



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HAMEK (Netherlands)

later: Mr. MUGUME (Uganda)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.00 a.m.

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- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
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1. The CHAIRMAN said that at the 7th meeting, a number of delegations had been unable to exercise their right of reply owing to lack of time. He would therefore give those delegations an opportunity to speak at the outset of the present meeting.

2. Mr. EL-PAWWAZ (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had wished to reply to a statement made by the representative of Israel at the 7th meeting. However, in a spirit of co-operation with the Committee, his delegation would reply in its statement at the meeting on Tuesday, 14 October.

3. Mr. DOWEK (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation, in the same spirit, would waive that right.

4. Miss NGUYEN KIM XUAN (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her delegation was at a loss to understand why the representative of the United States had been so angry at the quotations she had made from the Final Statement of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries which had recently taken place in Harare, Zimbabwe. Perhaps the reason for the anger of the representative of the United States stemmed from the fact that nothing stung like the truth. The representative of the United States had stated that Viet Nam had persecuted the ethnic H'mong minority in her country. For a country that had waged a vicious war in Indo-China for four years, the United States should know that the H'mong minority did not live in Viet Nam, but in another country. The record of United States violation of the right to self-determination together with the My Lai massacre was well known and thus called into question the credibility of that delegation.

5. Mr. ANSELEM (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation would speak at a later date on self-determination in Viet Nam. The United States knew very well where the H'mong people lived and how the Vietnamese imperialists forced the people of Indo-China to live under their domination.

6. Miss NGUYEN KIM XUAN (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the champion of an unjust cause could not drown the voices of those with justice on their side.

7. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that her delegation would have wished to have seen in the reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination a section on review and appraisal in order to assess the current situation. Efficiency and effectiveness were necessary tools for the attainment of the objectives of the Decade. For example, it could be asked whether the printed material concerning the Decade was reaching the target group or merely sitting in United Nations Information Centres around the world. Secondly, the reports suggested that more seminars should be organized, but her delegation wondered whether there had been any follow-up of the results of previous seminars. Her delegation hoped that those ideas would be taken into consideration in future reports.

8. Racism and racial discrimination were diseases that threatened human tolerance and consequently peace among people and groups. Reference had been made to what was called xenophobia and the symptoms of that trend were manifested in many ways today, especially with respect to the violation of the rights of migrant workers and restrictive regulations facing refugees seeking political asylum. Those were worrisome signals, especially when coupled with the difficult world economic situation, man-made and natural disasters and increased violence and armed conflict. At a recent seminar held at Oxford University in co-operation with UNHCR on the rights and duties of refugees, a United Kingdom expert had stated that today there was a "fatigue of compassion" with respect to refugees. That was a frightening development and the United Nations should move vigorously to combat the new resurgence of racism. Migrant workers and refugees needed more attention from the United Nations, especially the women among them who constituted the majority of the population of the refugee camps.

(Mrs. Tallawy, Egypt)

9. Her delegation believed that the report by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8 and Add.1) clearly indicated the interrelationship between the political, economic and human rights aspects of the problem of apartheid. Egypt fully agreed with the conclusion of the report that violation of the fundamental rights of human beings was not subject to reform. Apartheid should simply be abolished. Egypt spared no effort in condemning and vehemently combating apartheid and racial discrimination at all levels and in all forums. The only way to avoid a disaster in southern Africa was to compel the racist régime of South Africa to adhere to international civilized norms, international law and United Nations resolutions by enforcing mandatory sanctions. The right to self-determination was one of the most fundamental rights which had gained international recognition, and therefore implied obligations on the part of the international community to ensure its realization.

10. The people of Namibia were entitled to enjoy that right and her delegation was confident that their heroic struggle, supported by the growing awareness of the seriousness of the situation in the region, would lead to the independence of Namibia.

11. The Palestinian people were equally entitled to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination. The lack of enjoyment of that right was the real cause behind the perpetual situation of conflict in the Middle East. Her delegation hoped that the international community would realize once and for all that a just and lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East should be based on the principle of self-determination.

12. Today, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was facing difficulty as a result of financial problems. However, she questioned a situation where there was no equal treatment between the various committees that assumed responsibilities for monitoring different conventions and covenants in the field of human rights. Some of those committees were convened more often than others and the duration of each session was different. Moreover, the source of finance for each was different, expenses for some being borne by the United Nations while others had to be financed by States parties to the conventions concerned.

13. While her delegation was aware that the present might not be the appropriate time to request the United Nations to bear additional financial responsibilities, it was difficult to understand that the fate of CERD would depend on the economic crisis facing most of the member countries. Her delegation therefore stressed the importance that due consideration should be given to the following facts: (a) the United Nations had an honourable record in promoting human rights; (b) there was a collective responsibility for all to allow the United Nations to consolidate that success; (c) thus far, the total activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights constituted a mere fraction of 1 per cent of the United Nations budget; (d) the resurgence of xenophobia and the "fatigue of compassion" required strenuous efforts to offset those phenomena. Egypt, which had in fact paid up its contribution to CERD, was ready to co-operate with other delegations to seek a solution that would strengthen that machinery and allow it to resume its work.

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14. Mr. BEN HAJA (Tunisia) said that the fight against racism and racial discrimination continued to be one of the main concerns of the United Nations. For Tunisia, it was a source of deep satisfaction that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had, to date, been ratified by 120 States. That was an indication of the will and conviction of the international community to double its efforts to end racial discrimination, especially in the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

15. Tunisia, which had just submitted its eighth periodic report to CERD, had been happy to continue the constructive dialogue that it had had for several years with that Committee. Nevertheless, his delegation regretted that the thirty-fourth session of CERD had been cancelled because of financial difficulties. While his delegation understood the reasons for those difficulties, it was convinced that an effort should be made with a view to facilitating the task of CERD. His delegation had been pleased to participate in the consensus at the Tenth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention concerning holding future sessions of CERD at Geneva. It hoped that decision would bear fruit and permit improvement in the work of CERD.

16. Today, the international community found itself close to the end of the first half of the Second Decade and his delegation believed that an appraisal should be made before it was too late in order to organize efforts to continue the common struggle. His delegation was increasingly concerned about the continued existence of the apartheid régime. The recommendations of the two seminars held within the framework of the Second Decade should be followed by concrete actions in order to increase international pressure on that régime with a view to its dismantling. The same remark applied to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports which Tunisia had signed as an indication of its attachment to the struggle against apartheid.

17. Without minimizing the role of other United Nations bodies in the fight against racism in all its forms, his delegation wished to express its satisfaction with the constructive efforts undertaken by UNESCO which had an important role to play in informing world public opinion and undertaking action-oriented research to bring about the elimination of racial prejudice.

18. Unfortunately, paragraph 63 of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade (A/39/167-E/1984/33) remained a dead letter. In that document, as in others, emphasis had been placed on the urgent need to ensure equitable and harmonious development in all regions of the world in order to achieve the effective realization of fundamental human rights. The identification of the causes of the origin of discriminatory treatment having been completed, it was now incumbent upon the United Nations to undertake appropriate follow-up strategies.

19. Another problem of concern to his delegation was the repeated violation of the principles and the rules of international law, concerning the recognition of the right of all peoples to self-determination. The colonial yoke still weighed upon Palestine and Namibia. Those anachronistic cases of illegal occupation, accompanied by economic and cultural plundering and barbarous violations of fundamental human rights persisted despite the numerous decisions and resolutions

(Mr. Ben Hamida, Tunisia)

adopted by the United Nations, the non-aligned movement and other regional organizations. South Africa, on the one hand, and Israel, on the other, continued to defy the decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council calling for a just and equitable settlement to those conflicts. Settlement of the problem of Namibia could be achieved solely on the basis of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). No other formula could be substituted for the United Nations plan of action. Tunisia reaffirmed its conviction that only the adoption of mandatory and global sanctions against South Africa, accompanied by a lifting of the ban against political parties and the unconditional release of all political prisoners, would create the proper atmosphere for a settlement of the question.

20. The denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, sovereignty, independence and the return to Palestine continued to increase tension in the Middle East. That denial was accompanied by an Israeli policy of aggression and expansion against the States of the region, thus endangering international peace and security. That situation had existed too long. It was high time that the international community mobilized itself with a view to strengthening the support of the Palestinian people. To that end, the international community must implement its often reaffirmed decisions concerning the settlement of the question which was at the core of the conflict in the region.

21. Mrs. HUMPHREY (Barbados) said that, at a time when savings were called for, a sense of perspective was needed, since opinions varied as to which activities of the United Nations were essential. She therefore recommended that all States should try to be guided by fairness and the common good of mankind, leaving aside narrower national interests. She joined other delegations in urging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to review their status with regard to outstanding assessed contributions.

22. Barbados considered the system of apartheid to be repugnant and called upon all present to redouble their efforts to extirpate it. Barbados condemned the illegal and unwarranted attacks on their neighbours by the agents of the racist Pretoria régime, who were threatening the lives of southern Africans in the interest of perpetuating a system condemned by the entire international community.

23. The apartheid system could not be reformed; it must be totally destroyed and the greatest influence could be exerted by the unqualified application of comprehensive sanctions. It was gratifying to see that some who had previously been reluctant to impose sanctions were now listening to common sense and their conscience.

24. The chicanery of the apartheid régime was starkly highlighted by the fact that Namibia's path to sovereignty continued to be thwarted. South Africa's occupation of Namibia was a political crime and the Government of Barbados rejected any attempt to link the freedom of Namibia with the withdrawal of foreign forces from southern Africa or the abrogation of any agreements between sovereign States. She reaffirmed her delegation's support for the struggle of the South West Africa People's Organization.

(Mrs. Humphrey, Barbados)

25. Very close attention and support must continue to be given not only to Namibia but to all just causes where peoples were being denied the right to self-determination. She was referring in particular to the Palestinians, to Afghanistan and to Kampuchea.

26. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination enjoyed wide support and her delegation urged those States which had not yet done so to become parties to it, as an important demonstration of political will. Indeed, it was important in the Third Committee's work as a whole to persevere in the knowledge that it was working not only for principles but for the freedom, dignity and, in some cases, the very lives of men, women and children.

27. Mr. TOBAR (Ecuador) said that his country had always rejected and continued to reject all manifestations of racial discrimination, particularly in its most abhorrent form, the institutionalized system of apartheid. The main problem was to eliminate false anachronistic concepts of racial superiority and ensure the full exercise of human rights, unclouded by extraneous matters or interests. Any delay in resolving the problem would have serious implications for the maintenance of peace in an already precarious situation, as evidenced by the armed attacks by South Africa against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe, to whose Governments his own Government expressed support, while condemning firmly such unwarranted acts.

28. The reported activities under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the realistic and viable new activities planned for the future gave hope that, with the necessary political will, the objectives of the Programme of Action would be attained. Ecuador resolutely supported them.

29. Discriminatory practices meant the denial of human rights to millions of human beings, including migrant workers and their families; hence the importance for all countries to accede to the relevant international instruments. A national, regional and world-wide information campaign must be instituted against intolerance, which was the root cause of any form of discrimination. The active participation of non-governmental organizations, might be particularly useful in that respect, as pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/41/550).

30. Ecuador's long-standing record of non-segregationist policies and practices, in a free and democratic multiracial society, had been commended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Long before the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the provisions of its article 4 had been embodied in the country's legislation, together with the corresponding penalties. Ecuador had also made the declaration under article 14 of the Convention and had ratified all conventions against racism, including, most recently, the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports. He expressed concern at the critical financial situation of that Committee and called for all arrears to be paid so that the Committee could resume its regular sessions and pursue its constructive work.

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(Mr. Tobar, Ecuador)

31. He noted with regret that, despite the commemoration the previous year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the historic resolution 1514 (XV), there were still countries and peoples for whom the right to self-determination was a remote goal. That was the case of the Palestinian, Afghan and Kampuchean peoples, among others. It also applied to the oppressed people of Namibia, with which his Government had expressed its solidarity on the occasion of Namibia Day, while rejecting the illegal occupation of its territory by South Africa in open defiance of United Nations resolutions, and reaffirming the Namibian people's inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence.

32. While colonialism, foreign occupation and acts of aggression were and had been impediments to self-determination, in some instances peoples might also be denied the legitimate enjoyment of those rights by their own governments. The peoples themselves were the sole agents and beneficiaries of the right to self-determination, and that required periodic and untrammelled access to free elections with the support of all political forces, so as to establish genuine democracy.

33. Mr. DOWEK (Israel) wished to place on record Israel's strong protest against the inclusion of item 88 in the first group of items on the Committee's agenda. Self-determination, a subject of major concern to the world community, should be dealt with separately. The unification of the debate and of subsequent resolutions was an intentional diplomatic exercise designed to give a racial connotation to self-determination issues and to link, on the one hand, the situation in South Africa, the struggle against apartheid and the question of Namibia with, on the other hand, Israel, the situation in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District and the Palestinian problems. It aimed also to use the spontaneous sympathy and support earned by the black people of South Africa to blur the real substance of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the true goals which the Arab world was striving to achieve. He would accordingly address item 88 separately.

34. In the debate on item 88, many of the references to the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East and to the rights of the Palestinian Arabs, including the right to self-determination, were made in a constructive spirit. But most of them were part of the propaganda warfare waged against his country. That regular anti-Israeli campaign, sanctioned by a host of United Nations resolutions, would be but a laughable caricature were it not for the fact that it meant the continuation of bloodshed and destruction for the people of the region, after 36 years of war and terror. As in the past, it was the Palestinian Arabs who paid the price of those policies. Those propaganda statements and resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 40/25, had not improved the lot of the Palestinian people or helped to solve their problems.

35. His delegation had no misgivings about addressing itself to the situation of the Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. For the past 20 years the State of Israel had been the only State engaged directly and actively in promoting the well-being, safety and socio-economic development of the Palestinian Arabs, who, under Israeli administration, had made spectacular progress

(Mr. Dowek, Israel)

in all fields as compared with the situation prevailing before 1967 or with that which existed in most of the neighbouring countries.

36. The United Nations committees and commissions were becoming increasingly selective in dealing with human rights issues in the Middle East, openly ignoring the disastrous human rights conditions, as well as the plight of minorities, in the 24 other countries of the Middle East.

37. It appeared that the United Nations, under the prompting of the countries engaged in the campaign against Israel, had already made it an inalienable right of the Palestinian people to wipe one, or even two, independent and sovereign States off the map. Many United Nations resolutions, including resolution 40/25, inferred that the existence of the State of Israel and that of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan were illegal, that those States had usurped the Palestinian lands and that the Palestine Liberation Organization could use any means to recover those lands and establish a State in the whole of Palestine, from the Mediterranean Sea to the eastern boundary of Jordan. All States and all international organizations were urged to support the Palestinians actively in the achievement of their goal. Meanwhile the road to peace through negotiations, agreements and treaties, including the Camp David Accords, was blocked. At the current crucial stage, the Middle East was in need, not of debates and resolutions aimed to fan hatred and tension, but of a positive contribution to peace. The destruction of Israel, implicit in some of the statements and resolutions of the Committee, was obviously not a solution acceptable to Israel, which, as it had proved, was determined to prevent such a solution from ever becoming a reality.

38. By the simple realities of geography, all the peoples of the Middle East, including the Palestinian Arabs, were bound to live together and had therefore no alternative but to find, in direct discussions, around a negotiating table, pragmatic and feasible solutions to all pending issues. All parties concerned had sooner or later to reach a compromise based on good faith and good will.

39. The Palestinian Arabs had legitimate rights, including the right to participate in the determination of their own future and to choose their own leadership without external interference. Not even the United Nations could impose on them the leadership of an organization such as the PLO, which was manipulated by foreign interests and had made indiscriminate terror its sole means of action. Israel was prepared at any time to negotiate with genuine and elected representatives of the Palestinian Arabs with a view to achieving a mutually acceptable agreement on the fundamental issues. Israel had even committed itself to granting the Palestinian Arabs full administrative autonomy pending the achievement of a negotiated settlement based on compromise.

40. Unfortunately, every Israeli peace overture had been blocked by countries which practised terrorism and had no qualms about sacrificing the well-being and future of the Palestinians on the altar of their own interests, even when that meant the perpetuation of conflict and hatred. Syria in particular, the self-styled champion of the Palestinians, did not hesitate to use ruthless force

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(Mr. Dowek, Israel)

against them, any more than did the terrorist PLO, which assassinated any Palestinian who dared speak of peace or contest its use of blind terror or its pretension to exclusive leadership. No peaceful solution was possible as long as the international community tolerated the violent policy of the PLO, which had threatened the well-being of Jordan, destroyed Lebanon and was now trying to destroy the chances of a dialogue between Jordan and Palestinian representatives committed to peace and peaceful coexistence.

41. The right of self-determination should not be exercised without regard for the rights of others or in a manner determined by others. The Palestinian Arabs must decide for themselves what they should do and must freely choose their own leadership. They must be allowed to speak or think differently from the PLO without risking assassination, and their self-determination could not mean the elimination of two sovereign and independent States, Jordan and Israel. Israel sought a peace based on justice and fairness that would allow all peoples in the region, including the Palestinian Arabs, to live and to develop according to their own values and traditions in security and freedom, and it would not heed resolutions which were contrary to that policy.

42. Mrs. TOURE (Mali) said that the fact that items 83, 84, 88 and 89 were still on the General Assembly's agenda was a cause of great concern. The General Assembly had frequently branded all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination as serious violations of human rights that the international community must combat by every means, including implementation of the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Her country wished to reaffirm its attachment to the principle of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence and joined the international community's efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. It was a party to all the relevant international instruments designed to combat those evils and at home it pursued a policy of peace and national unity between all groups of the population.

43. Mali would always continue to support people struggling for independence and the realization of their legitimate national rights. It would therefore continue its total support for the Namibian people as long as the racist régime of Pretoria refused to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and would continue to support the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to the realization of its legitimate aspirations as well as efforts to organize an international conference on the Middle East.

44. The current struggle against apartheid, a particularly virulent form of racism, had reached a critical juncture in South Africa and her delegation welcomed the measures recently taken by some countries to combat it, and particularly the recent decision by the United States Senate to impose sanctions on South Africa.

45. The international community must combat racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and her delegation welcomed in that connection the reports of the Secretary-General in documents A/41/550, A/41/551 and A/41/552, which provided

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(Mrs. Toure, Mali)

excellent working and reference documents, and contained useful conclusions and recommendations.

46. Lastly, her delegation wished to stress the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination practised against migrant workers in their host countries and hoped that an international convention and appropriate legal instruments would soon be adopted to protect them.

47. Mr. Mugume (Uganda) took the Chair.

48. Mrs. DARGEL (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that her country's consistent opposition to all forms of racism and racial discrimination reflected its democratic nature and was inherent in the very nature of its socialist system. Her country had eliminated all forms of national inequality at home and pursued a foreign policy based upon respect for the sovereign rights of other States, non-interference in their internal affairs and the pursuit of peaceful coexistence between States with different social and political systems.

49. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union had called for a comprehensive system of international security which included such humanitarian elements as the elimination of genocide, apartheid and discrimination on the basis of race, nationality or religion. Such a system would be in keeping with the purposes and principles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The many United Nations resolutions condemning racism and racial discrimination reflected human rights standards accepted in all civilized countries and underlined the importance of international co-operation to implement them. Most States condemned that especially odious manifestation of racism, apartheid, and would not be deceived by the pseudo-reformist manoeuvres of the South African régime designed to save it from the inevitable. Instead of genuine reform, that régime was intensifying a system of terror which was subjecting an already economically and politically deprived population to further repression, thereby threatening peace and security not only in southern Africa but everywhere. Apartheid could be eliminated only by giving full support to the national liberation movements in southern Africa, by adopting comprehensive mandatory sanctions and by curbing the activities of transnational corporations in that part of the world.

50. The crimes of the Israeli aggressors against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples clearly demonstrated Israel's State policy of racism. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had stated that Israel's policies made any dialogue with CERD impossible. It was known that Israel was an ally of South Africa and co-operated with it in many areas, including the nuclear field. At its fortieth session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 40/168 B calling upon all Member States to cease military, economic, financial and technological assistance to Israel and sever all diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with that country. Israel had earned the condemnation of world opinion by acting as a tool of imperialist policy in the Middle East. The United Nations must increase

(Mrs. Dargel, Byelorussian SSR)

its efforts to resolve the Middle Eastern problem, in particular by convening an international conference on the Middle East aimed at the establishment of a Palestinian State.

51. Her country had been one of the first to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The social and economic system and the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR guaranteed the rights and freedoms of all citizens regardless of their racial or ethnic origin. Propaganda advocating racial hatred, racial superiority and war was forbidden. Her country participated in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and observed recommendations from various sources governing economic, diplomatic and other sanctions. The United Nations should use its authority to ensure that all Member States implemented the existing resolutions designed to eliminate the infamous system of apartheid in South Africa and to put an end to the colonialist occupation of Namibia and acts of aggression against neighbouring African States. Her delegation agreed with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to co-ordinate all activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination that no financial or political crisis within the United Nations should be allowed to affect the fight against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Her country provided political, moral and material support to national liberation movements in southern Africa and made an annual donation to the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa and provided grants for activists from the national liberation movements to study in the Byelorussian SSR.

52. Mr. Hamer (Netherlands) resumed the Chair.

53. Mr. AMOLO (Kenya) said that his delegation had taken note with appreciation of the report of the Seminar on International Assistance and Support to Peoples and Movements Struggling against Colonialism, Racism, Racial Discrimination and Apartheid (A/41/571) and wished to encourage work on other similar studies. Constructive deliberation on such items could provide useful guidance for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

54. The struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid was closely connected with the concept of self-determination. Although the international community was unanimous in its desire to eliminate those practices, there was as yet no agreement about how it should be done. The various measures already suggested, including a mandatory arms embargo and economic sanctions against South Africa, could only succeed if they received the full co-operation of all Member States. It was a crime to support apartheid, just as it was a crime to practise it.

55. His delegation wished to thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa, for his excellent and revealing report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Add.1). His country commended the efforts of international and non-governmental organizations, the non-aligned movement and the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group, since effective action against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid must come from all sides. The call for disinvestment and an end to military collaboration was in the same spirit, and

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(Mr. Amolo, Kenya)

already some universities and organizations were withdrawing their investments from South Africa. The sports and cultural boycott had proved effective and deserved further support.

56. The recent death of 177 African miners in South Africa was a strong reminder of the inhuman face of apartheid and the need to protect the human rights of migrant workers. The international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families, at present being prepared by a working group, would be a major contribution to action in that area. His delegation had also taken note of the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment (A/41/552), which gave particular attention to the children of migrant workers.

57. Member States must give the United Nations and its specialized agencies the authority to act against apartheid, racial discrimination and racism, but the real impetus for action must come from within. South Africa must release Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners, lift the ban on political parties, establish a dialogue between Africans and whites and set a timetable for the abolition of apartheid. Political, military, social and economic assistance to the oppressed peoples of Africa should be increased, and non-governmental organizations, private groups and individuals should be encouraged in their efforts. It must be made illegal to co-operate with the racist régime of South Africa, and effective ways should be found to enforce the ban. His country supported all liberation movements, including those of Namibia and Palestine, in their just struggle to achieve self-determination for their peoples.

58. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan) said that racism and racial discrimination were not only a violation of basic human rights, but also an obstacle to progress and prosperity in all fields of development. His country and Government had always attached paramount importance to the national, regional and international struggle against racism, fascism and neo-fascism, particularly the struggle of the Namibian, South African and Palestinian peoples. Although the tyrannical rulers of Pretoria had massacred hundreds of defenceless women, children and elderly people, some United Nations Member States were still calling for gradual and peaceful change in South Africa. Such proposals would not change the fate of the oppressed black majority. Apartheid could not be reformed; it must be eliminated immediately and unconditionally. The report prepared by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Add.1), showed that certain Western developed countries, particularly the United States of America and the United Kingdom, still rendered generous support to Governments and régimes which openly pursued policies of racial discrimination.

59. His country also unreservedly condemned the oppressive policies of the Zionist régime of Israel. The Zionist rulers denied the Palestinians their inalienable right to a homeland and excluded them from participation in public affairs on racial and religious grounds. His delegation was also concerned about the situation of migrant workers and minority groups living in Western industrial developed countries, who were treated as second class citizens.

(Mr. Nabil, Afghanistan)

60. The resurgence of neo-Nazi and neo-Fascist groups in several capitalist countries had reached an alarming stage, and it was the moral and legal obligation of all States to curb such practices.

61. His country was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the political, economic and social equality of all Afghan nationals and nationalities was guaranteed by law and in daily life. He urged all Member States which had not yet done so to accede to the International Convention and work towards the implementation of its ideals. His delegation commended the work of CERD and supported the conclusions of the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, held in Paris on 16-20 June 1986. Education, teaching and the dissemination of information played a positive role in the fight against racism and racial discrimination, and his country had taken appropriate measures in its educational institutes and the mass media.

62. Mr. KHALIFA (Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) said that, since he would be obliged to leave shortly, he would like to take the opportunity to thank all delegations for their comments, critical or otherwise, on his report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Add.1). The report listed enterprises which had supported the South African régime in any way, not merely by ignoring mandatory sanctions or embargoes. At present, there was no binding prohibition on investment or trade with South Africa, but those countries which spoke out against the situation there should match their actions to their words.

63. In drawing up his report, he had remained politically neutral; the task would not have been possible on any other basis. The list remained open, and he would add to it enterprises from any other country, including Socialist or Arab countries or, indeed, his own country, if sufficient evidence became available. He was gratified to note that the representative of Israel had questioned only two cases out of a total of some 4,500. The two cases in question had been brought before the Sub-Commission in 1985, and he had commented upon them at the time. He had not singled out Israel for special attention, nor had he invented the special relationship between Israel and South Africa.

64. He called upon Member States and organizations to send him any information they possessed about dealings with South Africa. It was in everyone's interest to make the list more comprehensive and accurate. The two extra economist posts which he had requested would be of great assistance to him in his task.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.