



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. IDER (Mongolia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 74: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

- (a) DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/32/3, chap. III, sect. G, A/32/61, A/32/193, A/32/196; A/C.3/32/L.3, E/5920 and E/5921)
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- (d) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/32/187)

AGENDA ITEM 75: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/32/3, chap. III, sect. G, A/32/61, A/32/197, A/32/206; E/5922)

1. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) said that during the 12 years that it had been before the Third Committee the question of the elimination of racial discrimination had been included in the Committee's agenda as a priority item. It therefore seemed to her that it would be more realistic to use the word erosion, which was less ambitious, since unfortunately racial discrimination still flourished in the world. The problem must accordingly be considered once again in depth if a solution was to be found. It was important not to think that, because attention had been focused on apartheid in South Africa and because the fact that racial discrimination existed in many other countries, including the United Kingdom, had been neglected, the subject had been exhausted. All agreed that apartheid was the most extreme form of racial discrimination, but there was no longer any doubt that there was no future for it. However, the very fact that it existed was a terrible example of how easy it was to stir up racial prejudices anywhere. In the United Kingdom, where for some time there had been an influx of immigrants, from India and Pakistan, in particular, it was recognized that the fight against racial discrimination began at home. In all countries, social inequality always triggered off racial feelings. There was therefore a universal need for continual vigilance and self-scrutiny and for the adoption of appropriate legislation.

2. The United Kingdom had gone far along that road and had taken a number of measures designed to prevent discrimination and promote racial harmony. Her Government, which had recently carried out a fundamental re-examination of the whole question and was convinced that a comprehensive approach was required, had decided to develop a coherent long-term strategy to deal with the interlocking problems of immigration, cultural differences, racial disadvantage and discrimination, in order to strengthen existing legislation. Thus, the Race Relations Act of 1976, which broadened the definition of racial discrimination, had replaced the Acts of 1965 and 1968, removing the loop-holes which they had left. The new Act had created a powerful new body - the Commission for Racial Equality - composed of representatives drawn from all racial groups, which was responsible

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(Lady Gaitskell, United Kingdom)

for enforcing the law, ensuring equal opportunities for all and promoting good relations between the different racial groups. The Government was kept informed by the Commission of the working of the new Act.

3. In the view of her delegation, the representatives of France and Morocco, in their earlier statements, had thrown considerable light on the problem now before the Committee without dwelling on denunciation and condemnation. Her delegation was ready to support the Decade and its programme as long as the latter was based on resolution 3057 (XXVIII); by the same token, it was ready to support the World Conference envisaged under the programme for the Decade. The United Kingdom also supported the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as was shown by the fourth report which it had just submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in accordance with the Convention. Its position with regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was well known.

4. Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that one of the most urgent tasks facing the world at the present time was the complete elimination of all vestiges of colonialism and all traces of racism and racial discrimination and apartheid. Poland's position on that question was well known and it would support without reservation the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination proclaimed by the United Nations. It had always supported resolutions adopted against colonialism, racism and apartheid and had given political, material and moral support to the liberation movements of the peoples struggling to free themselves from those evils and to gain their independence. That attitude stemmed naturally from the doctrine on which the socialist system to which the Polish people adhered was based. The year 1977 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which had provided the inspiration for those struggling to gain recognition of human rights - a question which was of particular interest to the Committee at the current stage of its work - to achieve social justice and to free nations from the colonial yoke, thus progressively transforming the world.

5. The continued existence of racism and apartheid in flagrant violation of the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations created an obstacle to the attainment of the noble goals set out therein, impeding development and slowing down social progress in the world. His delegation was therefore convinced that the international community must intensify its activities in that area until those evils had been completely eliminated.

6. To that end, Poland, which had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and which had also ratified the two International Covenants on Human

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(Mr. Wasilewski, Poland)

Rights, believed that wider adherence to those legal instruments was of the greatest importance. The recent conferences held at Maputo and Lagos, as well as the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which was to be held in 1978 and in which Poland was preparing to participate as actively as it had participated in the two earlier conferences, would undoubtedly contribute to the desired goal.

7. In his delegation's view, if the scourges of racism and racial discrimination were to be eliminated, it was also important to pay special attention, at both the national and international levels, to the question of educating the younger generation in the spirit of friendship and co-operation among people, the spirit in which the Charter of the United Nations had been conceived. Much could be done in that sphere during the Decade.

8. His delegation also wished to express its conviction that the oppressed peoples of southern Africa would soon gain their final victory. The United Nations and the international community had a duty to assist them in their just struggle. The Polish people, who would continue to give them their full support, hoped that the international community would intensify activities to put and end to flagrant and mass violations of human rights in that region, in total disregard of the United Nations Charter.

9. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said her delegation noted with interest that the question of the struggle against racism and racial discrimination had been included as a priority item in the agenda of the Third Committee. She was pleased to note that since the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the United Nations had intensified its activities to mobilize Member States and international public opinion against that scourge. In that connexion, she pointed out that a growing awareness of the problem on a world scale had been facilitated by the stream of exchanges promoted by the process of decolonization which had allowed those third world countries which were still victims of racial discrimination to be heard. The number of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was constantly increasing, a fact which attested to the determination of Governments to protect the rights of the individual without any distinction based on race or colour and to eliminate an evil which was manifested in the most subtle forms.

10. But that evil, under the name of apartheid, was still flourishing in its most inhuman form in the racist regions of southern Africa. Whole populations were banished to distant parts of the most disadvantaged regions of their native land and thus condemned to perpetual exploitation and excluded from any real activity, for the greater benefit of a minority of whites who were appropriating the rich natural resources with which South Africa was endowed. In such a situation, involving what had been defined as a crime against humanity, neither the policy of separate development nor bantustanization could stop the efforts of the

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(Mrs. Semichi, Algeria)

international community to bring about the liberation of the martyred people of South Africa who have seen evidence of its unswerving support at the World Conference for Action against Apartheid recently held at Lagos.

11. Although all the participants in that Conference - and that showed the state of isolation in which the Pretoria régime now found itself - as well as the Programme of Action adopted at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, had further urged the international community to show even greater solidarity towards the liberation movements in southern Africa, the fact remained that some countries, often in spite of commitments made, continued to give that régime various kinds of assistance which enabled it not only to survive that isolation but even to adopt an attitude of defiance and commit aggression against the oppressed South African people and against neighbouring independent African countries. The reasons for that collaboration were obvious, and so was the determination of those very same countries to maintain ties of co-operation with the whole of the free African continent. But the international community could not be content with meaningless humanitarian utterances and be duped by a duplicity whose sole aim was to protect private interests.

12. The Algerian delegation, which contributed actively to the work of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the Committee against Apartheid, welcomed the results of the International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia, held in May at Maputo, and of the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, recently held at Lagos, at which the international community had, for the first time, unanimously undertaken a formal commitment to act without delay to eliminate the system of apartheid and secure recognition of the inalienable rights of the peoples of southern Africa to self-determination and independence, while ensuring respect for their dignity.

13. The Algerian delegation was also prepared to take an active part in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in August 1978, which would certainly be an important step, in the framework of the Decade, towards the total elimination of racism, as it would enable participants to take a global approach to that problem which affected, in various but none the less deplorable ways, many of the world's peoples - and particularly the Palestinian people, who were also victims of racial discrimination which kept them from their own homeland, as a result of Zionist ideology and disregard for the most obvious realities, and who had been struggling for 30 years against institutionalized racism set up as a State system. The Conference should result in effective means and concrete measures for the total elimination of racism and racial discrimination, mainly through the application of United Nations resolutions on the subject. In that connexion the Algerian delegation was therefore entirely in favour of the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/32/206).

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(Mrs. Semichi, Algeria)

14. She also hoped that the spirit of consensus that had prevailed throughout the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Council would facilitate the adoption of the draft resolution on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/32/197).

15. Mr. YEPES-ENRIQUEZ (Ecuador) said that opposition to any racist manifestation of policy was one of the fundamental principles of Ecuador's foreign policy, since Ecuador considered that racism was the very negation of man. Its foreign policy was merely a reflection of a domestic reality. Since its accession to independence in 1830 and the adoption, in that same year, of its first Constitution, Ecuador had established the principle of equality of all its nationals before the law - a principle which, over the years, had been reflected in specific laws and regulations, and which had later been supplemented by the provisions of international conventions on the subject, which Ecuador had endorsed. In a few months' time, the people of Ecuador would be asked to choose between two draft constitutions which both reaffirmed the principle of equality and would also restore the Quechua language, which was the language common to most indigenous groups in the region, to its rightful place alongside Spanish.

16. In Ecuador, racial discrimination existed neither in practice nor in law. However, being anxious to exercise careful control in that field, Ecuador had made the declaration required in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had thus become the sixth country to recognize the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to consider allegations concerning violations by a State Party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention.

17. Being concerned over the racial discrimination that was being practised in various parts of the world, and particularly in South Africa under the institutionalized form of apartheid, Ecuador was doing its utmost to help to put an end to it. It had been the first Latin American country to endorse the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and it was pleased to know that Guyana had acceded to it on 30 September. The Ecuadorian delegation had unreservedly endorsed the resolutions adopted at the Maputo and Lagos Conferences, it fully supported the principles of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism, and had high hopes of the forthcoming World Conference, to be held in 1978. It was also in favour of resolutions 2056 and 2057 (LXII) on efforts to combat racial discrimination, adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session, and it likewise supported draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.4.

18. Mrs. BARVINOK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the world was now witnessing the final collapse of the colonial system under the crushing blows that were being dealt to it by the national liberation movements. Experience showed that racism failed whenever peoples striving to liberate themselves acted in unison and maintained close ties with the socialist countries and the progressive world. The international situation and the strengthening of détente were now contributing to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. However,

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(Mrs. Barvinok, Ukrainian SSR)

despite the great progress made, millions of people were still suffering the effects of that evil. South Africa and Rhodesia, with the support and approval of certain NATO countries, were not only increasing their repression in the territories they controlled but were also launching attacks against neighbouring independent African States. That situation would last as long as people continued to send hundreds of millions of dollars and supply weapons and mercenaries to Smith and Vorster. The suppression of all political and military assistance and the severance of ties with South Africa and Rhodesia were the only means of ensuring the success of the freedom fighters.

19. An extensive world campaign had been launched to prevent South Africa from acquiring a nuclear capability. In that connexion no one could deny the danger represented by the strengthening of economic ties between South Africa and Israel, both of which countries had refused to sign the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

20. Racism had various aspects, but whether it involved the crimes committed in South Africa and Rhodesia, the situation of the workers in certain countries or Israel's occupation of the Arab territories, it had one common denominator, namely the exploitation of part of a country's population by another on grounds of ethnic origin. The democratic and progressive peoples had long denounced and condemned all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, proceeding from the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter, and particularly the principle that all men were equal. More than 90 States had approved the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination but many had not yet signed it. The number of countries that had ratified the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which had entered into force on 18 July 1976, was steadily growing. That was encouraging, but it was now necessary to apply the provisions of those Conventions, and that was one of the main aims of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

21. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, true to its international commitments, had always participated in the struggle against racism, apartheid, and racial discrimination, and it had recently participated in the Maputo and Lagos Conferences. Having emerged as a result of the great October socialist revolution, which had played a historic role in the development of national liberation struggles and in the elimination of the colonial system, it resolutely supported the heroic struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa, and had many African students from that country studying at its universities. As a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, it had been one of the first countries to sign the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. As could be seen from the periodic reports it had submitted in accordance with article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it had fortunately never experienced that evil. The new Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR, like that of the USSR, took account of the interests of all the ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

22. The Ukrainian SSR was sure that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would considerably help to accelerate the elimination of

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(Mrs. Barvinok, Ukrainian SSR)

racism, apartheid and racial discrimination, which were the most flagrant manifestations of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The success of the Conference would naturally depend on the efficiency of the preparatory work, and therefore her delegation considered it essential to appoint the Secretary-General of the Conference at the earliest possible time as provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 2057 (LXII).

23. Mr. AZIZ (Afghanistan) said that in his country racial discrimination did not exist. The problem, which was taken into account in the new Constitution of Afghanistan, particularly in articles 8 and 9 dealing with the elimination of exploitation and the right of all to work, had been solved by the adoption of the appropriate laws. The information media also helped to denounce the evil effects of racism and apartheid.

24. At the international level, his delegation felt that it was imperative for the United Nations to take vigorous and effective measures to put an end to racial discrimination and to support the victims of racism in southern Africa in their liberation struggle and accelerate the transfer of power to the Africans. The struggle of the South African people had reached a crucial stage at which, as the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries had stated at their extraordinary meeting held in New York on 30 September 1977, a campaign should be conducted to bring about the total isolation of the racist minority régime in Pretoria and every effort should be made to support the liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples. The racist régimes were pursuing their policy of repression with impunity, as evidenced by the recent death of Stephen Biko. Economic sanctions should therefore be imposed on them and, above all, South Africa must be prevented from developing its military arsenal and perfecting nuclear weapons.

25. Afghanistan had voted for resolution 2056 (LXII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session and had participated actively in the Conferences at Maputo and Lagos. His delegation was entirely in favour of the convening in 1978 of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; it would also support the draft resolution in document A/32/197 and the amendment to the draft agenda of the Conference in document A/32/206, paragraph 2.

26. Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya) said that apartheid, racism, and racial discrimination were evils which should not exist in the twentieth century. Nevertheless, it had to be recognized that racial prejudices were still entrenched in certain parts of the world. To eliminate them, it was not enough that national constitutions should prohibit discrimination. It was also essential that appropriate national and international programmes, particularly in the political, educational, technical, economic and social fields, should assist those who were its victims and help to strengthen the legislative provisions aimed at bridging or at least narrowing the gap which separated the races from each other. That would accelerate the elimination of racial discrimination and would help to avert the threat to social tranquillity and international peace which existed when there was a dangerous imbalance between different racial communities.

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(Mr. Muthaura, Kenya)

27. Kenya, since its accession to independence in 1963, had abolished all the racist institutions imposed by the former colonial régime and had adopted a constitution prohibiting any form of discrimination based on race, colour, religion or sex. Its independence was therefore a victory not only against colonialism but also against racial discrimination and oppression.

28. In South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, where racial discrimination was institutionalized in various forms stemming from colonialism or from slavery pure and simple, the liberation struggle had been stepped up: students were demanding changes in the racist educational system; workers were demanding equal rights and equal conditions of work; the people were demanding majority government on the "one man one vote" basis and an equitable redistribution of national wealth. Kenya was convinced that independence and majority rule were basic prerequisites for the elimination of racial discrimination and oppression. However, it was also convinced that mere preaching would not persuade those sadistic régimes to abide by the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, they would have to accept the fact that sooner or later the South African people would free themselves by one means or another. Now more than ever, concerted international action was needed to defuse the explosive situation in southern Africa.

29. Kenya therefore urged the major Western Powers to impose effective military, economic, cultural and diplomatic sanctions on the racist régimes. At the same time, it was following with the keenest interest the initiative recently taken by some of them aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the problems of the region. His Government hoped that the United Nations system and the international community would give increasing support to the liberation movements and to religious and other non-governmental organizations which were working for independence and racial equality, as also to political refugees and other victims of racial repression; it also earnestly hoped that the isolation of the racist régimes by all States Members of the United Nations would increase, in conformity with the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

30. Kenya had been happy to participate in the work of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the future World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Like other countries, it felt that the liberation movements recognized by OAU should be permitted to participate in its work. Maximum publicity would, in its opinion, be necessary to promote grass-roots identification with the objectives of the Conference; lastly, it felt that the representatives of OAU, the Council for Namibia and the Special Committee Against Apartheid, which had a wealth of experience of the problems of southern Africa, should be afforded the requisite facilities for participation in the Conference. Also, the work of the conference should be concentrated on finding practical solutions which would make possible the elimination of racial discrimination from that part of the world.

31. He drew attention to the fact that his country was a sponsor of resolutions 2056 (LXII) and 2057 (LXII) of the Economic and Social Council.

32. Mrs. de BROMLEY (Honduras) said that the fact that the Committee was again considering as a matter of priority the question of the elimination of all forms of

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(Mrs. de Bromley, Honduras)

racial discrimination was proof that its members were unanimously determined to devote all their efforts and energy to the complete abolition of racial discrimination and particularly its cruelest and most odious form, apartheid. There was no question that the existing régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were beginning to realize that they would soon have no choice but to yield power to the black majority; however, the present climate of violence and racial oppression to which the African population was subjected gave rise to fears of an open conflict in the region, a conflict which the United Nations, the Governments of other countries and above all the great Powers should strive at all costs to prevent.

33. Racial discrimination was not an isolated phenomenon but rather one of many ways of violating human rights. If it was desired that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the World Conference should achieve their aims, the Programme for Action should cover all aspects of the problem, for it was clear that peace could not prevail in the world as long as the problems caused by injustice were not solved.

34. There was no racial discrimination in Honduras, but, as the representative of France had rightly said, no country was immune from the scourge of discrimination in one form or another, and it was therefore necessary constantly to re-examine the cultural values and traditions of a country in order to be on guard at all times against anything that could give rise to intransigence and intolerance. Apartheid, which was discrimination, officially raised to the level of a system, was the ultimate injustice. Fortunately the United Nations was there to co-ordinate the international community's efforts to find a just and peaceful solution to that terrible problem. To achieve that purpose, both Governments and individuals must strive, one and all, to abolish prejudices of whatever kind so that by the time the Decade came to an end not just one but all forms of discrimination would have been eliminated.

35. Ms. BEAGLE (New Zealand) agreed with the Director of the Division of Human Rights that the world needed a new international order at the human level as well as at the economic and social level. She therefore welcomed the fact that priority had been given to the problem now before the Committee, that of the right to equality, now being denied to millions of persons victimized by a doctrine of supposed racial superiority.

36. No country or continent was free from racial prejudice; however, it was encouraging to find that many Governments, made aware of the problem through the efforts of the United Nations system, were taking legislative and administrative measures against it. New Zealand had, from the very outset, embraced the goals and objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and taken steps to implement the Programme contained in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII).

37. New Zealand had a multiracial society, since large segments of its population were of Polynesian or Asian origin, and all the citizens in that society had the same rights and responsibilities. Legislation had been reviewed in the context of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

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(Ms. Beagle, New Zealand)

Discrimination; it was clear, however, that if all traces of discrimination were to be eliminated from a society, administrative and legislative measures would have to be accompanied by changes in traditional attitudes. Thus, the New Zealand Government had just submitted to Parliament a Human Rights Commission Bill which would expand the scope of the Race Relations Act currently in force; the Commission would include the Chief Ombudsman and the Race Relations Conciliator, whose task was to settle complaints of racial discrimination and to eliminate potential causes of interracial tension.

38. On the basis of both principle and experience, New Zealand had vigorously opposed the institutionalized racism that was rampant in South Africa; not long ago, at the meeting of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth countries and at the World Conference for Action against Apartheid, it had unreservedly supported the Lagos Declaration. Her Government had recently renewed and increased its contributions to the three United Nations funds which were rendering humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa and had contributed to the special programme of assistance for refugee South African students.

39. New Zealand believed that Economic and Social Council resolutions 2056 (LXII) on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade and 2057 (LXII) on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination reflected a genuine desire on the part of the majority of members of the international community to join forces against racial discrimination; it hoped that the remaining cases of flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter would be approached in the same spirit of co-operation on the occasion of International Anti-Apartheid Year, to be observed in 1978, and the World Conference which would be the major event of that year. Moreover, her delegation believed that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, a document of fundamental importance to the fight against racism, was not being implemented fully enough, and it had therefore joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.4, introduced by Belgium at the eighth meeting.

40. Mrs. KULKARNI (India) recalled the universal principle that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights and said that that principle was intolerably infringed by apartheid, which postulated that some men were inferior to others. Under that policy, human beings were being deprived of all their rights, including the most basic right, the right to life. Thus the world had learned in September of the death of Stephen Biko, who, like 21 other Africans before him, had become a victim of the South African police. She wondered how many others were condemned to die in that way for their belief in the equality of human beings.

41. The questionnaire circulated to Governments by the Secretary-General as a part of the Programme for the Decade showed the need for vigilance to prevent any manifestation of the hateful crime of racial discrimination. Happily, the replies to the questionnaire, analysed in documents E/9121 and A/32/196, made it clear that Governments had taken legislative, administrative and other measures and adopted machinery and recourse procedures that could be invoked against racial

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(Mrs. Kulkarni, India)

discrimination and that the assistance to its victims and the refusal to support the régimes practising it were producing their effect. She emphasized in that connexion the important role that could be played by information media at the international and national levels in making the world realize the enormity of the crime of racism. The problem of racism should be included in school curricula in order to ensure that children learned very early to respect all human beings without distinction. UNESCO could lead the way in that field, and her delegation would support any proposal to allocate funds for that purpose to that agency.

42. The régimes practising apartheid were still flourishing, a fact which proved that the measures taken so far against them were not enough. It was therefore essential to call once again, through resolution 2056 (LXII) submitted by the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly, upon all Governments to take legislative, administrative and other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that owned and operated enterprises in southern Africa, in order to put an end to such enterprises. If Ian Smith continued to defy world public opinion, then, as the Indian Minister for Foreign Affairs had said in the General Assembly on Tuesday, 4 October, the United Nations would have to exercise all its authority to widen the mandatory sanctions against the illegal minority régime and its South African supporter.

43. It was stated in documents A/32/186 and A/32/187 that 97 countries had ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and 35 had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Every effort must be made to increase those numbers. For that reason, her delegation had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution calling upon the States not yet parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to ratify it or accede to it; it would act likewise with respect to the Convention on Apartheid. India had signed the first of those Conventions in 1967 and ratified it in 1968, and the principles enunciated in it were an integral part of its Constitution. As to the Convention on the Elimination and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the new Indian Government had recently taken steps concerning the instrument of accession.

44. India's commitment to the struggle against racial discrimination throughout the world had begun in the nineteenth century, when Mahatma Gandhi had fought in South Africa itself against the racial segregation that had come to be known as apartheid; his fight had gradually become a more general struggle against imperialism. That commitment had not been forgotten in post-independence India, which had been the first country to raise at the United Nations the question of racism and apartheid and the first to sever relations with South Africa in every field. Furthermore, her Government was giving moral and material support to various African liberation movements and was contributing to various United Nations funds for the benefit of southern Africa. Assistance was also being given to the African National Congress of South Africa at New Delhi.

45. She emphasized the great importance to the Programme for the Decade of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which would follow the

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(Mrs. Kulkarni, India)

conferences on related subjects held in 1977. It was clear from document E/5922 that the preparations for the Conference were well under way and the provisional agenda gave reason to expect a fruitful debate. In that connexion, her delegation saw no objection to including in article 11 of the draft provisional agenda a reference to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and recommending all States to sign and ratify that Convention, as had been proposed by the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in document A/32/206.

46. She hoped that through the concerted action of the international community the last bastion of colonialism, based on the false doctrine of so-called white supremacy, would finally crumble. As the Indian Minister for Foreign Affairs had said in his statement, apartheid must go. Its continuance was a blot on humanity and a grave reflection on the United Nations.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.