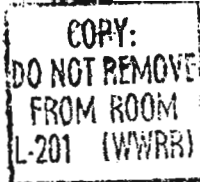




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THIRD COMMITTEE
10th meeting
held on
Monday, 14 October 1985
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (E/1985/16 and Add.1; A/40/3, A/40/173, A/40/320, A/40/398, A/40/416, A/40/694 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/40/308, A/40/331, A/40/465 and Add.1, A/40/672, A/40/678)

AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/40/18, A/40/77, A/40/173, A/40/276, A/40/398, A/40/606, A/40/607)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Mr. BROWNE (Fiji) said that over the past 40 years the United Nations had made it one of its primary objectives to adopt measures to eliminate discrimination, prejudice and intolerance. As part of that effort the General Assembly had proclaimed in 1983 the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had approved the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. However, the attainment of the initial goals and objectives of the Programme of Action had been painfully slow, for millions of human beings were still living in intolerable conditions of repression, torture and flagrant violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms solely because of the colour of their skin, their ethnic origin or religion.

2. The persistence of apartheid under the minority Government of South Africa figured prominently in all discussions of racism and racial discrimination, for apartheid was an affront to human dignity. His Government vigorously rejected apartheid for many reasons, not least because it attacked the standards, principles and values on which the society of Fiji was based. Although apartheid could never be the basis of a viable society, the Government of South Africa continued to deny the black population the exercise of their fundamental rights.

3. On the question of self-determination for the peoples still under the yoke of colonialism, the situation prevailing in Namibia was a blemish on the proud record of the United Nations in that field. In his Government's opinion, South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia was a threat to international peace and security. With regard to Kampuchea and Afghanistan, his country again called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces so that the peoples of those countries could determine their own destinies. Similarly, although the French proposal for

(Mr. Browne, Fiji)

electoral and administrative reforms in New Caledonia was to be welcomed, France must be urged to speed up the transition to independence and the establishment of a free multiracial society in New Caledonia.

4. No country could remain indifferent to racism and racial discrimination, for the question was a humanitarian one. His Government was committed to building a multiracial and multicultural society made up of different ethnic and racial groups living together in harmony and peace. Of course, Fiji had the problems that were found in any multiracial society, but the fundamental rights of its various races were guaranteed by national legislation. Following the provisions of the Constitution, his Government had sought to provide equality of opportunity for all and to promote tolerance, mutual trust and respect. In that regard, he recalled that the Prime Minister of Fiji, on the occasion of the recent celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of national independence, had said that the country had squarely faced and acknowledged the fact of racial diversity rather than trying to pretend that it did not exist. The Prime Minister had noted, moreover, that all the races had made their own special contribution to the country's faith, language, culture and tradition, and that the whole had proved greater than the sum of its parts. The Prime Minister had stressed that that cohesiveness must be worked at every day and everywhere.

5. Fiji would continue to play its modest role in implementing the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

6. Miss AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that the fortieth anniversary offered an opportunity for reflection on the Organization's achievements. The United Nations had undoubtedly played an important role in speeding up the exercise by peoples of their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles of the Charter. The moral and material support which her country gave to the national liberation movements and its active participation in the Committee of 24 illustrated the importance which it attached to self-determination as a fundamental pre-condition for the exercise of all other human rights.

7. Although a large number of countries had gained their independence, there were many others which lived under colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination and imperialism. The United Nations should intensify its efforts to achieve the early liberation of all the peoples still subject to those scourges. In that connection, the questions of Palestine and Namibia and the situation in South Africa must be mentioned in first place. Human rights were under attack in those parts of the world, for the indigenous peoples were being driven from the most fertile land, as well as being stripped of their possessions and denied the right to self-determination.

8. The problem of the Middle East was the most difficult one with which the United Nations had come to grips since its foundation. The people of Palestine had been the victims of a plot hatched at the first Zionist conference in the 1890s. It was sufficient to recall that in his book on Zionism Herzog said that the movement's goal was to build a citadel of western civilization against the barbarians. In its early days the Zionist movement had described itself as an imperialist and colonialist entity.

/...

9. Mr. YEDID (Israel), speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of Iraq had used the term "Zionist entity" to refer to Israel. The Government of his country was not opposed to being qualified as Zionist because it was indeed the name of the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. On the other hand, it was emphatically opposed to a State Member of the United Nations being styled "entity". Israel could in turn refer to Iraq as a military dictatorship, aggressive and racist entity. However, he believed that name-calling should be avoided if the debate was to be constructive. Israel urged members to refer to Member States by name and not by other terms which were often pejorative.

10. The CHAIRMAN said, in connection with the point of order raised by the representative of Israel, that all members of the Committee should stick to the official names of countries used in the general debate.

11. Miss AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that the point of order was not well taken because she had been speaking of the Zionist "movement". Today, the Zionists claimed that theirs was a liberation movement; however, that was not accurate, as demonstrated by the League of Arab States in a document submitted to the United Nations in 1948 on the crimes of the Zionists.

12. The Israelis had not been satisfied to drive the Palestinians from their homeland. The Palestinian people continued to be victim of persecutions and murder. The latest in the line had been the brutal attack against Tunis, which could only be described as an act of international terrorism since Israel had violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another State. There was no need to recall the armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations. The Nazis had resorted to the same pretexts to justify their attacks against European countries. Its terrorist philosophy permitted Israel to pursue its expansion at the expense of the Arab territories. Despite the condemnation by the Security Council for their attack against the Palestine Liberation Organization on Tunisian territory, the Zionists persisted in defying the will of all countries of the world and refused to participate in an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East. Israel persisted in denying the Palestinian people the exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination.

13. With regard to the problem of Namibia, victim of South African racism, the Government of Iraq believed that the United Nations must provide a solution.

14. The United Nations had been founded as a reaction to the suffering caused by nazism and fascism, which had resulted in millions of deaths. The victory over those ideologies did not guarantee their elimination: apartheid was nothing more than a Zionist and Fascist ideology and was based, like those two concepts, on the principle of racial supremacy. Iraq had always been opposed to racial discrimination, had been among the first countries to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and had participated actively in the conferences convened for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

(Miss Al-Turaihi, Iraq)

15. The South African régime had evicted the indigenous population from the best lands and exploited them as cheap labour. They were forced to live in bantustans even though that meant the separation of families. The brutal repression of all who opposed the policy of apartheid had resulted in incidents such as the Sharpeville massacre. For all those reasons, the international community must take immediate measures to punish those responsible for the crimes of apartheid.
16. Some Western countries had broken the isolation of Pretoria for economic reasons. The Government of Iraq believed that constructive engagement was not sufficient because the isolation of South Africa should be total. The international community must openly support the national liberation movements and demand the release of those fighting for self-determination, especially Nelson Mandela. The mass communication media were called upon to play a determinant role to force South Africa to put an end to apartheid.
17. The collaboration between the Zionist leaders and the racist leaders of South Africa was well known. In considering the third periodic report of Israel, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/40/18, para. 204) pointed out that despite the strong statement made by the representative of Israel against apartheid, Israel was known to be an ally of South Africa and was co-operating with it in many fields, including the nuclear field. The members of CERD considered that it was time for the Israeli Government to reconsider its policy of multifaceted co-operation with South Africa.
18. The Government of Iraq hoped that the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism would strengthen international co-operation so that the peoples of Palestine, Namibia and South Africa could regain their inalienable rights.
19. Mr. ORTIGAO (Portugal) said that the international community had identified the fight against racism and racial discrimination as one of the priority areas in which the United Nations must take action. Twenty years ago, the General Assembly had adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had thus given more concrete legal form to many of the ideas contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had been adopted previously.
20. In 1973, the need had been again felt to focus world attention on that problem and, accordingly, the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been proclaimed. Throughout the first Decade, the international community had become more aware of the root causes of racism and racial discrimination and more alert to all its manifestations, ranging from spontaneous and individual acts of ethnic and religious intolerance, through discriminatory practices at the political and economic levels by some dominant groups, to systematic discrimination practised by the State. The determination to ensure equality for all, regardless of race, colour, religion or ethnic origin, and the important role played by the first Decade in promoting racial tolerance had led in 1983 to the proclamation of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

(Mr. Ortigao, Portugal)

21. The system of apartheid and the suffering and injustice which it inflicted on the black, coloured and Indian populations of South Africa stood as stark evidence that the task of eradicating racial discrimination had not yet been fulfilled. Portugal had repeatedly in the United Nations and in other forums stated its categorical rejection of apartheid and expressed its concern at recent events in South Africa. Portugal associated itself with the statement made on 7 October 1985 by the representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the ten members of EEC, with respect to apartheid and the measures to be taken towards South Africa, as agreed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the European Community, Portugal and Spain. It was inevitable and extremely urgent that the South African authorities should embark, without fear or hesitation, on a dialogue with the different communities of that country in order to create conditions enabling all the inhabitants to have equal access to political life, freedom, work and social justice.

22. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was the most important and authoritative international instrument in dealing with racism. Portugal commended the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for the thoroughness with which it had reviewed the reports submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention. At its thirty-second session, the Committee had discussed Portugal's initial report and had commended the Portuguese Government for the comprehensive and detailed information which it had provided and for its frank and serious approach. Portugal wished to pursue its direct dialogue with the Committee, although it had experienced difficulty in submitting its reports every two years, and it hoped that all States parties would agree to extend the deadlines for the submission of reports. It was encouraging that the Committee had discussed the problem, whose importance was underlined by the increasing number of overdue reports.

23. Portugal also noted with great interest the importance attached by CERD to the role of the Convention within the international legal human rights framework; it agreed that the Convention could not be seen in isolation from other relevant United Nations instruments and that, for effective monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, the Committee had to have an overview of the human rights situation in each country. However, the Committee should remain within the precise limits of the mandate conferred upon it by the Convention. If the Committee were to extend its inquiries beyond the sphere of racial discrimination, it would be encroaching upon the competence of the implementation mechanism established for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

24. Given the small number of meetings of States parties, the dialogue established between CERD and the Third Committee was extremely valuable because it enabled the States parties to convey to members of CERD their comments on some important aspects of the Convention. Portugal concurred with the Chairman of CERD that the Committee's machinery for action and influence was based on the dialogue with States parties.

25. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey) said that the concept of non-discrimination was inherent in the definition of human rights, under the United Nations Charter, and those rights were directly related to the ideas of international peace, security and justice. Consequently, the basic principles of Turkey's foreign policy reflected its firm opposition to oppression, colonialism and racial discrimination.

26. Turkey, honouring its commitment to develop and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, was deeply committed to the achievement of the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It therefore noted with concern that there was still a great distance between the achievement of those objectives and the current situation of millions of persons who continued to suffer from various forms of racism and racial discrimination. Since the last General Assembly session, new and serious violations of human rights had occurred. In some cases, national minorities protected by international agreements had been deprived of their fundamental rights.

27. In 1985 more than ever, world public opinion had focused attention on developments in southern Africa and had repeatedly appealed to South Africa, within and outside the framework of the United Nations, for a radical change in policy. Apartheid was an affront to the conscience and values of mankind and openly violated the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The constitutional changes introduced in South Africa in 1984 to reinforce the system of segregation and racial discrimination had led to an increase in violence and an intensification of repression, which had forced the black majority all over the country to protest. The proclamation of a state of emergency on 20 July 1985 had contributed to the deterioration of an already explosive situation. Unless the Government of South Africa put an end once and for all to its apartheid policy and initiated a genuine dialogue and change, South Africa would be increasingly engulfed in a bloody civil war. Since the apartheid system was the basic cause of the violent events in South Africa, the country should initiate radical changes before it was too late, to prevent the further deterioration of the situation, which represented a serious threat to peace and security.

28. Now more than ever, it was necessary for the United Nations to respond and react firmly. Turkey was prepared to support the adoption of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa. It was strictly implementing all the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and therefore had no diplomatic, economic or military relations of any kind with that country. Turkey had all the legal instruments necessary to put into practice its policy of boycotting South Africa.

29. The adoption by the General Assembly, in 1960, of resolution 1514 (XV) was a particularly important event in the United Nations, which had thereby made an essential contribution to the decolonization process. Although millions of persons had been freed from colonial rule since then, there was still much to be done, and it was best to concentrate on problems which had not yet been solved. One of the most deplorable was that of Namibia, which had become the direct responsibility of the United Nations since the Organization abrogated South Africa's mandate in

(Mr. Akyol, Turkey)

1966. However, the Organization had so far been unable to fulfil its commitment in that regard. Illegal occupation, economic exploitation and repression continued to characterize the situation in the Territory. The interim Government installed by South Africa in Namibia on 17 June 1985 represented a further step by South Africa away from any negotiation process. Moreover South Africa's current attitude, based on misrepresentation and manipulation, made it unlikely that it was prepared to accept a peaceful transition to independence for the Territory.

30. Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which contained the United Nations plan for Namibia's independence, continued to be the only universally acceptable basis for a peaceful and political solution of the question of Namibia. Turkey, as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, firmly supported all efforts made by the Council in fulfilment of its responsibility, and endorsed the main thrust of the Programme of Action adopted at the extraordinary plenary meetings of the Council held at Vienna from 3 to 7 June 1985, in particular the decisions concerning the protection of all the human and natural resources of Namibia.

31. Turkey noted with concern the situation in the Middle East, where the main problem was the question of Palestine. It was important for Israel to withdraw from all the Arab territories and for it not to be allowed to make any further changes in the demographic composition and institutional structure of those territories.

32. Turkey also respected and admired the determination of the people of Afghanistan to exercise their right to self-determination and achieve the withdrawal of foreign troops from that country and the return of Afghan refugees. The achievement of a general political settlement in Kampuchea also entailed the withdrawal of foreign forces and the exercise by the Kampuchean people of their right to decide their own future.

33. Mr. HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that, on the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the international community should reaffirm its respect for the principles of the Charter. Only a few days earlier, the Security Council, in the name of legality and the supremacy of the law, had adopted resolution 573 (1985), in which it vigorously condemned Israeli aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tunisia. Several days previously, the Council had also condemned South Africa's aggression against Angola. The two actions, which appeared to be unusually well-orchestrated, required the international community to ask itself how to remove the Israeli and South African régimes, which consistently used aggression and violence as instruments of government.

34. Israel's policy was discriminatory by its very nature, since it established the superiority of Jews in the occupied Palestine territories. That country and South Africa, where apartheid was an institution, continually challenged the decisions of the United Nations and the conscience of the international community. Those régimes were anachronistic, racist, colonialist and expansionist. The international community should without delay take the most energetic measures to allow the peoples of southern Africa and the Palestinian people to exercise their fundamental rights, in particular their right to self-determination.

(Mr. Hamida, Tunisia)

35. His delegation, as many others had done, called for the mobilization and joining of the forces intending to put an end to apartheid. The imposition of the state of emergency and the application of repressive and arbitrary measures would not succeed in overcoming the determination of the black majority in South Africa, and the people of Namibia, to continue their legitimate struggle for independence. The latest events in southern Africa once more provided irrefutable proof of the need to eradicate apartheid, in view of the fact that the reforms in the apartheid system introduced by the South African régime were only cosmetic and excluded the possibility of universal suffrage and recognition of all the rights of the black population.
36. The Palestinian people had also fallen victim to the colonial yoke. However, under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, it should gain its independence and establish an independent State in its usurped territories.
37. His country welcomed the efforts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and indicated that it would present its eighth periodic report to that Committee at its next session. In the meantime it reaffirmed its readiness to continue the constructive dialogue it had maintained for some time with the Committee.
38. Tunisian legislation and customs concerning racial discrimination were characterized by a spirit of tolerance. It was worth mentioning that, after the recent Israeli attack against Tunisia, the Jewish community in the country, which formed an integral part of society and lived peacefully in Tunisian territory, had forcefully condemned the attack and reiterated its commitment to the integrity and sovereignty of the country.
39. An indispensable measure to combat racism in all its forms was ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. His country reiterated its support for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and for the activities carried out already or intended for the period 1985-1989. His country had enthusiastically accepted the idea of holding a session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Africa and of organizing a seminar to which the mass media would be invited. It likewise approved of the decision to organize, in Africa in 1986, an international seminar on the struggle against apartheid. His country had participated in the seminar on community relations commissions and their functions, held at Geneva from 9 to 20 September 1985, agreed fully with its conclusions, and was looking forward to the publication of the relevant report.
40. His country had a special interest in the protection of vulnerable groups and minorities, in particular migrant workers and their families, who were sometimes subjected to degrading treatment, in violation of the most basic human rights and of existing conventions. It was therefore ready to support any measures which the Third Committee might adopt in that regard.

41. Mr. SEIFU (Ethiopia) said he felt that the United Nations, notwithstanding the great amount of work still to be done, could take justifiable pride in what it had done to combat the scourge of racism, not only by having raised people's awareness, but by having adopted international instruments which served as a standard for governmental policies. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction the efforts made to implement the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 adopted at the previous session by the General Assembly on the basis of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. His country would co-operate fully with efforts to achieve objectives of the Decade.

42. His delegation noted with satisfaction that 124 States were already parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, but regretted that the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had yet to gain wider adherence, since apartheid was not only a crime against humanity but posed a real threat to international peace and security.

43. Concerning the situation in southern Africa, he said that black South Africans were currently aliens in their own land, denied all political and economic rights, except for the right to be pliable subjects for political oppression and economic exploitation by the racist régime, which had recently unleashed its full brutality by imposing a state of emergency.

44. However, the oppressed had risen up to fight apartheid and its apostles. Mass action and popular resistance extended the length and breadth of South Africa, indicating the beginning of the end for the apartheid régime. The international community had both a moral and legal duty to support that struggle not only its aims, namely, the peaceful establishment of a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa, but also, in principle, the means to achieve those aims, given the repeated refusal of the racist régime to go beyond sham reforms and constitutional subterfuge.

45. The friends of the South African régime continued to oppose the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter, on the pretext that they would simply hinder the application of the only peaceful and efficient means available to dismantle apartheid. As the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs had said in the plenary Assembly, unless the international community acted more forcefully and decisively, much blood was bound to be spilled in southern Africa. Those Western Powers that had aided and continued to aid racism would have to share the responsibility for such a situation.

46. With reference to item 93, his delegation wished to voice its frustration and indignation at the continued denial of the Namibian people's right to self-determination and independence. Namibia's future was the legal responsibility of the United Nations; it was inadmissible, therefore, that the very Members of the Organization should be preventing it from exercising its authority over Namibia. Pretoria not only occupied Namibia but also, in collaboration with transnational corporations, exploited its natural and human resources and, by means of such stratagems as the installation in Windhoek of an illegal administration, strove to

(Mr. Seifu, Ethiopia)

delay the Namibian people's independence. The sole internationally accepted basis for Namibia's peaceful transition to true independence was Security Council resolution 435 (1978), whose speedy implementation would depend on increased pressure on the racist régime. Unless mandatory sanctions were imposed on the South African régime, the United Nations could not claim to have discharged in full its unique responsibility to the Namibian people.

47. The Palestinians were another people who had been expelled from their homeland and where the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination was continuing to be denied. Recent history showed that, as long as that situation remained, peace and stability in the Middle East would remain illusory. His delegation again urged the convening of an international peace conference on Palestine, with the participation on an equal footing of all interested parties.

48. Finally, he reiterated the importance Ethiopia attached to the right of peoples to self-determination. It consisted of the right to national freedom and independence for peoples under colonial domination, the right to national unity and sovereignty for peoples which had attained independence, and the right of all of them to choose the political, economic and social system which met their needs and aspirations. It was regrettable, therefore, that in the region which included Ethiopia the right of self-determination was being invoked to dismember sovereign States and promote territorial ambitions.

49. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) said that the right of peoples to self-determination was one of the principal norms of contemporary international law enshrined in the Charter. Bulgaria had always regarded that right as a basis on which all human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights were based. Bulgaria had therefore always contributed to the full implementation of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Unfortunately, there were countries and Territories in southern Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and Atlantic oceans still under the domination of colonialism and its imperialist allies.

50. In South Africa the crimes perpetrated by apartheid continued; the racists trampled on the right of the South African and Namibian peoples to self-determination and independence and exploited their natural and human resources, in collusion with transnational corporations. His delegation deemed it the duty of every Member State to go on providing moral, political and material support to those fighting to eradicate apartheid and to the Namibian people in its legitimate struggle for independence under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), in pursuance of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

51. There could be no comprehensive political settlement of the Middle East situation unless Israel withdrew from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the Palestinian people's legitimate right to establish an independent State was recognized. The convening of an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, would undoubtedly contribute to that end.

(Mr. Garvalov, Bulgaria)

52. There had still been no realization of the right to self-determination of the so-called "small Territories", which were being used by the imperialist Powers for military bases and installations and for demonstrations of force against neighbouring developing countries. Bulgaria's position on the matter was in line with the will of the United Nations, as set forth in the decisions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

53. The right of peoples of self-determination could be exercised only by giving effect to all its components, namely, national independence, democracy, freedom, economic development and social justice. Measured against that criterion, there were still entire peoples, in their millions, deprived of their basic human rights, subjected to military, economic and financial domination by imperialism, and even forced to abandon their own language and culture. Imperialism, apart from using the methods of "classical" colonialism, was resorting ever more frequently to the no less uncivilized methods of diktat, the use and threat of armed force, State terrorism, economic and financial blackmail and psychological warfare. There was no lack of instances: entire mercenary armies were taking part in imperialism's undeclared war against Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The just settlement of the problems of Central America, the Middle East, southern Africa and the southern Atlantic, inter alia, was being deliberately sabotaged. The intervention of the Western States and their private financial institutions in the developing countries was an attempt to preserve the current unjust international economic relations, whilst "information imperialism" spread the propaganda of violence, hatred and inequality in the developing countries.

54. The current situation could be overcome only by the co-operation of all countries and peoples ready to foster friendly relations among themselves on the basis of respect for the principles of equality and self-determination of peoples, in keeping with the Charter, Bulgaria remained ready to participate in that task.

55. Mr. YEDID (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to a statement made at the 8th meeting by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. That country had no moral authority to reproach Israel for its political activity in regard to Lebanon and the Palestinians resident in Lebanon, or to accuse Israel of waging State terrorism. Thousands of Palestinians had been murdered by the Syrians, who themselves controlled 60 per cent of Lebanese territory. Syria was training, financing and equipping terrorists who were active throughout that territory - surely a violation of international law and a case of State terrorism.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.