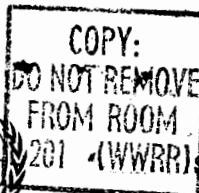


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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
39th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 29 November 1983  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 39th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

later: Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia)

later: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 72: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/38/L.10/Rev.1 and L.5/Rev.1)

1. Mr. STARČEVIĆ (Yugoslavia), Vice-Chairman of the Special Political Committee and Chairman of the open-ended Working Group on Information introduced the draft resolution prepared on the basis of the Working Group's discussions (A/SPC/38/L.10/Rev.1). He said that the draft resolution which was the result of a consensus in the Working Group, dealt with co-operation between the United Nations and UNESCO. He urged the Committee to adopt it unanimously.

2. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico), Chairman of the Group of 77, introduced draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.5/Rev.1 on behalf of the Group. He pointed out a mistake in the English text: in the fourth line of the fourth preambular paragraph the words "the new world information and communication order" should read "a new world information and communication order". A comparison of the revised draft with the text in document A/SPC/38/L.5 clearly showed the spirit of conciliation and flexibility of the Group of 77. Paragraph 1 was of fundamental importance because it urged the full implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 94 (a) of the report of the Committee on Information (A/38/21). Paragraph 3 likewise was particularly important to the Group of 77. He hoped that the draft resolution would find wide support and would be adopted, if not by consensus, then at least virtually unanimously.

3. Mr. BONDIOLI-OSIO (Italy) asked that the attention of the Secretariat be drawn to the fact that there were discrepancies between the English and French texts of document A/SPC/38/L.5/Rev.1 in the preambular paragraph relating to resolution 37/92.

AGENDA ITEM 70: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (continued) (A/SPC/38/L.28, L.29, L.30 and L.31).

4. Mr. LEHNE (Austria), Chairman of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, introduced draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28. Referring to the work of the Working Group, he explained that on the basis of a preliminary draft prepared by Austria the Group had undertaken to prepare a draft resolution to be submitted under agenda item 70. It had achieved agreement on most of the elements of such a text but on some controversial issues no consensus had been possible. Among those issues was the way in which matters relating to the definition and/or delimitation of outer space, and outer space activities, and the geostationary orbit were to be handled in the Legal Sub-Committee, and whether a working group should be set up to deal with that subject. There were also considerable problems regarding the action to be taken to prevent an arms race in outer space, and the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the context of such action. With regard to the financing of the three studies recommended by UNISPACE-82, some delegations had reservations regarding the proposal that the costs of the experts should be borne by the United

(Mr. Lehne, Austria)

Nations. During the negotiations in the Working Group all parties had shown flexibility and at one point an package deal covering the major problems had seemed within reach. However, a set-back had occurred and the Working Group had been unable to reach a consensus on a draft resolution to be submitted to the Special Political Committee. That was the reason why he was submitting draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28 in the name of the Austrian delegation and not of the Working Group.

5. He wished to provide some clarification concerning the wording used in connection with those issues on which no agreement had been reached in the Working Group. Paragraph 5 referred to the work of the Legal Sub-Committee on questions concerning the definition and/or delimitation of outer space and the geostationary orbit. It instructed the Sub-Committee to continue its consideration of the issue and to establish a working group for the purpose, as a great number of delegations had advocated. With regard to the military uses of outer space, there had been general agreement in the Working Group regarding the expression of concern in the fourth preambular paragraph. The formulation in paragraph 14 was a variation of the relevant provision in the report of UNISPACE-82. Austria would have preferred more concrete language, but it had been decided to include the more general formulation of the UNISPACE-82 report because draft resolution A/C.1/38/L.36, adopted by the First Committee on 25 November, contained an urgent call for negotiations on agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space. If a similar formulation were to be incorporated in the text under consideration there would be an unnecessary risk that the draft resolution would not be adopted by consensus. Paragraph 15 requested the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in its discussion relating to the question of preventing an arms race in outer space, to take into consideration that in General Assembly resolution 37/83, of 9 December 1982, the Committee on Disarmament was requested to consider the question as a matter of priority. Paragraph 15 also contained a decision to the effect that the views expressed on the subject should be reflected more adequately in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The draft resolution constituted a considerable advance over General Assembly resolution 37/89, of 10 December 1982, in which the subject was not even mentioned. In paragraph 18 his delegation had included the proposal that the United Nations should bear the expenses of the experts to be appointed by the Secretary-General to carry out the three studies, because the argument that that would greatly facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries, which should be the main beneficiaries, could not be discounted.

6. His delegation had not given up hope that during the current year it would again be possible to adopt by consensus the resolution concerning the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and that the present draft would be acceptable to all delegations. At a time when the potential for space research and technology was growing rapidly the qualities of mutual understanding, co-operation and willingness to compromise, which had characterized the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, were more necessary than ever. In that spirit, he urged the Special Political Committee to adopt draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28.

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7. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Mexico) said that the discussions on the agenda item under consideration had highlighted once again the extreme importance which the international community attached to the use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes. Two recent events seemed to augur well in that respect: the return to earth on 23 November of the two Soviet cosmonauts on board SOYUZ T-9 after a 150-day mission of experiments and tests in the SALYUT-7 space laboratory; and the launch on another mission of the spaceship COLUMBIA with a crew of six astronauts, including a research scientist from the Federal Republic of Germany, which was an important measure of co-operation between the United States and the European Space Organization. However, the international community continued to be concerned by the growing militarization of outer space and in that connection he referred to the observations made on 2 November by the Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

8. On behalf of the Mexican delegation, he introduced an amendment (A/SPC/38/L.29) to draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28. The text of the amendment had been enhanced by the suggestions offered in the Working Group and its main purpose was to provide the General Assembly with an opportunity to pronounce unequivocally on the dangers which the militarization of outer space involved. On behalf of the Group of 77, he also introduced amendments to the same draft resolution which were set forth in document A/SPC/38/L.30: the amendments reflected concerns expressed in considerable detail by the Group of 77 which deeply regretted the fact that it had not been possible to produce at a consensus text, as had been possible in previous years, but felt sure that, if the delegations which had consistently thwarted the legitimate hopes of the Group were to show flexibility, there might still be time to reach a consensus.

9. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a correction in the Spanish text of document A/SPC/38/L.30: the word "reglamentación" in the penultimate line of paragraph 1 (c) should be changed to "regulación".

10. Mr. SCHOENHERR (German Democratic Republic) introduced amendments to draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28 which were set forth in document A/SPC/38/L.31. In his opinion the new paragraph 16 was essentially of a technical and organizational nature. In view of the prolonged debates in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concerning the prevention of an arms race in outer space, delegations must be given a further opportunity to express their opinions on the subject referred to in paragraph 15 of draft resolution A/SPC/38/L.28. His delegation's intention was to support the aforesaid Committee in its work and to provide a framework for establishing the ad hoc working group of the whole. In the new paragraph it was proposed to hold a two-week session, but his delegation was prepared to consider a session lasting only one week. The amendment was fully consistent with the amendments in documents A/SPC/38/L.29 and L.30.

11. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take a decision on the draft resolutions concerning agenda items 70 and 72 on Thursday, 1 December, which would give time for efforts to reconcile opinions and to maintain a consensus on the matter.

12. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 69: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/409; A/38/262, 481, 482, 483 and 484)

13. Mr. ALZAADI (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation was indignant at Israel's negative attitude to the work of the Special Committee. Israel had implemented its policy of annexing the Arab territories in order to create a Greater Israel and was seeking to expel the Arab population by terrorist acts of all kinds, including torture and the expropriation of Arab lands, in order to establish settlements. Another method used to evict the Arab population was the levelling and demolition of housing and the displacement of the population, which constituted a violation of international instruments. The repeated attacks on Jerusalem were directed against the religious character of the Holy City. Moreover, in the matter of education, schools and universities were being closed and the treatment of the university teaching staff was no better than that meted out to the student body. Students supporting the PLO were arrested or expelled, as were the foreign professors.

14. With regard to information, Israel had rigorously censored Arabic newspapers in Arab territory, imprisoned reporters and prohibited the entry of Arabic newspapers published outside the occupied territories. As part of the measures applied to rid itself of the Palestinians and erase their national identity, Israel had started with the Deir Yasin massacre in 1948 and had ended with Sabra and Shatila, which constituted an open violation of the fourth Geneva Convention and of the norms of international law concerning respect for the human rights of the population of occupied territories.

15. The General Assembly had adopted numerous resolutions condemning Israeli practices, but they remained a dead letter and had never been implemented. The United Arab Emirates therefore appealed for a halt to the Israeli practices in the occupied territories and for the implementation of those resolutions.

16. Mr. DASHDAVA (Mongolia) said that he was deeply distressed by the tension in the Middle East, the main reason for which was failure to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people. Israel refused to implement the United Nations resolutions on the rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State and was engaged in annexation by stages, establishing new settlements and taking juridical action to justify those measures. It was apparent from the report (A/38/409) that high-handedness had continued to hold sway in the occupied Arab territories since 1967. The criminal acts of the Israeli occupying authorities violated the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The ruling circles in Israel continued to use violence in their relations with the Palestinians in order to expel them from their homeland and eliminate them as an ethnic entity. The military organs of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories were violating the rights of Arabs in all walks of life, which was further confirmation of the criminal nature of the policy and actions of the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories. Israel's aggression against Lebanon and its occupation of southern Lebanon had victimized innocent civilians and tens of thousands of people had been rendered homeless; that was the price paid by the Arab people, and the Palestinian people in particular,

(Mr. Dashdava, Mongolia)

for the expansionist policy of Israel and of the imperialist international circles headed by the United States militarists. All that went to show that the Palestinians were not only deprived of an independent homeland but were also the victims of aggression, deportation and mass destruction, even in places where they had been given temporary refuge. The criminal acts of the Zionists, which contravened the provisions of the Charter, the norms of international law and the decisions of the United Nations, were a destabilizing factor in the Middle East and a threat to the peace and security of peoples.

17. The efforts of the international community, both inside and outside the United Nations, to find a just solution to the Palestine problem were impeded by the policy and actions of the Israeli extremists and their supporters, especially the United States, which not only encouraged the actions of the Tel Aviv governing circles but also provided economic, military and political assistance, enabling Israel to persist in its practices. It should be remembered that in 1982 the United States delegation had obstructed the efforts of the international community to adopt measures for ending the Beirut tragedy, all of which demonstrated that the United States was directly responsible for the aggression in Lebanon and the attacks against the PLO that had wreaked such havoc in terms of human lives and material damage.

18. A just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem must be found urgently, and the international community must assume special responsibility in that regard. The seventh emergency special session of the General Assembly, held in 1982, and the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, held in Geneva in 1983, had shown that the international community supported the rights of the Arab people of Palestine and called for the participation of PLO in the settlement of the Middle East problem. The Geneva Declaration on Palestine and the Programme of Action reflected the international community's desire to find a solution to that problem, which could only be achieved through a collective effort. His delegation viewed as important the proposal for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East in which all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including PLO, the United States, the Soviet Union and other interested States, would participate on an equal footing. Moreover, his delegation was convinced that such a conference would help to achieve a just solution directed towards establishing peace in the region, towards restoring the rights of the Palestinians and towards creating an independent Palestinian State.

19. Mr. IBRAHIM (Iraq) praised the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and supported the appeal issued by its Chairman to those countries that showed no compassion for the suffering of the Palestinians. Their suffering resulted from Israel's persistent efforts to eliminate them as a nation, to displace them or to keep them for ever subjugated in their own territory.

20. The Zionist policies were also being used very effectively against the Palestinian refugees in the camps located in Lebanon. The brutal genocide committed at Sabra and Shatila were one more example of the series of Zionist crimes that had begun in 1948. The Zionist concept of the Palestinians, whom they

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(Mr. Ibrahim, Iraq)

were trying to subjugate, made it all the more difficult for the Jews and the Arabs to coexist. The Zionist State was obviously trying to reduce the percentage of Arabs and to create a predominantly Jewish State, as was proved by the fact that Zionist officials refused even to use the word "Palestinian". As early as 1969, Golda Meir had said that there had not existed any so-called Palestinian people and that the Palestinians had actually been Arabs who had been living on Israeli land. In 1953, Ben Gurion had written that the Jewish State had been established on only part of what had been Israel and that its territory had not corresponded to the historical boundaries. Begin, for his part, had stated that the current generation had had the obligation to re-establish the Jewish homeland. Moshe Menuhin, in his book The Decadence of Judaism in Our Time proposed the annexation of Jordan. During an interview for British television held on 8 July 1967, Moshe Dayan had stated that Gaza had been an indivisible part of Israel. On 18 March 1968, Golda Meir had asserted that there had been no question but that the annexation had been morally acceptable, despite the fact that there had been one million Arabs on those lands. Previously, Ben Gurion had already referred to the right to retain Jerusalem in the face of all opposition, since it had been the spiritual capital of Israel for 3,000 years. For Moshe Dayan (23 January 1969), the lands acquired as a result of the war would not be exchanged even for genuine peace: Israel would never return to the boundaries of 5 June 1967. Golda Meir had advocated a State with a large Jewish majority, which would not even use Arab labour, and had asserted that that situation would not constitute a humanitarian problem. Golda Meir had stated in the newspaper Ha'aretz that the settlements had been built in places which had not been previously inhabited by Arabs, that it had been necessary to bring in one million Jews and to prevent the incorporation of the Arabs in the State of Israel because, otherwise, they would have constituted a fifth column.

21. Thus, the policy of annexing territories, the expropriation of Arab lands and the increase in the number of Jewish settlements were all part of a long-standing policy. The lack of freedom of movement and of expression and the increase in the number of settlements, carried out with impunity, would inevitably bring about greater bloodshed in future. The Arab inhabitants were being subjected to discrimination and cultural repression, and the Israeli authorities were imposing curfews which prevented people from leaving their homes from dusk to dawn.

22. There was a carefully planned policy to get rid of intellectuals and, when they were not imprisoned, they were expelled under the pretext that they had violated security laws. People were even forced to leave their homes, particularly if they lived in strategic areas, and the homes were then demolished, allegedly because they were unsafe. Even foreign newspaper correspondents were surprised at the treatment the Israeli authorities meted out to the Arab civilians. Apparently, Israel did not recognize the Geneva Conventions, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. The Government could therefore pursue with impunity its acts of oppression and political terrorism, denying individuals their personal freedom, obliging them to flee or subjecting them to torture. World public opinion was rapidly arriving at the conclusion that Israel was the worst occupying Power in history. Israeli



(Mr. Ibrahim, Iraq)

policy was directed towards eliminating the Arab culture and population. Curfews were frequently imposed on schools and universities in order to prevent student activities opposing the occupation, for example the recent protest held on the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, which had enabled the Zionist movement to take root in Palestinian territory at the expense of the Palestinian people.

23. The years 1948, 1967 and 1983 represented milestones in Israel's expansionist policy, which was being carried out at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine. The Israeli daily Ha'aretz of 12 December 1982 had stated that the establishment of 54 new settlements in the West Bank had been planned for the period 1983-1987. There were other similar projects for the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. It would seem that Israel was the only State Member of the United Nations that was totally exempt from complying with the obligations assumed under the Charter. The true party responsible for that situation, which allowed acts of aggression to be committed constantly against the Arab peoples and which constituted the main cause of the weakening of the United Nations, was the United States, which was preventing the implementation of measures that could limit the Israeli expansion. It was essential to enable the Palestinian people to establish their own independent State under the leadership of their legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

24. Mr. Starčević (Yugoslavia) took the Chair.

25. Mr. JESENSKY (Czechoslovakia) said that the General Assembly and the Security Council had considered the question of Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and determined that they constituted a flagrant violation of the universally recognized standards of international law, the United Nations Charter and resolutions and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

26. The process of judaization was continuing and even increasing in the occupied territories: thousands of Palestinian homes had been destroyed by explosions, 24,000 hectares of Palestinian lands had been confiscated and 90,000 Palestinians had been driven out of their lands while 100,000 Israeli settlers had occupied 103 settlements in the region. However, the most serious danger was the Israeli plan to transfer 120,000 more Israeli settlers to the West Bank.

27. The report of the Special Committee confirmed all that information and contained convincing proof that Israel was attempting in a deliberate, systematic and implacable way to change the character of the occupied territories and to give the Palestinians the choice of being expelled or of becoming second-class citizens in the State of Israel. Not only settlements but also new cities were being built, which would lead to a change in the demographic structure of the occupied territories. The Government of Israel had also been preparing what it referred to as a plan for the dispersal of approximately 80,000 Palestinians living in camps on the West Bank, thus obliging them to move to lands which were relatively unsuited for settlement, as a result of which most of them preferred to abandon the region.



(Mr. Jesensky, Czechoslovakia)

28. It had been observed at the meetings held by the Security Council in February 1983 and at the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, held at Geneva, that owing to the invasion of Lebanon by Israeli forces the economy of the country had been destroyed, many cultural monuments had been lost, six cities had been reduced to rubble, 30 villages had been completely demolished and 14 Palestine refugee camps had been razed to the ground. However, at the Security Council meetings held between mid-July and late August 1983, the United States had opposed the draft resolution condemning Israel and characterizing as illegal the establishment of Israeli settlements in Arab territories, which confirmed the source of the support that Israel was receiving, which enabled it to continue its occupation of those territories. The United States had been the only country to veto the draft resolution and, in doing so, had expressed its support for Israel's policy of annexation. All those considerations demonstrated once again that the problem of the Middle East could be solved not through isolated agreements or plans or on instructions from the United States, but only through a comprehensive and integrated solution.

29. His country supported the plan for a settlement of the Middle East conflict proposed by the Soviet Union and endorsed the Political Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Political Consultative Committee of the States Parties to the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance. Such initiatives did not conflict with the plan for a settlement of the Middle East problem adopted at the Arab Summit Conference held at Fez and at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine held at Geneva. His delegation also underscored the need to convene, under United Nations auspices, an international conference on the Middle East with a view to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Israeli conflict. The establishment of an independent Palestinian State was an indispensable factor in that agreement. Moreover, his delegation was convinced that in order to bring an end to tension in the Middle East it was necessary for Israel immediately and unconditionally to withdraw its forces from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, as well as from Lebanon.

30. The major prerequisite of a lasting, just and peaceful settlement in the Middle East was the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable right to self-determination and the establishment of its own independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole and legitimate representative. His country considered that, if concerted efforts were made by all States and peoples concerned and if the existing United Nations machinery were utilized, it would be possible to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East without military pressure or foreign interference.

31. Mr. BAALI (Algeria) said that the particularly critical living conditions of the population of the occupied Arab territories constituted a veritable appeal to the world's collective conscience. Such conditions required appropriate action to bring an end to the relentless process designed to eliminate the Palestinian people and its resistance. His delegation therefore paid tribute to the Special Committee, which had done courageous and commendable work in discharging its mandate, in spite of the numerous obstacles confronting it.

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(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

32. Violations of human rights were part of the daily lives of the Arab population of the occupied territories. The Israeli leaders, encouraged by the inactivity of the United Nations and, in particular, of the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as by the silence of the international community, had decided that the time had come to wipe out the Palestinian people and bring an end to the question of Palestine. However, neither threats nor institutionalized terror could check the determination of the Palestinian people, which was convinced that its struggle was a just one and that its cause would triumph in the end.

33. The testimonies received by the Special Committee demonstrated once again the total lack of scruples of the Israeli leaders and their disdain for the standards of international law, especially those contained in the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The statements by General Eytan, Israel's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Moshe Arens seemed to indicate that Israeli annexation of the occupied Arab territories was inevitable and part of an insane plan based on unacceptable considerations, which the Zionist leaders were nevertheless prepared to apply.

34. Faced with such a war machine, the population, which had been subjected to humiliation for 16 years, had no recourse but to express its suffering by throwing rocks at the hated occupiers, and the police had punished them by detentions, restrictions on the movement of goods and persons, widespread arrests and indignities. Moreover, the Israeli settlers had as much power as the security forces because they were armed, and the Israeli authorities had promulgated Military Order No. 1049, which provided that the municipal councils appointed by the Israelis would continue indefinitely to run the municipalities of the West Bank.

35. In the field of education, the occupation forces were adamant in applying Military Order No. 854 requiring professors and students to obtain permission to teach in or attend universities, a regulation which had been condemned by the university community in 1980. In addition, for the past year, professors had been required to sign a statement pledging that they would not recognize or help the Palestine Liberation Organization before taking up posts in the university, and that had forced 28 Palestinian professors with foreign passports to leave. It should also be noted that the occupying Power frequently closed the schools and universities. Such actions were accompanied by "resignations" of professors and gaoling of students.

36. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation forces were seeking to alter radically the geographical structure and demographic composition of the occupied territories by destroying villages under the pretext of carrying out archaeological excavations on the sites.

37. On the economic front, farmers were being forced to abandon their land, which enabled the Israeli authorities to realize their policy of Judaization of the Arab territories, a practice that went hand in hand with the plunder of water resources. However, in Israel itself, more and more voices were being raised against the repression endured by the Arab population in the occupied territories

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(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

for 16 years. A report published two weeks earlier by the International Centre for Peace in the Near East referred to the human rights violations in those territories. The report was directed less towards taking stock of the abuses committed by the occupation forces than towards dealing in a specific and dispassionate way with the systematic discrimination to which the Palestinian population was being subjected. The report indicated that, from the legal point of view, a double standard was applied in the territories by which the Israeli settlers were subject to Israeli positive law while 1.3 million Arabs were subject to a hotch-potch of Ottoman, Jordanian and Israeli military laws. The report referred to the systematic practice of collective punishment such as curfews, the closing of Palestinian educational institutions and the harassment, extortion and torture practised against the inhabitants of the territories. Lastly, the report indicated that Palestinian workers, who paid the same taxes as the Israelis, did not receive certain social benefits, like the right to use the cafeterias in some factories.

38. The international community, which had condemned the scandalous acts of the Zionist occupation forces, must bring an end to the systematic human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories and ensure a respect for the letter and the spirit of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The ultimate solution to the problem of the Middle East, in his delegation's view, would be the urgently needed restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people and the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories. If those two conditions were not met, the Middle East, that land of fraternity and concord, would move closer to destruction and would have nothing to hand on to current and future generations but the spectacle of a mankind at war with itself, having renounced its ideals and succumbed to the temptation of suicide.

39. Mr. Rodríguez Medina (Colombia) resumed the Chair.

40. Mr. FRASER (Guyana) said that the reports of the Special Committee had traditionally served as the basis for the adoption of the various General Assembly resolutions on that question. From the current report (A/38/409), it was obvious that the situation in the occupied Arab territories none the less continued to deteriorate. Israel, a State Member of the United Nations, was still flagrantly defying General Assembly resolutions and violating the provisions of international human rights instruments. The Special Political Committee must make it a priority to work towards restoring the fundamental human rights of the population of the occupied territories and ending their suffering. His delegation believed that the Israeli practices in the occupied territories represented a deliberate effort to eliminate the Palestinian people, who had been dispossessed or banished from their homeland. An eminent Palestinian in exile, Professor Edward Said, had observed that Palestinian society was divided into three categories: a group of 650,000 Palestinians who were Israeli citizens and were the victims of internal colonialism, the 1.3 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip who were living under Israeli military occupation, and the approximately 2.1 million Palestinians in exile scattered throughout the Arab world, Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia. There were thus more Palestinians scattered outside Palestine

(Mr. Fraser, Guyana)

than those remaining in their occupied homeland, and those who remained were more and more violently being denied their civil and political rights as well as their economic, social and cultural rights.

41. To accomplish its designs against the Palestinians, Israel was pursuing settlement policies geared to the Judaization of the area. It began by establishing a military outpost that soon was converted into a Jewish civilian settlement, at the expense of the Palestinians. Such actions were nothing but outright annexation. The Zionists did not allow considerations of civil, political or any other human rights to stand in the way of their clearly stated objective. According to figures released by the Israeli authorities, the current Jewish population numbered over 30,000 and they estimated that by 1985 there would be more than 100,000 Jews in the area. The violation of basic human rights followed naturally from Israel's illegal occupation and annexation. Palestinians were being denied the right to a homeland of their own, self-determination, and freedom of expression and assembly, as well as other rights like the right to life, to culture and to education.

42. Israel must be made to conform to international rules in the occupied territories. All States parties to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 must fulfil their moral and legal commitment by putting maximum pressure on the Israeli régime to make it respect the basic norms of international law. It was important to continue disseminating information on all aspects of the violations in the occupied territories so as to sensitize the entire international community to that deplorable situation. The efforts of the Committee on Information to highlight the question must continue, despite the opposition of Israel's friends. The efforts of United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and all the peace-loving people of the world to condemn the conduct of Israel must be encouraged.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.