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held on  
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at 10.30 a.m.  
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/38/3 (Parts I, 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, L.56, L.57, L.58, L.59, L.60, L.61, L.62, L.63)

1. Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) said that her delegation supported the analysis of human rights violations contained in the statement made at the 61st meeting by the representative of Greece on behalf of the Ten Member States of the European Community and was deeply concerned over the most serious violations. The reports on the situation of human rights in Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala had, despite the different political, historical and social contexts of those countries, a common ground, namely, the whole international system for protection of the individual set up in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a common aim, which was to promote the gradual but complete restoration of the human rights that had been violated. The approach to human rights violations used by the three Special Rapporteurs should also have been applied to the consideration under item 100 of ways and means for improving the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms: the international community would thereby have expressed its concern over all human rights violations and acknowledged the need for some kind of international machinery to perform on a world-wide scale functions carried out in specific countries by the Special Rapporteurs.

2. World public opinion recognized the importance of the right to life. The Secretary-General had noted that without respect for that fundamental right, all other human rights lacked meaning. The Human Rights Committee had said that the deprivation of life by State authorities was a matter of the utmost gravity. The Special Rapporteur on summary or arbitrary executions had pointed out that known victims of summary or arbitrary executions in the last 15 years were conservatively estimated to number at least 2 million, that those executions had occurred under all social, economic and ideological systems and to people of all classes and ages and that the victims usually opposed or were perceived as opposing the centre of political or economic power. It had, nevertheless, been impossible to reach agreement on including a reference in the relevant General Assembly resolution to violations of the right to life. For Italy, which had ratified the human rights instruments and combated terrorism by legal and democratic measures, it was very difficult to accept such a limited approach. It had voted in favour of the draft resolution, but was firmly convinced that a broader approach to human rights violations was desirable. It was to be hoped that in 1984 a common understanding and commitment to action would be manifested in the Committee.

3. Mr. MI Guojun (China) said it was clear that moral condemnation and political pressure alone could not force the South African régime, which was confident of continuous backing from certain circles, to abandon its evil-doing. What should the United Nations do under such circumstances? If Member States could harmonize their views and actions, South Africa would be unable to continue its evil policies and practices. It was necessary, therefore, to continue to mobilize world public opinion in condemnation of the South African régime, thereby completely isolating

(Mr. Mi Guojun, China)

it politically and morally. The United Nations had done much along those lines and should continue its efforts unremittingly. Governments, international organizations and governmental and non-governmental organizations should comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions, cut off any political, economic, military, nuclear, strategic, cultural or sports relations with the South African régime and stop supplying it with economic and financial assistance and weapons. Certain people considered those measures harmful, but they were harmful primarily to the racist régime and secondarily to certain foreign economic interest groups and financial institutions which had been co-operating with South Africa. His delegation thought, for its part, that the measures would greatly advance the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa for freedom.

4. In view of the South African régime's refusal to implement Security Council resolutions, the Council could and should discharge its responsibilities under Chapter VII of the Charter and impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. The international community must, while adopting various measures to exert pressure on the South African régime, also strengthen its moral and material support for the peoples of southern Africa. The United Nations had an unavoidable duty to bring about the solution of human rights problems in southern Africa, but the fulfilment of that duty depended on the efforts and will of its Member States.

5. The proposals made by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Mass Exoduses as referred to in the Secretary-General's report in document A/38/583 must be studied more extensively. In the examination of those proposals, three principles should be adhered to: the root causes of the problem must be dealt with, practicality and feasibility must be kept in mind when measures were formulated, and the duplication of organs must be avoided.

6. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that progress in the consideration of the broad range of questions relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms depended largely on the will of States. Consequently, it was necessary to show great prudence and circumspection when dealing with the protection of human rights, for the issue was one which fell within the internal jurisdiction of States. Nevertheless, his delegation was fully aware of the need to condemn the inadmissible denial of the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, the heinous and savage policy of the apartheid régime of South Africa and the mass and flagrant violations of fundamental human rights taking place in some reactionary Latin American countries.

7. In the current circumstances of conflict and tensions, it was not possible to be concerned about human rights without being concerned about the problem of the maintenance of international peace and security. The lack of trust among nations, the arms race unleashed by imperialist forces, the deadly military doctrine of limited or winnable nuclear war and the recent deployment of new missiles in certain Western countries were all factors which seriously threatened the right of peoples to live in peace and security. The international community should accordingly do everything in its power to put an end to the attempt by imperialism and some of its Western allies to lead the world into an extremely dangerous adventure.

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(Mr. Kittikhoun, Lao People's  
Democratic Republic)

8. Having been established following the historic struggle against nazism and fascism, the United Nations had adopted various resolutions on measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. His delegation was encouraged by the continued consideration of that question during the current year not only because of its importance, but also because of its timeliness. According to some reports in the Western press, powerful groups in several Western European countries were still attempting, under cover of the principle of freedom of expression, to revive those concepts. Failure on the part of those countries to put an end to such manifestations was tantamount to a tacit apology for the theories and practices which only a short time earlier had plunged the world into war.

9. The Party and Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had inculcated in the people, particularly by the young revolutionaries, not only the democratic spirit but also the anti-Fascist and anti-racist spirit. It was thanks to that policy, which it had followed from the beginning, that the democratic national revolution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had been victorious in 1975. It was in that spirit that his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.59, which he hoped would contribute to dispelling the doubts of those who under various pretexts were still denying the great danger which such theories represented. In that connection, he said he was thinking particularly of one of the most powerful imperialist States, where the Ku Klux Klan and certain neo-Nazis had banded together to make common cause and even had camps for the training of paramilitaries. Only practical action on the part of those States would enable humanity to judge whether they were working on behalf of the promotion and protection of human rights.

10. The situation of human rights in El Salvador, Chile and Guatemala was still a source of international concern. It was clear that the violations of human rights in those countries stemmed from domestic political, economic and social factors. His delegation was among those that believed in the need for the United Nations to examine seriously the situation of human rights in those countries in order to find the required solutions.

11. The root causes of the problem of human rights and mass exoduses, as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/538), were diverse and complex. Accordingly, a well-balanced analysis of all aspects of the problem was essential. His delegation, however, found certain shortcomings in the report. Because of its highly controversial nature, the question should be dealt with in a spirit of mutual understanding and sincere co-operation. His delegation believed that any effective or realistic approach must be based on the various points of view of all interested States.

12. Mr. SOKALSKI (Poland) said that the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/38/3) clearly showed that in pursuing its humanitarian, social and cultural objectives in the past year, the United Nations had been operating in neutral gear. The debates in the Council had also reflected general agreement that the world had been going through a period of unusually severe difficulties in the most

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(Mr. Sokalski, Poland)

prolonged and deepest economic recession since the end of the Second World War, affecting most countries of the world and all areas of human endeavour, with the possible exception of the arms race. The latter had become even more menacing, while absorbing huge flows of resources that would otherwise be devoted to economic and social development. Today as never before, there was need for emphasis on the three elements that were crucial for progress, namely, détente, disarmament and development, to which should be added co-existence, co-operation and competition. It was on those six elements that the future political and economic development of the globe hinged.

13. Having listened to the discussion on the item under consideration, his delegation could not escape the impression that there was too much selectivity in treating the individual subjects covered by the report. The Economic and Social Council had several Functional Commissions and other bodies which dealt with matters closely related to the Third Committee's mandate. Concentration of their discussions exclusively on one subject, even one as important as that of human rights, was bound to call into question the sincerity and political credibility of some delegations. His delegation, for one, was equally concerned with important issues raised in the report of the Commission for Social Development, such as the adverse effect of the arms race on social progress and development. Poland fully shared the international community's concern for human rights, but felt there was a certain amount of over-simplification in the discussions on the important question of preventing human rights violations. Some speakers concentrated solely on the question of on-the-spot inspections, which confused the issue on at least two counts. Firstly, the co-operation of governments with each other in the field of human rights, unless based on binding multilateral agreements, could be easily exploited for ends alien to human rights concerns. Such agreements would therefore have to remain the cornerstone of co-operation among States as well as of their co-operation with the United Nations. Secondly, the concept of special on-the-spot human rights inspections had been used to help whitewash some of the most tyrannical régimes, which by merely agreeing to receive United Nations special representatives or special rapporteurs had been gaining praise in some quarters for allegedly easing human rights repression when it was common knowledge that the people they ruled were still being ruthlessly persecuted.

14. The report of the Economic and Social Council delineated a crescent of poverty, human suffering, wrongdoing, discrimination, brutality and domestic and foreign oppression only too often perpetrated in the name of false freedom and sham democracy for the benefit of interests totally alien to those of the peoples concerned. Current developments had even gone beyond those set forth in the report. The crescent now began with the small Caribbean island State of Grenada unscrupulously invaded by a Power at least several thousand times stronger, which hailed its Pyrrhic victory as a major triumph in saving the world for democracy. The crescent of evil continued with the human rights violations which were being perpetrated in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile. It passed through Namibia and South Africa, where the most oppressive, collective form of slavery, apartheid, persisted thanks to powerful defenders whom the General Assembly denounced every year for their support of the racist régime in Pretoria. That crescent also extended to the untold sufferings of the Arab people of Palestine under Israeli oppression.

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(Mr. Sokalski, Poland)

15. Ten years had passed since a democratically elected government had been seditiously overthrown in Chile by the most reactionary domestic forces in collusion with the Central Intelligence Agency. Those forces in Chile were continuing to thrive. In El Salvador, dozens of people were dying every day in a surge of murders by death squads, composed of active and former army and security officers, many of whom were trained in the United States and now served the interests of the forces of genocide. In the past few years, the Economic and Social Council had had on its agenda the extremely important subject of measures to be taken against Nazi, Fascist, and neo-Fascist activities and all other forms of totalitarian ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. That subject became even more topical with the passage of time and it was directly relevant to the human rights situations he had just mentioned.

16. The roots of modern totalitarianism went back to the early period of imperialism and to the discovery of its moving principle by Cecil Rhodes, namely, "expansion is everything", an idea which had been further expounded by the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes. Subsequently the objective of totalitarianism had been formulated by a notorious writer in his infamous book entitled Mein Kampf. Totalitarian theory and practice cultivated hatred, because totalitarianism must always have its devil enemy. A totalitarian approach would reduce every element of liberal, socialist-oriented or socialist ideas to a single worldwide, imaginary Communist threat. Thus, a totalitarian mind would tout tyrants and dictators as paragons of virtue, whether they were described as "moderately repressive" or as "standing on the right side of history". It was characteristic of a totalitarian mind to claim that there were chosen or better races or nations on earth. By the same token, totalitarianism was reflected in high-level statements claiming the right to invade a country militarily "to help in the restoration of democratic institutions" or "the right of a country when it believes that its interests are best served to practice covert activity." It was also a totalitarian rationale when a former Minister for Foreign Affairs, recently elevated to the Office of Prime Minister, said with reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization, "When we get rid of this monster, a new era will dawn in this region". It was also a totalitarian approach when a Member of Parliament of a European country which, contrary to the will of the overwhelming majority of its population, had just accepted deadly missiles on its soil, stated that "The Government must not chicken out even if one or two demonstrators should get themselves killed". Those were the evils and the kind of mentality that the United Nations had the duty to expose.

17. His delegation had duly noted that although Poland's internal affairs had never been on the agenda of the Committee, a few delegations had chosen to raise them. He had, however, noticed in their brief references to his country a tendency towards reason and moderation and a willingness to recognize the processes of positive change taking place in all areas of Poland's national life. He was referring particularly to the statement by the delegation of Greece on behalf of the State members of the European Community. He wished to assure those delegations, in the same spirit of friendship for their peoples that they had displayed for his, that his Government would be unswerving in its determination to strengthen further the guarantees of socialist democracy and pursue measures leading to complete national reconciliation, earnest dialogue and reform, in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Poland.

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18. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation in Chile (A/38/385) proved that human rights were still being systematically violated in that country. Ten years after the coup d'état, a broad popular movement had come into being and was fighting for a return to democracy and freedom, but the régime was responding with tactical manoeuvres and brutal terror. The conclusions and recommendations in the report constituted an appropriate basis for the General Assembly's support of the struggle of the Chilean people for the restoration of their legitimate rights. Solidarity with the Chilean people's struggle for freedom, democracy and justice was more urgent than ever before, and activities undertaken by the United Nations in that context must be accorded special priority.

19. The United Nations was also called upon to deal with human rights violations in both El Salvador and Guatemala, as reported in documents A/38/503 and A/38/485. During the first six months of 1983, 3,200 civilians had been killed in El Salvador by members of the so-called death squads, which were mostly composed of members recruited from the military services, and there was an increasing number of arbitrary arrests. Similar facts, while not reflecting the full seriousness of the situation, were set forth in the report on Guatemala.

20. His country fully supported the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the termination of human rights violations in South Korea and on the peaceful democratic unification of the country without foreign interference.

21. The peoples interested in mutually beneficial international co-operation and implementation of human rights were deeply concerned about the revival of Fascist movements and the pursuance of Fascist policies of violence, and they resolutely demanded a halt to such inhumane activities. That demand was reflected in resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights as well as in statements made by representatives of States. The course of confrontation and the arms race pursued by the most aggressive imperialist circles led to cuts in social welfare, unemployment and inflation and promoted chauvinism, hatred against peoples of other races, terror and violence. Nazis and other war criminals were still enjoying the protection and goodwill of governmental authorities in various countries. The fortieth anniversary in 1985 of the victory over nazism and fascism should serve to mobilize the efforts of the world community to eliminate such evils. It was imperative that all provisions laid down in international law regarding the prosecution and punishment of Nazi and war criminals should be strictly implemented by all States. Guided by the aims and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the peoples strongly objected to the criminal activities of the racist and Fascist clique of Pretoria and condemned the expulsion of the Arab people of Palestine from their homeland. The struggle against Fascist tendencies required that steps should be taken to establish and develop national and international instruments against Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and to put a stop to the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred and the glorification of war by the mass media. His country would continue to be committed to the struggle against fascism in all its manifestations and to co-operation with all peace-loving peoples in order to build a future free from that scourge of humankind.



22. Mr. POLICHTCHOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that international co-operation should be based on the sovereign equality of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs, and should concentrate first of all on counteracting mass and flagrant violations of human rights which arose from the imperialist policies of aggression, racism, colonialism and suppression of national liberation movements and which created a threat to international peace and security. Human rights violations in South Africa, Israel, Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala were a direct challenge to the international community. The South African racist minority régime denied the non-white population of that country, and of Namibia which it had illegally occupied, their basic rights, using brute force and the methods of terror and repression to impose its will. Israel was doing the same thing to the Arab population of Palestine and the populations of the occupied territories of other Arab countries. Both régimes resorted to physical violence against those who opposed them.

23. The despotic Chilean junta continued to terrorize the long-suffering people of Chile with the support of the ruling circles in imperialist States, headed by the United States. Although those countries had given Chile approximately \$12 billion during Pinochet's rule, the country's economy had not improved but had deteriorated. Industrial output had dropped to the 1966 levels, 35 per cent of the able-bodied population was unemployed, bankruptcies of small- and medium-sized enterprises had increased and the country's agriculture was in ruins. In those circumstances it was natural to wonder where the colossal amounts of financial assistance the country had received had gone; the facts demonstrated that they were being used exclusively to shore up the régime's repressive apparatus.

24. Chileans lived in an atmosphere of terror. Round-ups by policemen using dogs and the torture of detainees had become commonplace. Disappearances, the refinement of torture and Pinochet's special means of reprisal, internal exile to desolate areas of the country, were all part of the arsenal of the Chilean secret police. Political arrests had tripled from 1981 to 1982: over 10,000 people had been imprisoned. The situation had deteriorated still further in 1983: in less than eight months, some 15,000 people had been arrested. Forty-five trade-union activists had been sent to desolate areas where they were subjected to savage torture.

25. Faced with a powerful international movement in defence of the rights of Chileans and mass demonstrations by Chilean workers, the authorities had been forced into manoeuvring to attempt to split the opposition: that was how the "revocation" of the extraordinary measures and the promises of democratization should be understood. It was the duty of all freedom-loving forces to expose those false manoeuvres for what they were and to intensify the international campaign of solidarity with the Chilean people. His delegation roundly condemned the crimes of the Chilean junta, supported resolution 1983/30 of the Commission on Human Rights and endorsed the renewal of the Special Rapporteur's mandate.

26. The continuing mass and flagrant human rights violations in El Salvador and Guatemala were also a matter of deep concern. In El Salvador, defenceless people were killed in broad daylight in their own homes, on the streets and in the squares of cities and towns. Any Salvadorian who was even suspected of being a potential threat to the régime was exterminated: some 40,000 people had become the régime's



(Mr. Polichtchouk, Ukrainian SSR)

victims in the past three years. The genocide in El Salvador had thoroughly discredited the Salvadorian régime as well as its protectors who were given to pontificating about human rights. His delegation believed that peace, security and domestic stability in Central America could be strengthened only on the basis of respect for the right of all peoples to choose their own way of life. Attempts to subject those countries to the arbitrary will of the great Powers and to set up or perpetuate despotic anti-popular régimes were doomed to failure.

27. The Ukrainian SSR had always been and continued to be an advocate of effective measures against the rise of fascism, nazism, Fascist and neo-Fascist ideologies and practices based on racial intolerance, hatred and terror. It was cause for concern that neo-Fascist groups and organizations not only operated openly and actively in a number of countries but even attempted to co-ordinate their activities on an international scale. At a rally held in Washington D.C. in May 1978, representatives of such groups had attempted to devise a strategy to combat communism and progressive, democratic forces. Fifty years earlier, fascism had also chosen progressive forces as its enemy and, coming to power in Germany under the banner of anti-communism, had plunged mankind into a war which had cost the lives of millions: in the Ukraine alone, nearly 6 million had died. That was why his delegation could not rest while those dark forces were gathering in several countries; others, however, were prepared to close their eyes to and even encourage that phenomenon. It was especially disturbing that many young people were members of such organizations: that appeared to substantiate the fears that had been expressed concerning the detrimental effect of NATO's policy and the arms race on the minds of young people, who became convinced that military force offered the only way of solving any problem.

28. His delegation believed that harmonization of the actions of States and intensification of international co-operation were required in the struggle against outbreaks of fascism and Fascist ideology, and had made proposals, contained in documents A/38/166/Add.2 and E/1983/34/Add.2, on that subject. General Assembly resolutions 35/200, 36/162 and 37/179, and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, made a constructive contribution to the struggle. The General Assembly must urge States to take further effective steps to combat the threats of nazism and fascism and request the Commission on Human Rights to continue to consider the problem. Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.59, of which his delegation was a sponsor, was designed to achieve those goals and it was to be hoped that all those who cherished peace would support it.

29. The United Nations, which would celebrate its fortieth anniversary in 1985, had been born of the struggle to eradicate nazism and to preserve succeeding generations from the scourge of war. His delegation fully supported the holding of the International Year of Peace and hoped that it would help to focus United Nations efforts on the strengthening of peace and the attainment of the ideals set out in the Charter.

30. Miss QOANE (Lesotho), speaking on behalf of her own country and Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia, said that the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/38/429 was a very lucid and detailed account of the current situation of

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(Miss Qoane, Lesotho)

student refugees in southern Africa in the context of the efforts being made by the host countries, with the assistance of the international community, governmental and non-governmental organizations and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to alleviate the suffering of southern African refugees of school age. As indicated in the report, the influx of student refugees from racist South Africa and occupied Namibia into neighbouring countries was on the increase. That was understandable, given South Africa's continuous illegal occupation of Namibia and its constant reinforcement of apartheid policies, with its consequent oppression, and denial of equal opportunities, including education, to the black indigenous population. Since its independence, Zimbabwe had also become a haven for refugees from Namibia and South Africa, some of whom were students. Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia were continuing to provide asylum to victims of the system of apartheid. Botswana continued to receive student refugees, some of whom had left the country for further education and resettlement in third countries. A large number of the remaining students had been enrolled in appropriate educational institutions where they enjoyed the same access to all facilities as the nationals of the host country.

31. The influx of refugees into Swaziland was almost exclusively from South Africa. There was a primary school providing formal education of the same quality as that provided for nationals, and at secondary school and university levels the students attended the same educational and training institutions as nationals.

32. Because of its location, Zambia, like Botswana, continued to host and extend facilities to a large number of refugees, including students, from South Africa and Namibia. At the beginning of July 1983, their number had been estimated at 3,500. Her own country continued to receive an increasing number of fleeing victims of apartheid. Because of her Government's policy of integrating refugees into the population, and because of the close ethnic and kinship ties between some refugees and the local population, most of the refugees, upon arrival in Lesotho, proceeded to villages where they were immediately absorbed into families. Many of them were not political refugees in the usual sense, because they had fled from an inferior educational system in South Africa which prepared them only to be good servants of the apartheid system. Most of them, therefore, did not register with and receive assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. From time to time some of those students left Lesotho for resettlement and further education in third countries.

33. In his report, the Secretary-General had also outlined the status of various student refugee-related projects in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia. Most of those projects had either been completed or were nearing completion, with the assistance of the international community, to whom her delegation expressed its gratitude. Some of the uncompleted projects would be submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II). Her delegation was hopeful that Lesotho's submission to ICARA II would receive sympathetic consideration, because assistance and training of refugee students was the surest way of contributing to the elimination of apartheid in South Africa.

34. It was gratifying that ICARA II would, inter alia, address itself to the development needs of the asylum countries. Some of those countries were classified

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(Miss Qoane, Lesotho)

as least developed among the developing countries, and they had had to overstretch their already limited resources to provide basic facilities to the refugees at the expense of the basic infrastructural development of their economies. Addressing the development needs of those countries would therefore go a long way towards strengthening their capacity to deal with the growing needs of refugees, while at the same time assuring that they did not do so to the detriment of the development needs of their own people.

35. The list of contributions by the international community to student refugees in the four countries in question included in the annexes to document A/38/429 showed that some of the contributors were developing countries which, although still struggling with their own development problems, had felt obliged to share some of the burden, and her delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to them all. At the same time it appealed for increased assistance in view of the growing needs of the refugee students as well as the countries hosting them. The need for immediate settlement of the refugees was imperative in order to restore their feeling of security. Counselling was also necessary to re-establish clear directions for the future and assist students in their decisions to follow appropriate education programmes. At times, the rate at which the refugees entered the asylum countries was so high that the countries could not manage to accommodate them as they came, and assistance was needed to enable them to solve that problem. All of the independent countries of southern Africa, including the four on behalf of whom she was speaking, were steadfast in their resolve to extend a helping hand to the refugees of apartheid. On behalf of her delegation, she commended all those countries in Africa and elsewhere which continued to share the responsibility of southern African refugees with South Africa's immediate neighbours.

36. Mrs. BELLORINI de PARRALES (Nicaragua), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her delegation wished to comment on what the representative of the Netherlands had said about her country in his statement at the 61st meeting. He had neglected to speak of the bands of ex-Somozist guards camped along the border between Honduras and Nicaragua, who had terrorized the Miskito inhabitants of the Rio Coco communities. The resettlement of the Miskitos had been a military measure directly related to her Government's obligation to defend the lives of those inhabitants. In the new settlement, the revolutionary Government had constructed 1,566 houses as well as churches, schools, health centres and highways. Although her delegation would not deny that mistakes might have been made, a decision had been taken, for the first time in the history of Nicaragua, that the indigenous peoples, unlike those in other Central American countries, were part of its revolution, its achievements and its problems, and that they should participate fully in the construction of the new society. Precisely for that reason, a comprehensive development plan had been established to provide them with education in their own language, develop mass health campaigns, augment their air and sea communications and install automatic telephones, radio and television.

37. Moreover, her Government had decided on 1 December to declare an amnesty for Miskito Nicaraguan citizens who had committed crimes against public order and security or other related crimes, in recognition that imperialism and counter-revolution had waged an alarmist campaign to prevent the Government, along with genuine indigenous representatives, from making progress towards solving the

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(Mrs. Bellorini de Parrales, Nicaragua)

difficult and complex problems inherited from the past. Her delegation hoped that the representative of the Netherlands would be better informed the next time he spoke about Nicaragua.

38. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was the Committee's duty to speak for the victims of human rights violations wherever they occurred. He welcomed the attention to his earlier statement being given by some delegations, including that of Nicaragua. Other delegations, however, had avoided addressing the substance of the issue and had criticized the Netherlands for its record on human rights, implying that it was not qualified to raise objections. His delegation rejected that attitude, and it welcomed positive criticism. His Government had always advocated the adoption of, and widest adherence to, a variety of optional complaint procedures. It was a party to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, had made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant, and had accepted the competence of the Committee to receive communications from individuals in the Netherlands under article 1 of the Optional Protocol. None of the States which had criticized his Government had accepted such far-reaching obligations, and some refused to allow their citizens any form of international recourse.

39. His delegation was disappointed by the comment made by one delegation that he had not addressed the human rights issue in southern Africa. His Government's horror at the institutionalized violation of human rights in South Africa was well known. Even as the representative of Suriname had been speaking at a previous Committee meeting, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands had been making a statement in the plenary Assembly dealing with apartheid.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.