

**United Nations**  
**GENERAL**  
**ASSEMBLY**

**FORTY-SECOND SESSION**

**Official Records\***



THIRD COMMITTEE  
7th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 9 October 1987  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

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87-56001 0591S (E)

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/42/SR.7  
14 October 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.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 (A/42/3, A/42/492, A/42/493) (continued)

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

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

1. Ms. NYMAN (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that racism and racial discrimination were a universal phenomenon. The primary responsibility for abolishing them lay with Governments themselves, within their respective areas of national jurisdiction, but strong and concerted international action was also required.

2. The Nordic countries considered it was altogether appropriate that apartheid should be listed first in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, since it was the most evil form of racial discrimination, using repression and violence to keep the white minority in power. The incidence of detentions and torture by the South African police and military had increased, and in some cases the victims had been children.

3. In the communiqué issued at their meeting in Helsinki in September 1987, the Foreign Ministers of the Nordic countries had expressed their concern about developments in South Africa since the May 1987 elections. The prolonged state of emergency, press censorship and numerous arrests of opponents of apartheid particularly members of trade unions and the United Democratic Front, had exacerbated the situation. The Nordic Foreign Ministers had stressed the importance of the support of the international community to all those who had been imprisoned and persecuted on account of their resistance to apartheid.

4. In accordance with the joint Nordic Programme of Action against South Africa, the Nordic countries would continue to step up their efforts to contribute to the early abolition of the apartheid system by peaceful means. Pending the imposition of mandatory sanctions by the Security Council, the Nordic countries had taken

(Ms. Nyman, Finland)

further unilateral measures, including a trade boycott of South Africa, which they hoped would lead to more comprehensive international action. At the same time, they would intensify their contingency planning for the early implementation of possible decisions by the Security Council. They would also increase humanitarian assistance to southern Africa and development assistance to the Front-Line States in order to reduce their dependence on South Africa.

5. It was regrettable that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had had to cancel its summer 1986 session. The Nordic countries appealed to States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to honour their obligations under the Convention and pay their outstanding contributions so that financial support would be sufficient to enable CERD to fulfil its mandate in future. CERD must also continue its efforts to rationalize its own working methods. The Nordic countries hoped that all interested delegations would be involved in drafting the resolution concerning the report of CERD in an effort to reach a satisfactory consensus; the resolution should reflect the views of all States parties and should not include divisive and extraneous issues.

6. Education, teaching and training were among the most important weapons in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. Efforts should be made to produce teaching materials more specifically focused on racial discrimination. It was also important to engage the media in the fight against racial discrimination, and the activities of the Department of Public Information in that respect were commendable.

7. Miss AIOUAZE (Algeria) said that the efforts made by the United Nations since its establishment to promote human rights and the dignity of the individual as cardinal universal values were still being undermined by the persistence of shameful racial theories. Racism and racial discrimination, which whether covertly or overtly affected the lives and dignity of individuals or entire peoples, were among the most serious and widespread violations of human rights.

8. The victims of those practices were innumerable. Migrant workers and members of their families were a favourite target. Attitudes of indifference, complacency or leniency must be overcome so that the dignity and security of migrant workers and their families could be ensured. The system of apartheid, for its part, could not be reformed; it must be dismantled. Events had amply demonstrated that the only viable course was to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. Solidarity and support must also be extended to the struggle of the South African people, under the leadership of ANC, their sole legitimate representative, to regain their freedom and dignity.

9. Zionism too was based on oppression and discrimination. The Palestinian people, under the leadership of PLO, its sole legitimate representative, was striving to win its inalienable right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State. The organization of an international peace conference on the Middle East, in which all the parties concerned, including PLO, would participate on an equal footing, was the only way of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

(Miss Aïouaze, Algeria)

10. Ever since the adoption of resolution 1514 (XV), the United Nations had upheld the liberation struggle of peoples refusing to be denied their future. The full attainment of the right of peoples to self-determination was still being obstructed, however, largely by the attitude of colonial régimes which persisted in keeping entire peoples enslaved. No pre-conditions could be attached to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978); only its strict implementation would satisfy the inalienable claim of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence. The international community must rise to its responsibilities and support the liberation struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole authentic representative, and also support the Front-Line States in the face of South Africa's destabilizing manoeuvres.

11. Despite the full commitment of the international community to a peaceful and just solution of the question of Western Sahara, there had been a disturbing increase in the foreign military presence in the Territory. The African peace plan set forth in resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity had been endorsed by the international community. Algeria supported fully the efforts of the current Chairman of the OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote the exercise by the Saharan people of their right to self-determination and independence through the organization of a referendum supervised by the United Nations and the OAU.

12. Mercenarism posed a serious threat to international peace and security and afflicted peoples struggling for their national liberation and economic and political independence. The appointment, by the Commission on Human Rights, of a Special Rapporteur on the question of mercenarism would help define the dimensions of the problem and promote the resumption of codification exercises in other bodies.

13. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination showed that activities had been largely retrospective in nature. The draft plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 did not make sufficient provision for measures to combat apartheid. The success of the Second Decade was closely dependent on efforts in all the complementary spheres covered by the Programme of Action. The organization of studies and seminars was given undue importance among the activities for the period 1990-1991. Above and beyond mere verbal condemnation, the value of the human person must be reasserted. The results achieved so far demonstrated the need to reconsider the activities planned. Priority must be given to the implementation of ongoing, forceful international measures for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in all its forms, particularly the most virulent forms.

14. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had done useful work since its establishment. Everything must be done to enable it to carry out the mandate entrusted to it. The States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination must intensify their efforts. The best guarantee of CERD's authority was respect for its mandate under the Convention.

15. Mr. KOUNKOU (Congo) said that, in adopting General Assembly resolution 41/104, the United Nations had made an immense contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Although most States condemned racism, it persisted in many countries. Official proclamations notwithstanding, the shameful exploitation of foreign workers and marginalization of minorities and migrant workers and their children continued. States found refuge in silence or in the principle of exclusive competence over their internal affairs. The international community must continue its efforts and co-ordinate its action to eliminate racism particularly through public education and information. All States Members of the United Nations must undertake to mobilize even greater resources, including financial resources, for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

16. Twenty-seven years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Africa and the international community were still trying to free themselves of the last bastion of colonialism on that continent. South Africa, encouraged and supported by powerful Western allies, continued to defy the international community by occupying Namibia illegally. In the spring of 1987, the international community had taken bitter note of the United States veto in the Security Council on a draft resolution the substance of which had earlier won the support of the United States Congress. South Africa had taken advantage of the situation and renewed its opposition to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the basis for any settlement of the question of Namibia, and serious uncontrolled violations of human rights persisted in the Territory.

17. South Africa continued to be a source of serious tension for States of southern Africa. Apartheid and an aggressive colonial policy lay at the basis of South Africa's repression against the majority of the South African people and aggression against neighbouring States. Within South Africa a régime of intolerance and prejudice had eradicated all the fundamental rights of the black population, as was demonstrated by the dramatic hearings held at Harare during the International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa, yet the black majority was determined to take control of its future and live in freedom, whatever the price.

18. The victory of the South African people was inevitable, despite the delaying tactics and the "engagement" of powerful allies on the side of Pretoria. The Pretoria authorities must immediately abolish apartheid, release Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and legalize ANC, and negotiate with representatives of the black majority and South African democratic forces. The African continent was stepping up its initiatives to that end. From 25 to 31 May 1987, on the initiative of the Government of Congo, an international literary symposium against apartheid had been held at Brazzaville, bringing together 400 delegates from various countries and international organizations and culminating in the adoption of the Brazzaville Declaration. The Africa Fund set up at Harare by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had also become operational; by May 1987 it had already attracted \$US 110 million, including 200 million CFA francs from the Congolese people.

(Mr. Kounkou, Congo)

19. Although the divestment begun by some western firms was commendable, the fact that their place was being taken by other European or United States companies was a source of great concern. Pressure must be stepped up for the final abolition of apartheid. The Boers had already undergone psychological defeat and the myth of the bunker mentality had been dispelled. The recent meeting between representatives of various segments of the white population and ANC was encouraging and it was to be hoped that such meetings would become a permanent feature so that, in unity, South Africans might build a multiracial, just and democratic post-apartheid South Africa.

20. Ms. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) said that the moral progress of humanity should have already eliminated racism from the face of the earth and it was unfortunate that the Committee was discussing an issue which should have long since ceased to exist. Her country's position on the issue was well known. Its Constitution prohibited any form of racism and racial discrimination. Bangladesh upheld the principles of equality, human dignity and self-determination and its Government pursued with determination policies designed to root out the evils of racism and racial discrimination.

21. Although the situation in South Africa had been condemned repeatedly, the bloodshed and suffering of the overwhelming African majority in that country continued. Many expected reforms in the institutionalized system of apartheid in South Africa. That system could not be reformed, however; it must be abolished. Equality of peoples and races must prevail in South Africa in order for the majority to exercise their inalienable rights of full access to their land and full citizenship of their country. The "bantustanization" policy of the South African Government, which sought to isolate the African people in enclaves and deprive them of full citizenship in their own land, was yet another example of Pretoria's shameful activities.

22. Bangladesh maintained no relations with the pariah Government of South Africa and, despite the constraints that it faced, was anxious to make its due contribution towards the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. It continued to believe that the independence of Namibia must be achieved on the basis of United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978). It commended and saluted the leadership of SWAPO.

23. The situation of Palestine was yet another example of contempt for human dignity and subjugation of an entire people which could not be allowed to continue. Israel must take heed and respond to the urges of global public opinion, or forfeit its right to be called civilized. The Palestinians must be allowed to exercise their right to determine their own destiny and establish their own State. Similarly, the peoples of Afghanistan and Kampuchea continued to be denied their right of self-determination and foreign troops must be withdrawn from their lands.

24. Her delegation appreciated the concerted efforts of the Secretary-General and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial

(Ms. Rahman, Bangladesh)

Discrimination. With regard to CERD's programme of work in 1986, she emphasized the importance of the full implementation of economic sanctions against Pretoria by all Member States. She also urged all States to fulfil their financial obligations to CERD in order to enable it to continue its work and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

25. Her delegation supported fully the content of paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's report (A/42/493), concerning the preparation of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote awareness and understanding of human rights at the primary and secondary levels of education. It also attached special importance to the statement made by Mr. Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, regarding media involvement in the dissemination of information. The role of the media in helping shape public opinion in support of United Nations aims in the area of human rights was significant.

26. Mr. CONSTANTINESCU (Romania) said that his country's position on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid was well known. Romania condemned firmly the policies and practices of racism and racial discrimination and supported the liberation movements of peoples struggling for a free and dignified life. His delegation noted with concern that the principal objectives set forth in many United Nations resolutions, declarations and proclamations, as well as in the Programmes of Action for the two United Nations Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, had not been attained. Millions of human beings continued to be victims of various forms of racism and racial discrimination.

27. Nowhere in the world were racism and racial discrimination so brutal and blatant as in South Africa and the situation in that country had recently become even worse. Romania condemned indignantly the crimes committed against the African people by the racist régime of South Africa, whose policies were a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and a brutal negation of the most elementary human rights. While condemnation of apartheid was universal, however, action consistent with that condemnation was needed in order to eradicate apartheid. His delegation believed that actions by the United Nations and the international community to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid should include measures aimed at improving economic, political, social and cultural conditions in order to remove inequalities in employment, nutrition, health, housing and education. It also hoped that all countries, including the permanent members of the Security Council, would support the adoption of mandatory sanctions against South Africa as a means of forcing South Africa to end its policy of apartheid, its illegal occupation of Namibia and its armed aggression against neighbouring States.

28. His delegation believed that it was necessary to step up action to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, especially in view of the fact that the principal objectives of the First Decade had not been attained. It hoped that the draft resolution on items 87, 91 and 92 would give new impetus to efforts to implement the Programme of Action and that the Committee's debate and the resolutions to be adopted by the General Assembly would help speed up the process of complete eradication of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

29. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) pledged his delegation's support to the efforts of the new Director of the Centre for Human Rights, Mr. Martenson, particularly those aimed at expanding the Centre's involvement in training and information activities which were important elements of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

30. Racism was not confined to any particular country or region; rather, such tendencies were almost endemic in multi-ethnic societies where the struggles for economic, social and eventual political domination of one ethnic group erupted as racial quarrels and conflicts. The most glaring example was South Africa, where racism and racial paranoia had been enshrined in a system of oppression and human rights violations.

31. Although apartheid had affronted humanity's deepest instincts of goodness, the international community, particularly those who continued to prop up the South African régime, had failed to end that system and should be prepared to bear the consequences if it continued to fail to act. The unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners and the recognition of all political parties, together with the implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions, were the only options for a peaceful solution.

32. One of the tasks of the United Nations was to devise international laws that were nationally applicable. One outstanding example of the achievement of international agreement on such norms was the adoption and ratification by 124 States of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, Jamaica was concerned that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was charged with monitoring the implementation of the Convention, was being crippled by the inability of some States to meet their financial obligations. His delegation urged those States to correct the situation.

33. His delegation considered that broader support for the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid would indicate to the South African régime the attitude of the international community on the issue. It hoped that countries which had not yet done so would see the virtue of upporting the Convention. He noted that, according to the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/449), a number of the reports due under the Convention were still outstanding. His delegation hoped that a remedy could be found that would help to ease the burden on States and allow them to meet their reporting obligations.

34. During the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the United Nations and national Governments had been able to focus world attention on the dangers of racial discrimination, especially as practised in South Africa. His delegation believed that the activities contained in the plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade, 1990-1993, were all useful and that special attention should be given to programmes concerning teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination, as well as to the problems of minority groups, including migrant workers and their children.



(Mr. Barnett, Jamaica)

35. Referring to item 92, he said that the United Nations could be proud of its past endeavours towards ending colonialism. However, the Organization's efforts must continue until South Africa's oppressive rule over Namibia had been terminated. Jamaica had called repeatedly for Security Council action under Chapter VII of the Charter to ensure the implementation of resolution 435 (1978), and had reaffirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of SWAPO.

36. In the Middle East, the rights of the Palestinian people were still being denied. Similarly, foreign forces still prevented the Afghan and Kampuchean peoples from exercising fully their right to self-determination, and should be withdrawn.

37. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination was contingent on each person's belief in the equality of his fellow man. He hoped that it would be possible, through education and exposure to many different cultures, to influence current and future generations with the view to eradicating notions and doctrines that perpetuated inequality.

38. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) said that, with all the excellent documents once again provided by the Secretariat, no one could say that there was any lack of materials. On the contrary: all that could be said had been said and there was little to add. Nevertheless, although representatives might be repeating themselves, as they did year after year, and reaching the same conclusions, he felt that the repetition of effort was absolutely necessary because, as history showed, ideas gradually penetrated. A look at the early activities of the United Nations showed the progress that had been made. Early General Assembly and Security Council resolutions had been rather timid and lacked the clarity and determination of those bodies' present-day pronouncements. Member States had annually called attention to the importance of solving the problems of racism and racial discrimination and the need for progress in implementing not only General Assembly and Security Council resolutions but also the various international instruments adopted by the United Nations. Some progress had been made in implementing the provisions of those instruments, through a system of monitoring and the consideration of States Members' periodic reports. That constant effort, although it might sometimes appear unnecessary and repetitive, was of the utmost importance. As a multiracial country in which various ethnic groups lived in harmony together, Venezuela realized that constant vigilance was necessary to eliminate any vestiges of racial discrimination and any possibility of ideas, views and prejudices that were alien to the country's principles.

39. Since full implementation of the existing international conventions was more important than any new legislation, his delegation noted with satisfaction from the report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/42/493) the action taken to implement the objectives of the Second Decade and also the proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Decade. In that connection, his country attached special importance to education, teaching and training. It welcomed the efforts made to ensure the wide dissemination of all materials connected with the fight against

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

racism and racial discrimination and the work done in seminars, meetings and symposia, and was pleased to note that such activities would be continued in the second half of the Second Decade.

40. In combating racism and racial discrimination, special attention must be paid to the abhorrent situation in South Africa, since apartheid was the worst form of racial discrimination. Despite all the United Nations activities and decisions, the apartheid régime still persisted. He reaffirmed his country's absolute condemnation of that system and its steadfast support for action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to compel an obviously reluctant Government to comply with its international obligations and dismantle the apartheid system. Security Council resolution 581 (1986), set forth the essential prerequisites for the establishment of a democratic non-racial society based on self-determination, majority rule and universal suffrage in a united and non-fragmented South Africa. The only effective means of achieving them was to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The arms embargo imposed by the Security Council, and the measures adopted by individual States were clearly insufficient.

41. Namibia, too, still suffered from Pretoria's illegal presence, despite the detailed plan put forth in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which had failed to be implemented because of certain countries' insistence on linking Namibian independence with other extraneous issues. The deteriorating situation in Namibia called for energetic action by the United Nations. He reaffirmed his country's support for and solidarity with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

42. The problems confronting the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) warranted very careful attention. In its present financial situation, it was difficult for CERD to function properly and the present status of contributions by States parties was very unsatisfactory. As of 1 September 1987, there had still been an enormous sum outstanding. Venezuela, for its part, had paid its contribution for the current year. It was important to ensure that the body which monitored implementation of the Convention was able to function as it should and he trusted that the Committee would adopt a resolution appealing to States parties to the Convention to give CERD the necessary support. Despite the current difficulties facing the United Nations, every effort should be made to ensure at least that CERD's work was not interrupted.

43. Turning to agenda item 91, the right to self-determination was fundamental to the full exercise of a whole range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It was well known that in the few Territories that were still under foreign or colonial domination, the human rights situation left much to be desired. Only an end to dependency and a chance to exercise their right to choose their own destiny, their own form of government and their own road to economic and social development would put an end to the daily violations of elementary human rights in those Territories.

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

44. While he had said nothing that had not been said before and had no new ideas to offer for the speedy solution of the issues arising under the three items now before the Committee, he felt that it was essential to devote time to those considerations and to study the important documents prepared by the Secretariat concerning matters of vital importance on which depended not only the well-being of the peoples whose human rights were being violated but also peace and security. Discrimination and persecution of minorities had led frequently to internal conflict, and racism and racial discrimination often threatened regional and international peace and security. The situation in South Africa, Namibia and the Middle East, where racial discrimination and human rights violations were a commonplace, testified to the link between the protection of human rights and the preservation of peace.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.