a number of developing countries. The national co-ordinating body was continuing its activities and had submitted proposals for further action, including a draft programme of action for the improvement of the living conditions of the aging in Yugoslavia. His delegation intended to co-operate with the Trust Fund for the World Assembly and supported its continuation.

55. Miss HUBAISHI (Democratic Yemen), speaking on the second cluster of items, said that youth in her country were contributing to political decision-making and to the building of legislative and executive institutions. Young people had also contributed to the drive against illiteracy, and had almost eradicated that legacy of colonialism. Her Government's preparations for the International Youth Year included economic, cultural and information programmes, particularly programmes aimed at the masses, with emphasis on peace and disarmament. The young people in the fascist, colonialist countries must be helped to eliminate the vestiges of that system, especially in South Africa and in the occupied Palestinian territories. The heroic resistance of the young people of Cuba and Grenada had persuaded her Government to support Grenada in its struggle to restore its right to self-determination.

56. Under the yoke of imperialism, Democratic Yemen had showed 90 per cent illiteracy; its people had few social services and lived in abysmal poverty. By modernizing structures through planning, the country had created new conditions. Thousands of schools had been built, and there were now 400 per cent more students than there had been on the eve of independence. The Constitution guaranteed equal rights for men and women and facilitated women's combining work in the home with

(Miss Hubaishi, Democratic Yemen)

work outside the home. As a result, the people enjoyed a higher living standard, and outdated social structures had been abolished.

57. Attention was also being paid to the protection of the aged, and steps had been taken to integrate them into society and to provide them with housing and medical services, as well as old-age and disability pensions. There had been obstacles due to the lack of resources and trained personnel, and her delegation asked the United Nations and specialized agencies for help in that area.

58. Her Government was also striving to integrate the disabled in the new society and provide them with a decent standard of living, but in that area resources were also lacking, and international co-operation, including the transfer of technology, was badly needed.

59. Mr. NOMAN (Yemen) said that at a time of world economic crisis youth must be involved in development, especially in developing countries. Young people in his country had participated locally, regionally and nationally in the attempt to stabilize the country after the 1962 overthrow of the former régime. That effort included improving the educational system and trying to provide university training and participating in the first and second population censuses. Whereas before there had been no schools, hospitals or other aspects of modern life, the population was now beginning to become involved in the establishment of co-operative village associations, the building of roads and schools and the provision of water and electricity to the valley and mountain areas. Through joint co-operation between the central planning office and the co-operatives, 2,500 kilometres of roads had already been built.

60. His Government also attached great importance to the problems of disabled persons and was attempting to establish centres to assist them, including a centre for the rehabilitation of the blind. It was guided by the religion of Islam, which stressed the need for solidarity and the virtues of the family.

61. Yemen was preparing the machinery required for the International Youth Year. His country was one of the sponsors of draft resolution L.12 and would support all draft resolutions under agenda item 84.

62. Mr. ZURITA (Spain) said that his delegation was pleased with the progress made in the preparations for the International Youth Year and acknowledged the importance of the regional meetings held on that subject, including the European regional meeting in Costinesti in which his country had participated. His delegation was concerned, however, because it had been informed only of the results of the European meeting and it would have liked to have welcomed reports on the other regional meetings in time for the current discussions.

63. The main impetus for the activities of the International Youth Year should be given at the national level, but Governments should not impose proposals but should allow young people the broadest possible participation in the preparation, organization and development of the activities of the Year.

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(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

64. His Government was aware that the problems faced by youth today were being compounded by the economic crisis: for example, in Spain, 53 per cent of the unemployed were young people between the ages of 16 and 24. In an effort to implement an integrated youth policy, his Government had established an inter-ministerial commission responsible for studying the most important issues affecting young people and for proposing measures to resolve them. The Spanish Parliament had also approved the establishment of a Youth Council, and the Council of Ministers had adopted a royal decree for the establishment of the Spanish Committee for the International Youth Year, where youth associations were fully represented, as well as central and autonomous bodies responsible for youth issues.

65. Spain had offered to host the World Congress of UNESCO which would hold its meeting in 1985 on the occasion of the International Youth Year. As an indication of its desire for an integrated approach to the subject, his Government was preparing a report on Spanish youth which would lead to a national plan for youth, to be adopted in 1985. The Youth Branch of the Spanish Ministry of Culture had established as a priority objective the development of an effective information system for young people, which included a national youth information and documentation centre and a network of youth information offices.

66. Referring to agenda item 89, he said that in view of the aging of the world population, new socio-cultural policies had to be worked out to deal with the situation. Under the Spanish Constitution the Government was the guarantor of the economic independence of the elderly and aging by providing adequate pensions, periodically adjusted, and promoting their well-being through a system of social services. That precept was being translated into reality through such measures as the health policy incorporated in the general social security system and a social policy embodied in a system of pensions. Spain had drawn up a national plan of action based on the guidelines of the International Plan of Action on Aging. It had also contributed to the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging and was making a serious effort to strengthen co-operation and exchange of information with other countries on the subject.

67. Society must also make efforts to solve problems of certain groups of persons to which they might not belong, such as the disabled. His country firmly supported the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. An international and long-term plan of action would be very useful both for the stimulus it could provide for strengthening national policies and as a general framework which could serve as a normative factor to facilitate co-operation among countries.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

68. The CHAIRMAN said that it was an established practice to invite rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights who had submitted reports to the Assembly at the request of that Commission, to participate in the work of the Committee when the reports were being considered. At the current session, the Committee would be seized with three such reports: by its resolution 1983/38, the Commission on Human Rights had requested its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in

(The Chairman)

Chile to report on that situation to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session; by its resolution 1983/29, the Commission had requested its Special Representative on the situation of human rights in El Salvador to present a report on further developments in that situation to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session; and, by its resolution 1983/37, the Commission had requested its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Guatemala to present an interim report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. He was informed by the Secretariat that the financial implications of bringing the rapporteurs to New York would be: for the Special Rapporteur on Chile, \$5,282; for the Special Representative on El Salvador, \$2,352; for the Special Rapporteur on Guatemala, \$3,052. If he heard no objection, he would take it that it was the wish of the Committee to invite those three Special Rapporteurs to introduce their respective reports to the Committee and to participate in the Committee's deliberations thereon.

69. It was so decided.

70. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/186, the Committee would be seized under item 12 with a report of the Secretary-General on human rights and massive exoduses. It would be recalled that at the thirty-seventh session the Committee had had before it a report on that topic (E/CN.4/1503) prepared by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights and that the Committee had invited him to participate in its discussions on the subject. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 37/186, the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to pursue his examination of the recommendations contained in Prince Sadruddin's study, taking into account the views of Governments and other interested parties and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session. He was informed that during the Committee's consideration of the Secretary-General's report on human rights and massive exoduses, Prince Sadruddin would be in New York on other business. Unless he heard any objection, he would take it that the Committee would wish to renew the invitation extended to Prince Sadruddin at the previous session to participate in the Committee's consideration of the topic of human rights and massive exoduses. There would be no financial implications in that decision.

71. It was so decided.

72. Mr. LILLO (Chile) said that as the Committee was aware from statements made by his delegation at previous sessions, Chile did not agree that there was a need for a special rapporteur on the situation in Chile. He reiterated his Government's determination to co-operate with the United Nations through all its permanent bodies competent in the matter in conformity with established practice.

73. Ms. JONES (United States of America) said that her delegation had not blocked the consensus on the decision to invite the special rapporteurs because, in the absence of the normal statement on financial implications and referral to the Fifth Committee, it understood that the travel expenses involved would be drawn from the funds appropriated for the current biennium.

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74. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan) said that since the report prepared by Prince Sadruddin Aqa Khan had already been discussed at the Commission on Human Rights, his delegation failed to see any need to invite him to attend the meetings of the Committee for further discussion. Nevertheless, his delegation would accept the Committee's decision.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.