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THIRD COMMITTEE
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

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

AGENDA ITEM 87. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/3, A/42/492, A/42/493)

AGENDA ITEM 91: 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: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/448)

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/42/18, A/42/449, A/42/468 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that the items under consideration were particularly important to his country because they dealt with the fundamental human rights of the individual, rights which Islam defended, as well as with the equality of all peoples, nations and individuals without regard to language, colour, culture, economic status or ethnic origin. They were also important because the problems of racial discrimination particularly affected the African continent, to which Egypt was the northeast gateway. Lastly, they were important because Egypt's struggle for independence was closely related to that of the African liberation movements and because the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination was one of the key elements of Egypt's foreign policy.

2. The efforts of the Secretary-General, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and other related bodies to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination were to be commended. However, the Secretary-General's report on the item (A/42/493) warranted a few comments. The information contained in part C of Section II of the report, dealing with the role of the Department of Public Information was germane, but repetitive. The open-ended Working Group on the drafting of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families had not completed its work so that the reference in paragraph 26 to its role in combating racial discrimination was premature. With regard to the preliminary agreement on the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, he said that equal rights should be juxtaposed to equal responsibilities and duties in the interests of achieving a balanced equation. Lastly, his delegation fully supported the proposal to hold a global consultation on racial discrimination (para. 34).

3. Egypt favoured the dissemination of as much information as possible on the adverse effects of apartheid and racial discrimination and the atrocious policy of the Pretoria régime because it was essential for world public opinion to be aware of the dangers inherent in that policy. In view of the fact that only 85 out of 154 Members of the United Nations were parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, Egypt appealed to all Member States to accede to the Convention in order to hasten the fall of the South

(Mr. Galal, Egypt)

African racist régime. In that connection, mention should be made of the extent to which aid and assistance from transnational corporations helped to maintain it in power. That fact should be emphasized in order to make world public opinion aware of the responsibility they bore.

4. With regard to the situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), his delegation urged Member States to discharge their financial obligations as soon as possible to enable the Committee to hold meetings and fulfil its mandate. The Secretary-General might solicit voluntary contributions to finance the Committee's costs.

5. Egypt wished to reaffirm the inalienable right to self-determination of all nations and peoples, including the Palestinian, Namibian and South African people, and vigorously condemned the recruitment, training and financing of mercenaries and using them to block the independence of peoples under colonial domination.

6. Mrs. BYRNE (United States of America) pointed out that the United States was a multiracial nation based on equality of rights and freedoms without distinction as to politics, religion or ethnic origin. Nevertheless, the system did not claim perfection and there were problems which were openly recognized and debated in an effort to find solutions. The struggle against racial intolerance, one of the most significant chapters in the history of the country, was not yet over, but it would be won.

7. The United States was opposed to systems based on rule by an elite claiming to possess "the revealed truth" in order to justify oppression, as was the case for Soviet communism and South African racism. The United States position on apartheid was unequivocal: the system must end. The international community had the responsibility for eliminating it. For its part, the United States proposed to find a way to put an end to that terrible system without increasing the suffering of the people of southern Africa. Calls for violence served only to undermine the struggle of the South African people, who had learned to use their economic clout in the cause of a better life. Violence would inevitably lead to the crushing of the democratic opponents of apartheid.

8. The United States had imposed an arms embargo on South Africa before the United Nations did; however, it was opposed to mandatory economic sanctions because it regarded them as counter-productive. In 1986, Congress had voted some of the harshest sanctions in the world and the United States would apply them to the letter.

9. Despite the hardening of South African attitudes and encouraged by a few positive signs, the United States would persist in its efforts to promote peaceful change. Within that framework, it aimed to provide assistance to the victims of apartheid and prepare the people for increased economic and political responsibilities in the future. Its assistance had focused on increasing educational opportunities for the black majority and strengthening community organizations, trade unions, legal resource centres and black-owned enterprises.

(Mrs. Byrne, United States)

All political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, must be released and the ban on political parties must be lifted.

10. As Secretary of State Shultz had said, what the United States wanted to see in Africa were a new constitutional order establishing equal political, economic and social rights; a democratic electoral system; effective constitutional guarantees of basic human rights for all South Africans; an independent judiciary with the power to enforce the rights to be guaranteed by the constitution to all South Africans; a constitutional allocation of powers between the national government and regional and local jurisdictions in keeping with South Africa's traditions; an economic system that guaranteed economic freedom for every South African, allocated government economic and social services fairly and enabled all South Africans to acquire and own property and attain a decent standard of living.

11. South Africans were a devoutly religious people. Until recently, the Dutch Reformed Church was claiming that the Bible not only did not condemn apartheid, but actually justified it. In 1986, after months of internal debate, the Church had announced that it was wrong and that apartheid was not in accordance with Christian principles. Thus the spurious moral basis for apartheid has been stripped away, revealing it for the unjust system it actually was.

12. In short, the United States was convinced that the only effective way of fighting apartheid was through peaceful change in South Africa and it stood ready, as it had done for 200 years, to assist all those seeking to promote democracy and justice.

13. Mr. PENALOSA (Colombia) said that, although the South African case was not the only manifestation of racial discrimination in the world, the apartheid régime's abhorrent practices had served to create a greater awareness both of the universality of racial discrimination and of the importance of solidarity. Colombia, which had been a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia since its establishment, could not remain indifferent to the Namibian people's suffering and considered it most regrettable that the repeated United Nations calls for independence for Namibia continued to be ignored.

14. It was paradoxical that, well into the era of technology, there were still discriminatory practices throughout the world. An awareness of the conditions that gave rise to discrimination against various minorities was needed, because it was only with such an awareness that it would be possible to ensure observance of the right of each and every minority to affirm its links to its culture and its own race, and to value its contribution to the enrichment of mankind. Education and the dissemination of information were decisive factors for the success of any endeavour to ensure full observance of human rights, as recognized in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In that connection, his Delegation noted with satisfaction the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme (A/42/493). It also welcomed the fact that the Centre for Human Rights had set up a new public relations section with a view to promoting education and the dissemination of information and decided

(Mr. Peñalosa, Colombia)

to expand participation by non-governmental organizations active in the area of human rights with a view to rescuing human rights issues from the discredit brought upon them in recent years as a result of their use as a political weapon.

15. With regard to the financial crisis that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was undergoing, the Secretariat had not always taken a sensible approach, since in some cases - including that of Colombia - too much money had been spent on demanding payment of contributions amounting to just a few hundred dollars that were in arrears owing to budgetary time-lags.

16. Lastly, his Government defended the Palestinian people's right to a homeland and to enjoy self-determination. Moreover, the right to self-determination must also be granted in Kampuchea, whose people had been obliged to take refuge in great numbers in the frontier areas of Thailand. An awareness of the problems in question was prompting the peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa to join together in an endeavour to develop solutions that would facilitate progress towards achievement of the ideals of tolerance and mutual understanding.

17. Mrs. OTUNBAYEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, as Mr. Gorbachev had recently indicated, her country was confident that it was possible to establish an international system of peace and security on a humanitarian basis and to restructure the world so that it would be free of all forms of discrimination and racism. In that connection, apartheid was a problem area and a destabilization factor in international politics and she wished to refer to the report of the Al HOC Group of Experts on human rights in southern Africa, which described the seriousness of the situation in the region.

18. The Soviet Union condemned the occupation of Namibia by South Africa, which had for two decades been refusing to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Security Council and was using Namibian territory as a springboard for acts of aggression directed against independent African States. Those States were being relentlessly pursued by South Africa both at the economic level and through a policy of terror based on methods comparable to those of nazism. There were two approaches in international policy with respect to South Africa. The first approach, which was supported by the Soviet Union, the socialist countries and many other States, called for isolation of the Government of South Africa and implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against it. The other approach sought to transform the apartheid system and viewed the implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions as counter-productive, because it would be prejudicial to the victims of apartheid themselves. However, that argument was fallacious and the apartheid system represented a destabilization factor in international politics. The Soviet Union therefore wished to reaffirm its support for the various resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of African Unity and other international organs calling for the intensification of pressure on the Government of South Africa. The apartheid system must be abolished, because it was the chief obstacle to democratic, independent development for the South African and Namibian peoples.

(Mrs. Otunbayeva, USSR)

19. The international community, which would be celebrating the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners on 11 October, must call for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, Arnold Stofan and other victims of repression in South Africa, as well as for recognition of the authentic representatives of the peoples concerned: the African National Congress and the South West Africa People's Organization.

20. On 7 October the peoples of the Soviet Union would be celebrating the Day of the Constitution, the basic law laying down the democratic principles of equality, development and friendship between all the peoples and nations of their country. The process of economic, social and political transformation begun in October 1917, particularly Lenin's nationalities policy, had led to equality of rights and freedoms of all the peoples and nations of the Soviet Union and to the integration of those peoples and nations into a shared world history, thus overcoming the religious, cultural, linguistic and other differences that had held them back for centuries. Reference should be made in that connection to the programme for the acceleration of the economic and social development of the peoples of the Soviet Union, adopted at the twenty-seventh Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Moreover, the spread of socialism in the world had given a fundamental impetus to the struggle to eliminate injustices and inequalities between peoples and nations and had indicated the path that mankind should continue to take.

21. The Soviet Union had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, whose provisions it was scrupulously implementing in its policies. It once again wished to urge those States that had not ratified those instruments to do so and thus ensure universal implementation of the principle of the equality of all peoples and races.

22. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that, despite the great importance of the achievements of the United Nations in promoting human rights, the most blatant human-rights violations continued to occur in South Africa and occupied Namibia. Apartheid was an immoral and shameless institutionalization of racism and racial discrimination that flouted the principles laid down in the Charter of the United Nations.

23. Senegal strongly supported oppressed peoples struggling for their independence and the restoration of their national rights. It therefore actively supported and showed solidarity for the Namibian people in their heroic struggle, under the leadership of SWAPO. The racist, colonialist régime of South Africa must withdraw from Namibian territory and comply with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). All so-called internal solutions to the Namibian problem and South African manoeuvres with a view to establishing a transitional Government in Namibia were legally null and void.

24. Senegal condemned the repression of the Palestinian people and wholeheartedly supported the realization of their inalienable rights. Through real political will, the international community must overcome the obstacles to the convening of a

(Mr. Ly, Senegal)

genuine international peace conference on the Middle East - in which the PLO would participate fully - leading to a just, lasting solution to the problem in question.

25. In racist South Africa many developments confirmed that the policy of apartheid was continuing to be implemented in all its iniquity. The Pretoria régime was flouting the international community and was a threat to the authority and prestige of the United Nations. Far from heeding calls to reason, it was stepping up its repressive measures against the forces fighting apartheid and was endeavouring to silence both the South African and the international press. Fortunately, its propaganda manoeuvres had not deceived the public, which was continuing to mobilize in solidarity with the political, trade-union, religious and student forces active in South Africa.

26. The South African régime's stubbornness had led to an increasingly explosive situation in southern Africa, which constituted a fundamental problem for the United Nations Security Council. It was hard to imagine any peaceful solution other than the imposition of mandatory and effective economic sanctions that would force South Africa to engage in frank, honest negotiations with the representatives of the South African liberation movements and patriotic forces.

27. The way apartheid was developing gave absolutely no cause for hope, particularly after such recent events as the electoral farces organized by the South African Government, the Government's repeated attacks against the front-line States, the growing militarization of Namibia and the intensification of internal and external repression. However, one source of hope lay in the meeting held at Dakar between representatives of ANC and a group of white South African citizens. The Government of Senegal viewed that meeting as constituting an area of co-operation for the laying of the groundwork of a non-racist democracy in South Africa, with no consideration given to racial, political and social differences.

28. In addition, an international conference on children, repression and the law under the apartheid régime had recently been held at Harare; participants had come from over 30 countries, ANC and anti-apartheid movements in South Africa. National delegates from white South African anti-apartheid organizations had also met for the first time.

29. The mandatory economic sanctions which the Security Council had the historical responsibility to implement against South Africa would force supporters of apartheid to renounce that odious system. That was the way of realism, reason, law, peace, justice and human rights.

30. His delegation was particularly concerned about the co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies and agencies during the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The holding in 1988 of a global consultation to co-ordinate those international activities was thus appropriate. The consultation should be given thorough preparation.

(Mr. Ly, Senegal)

31. With regard to the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/42/493), his delegation believed that greater emphasis should be placed on specific activities to eliminate apartheid, given the dramatic and explosive situation in southern Africa. Topics of the seminar and study proposed for the biennium 1992-1993 (paras. 57 (d) and (e)) could be broadened to include the criminal nature of apartheid and the search for ways of ensuring its rapid demise. Due attention should be paid to the goal of Namibian independence. In addition, the periodic list of persons, organizations and institutions allegedly responsible for the crime of apartheid must continue to be updated on a scientific basis. Senegal noted with satisfaction those aspects of the plan of activities that dealt with education, teaching and training, areas in which UNESCO could share its own experience. His delegation also welcomed the proposals relating to recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination and the application of relevant international instruments in force.

32. To implement the Programme of Action, regional and international co-operation would have to be strengthened with the help of Governments, private individuals, non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

33. His delegation was encouraged by the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been able to meet during 1987. The financial crisis facing the Committee was extremely serious; consequently, no solution aimed at stabilizing the Committee and making it functional once again should be ruled out. He urged all States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to make the declaration provided for in article 14 of that instrument.

34. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said that, although racism and racial discrimination were at variance with the principles on which the United Nations was founded and violated the laws of virtually all countries, they could nevertheless appear in practice in very real ways. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination provided a valuable framework within which the international community could work to eliminate them.

35. Her delegation was pleased to note the steps that had been taken to realize the objectives of the Decade. The public information activities were especially important because public awareness of the dangers of racism and racial discrimination was the most effective means of curtailing their growth. Because of its utility and relevance, special mention should be made of the training course for legislative draftsmen and the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affected the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers.

36. Since any country could face problems of racism and racial discrimination, the progressive development of international instruments to regulate and monitor the behaviour of States in that regard was of fundamental importance. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International

(Mrs. Sherman-Peter, Bahamas)

Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid were prominent in that respect. The financial difficulties currently impeding the functioning of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were deeply regrettable. She particularly welcomed the measures regarding the submission of reports adopted at the eleventh meeting of States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; together with the Secretary-General's efforts to solve the financial problems of CERD, they offered hope that the Convention's effectiveness and the Committee's functioning would be guaranteed.

37. She appealed to all States that had not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, since implementation of its provisions could have a significant impact on the success of the Decade.

38. The great success which decolonization represented in the annals of the United Nations was being marred by the persistence of vestiges of colonialism and by blatant disrespect for the international rules which governed relations between States. The right to self-determination must not be made contingent upon preferences for a specific system or ideology or any other consideration. Self-interest should not cause the international community to shrink from tackling fundamental problems caused by violations of the right to self-determination, whether they occurred in the Middle East, in southern Africa or anywhere else. Such violations were particularly evident in southern Africa, where Namibian independence was being delayed by extraneous political issues. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) must be implemented. The international community must confront South Africa's defiant attitude towards that resolution and towards those who called for an end to apartheid.

39. Apartheid was an irrational, cruel and violent system which sought to maintain the dominance of the white minority at any cost: Demands for justice, equality and multi-racial democracy had met with brutal repression. In that way, South Africa had narrowed the range of options open to the international community. The imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions offered the best hope for a peaceful solution. Unfortunately, many influential countries had failed to demonstrate the spirit of co-operation needed to impose such sanctions; they maintained ties with South Africa, giving the impression that they were indifferent or hostile to the majority of the South African people and the international community. Her delegation urged those countries to rethink their policy in their own interest, in the interest of the majority of the South African population and in the interest of the integrity of the United Nations.

40. A firm collective stance against South Africa would also alleviate the plight of the front-line States, which suffered from South Africa's systematic aggression and whose independence and stability were crucial to a solution of southern Africa's problems.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

FORTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records*



THIRD COMMITTEE
6th meeting
held on
Thursday, 8 October 1987
at 3.10 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LABERGE (Canada)

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AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

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

AGENDA ITEM 87: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
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AGENDA ITEM 91: 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: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/448)

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
(A/42/18, A/42/449, A/42/468 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

1. Mr. FISCHER (Austria) said that racism and racial discrimination were incompatible with the fundamental ideals of free and democratic societies. The fight against racism must be conducted not only at the legal level but in the daily life of societies all over the world. The system of apartheid was the most blatant example of racism and South Africa was the only State in which racial discrimination served as organizing principle of society. Although the Government of South Africa had stubbornly refused to comply with United Nations resolutions on apartheid, the United Nations must continue to play a central role in ensuring that the Government of South Africa put an end to that system, preventing it from continuing to perpetrate atrocities on the majority of the population and continuing to carry out destabilization campaigns and military attacks against neighbouring States.

2. Austria shared the determination of the overwhelming majority of the international community to adopt measures, through the United Nations, to create pressure for change. It reiterated its appeal to the Government of South Africa to release immediately all political prisoners, to refrain from the execution of pending sentences and to enter without preconditions into a political dialogue with genuine leaders of the majority population in order to bring about a peaceful transition to a free and democratic united South Africa with equal rights for all.

3. Turning to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he commended the Secretariat's comprehensive and detailed reports, particularly that in document A/42/493 on activities undertaken to achieve the objectives of the Second Decade. The programme, which would have the required impact only through concerted action by the different bodies of the United Nations involved in its implementation, contained various measures which might be very useful in the fight against apartheid, particularly in education, teaching and training, seminars, the dissemination of information and the promotion and protection of human rights of persons belonging to minority groups, indigenous populations and peoples.

4. Expressing his concern at the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, he noted that 52 of the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

(Mr. Fischer, Austria)

had not yet paid their assessments. Financial and budgetary constraints could not be the predominant reason for that situation. It would be regrettable if the future of the most relevant international instrument in the struggle against racial discrimination were jeopardized for that reason. In that context, it was also noteworthy that by the closing date of the Committee's thirty-fifth session, reports from 73 States parties had been overdue, some for several years. He welcomed the decision adopted at the meeting of States parties on 29 April 1987 contained in paragraph 43 of document A/42/18.

5. Ms. AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that the Arab people, who had always defended the right of self-determination embodied in the United Nations Charter, reaffirmed in the historic resolution 1514 (XV) and incorporated into international law as a norm of jus cogens, condemned its violation in the cases of the Palestinian people, the people of Namibia and the people of South Africa.

6. Zionism, the ideology governing the leaders of Israel, espoused the same racist principles of colonialism as had the European Powers at the beginning of the nineteenth century, since, just as those invoked the doctrine of the "white man's mission", Zionism was based on the essentially racist idea of a chosen people. Applying that racist doctrine, Israel had expelled the Palestinian people from its territory and subjected it to all sorts of outrages and massacres like those of Sabra and Shatila. The Palestinian people, led by the Palestine Liberation Organization, was fighting to recover its Territory and to exercise its right of self-determination and the United Nations must support its cause not only because it was just but because the situation constituted a source of tension very dangerous to international peace.

7. Turning to the situation in southern Africa, she condemned the racist practices of Pretoria, which continued to flout the resolutions of the United Nations, particularly Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and continued to exploit illegally the uranium and diamond riches of that territory, expelling its citizens to Bantustans and perpetrating attacks against neighbouring countries. The system of apartheid could be compared with nazism and the Special Expert Group on Human Rights in Southern Africa had characterized that system as genocide. Her delegation considered that the sanctions provided for in chapter VII of the Charter should be applied against the Pretoria Government and that the boycott of that country should be total rather than selective. Only in that way would the system of apartheid be done away with.

8. In connection with the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, she noted that 86 countries had acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and expressed her gratification with the work of the Group of 3 and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Iraq, which had already presented its eighth report to that Committee and had met its financial obligations, appealed to the States parties which had not yet done so to pay their assessments so that the Committee could continue its important work.

(Ms. Al-Turaihi, Iraq)

9. Turning to agenda item 92, she reaffirmed her country's position on the need to assign top priority to the question of racial discrimination in the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and expressed the hope that the Decade would end with the abolition of the system of apartheid.

10. Mr. RICHTER (German Democratic Republic) said that apartheid was the most abominable form of racism and racial discrimination and survived in spite of the efforts made by the United Nations since its foundation to enforce one of the most fundamental principles of its Charter. In South Africa the official racist policy was applied more brutally every day and affected young people especially cruelly.

11. The inhuman practices of the racist fanatics did not stop at South Africa's borders: its persistent acts of aggression against the front-line States, including the occupation of Namibia were ample evidence of that. A great responsibility must be assumed by those who continue to give political, economic and military support to the South African régime. Without that support the racist régime would have been discarded long since.

12. His country gave its unrestricted support to the independent States of southern Africa, the ANC and SWAPO in their struggle for peace and social progress, the eradication of apartheid and the independence of Namibia. His delegation therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposals contained in document A/42/493, which would enable a fresh impetus to be given to the struggle against the system of apartheid - hence the vital importance of the binding international instruments against apartheid and racial discrimination, the universality and effectiveness of which would be promoted by the measures suggested by the Secretary-General under paragraphs 55 (e) and (g), 56 (f) and 57 (f) of his report. Also, in view of the importance of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, a reference to the latter should be inserted in the aforementioned texts of paragraphs 56 and 57 of the report.

13. He stressed the particular importance, in the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, of the functions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). During the consideration of the seventh periodic report of CERD, his delegation had described the measures adopted in the German Democratic Republic pursuant to the Convention and had stressed its firm commitment to the struggle for the total elimination of racism, fascism and apartheid.

14. It was also necessary to increase the collective efforts of the United Nations to guarantee the rights of migrant workers and their families and to eliminate the discrimination from which they were still suffering. Those issues should be given greater consideration in the plans for the second half of the Decade.

15. Ms. THANH (Viet Nam) said that the scope and strength of the struggle for national liberation and independence had reached unprecedented proportions over the past several decades and particularly in recent years. In all regions of Asia, Africa and Latin America the people were determined to combat poverty and

(Mr. Thanh, Viet Nam)

underdevelopment caused by colonialism or imperialist domination. The ongoing process of democratization in various countries had reached a new level, with the aim of eliminating dictatorship and fascism and establishing a new, progressive social order.

16. Viet Nam fully supported the countries and peoples struggling for national independence and self-determination. Self-determination had become a binding principle of international law and the basis for the recognition and implementation of fundamental human rights, and other principles such as respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

17. Self-determination meant, first and foremost, the right to live in peace, security, independence and freedom, free from any threat of war or genocide. The aspiration of the peoples of the world to live in peaceful coexistence had led them to join together to avert the danger of nuclear war. The Vietnamese people, with the experience of 100 years of colonialism, 20 years of neo-colonialism and 30 years of devastating wars, earnestly desired to work for national reconstruction and to enjoy the fruits of their labours. The process of democratization, which had been undertaken on a nation-wide scale ever since the reunification of Viet Nam, had received a special impetus from the sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam. The people were effectively exercising the right to govern their own society, participating in State management and in the legislative elections at all levels.

18. The struggle for national liberation and self-determination had achieved great successes and most of the peoples of the world had been liberated from colonialism. However, in many regions, that struggle continued unabated in the face of ever more sophisticated and sinister forms of neo-colonialism. For countries currently under colonial domination and the recently independent countries, the main obstacles to development and progress were still imperialism, colonialism, racism, oppression and exploitation, inequality and unemployment. The old-style methods of colonialist and imperialist domination were being replaced by neo-colonial forms of domination while a pretence was being made of exercising special prerogatives over various regions of the world, on the pretext that they were "areas of vital interest".

19. Viet Nam condemned in the strongest terms racism, together with its most obnoxious manifestation, apartheid. The South African régime, pursuing racism and apartheid as State policy, was resorting to brutal methods against those struggling in South Africa and Namibia for independence, freedom, equality and social progress.

20. South Africa was still illegally occupying Namibia, in defiance of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and was systematically perpetrating acts of aggression against Angola, Mozambique and other front-line States. Viet Nam supported the struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples under the leadership of ANC and SWAPO, for their legitimate rights. It also supported the struggle of the front-line States in defence of their sovereignty and independence.

(Ms. Thanh, Viet Nam)

21. Viet Nam joined with the peoples of Africa in calling for the adoption by the Security Council of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter. The repeated abuse of the right of veto by certain permanent members of the Security Council had been perceived as an encouragement for the racist régime to continue its policy of apartheid.
22. Viet Nam lent its strong support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), for their national fundamental rights, and to the peoples of New Caledonia, Western Sahara, Puerto Rico and other peoples striving to attain self-determination. Furthermore, there must be an end to the threats and pressures which continued to be exerted against Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries of Latin America. The right of those peoples to live in peace and pursue their development free from any foreign interference must be recognized. In Afghanistan, the Government's actions continued to foster stability and progress. Its policy of national reconciliation, and of co-operation with the United Nations in the field of human rights, demonstrated its good will and the constructive attitude with which it was seeking a political solution.
23. The peoples of South-East Asia, subjected to 40 years of war, needed, more than ever, the peace that would enable them to rebuild their countries in freedom. After the horrible consequences of the genocide perpetrated against the Kampuchean people, the country's miraculous rebirth and its political, economic and social development were an undeniable reality. Viet Nam hoped that the question of Kampuchea could be resolved in a dialogue between the different sides, through the policy of national reconciliation recently proclaimed by the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and aimed at uniting all its citizens in an independent, peaceful and non-aligned nation, enjoying friendly relations with all neighbouring countries.
24. Finally, the use of mercenaries against sovereign States and national liberation movements constituted a particularly flagrant violation of the right to self-determination and the principles of international law. In that connection, Viet Nam supported General Assembly resolution 41/102 and the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on the question.
25. Mr. HAMIDA (Tunisia) said that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, approved by consensus, had taken a realistic approach which bore out the hopes that had been placed in it. Four years later, however, its successes had been few and far between, especially at the international level.
26. It was becoming more and more obvious that the Economic and Social Council, which the General Assembly had assigned to co-ordinate the implementation of the Programme of Action and to evaluate its activities, could have done a better job. The Council had often had to decide on proposed programmes which were not sufficiently clear, or were hardly appropriate, and it had had to limit itself to issuing reminders of certain principles. Without conducting its own evaluation, it had had to leave the substantive consideration of the questions to the Assembly.

(Mr. Hamidu, Tunisia)

27. It was of the utmost importance that the objectives of the Programme of Action should be clearly understood. Action must be centred on two fundamental issues, the total elimination of apartheid and the protection of minority groups, such as migrant workers and their families. Priority must be accorded to education in the broadest sense of the word, and to the dissemination of information.

28. On the issue of apartheid, the only measures which might induce the Government of South Africa to renounce its system of racial discrimination were those contained in section A, paragraph 8, of the Programme of Action (annex to General Assembly resolution 38/14).

29. It was a source of great satisfaction to Tunisia that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been able to meet in 1987. It was essential for the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to meet their financial obligations in order to sustain the operation of a body so vital to the question of human rights. Tunisia supported decision 1 (XXXV) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on that subject.

30. He drew attention to the Committee's decision 1 (XXXIV) on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In view of its functions with respect to the implementation of the Convention and the expertise of its members, it should reflect carefully on ways and means of putting the Programme of Action into practice.

31. Unfortunately, the norms of international law on the right of peoples to self-determination were still being violated. In southern Africa, in Palestine, in southern Lebanon and in other places, the decisions and appeals of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and other regional organizations were falling on deaf ears. It was time to put an end to such injustice and for the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine to recover their inalienable rights under the leadership of SWAPO and the PLO, their sole legitimate representatives.

32. Mr. ABRAHAM (Hungary) said that racism, racial discrimination and apartheid were the most abhorrent manifestations of human rights violations. Therefore, the struggle against apartheid was one of the most important tasks of the present time.

33. Despite the important results achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it could not be said that the end of the road was in sight. Unfortunately, racism and racial hatred were on the rise in certain countries, despite the efforts of the international community. It was therefore no surprise that many of the issues before the Committee had become perennial. In particular, the persistence of the racist South African régime in pursuing its policy of apartheid posed an extremely serious challenge to the United Nations.

(Mr. Abraham, Hungary)

34. The system of apartheid, characterized by oppression, subjugation and exploitation, had caused untold suffering and, in reaction, the black majority, deprived of all its fundamental human rights, had intensified its resistance and its fight for freedom, justice and dignity. It was already obvious that the Pretoria régime would not change its policy unless forced to do so by resolute international action. No one could be misled by Pretoria's so-called reforms. The system of apartheid could not be reformed; it must be abolished.

35. The people and Government of Hungary condemned any action aimed at perpetuating the racist régime of Pretoria and every form of collaboration with that régime. They called on the Security Council to apply comprehensive mandatory sanctions. Until such time as those sanctions were applied, Hungary reaffirmed its solidarity with the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia and its determination to support those movements. The Government of Hungary seized every opportunity to promote the struggle against racial discrimination, apartheid, racism and social hatred and to contribute to international efforts to eliminate such flagrant violations of human rights.

36. Since racial discrimination was alien to Hungary's social and political system, its legislation contained provisions to enforce the principle of non-discrimination. Hungary's legal system proclaimed equal rights for all citizens and the principle of non-discrimination as embodied in its Constitution. Its criminal, civil and administrative law provided effective guarantees for the enforcement of equal rights in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life. Hungary attached particular importance to creating the conditions necessary for the recognition of the equal rights of different groups, including national minorities, and for the preservation of their identities, no matter what percentage of the total population they represented.

37. His Government sought to adopt measures which would enable national minority groups to preserve and enrich their culture and traditions. Recognition of the individual and collective rights of the various groups, including the right to be educated in their own languages and to create institutional and democratic frameworks within which to protect their rights, guaranteed them equal participation in political, economic and cultural life, which was an important constituent of national unity.

38. In that connection, the United Nations should play a major part by taking effective, resolute action against the wholesale and blatant violation of human rights, humiliating racist policies and practices, racial hatred and discrimination against national or other minority groups forming part of the population of any given country. The rapidly deteriorating conditions observable in the fields of employment and education and with regard to the participation in decision-making, and the representation, of certain social groups also called for action at the international level. Increased immigration, even in some of the most developed countries, was resulting in greater racial hatred and xenophobia, which were reflected in economic, social and cultural discrimination.

(Mr. Abraham, Hungary)

39. His Government was concerned about the critical financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The existence of that Committee and its future activities were in jeopardy, and it was to be hoped that the States parties to the Convention would honour their financial commitments in that regard. As far as the late submission of reports was concerned, it was worth considering changing the periodicity of submission, which would in turn help to rationalize the work of the Committee.

40. As a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, Hungary had established constructive and productive co-operation with the Group of 3 of the Commission on Human Rights. It was regrettable that some States which had far-reaching responsibilities with regard to the elimination of apartheid were not parties to that Convention. The General Assembly should call on all countries that had not yet done so to become parties to the international instruments against racial discrimination and apartheid.

41. Exercise of the right to self-determination, one of the most important concepts in contemporary international life, depended on the existence of all its constituent parts, national independence, democracy, freedom, economic development and social justice. It was highly regrettable that millions were still deprived of their basic human rights, subjected to military, economic and financial domination, and in some cases, forced to abandon their own culture and language.

42. Hungary strongly condemned the system of apartheid in South Africa, the racist régime's introduction of a state of emergency, its suppression of the indigenous populations of South Africa and Namibia, its cruel repression, and its systematic acts of aggression against the front-line States.

43. The international community should also make a collective effort to resolve the Middle East problem, on the basis of a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories, recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish their own State, and acknowledgement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region. An international conference on the Middle East, conducted under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, would undoubtedly contribute to the achievement of a comprehensive solution.

44. Hungary called for a just political settlement in Central America, a halt to the acts of aggression committed against Nicaragua, and recognition of the right of the peoples of that region to determine freely the direction of their political, economic, social and cultural development without foreign interference.

45. The use of mercenaries against sovereign States and national liberation movements to thwart the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination, represented a flagrant violation of international law and made it imperative to adopt an international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries. He welcomed not only the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human

(Mr. Abraham, Hungary)

Rights in that regard, but also the appointment of a special rapporteur to deal with that important issue.

46. Mr. DE FIGUEIREDO (Angola) said that, as one of the front-line States, his country was proud to be at the forefront of the international fight against racism and racial discrimination, and their most virulent expression, apartheid. For over a decade, in all international forums, Angolan representatives had been expressing their support for, and solidarity with, their oppressed comrades in southern Africa.

47. Racism and racial discrimination were a philosophy, an ideology, a system and a structure most completely embodied in South Africa. The racist system was also reflected in the illegal occupation of certain parts of Angola, in the support the racist régime gave to bandits operating inside independent States, such as Angola and Mozambique, and in the use of mercenaries in attempts to destabilize Governments in southern Africa.

48. Angola was fully convinced that racism and racial discrimination would persist in southern Africa until the structure behind them, in other words, the racist minority régime of Pretoria, was completely dismantled.

49. The international community must also bring pressure to bear on South Africa's allies and ensure that existing sanctions against that régime were not only respected, but also intensified. Application of the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter was the only effective means of achieving that end.

50. His country was firmly opposed to racism and racial discrimination in whatever form or context, including the Middle East. Like its close collaborator, the Pretoria régime, the Government of Israel was in illegal occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories. Similarly, its occupying administration adopted a racist policy as far as the Arab inhabitants were concerned. Measures far more stringent than the resolutions adopted by the Third Committee over the past decade should be taken, with a view to eliminating racism and racial discrimination. In accordance with the Charter, Angola was prepared to fulfil its obligation to give diplomatic, political and economic support to those who daily suffered the effects of apartheid and racism and endured the illegal occupation of their territory.

51. Mr. AGUILAR HECHT (Guatemala) said that, although the United Nations had devoted two special decades to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination and had adopted to that end the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, it had not proved possible to eliminate that abominable practice. However, racial discrimination was illegal almost throughout the world and those who practised it were the object of unanimous condemnation by the international community.

52. It was a matter of concern to Guatemala that new forms of discrimination had emerged and, although perhaps more subtle, they were no more acceptable for that reason; it was therefore essential to introduce education programmes at all levels and to implement the relevant United Nations recommendations with a view to

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educating and arousing the conscience of the peoples of the world concerning the equality between human beings, promoting respect for their dignity and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and solidarity that united them.

53. Guatemala especially condemned the abhorrent, institutionalized racist policy of apartheid pursued by the Government of South Africa, a policy which violated the most elementary standards of human dignity. The situation prevailing in that country was intolerable and must be ended. Consequently, Guatemala supported United Nations measures for the complete elimination of apartheid. The Congress of Guatemala had recommended in 1986 that the executive power should sever relations of any kind with the South African Government.

54. Guatemalan society was composed of various races and indigenous racial groups which had a long history and culture and their own languages. Hence, Guatemala attached great importance to the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which contained valuable elements concerning the situation of indigenous peoples. He commended the work of the open-ended working group on the drafting of a declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the implementation of that instrument could help in preserving the cultural heritage, unity and identity of racial and indigenous groups and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to the development of culture within a pluralist and democratic society. He was concerned, however, at the possibility that pressure might be exerted on the working group for political ends which, far from contributing to respect for cultures which were to be preserved, generated fratricidal struggles which infringed the territorial integrity of the countries in involved.

55. Guatemala supported the recommendation of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the effect that the year 1992 should be proclaimed the International Year of Indigenous Peoples. It also supported the organizing in 1988 of a seminar on the effects of racism and racial discrimination on social and economic relations between indigenous peoples and States, as well as the use of means of education and social communication in order to promote respect for and protection of the human rights of minority groups. The Guatemalan Constitution had always recognized the equality of all citizens without any distinction. The Constitution which had entered into force in January 1987 also recognized that principle and provided for the protection of the country's various racial groups.

56. Guatemala supported Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978), the sole internationally acceptable basis for a peaceful settlement of the question of Namibia, as well as any measures adopted by the United Nations and the Council for Namibia in order to protect the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence.

57. Guatemala condemned colonialism and the occupation of independent States by foreign forces, interference in the internal affairs of the occupied States and the

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support given to groups which, through terrorism and violence, impeded the exercise of the right to self-determination. The use of force in international relations should be replaced by the peaceful settlement of disputes.

58. The Guatemalan Government promoted and respected human rights, supported the establishment of a pluralist and democratic society and was committed to the search for peaceful means of solving the crisis in Central America. In an effort to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood which linked them, the Presidents of the countries of the region had, on 7 August 1987, in Guatemala City, signed the "Procedure for the Establishment of a Strong and Lasting Peace in Central America", which was designed to find lasting solutions to the problems facing the region.

59. Mr. MIR NAWAZ KHAN MARWAT (Pakistan) said that concerted international action was vital for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. South Africa continued to pursue its policies of massive repression in defiance of the strong condemnation of the international community. There was a need to provide assistance and relief to the victims of the inhuman policies of racist régimes, especially in South Africa, Namibia and the territories under alien occupation.

60. Pakistan had been one of the first States to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was also a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the objectives of which it fully supported, and had consistently condemned the Pretoria régime for its abominable policies. Pakistan urged the imposition of mandatory sanctions against South Africa and reaffirmed its support for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole representative of the Namibian people.

61. Although two generations of Palestinians had rendered great sacrifices in the cause of freedom and the reconquest of their native land, their aspirations remained unfulfilled. Pakistan renewed its solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian people and supported their just struggle. The international community should assume its obligations in order to compel Israel to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

62. He welcomed the efforts made by the Secretary-General in regard to the activities for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Only a resolute and determined effort by the international community could crown with success the independence struggle of oppressed peoples.

63. His delegation felt that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be strengthened to enable it to examine the problem of racism in all signatory States, and South Africa in particular, a task for which it had been given a special mandate under article 15 of the Convention. It was also necessary to give wider publicity to the work of the Committee, in order to help it in discharging its functions. He urged those Member States which had not yet done so to accede to the Convention.

(Mr. Mir Nawaz Khan Marwat, Pakistan)

64. Lastly, he said it was encouraging to note that the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families had completed the second reading of the draft. Given the discriminatory treatment to which migrant workers were subjected, the Convention should be finalized and adopted at the next session of the General Assembly.
65. Mr. NAVON (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the remarks of the representative of Iraq not only contained shrill overtones of anti-Semitism; they were also irrelevant to the items under discussion. Although it would be easy to refute each of the allegations, he would refrain from doing so in order not to engage in a ritual which the Committee had experienced ad nauseam.
66. The acts of defamation, which were a habitual practice in the Committee, had not solved the Arab-Israeli conflict; nor had they diminished the desire of the Arab Governments to annihilate the State of Israel and its people. Although it would be easy to detail the atrocities committed by the ferocious Government of Iraq against many oppressed minorities, that would not promote dialogue or enhance the chances for peace in the Middle East.
67. He would be tempted to call upon the representative of Iraq to present her viewpoint in free and direct negotiations, but he was aware that she would refrain from doing so, inter alia, because of more pressing international business which was not being discussed in the Committee.
68. Israel maintained peaceful relations with Egypt and had entered into open dialogue with Morocco. Other such political initiatives which could bring about peace in the Middle East might be made in the future. For that reason, he appealed to the Committee to give peace a chance instead of being an impediment to it.
69. Ms. POC (Democratic Kampuchea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Vietnamese delegation had once again repeated, for the ninth year, the same lies in order to mislead world public opinion. The aggression against Kampuchea and the military occupation of the country constituted a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations. Furthermore, Viet Nam's expansionist designs violated the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles on which relations between States were based.
70. The representatives of Viet Nam to the United Nations stubbornly ignored the fact that the problem of Kampuchea had begun in 1978 with Viet Nam's aggression aimed at annexing Kampuchea to its territory.
71. The sovereignty and independence of Kampuchea were non-negotiable. The aggressor had no right whatsoever to impose its conditions for settling the problem. No international law gave Viet Nam the right to interfere in the internal affairs of another State.

(Ms. Poc, Democratic Kampuchea)

72. Only the total and unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese forces would pave the way for national reconciliation in Kampuchea and allow its people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in a process involving all the citizens of the country, including the patriotic resistance forces.

73. Kampuchea proposed that national reconciliation should begin after the completion of the first phase of the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, within the framework of an agreement concluded under United Nations auspices. Viet Nam, instead, proposed that national reconciliation should take place while its forces were still occupying Kampuchea, and without any formal agreement.

74. Democratic Kampuchea proposed that the process of national reconciliation should include the Phnom Penh régime in a quadripartite Government. Viet Nam, on the other hand, proposed that reconciliation should take place under the régime, which it had installed after the invasion.

75. Kampuchea proposed that all the political movements should participate in the process of national reconciliation, while Viet Nam favoured a selective approach aimed at dividing and weakening the national resistance forces.

76. The peace proposal made by Democratic Kampuchea took into account the interests of both countries, as well as those of the other countries of the region and of the world. Kampuchea wished to become an independent, united, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned State, without any foreign military bases. The proposal also offered Viet Nam an opportunity to establish relations in all fields, and even to sign a treaty of non-aggression and peaceful coexistence between the two countries. By rejecting Kampuchea's peace proposal, Viet Nam had clearly shown that it was not interested in any political solution to the problem. She appealed to all Member States to support her country's efforts to bring about such a solution on the basis of the principles set forth in United Nations resolutions, and called upon Viet Nam to heed the call to reason.

77. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, inquired how it was possible that Viet Nam, one of the most racist and imperialist Governments in the world, could speak about the need for self-determination for the people of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico held periodic, free elections, and the pro-independence parties had never obtained more than 5 per cent of the vote. He asked the representative of Viet Nam what percentage of the vote the pro-Viet Nam parties had received in Kampuchea. As was common knowledge, the only way in which the people of Kampuchea had been able to express themselves was to flee the country or join the armed resistance. He asked the representative of Viet Nam how many Puerto Ricans had sought asylum in her country. The United States had received hundreds of thousands of requests for asylum from Vietnamese nationals who were prepared to risk death in order to flee.

78. Ms. AL-TURAIHI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel described everything that was said against it as anti-semitism. She had made a clear distinction between political zionism and Judaism.

(Ms. Al-Turaihi, Iraq)

79. She drew the attention of the Committee to document A/42/18, which referred to the periodic reports submitted by Iraq and Israel to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and quoted from documents which demonstrated the similarity between zionism and anti-semitism. During the Nazi era, the German régime and a Jewish agency had made arrangements for the massive transfer of German Jews to Palestine. In that way, the German policy had helped to consolidate the State of Israel in Palestine. There was proof that the Jews, in negotiations with the Nazis, had intended to help them to achieve Germany's greatest objective, namely, ridding Europe of the Jews.

80. Lastly, she recalled the negative attitude of Israel concerning the holding of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

81. Mr. NAVON (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it would be appropriate to comment on the extensive quotations from Nazi texts which the representative of Iraq had just read out. He referred to the ideological affinities between Rashid Ali and the Government of the Third Reich, and to the former's intention to apply in Iraq the same policy of extermination which the Hitler régime had applied in Europe. He preferred, however, not to enter into such sterile discussions, and called for a commitment to negotiation so as to promote progress towards a peaceful future.

82. Ms. AL-TURAIHI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, although she could explain how certain Zionist agents had carried out terrorist actions in order to intimidate the Jews of Iraq, who for centuries had coexisted amicably with their neighbours, not in ghettos as in Europe, she would refrain, so as not to continue the discussion.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.