



**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. JANNUZZI (Italy)

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**AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES**  
**(continued)**

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION TO AVERT NEW FLOWS OF REFUGEES  
(continued)

1. Mr. MITRA (India) said that flows of refugees not only posed serious humanitarian problems but also affected the domestic order and stability of countries of asylum. The flows of refugees which, over the years, had repeatedly entered India had represented enormous financial and social burdens for his country.
2. Perhaps it was not possible to prevent the flows of refugees resulting from natural disasters, but the international community must seek to prevent those caused by political factors. To that end, it was necessary to establish a new system of international relations based on respect for independence, equal rights and co-operation, in accordance with the Charter. Despite all its authority, the United Nations still had not succeeded in halting foreign aggression in some parts of the world or in restoring the inalienable rights of peoples under foreign occupation and domination. Accordingly, India welcomed the setting up of the Group of Governmental Experts to undertake a comprehensive review of that problem in all its aspects.
3. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) pointed out that, since the adoption on 16 December 1981 of General Assembly resolution 36/148, entitled "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees", the number of refugees in the world had been increasing steadily. In the Sudan, in particular, the number of refugees had almost doubled from 1981 to 1984 and, in Africa, in general, the refugee problem was entering an extremely critical stage: the continued flow of refugees was coinciding with a particularly difficult economic situation, which was further aggravated by the persistence of drought and other natural calamities. Elsewhere in the world, the refugee problem was acutely evident, for example in South Africa, Afghanistan, South-East Asia, Central America and, lastly, in the Middle East because of Israel's policies in the occupied Arab territories and in southern Lebanon.
4. The presence of great masses of refugees in already tense areas created the possibility of an explosive situation. The international community must therefore do its utmost to find a solution, and the Sudan, a country having long and intense experience with the refugee problem, viewed the formation of the Group of Governmental Experts, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/148, as a major step towards a permanent solution.
5. Despite the fact that the Group of Governmental Experts had thus far done a commendable job, its task was not yet finished and the remaining part of its work was the most important. For that reason, his delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.4 and urged the Committee to adopt it by consensus.
6. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) drew attention to the fact that the Philippines had supported the initiative of including the item under consideration in the agenda. It had participated with interest in the ensuing discussion and shared the

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(Mr. Garcia, Philippines)

international community's concern about the refugee problem, which had been highlighted once again at ICARA II.

7. To improve the situation of several thousand Indo-Chinese refugees, the Philippines had established three centres which not only took care of their needs but also provided vocational training with a view to their resettlement in third countries. His country firmly believed that the international community should examine closely not only the effects of flows of refugees but also their causes, with a view to adopting effective and practical measures to avert new flows of refugees.

8. The Philippines was pleased to note that the Group of Governmental Experts established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/148 had achieved some progress, and his delegation supported the renewal of its mandate. For that reason, it was a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.4 and believed that all of of the Group's experts, especially those from the least developed countries, should participate fully in its work.

9. Mr. FARMER (Australia) pointed out that, for many decades and particularly since the Second World War, Australia had received hundreds of thousands of refugees from around the world and had pursued a policy that was firmly rooted in the principles and definitions of the relevant international instruments relating to refugees and human rights. Australia continued to place importance on the provision of humanitarian aid to refugees and displaced persons through the programmes of agencies such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the International Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations. In the past financial year, Australia had made important bilateral and multilateral contributions, both in cash and in kind, for various programmes and special measures on behalf of refugees.

10. Australia welcomed the initiative taken by the Federal Republic of Germany which had resulted in the establishment of the Group of Governmental Experts. An Australian expert had participated in the Group since its foundation. His country welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/39/327), and believed that it had made a certain amount of progress. His delegation therefore supported the proposal that the Group should meet for two sessions in 1985 in order to complete its work.

11. Mr. AMAMOU (Tunisia) said that, while the international community had adopted increasingly important relief measures to deal with the refugee problem, the United Nations still must establish machinery to enable the international community to engage in concerted action to avert new flows of refugees. Tunisia remained optimistic in that regard and attached importance to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, which had fulfilled part of the mandate entrusted to it. His country was convinced that the Secretary-General of the United Nations would support the participation in the Groups' work of experts from the least developed countries.

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(Mr. Amamou, Tunisia)

12. The current discussion coincided with the fourth World Food Day but, despite the efforts of the competent United Nations agencies, malnutrition and hunger constituted a growing threat for millions of people. That situation stemmed from the fact that there was no international machinery to reduce the food vulnerability of the developing countries, particularly those which granted asylum to refugees. Moreover, the presence of refugees aggravated the already difficult economic situation of those countries. Drought, desertification and the unequal relations imposed by the existing international economic order were the cause of the tragic situation experienced by several African countries which granted asylum to millions of refugees. On the one hand, the growth of the gross domestic product in most of those countries had declined from 1975 to 1981, while, on the other hand, the number of refugees had increased fivefold from 1970 to 1984. Such a situation could threaten the internal order of the receiving countries and the stability of entire regions. Programmes to provide assistance to refugees must therefore be accompanied by political and economic measures based on a global perspective.

13. At the First and Second International Conferences on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA I and II), held in 1981 and 1984, the stage consisting of statements of fact had been transcended and an attempt had been made to identify the causes of the refugee problem. In particular, the Declaration and Programme of Action of ICARA II, at which agreement had been reached on the causes of the problem and on a solution, had constituted a step forward, taken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and with other relevant instruments of international law.

14. The refugee problem in Africa, created by the critical economic situation was accompanied by the even more difficult situation of the millions of victims of the policy of apartheid of the South African régime. The refugee problem was also evident in other parts of the world, for example in the Middle East, because of the policy pursued by the Israeli forces of occupation to the detriment of the Palestinian people, and in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. All those situations reflected the tension which existed at the international level and gave the refugee problem a political dimension, as a result of which no stopgap solution could be effective.

15. Mrs. BURNLEY (Cameroon) said that her Government was greatly concerned about the refugee problem and was prepared to continue to co-operate in any initiative directed towards finding a permanent solution to that problem, especially on the African continent.

16. It was her delegation's view that existing structures should be redynamized so as to function more efficiently, as the creation of new structures would place a financial strain on the developing countries. It therefore appreciated the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General to enable the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees to begin its work.

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(Mrs. Burnley, Cameroon)

17. Her delegation had examined the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (A/39/327) and appreciated the efforts that had been made, but much important work remained to be done. Her delegation therefore recommended that the Group of Experts should continue its work in 1985 and supported draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.4, intended to extend the mandate of the Group.
18. Mr. HOMAEI NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the refugee problem was a matter of vital concern to all countries, especially developing countries.
19. His country was particularly concerned about the flow of millions of Afghan refugees into the Islamic Republic of Iran, coupled with thousands of Iraqi refugees who had been expelled from their country, and it hoped that the international community would co-operate in an attempt to find a global solution to the problem.
20. The adoption of appropriate and realistic measures to avert the flow of refugees necessitated the identification of the root causes of the problem, so they could be eliminated. Those causes included violations of the Charter of the United Nations, armed conflicts, foreign intervention, aggression and expansionism, colonialism, racism, apartheid and an unjust international economic order.
21. His delegation had studied the report of the Group of Governmental Experts, was satisfied with the progress made, and therefore had no objection to renewing the mandate of the Group so that it could conclude its work.
22. Mr. CARRIER (Canada) recalled that his country was providing financial contributions in support of the efforts of the international community to solve the problems of refugees. The international community had the obligation to assist refugees because the problem not only entailed serious financial consequences but caused enormous suffering for those involved.
23. His delegation supported the work of the Group of Governmental Experts. In spite of the financial reservations which it had expressed the year before, concerning special assistance for some members of the Group, his delegation supported the draft resolution in document A/SPC/39/L.4, which it had co-sponsored, in the hope that the Group, with the participation of experts from least developed countries, might find realistic solutions to the problem. He considered that the Commission on Human Rights as well as the Special Political Committee could contribute to the refugee problem, the former concerning itself with the humanitarian and human rights aspects of the question and the latter with the economic and political problems which caused population movements.
24. Mr. HERZBERG (United States of America) exercising his right of reply said that the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had distorted historical facts, blaming his country for the exodus of more than 300,000 Laos. He reminded him that the departure of a tenth of the population had begun when the current Government came to power in 1975, and said that the exodus was due exclusively to its repressive policies.

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25. Mr. PACHACHI (Iraq), exercising his right of reply, said that the refugees to which the representative of Iran had referred were Iranians who had entered Iraqi territory illegally and had been committing offences against national security. Aliens had certain rights, but also had obligations towards the country in which they resided. One of those obligations was the obligation not to undermine the security of the host State. In such cases the State had the right to expel them, and that was what Iraq had done.

26. Mr. HOMAEI NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran), exercising his right of reply, referred to the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross dating from the end of 1982 and the beginning of 1983, according to which assistance had been provided to 15,000 Iraqi refugees. He also referred to its report of October 1983 in which visits to the refugee camps in Azerbaijan were mentioned. Lastly, he mentioned the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq concerning Iraqis of Iranian origin who had been expelled on charges of terrorism.

27. Mr. SAJORITH (Lao People's Democratic Republic), exercising his right of reply, said that various impartial studies had been made on the damage caused by United States armed forces, especially by the Air Force, during the war. He could not see how that country could excuse itself by saying that the flow of refugees had begun in 1975.

28. Mr. HERZBERG (United States of America), exercising his right of reply, said that the item under discussion was the question of refugees, and repeated his previous statement.

29. Mr. MUETZELBURG (Federal Republic of Germany) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.4 on behalf of the 38 sponsors, who included representatives from all continents. Consultations had been held and had resulted in some changes and concessions, and he therefore hoped that the draft could be adopted without a vote.

30. On the whole, the draft resolution followed the same pattern as the previous year's resolution, and its object was to renew the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees. It also included two new provisions: one in operative paragraph 5, on the continuation of the work of the Group for two further sessions, and one in operative paragraph 3 to encourage participation by experts from least developed countries.

31. The financial implications of the draft resolution were discussed in document A/SPC/39/L.6. Modest sums were involved which were amply justified by the positive results of the participation of least developed countries. Some last-minute changes had been made in the draft resolution: in the fourth preambular paragraph the last phrase should be deleted, starting with the comma, and in operative paragraph 5 the words "to continue its work" should be replaced by "to work", and the comma after "1985" should be deleted.

32. Mr. SMIDOVICH (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed that the draft resolution could be adopted without a vote and therefore suggested that a decision should be postponed, to enable consultations to be held.

33. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.