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held on  
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at 3 p.m.  
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 63rd MEETING DEC

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/38/3 (Parts I and II), A/38/106, 147 and Add.1 and 2, A/38/166 and Add.1, 2 and 3, A/38/221, 270, 325, 385 and Add.1, A/38/422, 479, 480, 485, 503, 529, 538; A/C.3/38/1, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12; A/C.3/38/L.37/Rev.2, L.43/Rev.1, L.44, L.45, L.47, L.48, L.51/Rev.1, L.54 and L.56)

1. Mr. ROSALES-RIVERA (El Salvador) said that the principles of moderation, objectivity and impartiality which should guide the Third Committee in its work were not compatible with "selective treatment", that is, the tendency to consider the human rights situation in only one region of the world and in only three countries within that region. The tendency was the more regrettable because his delegation was forced to challenge the validity of the resolutions adopted and some Governments felt constrained to restrict their co-operation with the Third Committee.

2. Respect for the principles governing human rights was the cornerstone of his Government's policy, as witness the country's co-operation with international organizations and its ratification of international instruments on human rights and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as its support for the establishment, some months previously, of the Intergovernmental Committee on Migration. Its complete co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose work in El Salvador deserved praise on all counts, likewise bore witness to the fact.

3. His Government was actively represented on all United Nations bodies concerned with human rights and on bodies in the Inter-American System. In November 1983, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fidel Chávez Mena, had been elected by acclamation President of the thirteenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

4. At the national level, his Government's stated desire to promote human rights was in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution and the Government's platform (the Apaneca Pact). In September 1983 the President of the Republic, Mr. Alvaro Magaña, had listed the steps taken by the Government to put the Pact fully into effect, notably the establishment, a year earlier, of the Human Rights Commission and the proposed reform of the Salvadorian legal system, which had already been outlined by a committee of legal experts. The President had also pointed out that the judiciary in El Salvador was completely independent of the executive.

5. Among the bodies set up by the Government in the human rights field, the Human Rights Commission, with a mandate to entertain complaints, hear witnesses, visit detention centres and, in extremely serious cases, request action by governmental authorities, had produced positive results throughout the country. Other mechanisms recently established were the National Commission for Assistance to Displaced Persons (Comisión Nacional de Desplazados (CONADES)) which was concerned

(Mr. Rosales-Rivera, El Salvador)

with the thousands of people forced out of their homes by the fighting that was ravaging the country, and the National Reclamation Commission (Comisión Nacional de Rehabilitación de Areas) whose task was to carry out extensive reconstruction programmes with the support of the communities concerned in areas devastated by the violence. Damage to the country's infrastructure by acts of sabotage and terrorism by opposition groups amounted to over \$600 million. The situation had had a devastating effect on the economy. Regardless of its current circumstances, however, the country was showing great powers of resistance and resilience, and public services continued to function almost normally.

6. Unfortunately, the Government's efforts to consolidate peace and democracy were being hampered both by those who sought to destabilize the country and seize power by force with ideological and material support from abroad, and by right-wing extremists using violence to eradicate those they regarded as their opponents. As recently as 11 October 1983, the Political Commission of the Apaneca Pact had roundly condemned the kidnappings, killings and other acts of extortion committed by such terrorist groups, which were paralysing moves by the Government of National Unity to settle the Salvadorian crisis by peaceful, democratic means.

7. The agrarian reform which had transformed land ownership in El Salvador from top to bottom was clear evidence of the Government's desire to see social justice and democracy triumph. All estates of over 500 hectares had been given to the peasants working them, and that the first phase of the reform, had benefited more than 190,000 people. In the third phase, agricultural land had been transferred to the more than 320,000 people who had been cultivating it under a share-cropping system. It should, of course, be clearly understood that the present struggle in El Salvador was not only for power but also for land. The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) had quite rightly pointed out, in a recent study on the crisis in Central America, that events in El Salvador had led to a transformation of existing structures. The formation of national associations of agricultural workers who wished to defend their rights by peaceful means fell within the context of that transformation, whose only purpose was the better distribution of the wealth. Similarly, in the legal area, the new constitution, on which drafting was almost complete, highlighted the rights of the individual. Finally, the Constituent Assembly had set 25 March 1984 as the date for the presidential elections which would mark the end of the normalization process begun in October 1979.

8. Regarding the report on the human rights situation in El Salvador by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Ridruejo, his delegation wished to state that the Salvadorian Government not only refused to recognize the legality of the resolution establishing Mr. Ridruejo's mandate, but totally rejected the tenor of the report. By ascribing violations of human rights to "members of the State apparatus", Mr. Ridruejo was holding the Government responsible, when in fact the Government made it a basic principle to defend the rights of all Salvadorians and punish any act that infringed those rights. The only party that could be held responsible if a civil servant committed such an act, even in performance of his duties, was the individual concerned, not a Government that was more aware than any one of the country's problems.

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(Mr. Rosales-Rivera, El Salvador)

9. The Government's fundamental objective was the restoration of peace. In February 1983 a national peace programme had been announced and a Peace Commission had been set up to promote the integration of groups of armed position members into the political process. The Commission had drawn up an Amnesty Act from which 1,137 people had benefited. Such a pursuit of peace was in harmony with the aspirations of the Salvadorian people.

10. Mrs. UMANA (Colombia) pointed out how remote the Third Committee's debates on items such as drug abuse prevention were from the actual situation, as faced by thousands of peasant families throughout the world or as experienced by Maria Cisneros, the Colombian peasant whose story had just been told in one of the country's major newspapers. Like many families living in the inhospitable regions in the centre of Colombia, Maria Cisneros had devoted her energies first to growing maize and then to raising pigs so as to feed her family. Both attempts had ended in failure, the first because Maria had had to spend the proceeds of her harvest on transport and the second because wild animals had eaten, one by one, the animals she was fattening. Like the other peasants in such regions, Maria had ended up growing coca leaves, the only thing she was sure of selling because of a growing international demand while grain, bananas, sugar and other raw materials were subject to all manner of customs barriers. Whereas, for Maria Cisneros and the thousands of peasants in similar straits, growing coca leaves or marijuana was a means of survival, for the established drug trafficker such criminal dealings were a source of fabulous riches. Far from benefiting the producing or intermediary countries, moreover, the immense sums yielded by the trade were profitably invested in industrialized countries. That was an enormous economic injustice. Also on the subject of the international drug traffic, mention should be made of the proliferation of coca-processing laboratories in the urban jungles, of the crime and violence spawned by the drug trade, and the trafficking in arms, along the same distribution networks as drugs, that eventually made their way to the inhospitable regions where insurrection bred. Mention should be made of a worse problem still - the contamination of the producing countries which, in their turn, were starting to consume the hallucinogens they grew. Drugs, particularly a coca-leaf derivative known as "baruco", were ravaging Colombian schools. And the destruction of Colombian youth meant the destruction of the country's future.

11. The question arose as to how the representative of the United States could say, as he had to the Committee, that the problem was not primarily one of money and that its solution depended first of all on the determination of producing countries to eliminate illegal crops. If that determination did not exist, the heads of State of the Andean countries would not have recently adopted, at Caracas, a plan to combat the dangerous activities of Latin American and North American drug traffickers, and the two Colombian political parties would not have joined together to set up a morals committee in Congress to denounce the corrupting influence of "speculative capital" derived from the narcotics trade. In fact, regardless of what the representative of the United States said, the drug problem was clearly a problem of money.

12. In order to replace the growing of hallucinogenic plants with types of crops which would be viable in the world economy, considerable investments were necessary. Such an attempt had been successful in the Guajira region, a traditional

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(Mrs. Umaña, Colombia)

marijuana empire which was now extracting coal for export. Moreover, the growing of marijuana had considerably declined in Colombia, simply because a type of high-quality marijuana was currently being produced in the "sun belt" of the United States. It was discouraging that enormous quantities of drugs were illegally crossing the borders of industrialized countries, whose co-operation in that struggle was so necessary.

13. The drug problem was of concern to the entire international community and any measure which would help to eliminate the scourge would receive her Government's support.

14. Mr. BELL (Canada) said that one of the aspects of United Nations human rights activities was information-gathering on the existing human rights situation in certain countries. The three reports under consideration by the Committee under agenda item 12, on Guatemala, El Salvador and Chile respectively, were an example of such information-gathering.

15. For the first time, the General Assembly had before it a report on the human rights situation in Guatemala, which was an important step forward in view of the endemic violence in that country and the resulting long-standing human rights abuses.

16. His delegation was encouraged by the Guatemalan Government's co-operation with the Special Rapporteur and noted in that connection that the aim of the United Nations must be dialogue, not confrontation.

17. Lord Colville's report had the twofold value of placing the prevailing situation in Guatemala in its historical context of violence, oppression and economic injustice and of focusing on the future. In that regard, Lord Colville had pointed to certain encouraging signs, in particular the termination of the state of siege in March 1983, greater judicial independence, the code of conduct issued to the armed forces, the Government's intention to hold elections in 1984, the amnesty proclaimed by the Government, the Government's proposal for land redistribution and special programmes to assist the people.

18. Nevertheless, the report had confirmed the fears of his delegation about the persistence of serious human rights violations in Guatemala. His delegation supported, in particular, the Special Rapporteur's recommendations that the Guatemalan Supreme Court should review the convictions handed down by the special judicial tribunals, which had been abolished a few months earlier. The Guatemalan Government should also, as requested by the Guatemalan legal profession, immediately disclose the names of all missing persons who, as it was known, were actually being held secretly in detention.

19. His delegation was also concerned by the massacres of indigenous people in the rural areas, of which the presence of a large number of refugees in Mexico was testimony. Even if the circumstances of the massacres were occasionally difficult to elucidate, it was no less true that, in the very words of the Special Rapporteur, atrocities had been committed which defied any notion of fundamental human rights. The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission had claimed in its latest

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(Mr. Bell, Canada)

report that, since the coup of August 1983 the situation in Guatemala had only worsened and that, particularly in the urban areas, disappearances and extra-judicial executions had increased. Since Lord Colville's report was, as he himself had said, an interim report, the human rights situation in Guatemala required continued international vigilance.

20. His delegation noted with satisfaction the serious and balanced report of the Special Representative on El Salvador. Unfortunately, the picture painted by the Special Representative was a sad one. There continued to be grave and massive violations of human rights in El Salvador. The report emphasized that the systematic attacks by the guerrilla forces on the economic infrastructure of the country continued unabated, seriously jeopardizing the civilian population. However, massive violations of the most fundamental right of all, the right to life, were largely attributable to the Government's military or security forces. Although precise figures were not available, the magnitude of the political killings continued to make it clear that respect for human life did not exist in El Salvador.

21. While it was clear that the government authorities had a sincere desire to improve the state of human rights in El Salvador, as reflected in a number of promising initiatives, there was a gap between those intentions and the real situation. His Government should endeavour to implement the Special Representative's recommendations concerning the administration of justice. Notwithstanding the state of emergency, the right to due process for all citizens must be upheld and the gross violations of human rights must not continue to go unpunished.

22. In the case of Chile, his delegation was pleased to note that the Government was beginning to be more co-operative and had recently provided the Secretary-General with two reports on the human rights situation. The Chilean Government must be urged to commit itself firmly to the path of liberalization and to move rapidly to put an end to all abuses of human rights, particularly those which continued to threaten the life and personal integrity of its citizens. To that end, the Government should co-operate fully with the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur.

23. It was frequently said that the United Nations human rights machinery was imperfect, selective and partial. The fact that the Committee had before it only three reports, all from the same geographical region, demonstrated that those reproaches were often true. However, the United Nations should not give up on an imperfect system but rather should exploit it to the greatest extent possible by expanding its focus and strengthening its objectives.

24. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that, over the years, consideration of the Economic and Social Council reports had proved that international co-operation in the area of social development and the promotion of human rights could not be successful unless it was based on strict respect for the principles of the Charter, in particular the equality of the rights of peoples, the right to self-determination, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. The Political Declaration of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty (A/38/67) stressed the importance of those principles. Such co-operation should be

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

systematic, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 32/130, and presupposed that priority would be accorded to the struggle against mass and flagrant violations of human rights and the rights of people affected by situations endangering international peace and security or resulting from the imperialist policy of invasion, fascism, racism, colonialism and the repression of national liberation movements.

25. Everyone was aware that imperialist circles, particularly those in Washington, created just such situations; in order to maintain supremacy on the international scene, they sought to hinder the third world countries' development and pursued a policy of diktat, aggression and intervention, even armed intervention, against countries which happened to displease them. The most flagrant examples were the bullying and blackmail of Cuba, the invasion of Grenada and the undeclared war against Nicaragua. Just recently, the Governments of certain NATO member countries had agreed to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, although the peoples of Europe themselves had opposed the move. Military preparations of that sort were the concrete manifestations of the "holy war" declared by Washington against the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries and all peace-loving peoples which rejected the United States diktat. By stepping up the arms race, the world's militarist forces were leading mankind to the brink of the nuclear abyss.

26. The United Nations had long been condemning the inhuman system of apartheid, calling for the imposition of global sanctions against the Pretoria régime and trying to bring about an immediate end to the illegal occupation of Namibia. It had repeatedly condemned the Western countries and their transnational corporations which provided political, economic, military and other assistance to the South African racists. However, certain NATO member countries persistently ignored the many United Nations resolutions on the question; the United States in particular, through its policy of "constructive co-operation" with Pretoria, was preventing the application of global sanctions against the régime and in fact sabotaging the Organization's resolutions on Namibian independence.

27. Israel's expansionist policies and the mass and flagrant violations of human rights which it was committing in the occupied Arab territories - the denial of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination, the expulsion of millions of Palestinians from their homeland, racial discrimination against Arabs, the repression, torture and persecution of the Arab population and the desecration of the holy places of Islam - continued to outrage and alarm the international community. The massacre of the civilian population living in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila was on the same level as the crimes committed by the Fascists during the Second World War. The Soviet delegation welcomed the idea of declaring 17 September a day to commemorate the memory of the victims of Sabra and Shatila, as the Commission on Human Rights had proposed in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1983/3. Israel clearly bore responsibility for the massacre, and those who financed and armed the Israeli aggressor shared that responsibility.

28. Not content with providing broad support for Tel Aviv's policy of aggression against the Arab States, Washington meant to interfere directly in those States' internal affairs, profiting from the tension prevailing in Lebanon following the Israeli invasion in order to strengthen its military presence in the Middle

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

East. The latest understanding between the United States and Israel, which would broaden the "strategic co-operation" between the imperialist and Zionist forces, was directed against the Arab States and could only aggravate the situation in the region. In the Soviet Union's view, a just settlement of the Middle East problem presupposed the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the territories occupied since 1967 and the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and required a collective effort by all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. For its part, the Soviet Union would continue to support the Arab peoples' struggle against the intrigues of the imperialists and their Zionist accomplices.

29. The report for the current year prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile (A/38/385 and Add.1) was again an indictment. The military junta persisted in ignoring the rebukes the General Assembly had been addressing to it for over 10 years. Persecution was being stepped up, and terror had taken hold with a new force. Actions by the Chilean secret police endangering life and physical and moral integrity were increasing; in the first eight months of 1983 alone, 40 people, including children, young people and a trade-union leader, had died, 81 had received bullet wounds and 87 had been subjected to torture or other cruel and inhuman treatment. He drew attention to paragraph 102 of the report (A/38/385) which showed that torture in Chile had become a social scourge. The practice of arbitrary arrests was again spreading. Many persons who had been detained on political grounds were still reported missing, and the Chilean authorities continued to ignore appeals for them to open an investigation into those cases. The unemployment rate in Chile was 30 per cent, the highest of any Latin American country. As in the past, the Chilean people was being denied recognition of any political, economic, social or cultural rights. Political repression and the country's calamitous economic situation had provoked an immense national protest movement, culminating in the demonstrations of August 1983, to which the Chilean authorities had responded by firing on the crowd and intensifying the repression.

30. The Soviet Union vigorously condemned the mass and flagrant violations of human rights which had been taking place in Chile for over 10 years. It considered that the General Assembly should keep the situation on its agenda until the Chilean military junta put an end to it, and it supported the idea of extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights.

31. The human rights situation in El Salvador still gave cause for concern; as the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights noted in his report (A/38/503, para. 145), serious, massive and persistent violations had continued; the large number of political murders of non-combatants was particularly alarming. The Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries had observed, in the Political Declaration adopted at their Seventh Conference (A/38/132-S/15675, annex, para. 142) that the situation had continued to deteriorate owing to continuing repression and imperialist intervention. The Salvadorian people was struggling for its legitimate rights against the minority clique in power. The latter, rejecting the proposals made to it by the patriots to solve the problem by political means, was seeking to drown the national liberation struggle in blood. It had revoked all constitutional safeguards, thus leaving the field open to fascist organizations and

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

their terrorist practices. Moreover, the army had adopted scorched-earth tactics in the combat zone. The Salvadorian military clique's policy of genocide had claimed 40,000 victims in three years; 400,000 persons had been displaced and 700,000 forced to flee the country. The General Assembly had a duty to condemn the human rights violations committed by the Salvadorian leaders and to demand that they put an end to them. The Salvadorian people must be enabled to determine its own future without foreign interference.

32. The situation in Guatemala in that respect was just as disquieting. He drew attention to paragraph 83 of the report prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights (A/38/485) and noted that, as a result of the policy of repression pursued by the Guatemalan authorities, 15,000 persons had been killed or reported missing in 1983, and another 100,000 had been forced to flee to Mexico. General Riós Montt had acknowledged carrying out a policy of genocide and killing men, women and children in the struggle against the partisans. The new régime had in no way modified that policy.

33. The common feature of mass violations of human rights, whether in South Africa, the Israeli-occupied Arab territories or elsewhere in the world, was the United States of America's direct involvement in them; the CIA had taken an active part in preparations for the military putsch in Chile in 1973, and United States military "advisers" were directly involved in the genocide in El Salvador.

34. With regard to the report on human rights and mass exoduses (A/38/538), he noted that very few Governments had expressed their position on that study and that there were significant differences in their points of view. The conclusions and recommendations of the report seemed to be hasty and somewhat groundless.

35. With regard to the insinuations made about the Soviet Union by the representative of the Netherlands in the Third Committee on 2 December, he reminded the representative of the Netherlands of the provisions of section II, paragraph (1) of the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States, which referred in particular to the duty of a State to refrain from the exploitation and the distortion of human rights issues as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of States. His country respected that principle and expected other States to do the same. The representative of the Netherlands might better have focused on the situation in his own country, for example the repression against gypsies and the deliberate destruction of the huts built by the homeless, as well as interference in people's private lives through the establishment of a computerized personal data recording system and attempts, in which the Netherlands had been involved, to overthrow the legitimate Government of Suriname.

36. Mr. HERNDL (Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre for Human Rights), responding to a question raised at an earlier meeting by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic on the guidelines for documentation and the preparation of reports, said that the Secretariat followed certain practices in a flexible manner within the framework of basic guidelines set by the General

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(Mr. Herndl)

Assembly. Consequently, in principle, secretariat reports did not exceed 32 printed pages, unless there were good reasons for a longer document. Moreover, wherever possible, the replies of Governments were summarized instead of being reproduced in extenso. For its part, the Centre for Human Rights followed a policy of, whenever possible, submitting the complete text of Governments' replies to the General Assembly. It intended to continue to follow that policy, while making every effort to comply with the 32-page rule.

37. Mr. OGURDOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for his explanation and expressed the hope that those criteria would be applied in the elaboration of reports submitted to the General Assembly and to other bodies.

38. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the information which the representative of the Netherlands had used as a basis for attacking Syria on 2 December had come from unofficial and not very reliable sources. The fact that the representative of the Netherlands had spoken of alleged human rights violations by Syria and had overlooked those committed in other countries demonstrated a lack of impartiality. The criticism occurred at a time when Syria was the target of attacks by many countries, in particular the States members of NATO, of which the Netherlands was also a member. However, his country had been one of the first countries to sign the international human rights covenants and it always submitted the reports requested in that connection by the competent bodies.

39. Mr. ARCILLA (Philippines), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that on 2 December the representative of the Netherlands had expressed concern at alleged abuses of human rights in the Philippines. No country in the world could truthfully say that there were never abuses of human rights on its soil. What fundamentally mattered was whether those abuses were tolerated or sanctioned by the authorities. His Government recognized the basic rights of human beings, which were explicitly guaranteed by his country's Constitution. Whenever civilian or military authorities had been accused of violating the rights of persons they had arrested, his Government had always promptly punished those found guilty. Investigations conducted by authorities in cases of alleged disappearances had frequently revealed that the "missing person" had joined underground movements or had chosen to disappear for personal reasons.

40. Representatives of several international organizations had visited the Philippines to investigate the detainee situation. In general, the reports of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which had made a survey of detention centres all over the country, had confirmed that cases of maltreatment had been rare and isolated and that the authorities had reacted swiftly, not only in compensating victims, but also in punishing those guilty. From September 1972 to May 1982, 7,140 members of the armed forces, out of a total of approximately 180,000, had been discharged. Of the 7,140 persons, 1,145 had been found guilty of abuse of authority, and 806 of those had been found guilty of maltreatment.

41. Mr. ALVARES (Suriname), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that on 2 December the representative of the Netherlands had criticized the human rights

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(Mr. Alvares, Suriname)

situation in several countries, including Suriname. His Government had co-operated fully with the Inter-American Commission which had gone to the country to investigate the human rights situation. The Netherlands was in a poor position to set itself up as an international guarantor of human rights, since it showed that it was biased by ignoring the situation of the black majority in South Africa. That was not surprising in view of the political and economic ties between the Netherlands and that country.

42. Mr. INFANTE (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, before accusing anyone of human rights violations, every country should assess its own situation and examine its own conscience, but the USSR had not done that. The written testimonies of distinguished persons nevertheless gave some idea of the human rights situation in the Soviet Union. Sakharov had written that the Soviet Union had killed 20 million people, or twice the population of Chile. Chile had agreed to the visit of the Special Rapporteur, but the Soviet Union had always refused to allow any fact-finding commission to visit its territory. The USSR demanded that Chile should implement United Nations resolutions, while refusing to do so itself, in particular in the case of Afghanistan. That demonstrated that the rules which were valid for other countries did not apply to the Soviet Union. Chile had committed the sin of overthrowing a régime whose economic policy drew its inspiration from that of the USSR. Confronted with the failure of the country's economy, the Chilean President at that time had gone to Moscow to ask for help, and the Soviet Union had refused to give him any assistance whatsoever.

43. Mr. FELDMAN (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was rather strange to hear the Soviet Union give the rest of the world lessons on human rights, considering how those rights were respected in the Soviet Union. It was impossible not to mention the Soviet Union's attempt to discredit the Marines sent to Lebanon to establish peace as part of a multinational force. They had lost 250 men, and it was appalling to listen to the representative of the Soviet Union disparage their devotion. There was, however, a striking contrast between the role of the Marines in Lebanon and that of tens of thousands of Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan.

44. Mr. RAHIM (Bangladesh) pointed out that, at a meeting held the week before, the Committee had taken a recorded vote on paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.25, of which his country was a sponsor. His delegation had voted in favour of that paragraph, but its vote had not been recorded.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.