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at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/32/3, chap. II, chap. III, sects. G and L, chap. IV, sect. A, and chap. VI, A/32/3/Add.1, A/32/61, 65 and Add.1, 125, 129, 139, 193, 215, 227 and 234; A/C.3/32/1, 2, 6 and Corr.1 (English only), 7; A/C.3/32/L.38, L.39)

1. Miss SÁENZ DE MIERA (Mexico) said she hoped that the Committee would be able to establish guidelines for finding solutions at the multilateral level to problems relating to migrant workers. Countries of origin sought to protect migrant workers and their families, who were often subjected to exploitation by their employers and who often encountered indifference to their labour rights on the part of foreign authorities.

2. In his first report to the Mexican Congress, President López Portillo referring to the growth in population and the recession, had drawn attention to the rising problems of employment and the treatment of Mexican migrant workers. Her country had repeatedly expressed its concern for the welfare of migrant workers and their families and had called for respect for their basic human rights and labour rights. In particular, Mexico had defended the rights of migrant workers not in possession of the necessary papers, who should not be treated as criminals. That position was in keeping with its foreign policy and with the purposes of the United Nations. The irregular status of such workers should be governed by administrative rather than criminal law, in keeping with the need to respect their human rights. They should not be accused of anti-social or illegal conduct.

3. Her delegation considered that, in order to promote the protection of migrant workers and their families, permanent co-ordination should be established between the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development, as well as with other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council. She stressed that Mexico's deep concern about the problems of migrant workers extended to countries throughout the world, and she hoped that through international co-operation, principally within the United Nations, measures could be taken to alleviate such problems, which seriously affected developing countries. Her delegation would therefore whole-heartedly support effective measures to strengthen the protection of the human rights of migrant workers, provided, firstly, that such measures were based strictly on decisions adopted by the United Nations and, secondly, that they were applied without discrimination to any human being who, for socio-economic reasons, found it necessary temporarily to leave his country of origin.

4. Mrs. GERÉB (Hungary) expressed regret that the Committee had insufficient time to devote full attention to social development questions. Such questions involved fundamental human rights, especially the right to life, and from that standpoint there was an overriding need to strengthen détente, friendly relations among States on the basis of equality, and peaceful coexistence among States with different social systems, to implement the right of self-determination of all peoples and to

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(Mrs. Geréb, Hungary)

eliminate apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination, foreign occupation and neo-colonialism.

5. However, the right to life also involved the right to be free of poverty, malnutrition and other social evils. To that end, Hungary had introduced in the Commission for Social Development a draft resolution, subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 2074 (LXII), in which the General Assembly was requested to include in the agenda of its thirty-third session an item on the importance of the equitable distribution of national income for economic and social development. The resolution also invited the Secretary-General to submit a report on the work accomplished in that field by various specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system. Discussion of that question at the thirty-third session would make it possible to assess the work accomplished and to establish guidelines for future work. Her country had also been motivated by the need to stress that economic and social progress was not automatically accompanied by an improvement in the social situation of broad sectors of the population. Measures should therefore be taken to promote social and economic development through the equitable distribution of national income, which would create new opportunities for employment and the provision of medical care, education and other social services for all members of society. Her delegation hoped that the item would be included in the agenda of the thirty-third session.

6. Her delegation had also supported in the Commission for Social Development the draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2069 (LXII), had recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. She was convinced that it would be adopted unanimously.

7. Finally, she wished to draw attention to the important proposal embodied in draft resolution V adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fifth session, concerning social and institutional reform as a means of increasing domestic food production and distributing it equitably among the population. She recalled that a report on co-operatives would be submitted to the Third Committee at the thirty-third session. In order to improve domestic food production and distribution, it would be useful to draw on the experience acquired by a large number of countries in connexion with agricultural producers' and consumers' co-operatives.

8. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation attached great importance to social development in a world where millions of people continued to suffer from the consequences of colonial domination and to experience hunger, poverty, sickness, illiteracy and unemployment, and in a world characterized by discrimination in international economic relations.

9. The Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fifth session had adopted resolutions on a number of important questions, including the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the mobilization of national resources, the equitable distribution of national income and a unified approach to

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

development analysis and planning. Those results confirmed that the Commission could properly fulfil the tasks assigned to it if it focused attention in future on the most important social development problems. Following a decision by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council had recommended the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an item on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. His delegation supported that recommendation.

10. With regard to the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, he expressed the hope that a constructive and responsible approach would be taken so that the work of drafting the Convention could be completed as soon as possible.

11. On the question of the promotion of human rights, he noted that the Commission on Human Rights had formulated over the years a whole series of international instruments that commanded world-wide acceptance. The Commission was also making a significant contribution to the task of combating gross and massive violations of human rights. It had again condemned the racist Pretoria and Salisbury régimes and the political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to them by certain States either directly or through monopolies, and had again drawn attention to the numerous violations of human rights in occupied Arab territories.

12. The Commission had given particular attention to the gross and massive violations of human rights committed by the Chilean military junta. In its previous report to the Commission, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile had condemned the terror and repression instituted by the junta and had once again called for an immediate restoration of human rights in Chile. With regard to the Working Group's fifth report (A/32/227), he expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Group for the scrupulous way in which it had fulfilled its mandate. The junta clearly continued to sabotage the Group's work, resorting to misinformation and even slanderous attacks on the Group. The new report convincingly demonstrated the seriousness of the constant and gross violations of fundamental human rights in that country. The Working Group, in accordance with its mandate, had conducted a comprehensive investigation which irrefutably proved the continuation of terror and massive repression by the junta.

13. Following the military and Fascist coup d'état in Chile, carried out with the aid of external forces, a régime of terror had been established. The broad democratic rights and freedoms of the people had been abolished. The Congress had been dissolved, all political parties banned and genuine labour organizations suspended. The people had been deprived of their right to life, liberty and security of person.

14. In its resolution 31/124, the General Assembly had again expressed its profound indignation at the flagrant violations of human rights in Chile, in particular the institutionalized practice of torture and degrading treatment, the disappearance of persons for political reasons, arbitrary arrest, and other practices. The Assembly had called once more upon the Chilean authorities to take all the necessary measures to restitute human rights. However, the junta had failed to comply with that appeal.

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15. At its thirty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights had noted that repression in Chile continued. It had called upon the Chilean authorities to take the necessary measures to restore and safeguard, without delay, basic human rights, and to that end to implement General Assembly resolution 31/124. The junta had ignored that appeal also, as could be seen from the Working Group's fifth report. New data gathered by the Group indicated that the junta, turning a deaf ear to United Nations demands, continued to use the state of siege as a pretext for prolonging the repression. The Group had rightly indicated that the restitution of human rights in Chile was apparently not envisaged.

16. Despite the General Assembly's appeals, the junta continued the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention without trial. As stated in paragraph 136 of the report, torture and other inhuman treatment had become an integral part of the new system of intimidation, and could therefore be termed an institutionalized form of torture. Furthermore, paragraph 295 of the report indicated that the refusal of the Chilean authorities to punish those responsible for torture clearly revealed official support at the highest level for the practice of torture in Chile as a powerful weapon of political intimidation and persecution. The General Assembly had indicated its profound concern at the number of persons missing following their arrest, and had demanded that they should be immediately brought to trial.

17. The junta had not heeded those demands. The Working Group had submitted the names of hundreds of missing persons, including political leaders, trade union activists and persons from various social strata. The Group indicated in paragraph 117 of its report that the detention of persons who had subsequently disappeared showed similarities pointing to the existence of a permanent and highly efficient system of repression. Urgent and effective measures must therefore be adopted to put an end to that practice; every case of the disappearance of an arrested person should be the subject of a scrupulous investigation.

18. The junta resorted to various manoeuvres in order to hoodwink world public opinion and to distract attention from the tragedy of the Chilean people. An example was the decree-law concerning the dissolution of DINA, whose role in conducting a massive campaign of terror had unloosed a wave of indignation throughout the world.

19. His delegation shared the Working Group's conviction that the gross and massive violations of human rights in Chile should be the subject of grave international concern. It wished to express its solidarity with the Chilean people and to commend the bravery of the Chilean patriots. The United Nations and the entire international community must exert further efforts to bring about the restoration of human rights in Chile.

20. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that the question of human rights was very complex and delicate, because human rights were being realized in different and even conflicting socio-economic and political conditions in various parts of the world. He noted in that connexion the existence of different social systems, the ever-widening gap between developed and developing countries, and the conflict

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between big-Power policy and bloc rivalry, on the one hand, and the efforts of developing countries to preserve their national independence and freedom to choose their own way of development and social system, on the other. Consequently, there were different approaches to the question of human rights, which was an important element of relations between States and of the struggle for peace and general progress in the world. Accordingly, all Member States had the obligation and moral responsibility to approach the question of human rights in a constructive manner, free from ideological propaganda and interference in the internal affairs of other countries so as to promote better economic, social and other conditions for the protection and improvement of human rights at the national and international levels, thus helping individual countries to comply as fully as possible with the standards and norms of human rights laid down by the United Nations. No country could boast of having fully implemented human rights, and it was regrettable that attempts were made by some to use human rights for ideological purposes.

21. It was quite natural that mass and flagrant violations of human rights which seriously endangered world peace and international stability should be dealt with on a priority basis. Included in that category were the violations which resulted from apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression and threats against national unity and territorial integrity and the refusal to recognize the fundamental rights of peoples to self-determination and of every nation to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources. His delegation was pleased that United Nations bodies had been paying due attention to such forms of human rights violations. It was also satisfied with the progress achieved by the United Nations in protecting and improving human rights in recent years and with the machinery existing within the United Nations for dealing with human rights. However, some improvements might be made in the structural organization of United Nations bodies dealing with human rights and their future activities. The thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1978 would provide an appropriate opportunity for a complete appraisal of the operational effectiveness and organizational structure of the United Nations system in the field of human rights. Such an appraisal should be carried out on the basis of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.17/Rev.1.

22. His delegation appraised positively the activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in the field of human rights in the past year. It considered proper and timely the greater emphasis placed on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and in that connexion it welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to study violations of those rights simultaneously with the study of violations of civil and political rights. His delegation particularly welcomed the Commission's invitation to the Secretary-General and UNESCO to undertake a study on the international dimensions on the right to development as a human right in relation with other human rights based on international co-operation, including the right to peace, taking into account the requirements of the new international economic order and the fundamental human needs.

23. The flagrant denial of human rights in southern Africa deserved the continued full attention of the United Nations. Yugoslavia spared no effort in extending

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(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

to the peoples of southern Africa and their liberation movements all possible moral, political and material assistance in their struggle for human dignity, self-determination and national independence. It strongly condemned the racist régimes in southern Africa and their policies of apartheid and racial discrimination, and all efforts to postpone the liberation of the peoples of southern Africa from the yoke of racist oppression and slavery. The time had come for the United Nations to take effective measures to ensure the complete international isolation of the racist régimes. In that connexion, Yugoslavia fully supported resolution 7 (XXXIII) of the Commission on Human Rights and welcomed the Commission's request to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to prepare the necessary material for a provisional general list identifying those individuals, institutions, including banks, and other organizations or groups, as well as representatives of States, whose activities constituted political, military, economic or other forms of assistance to the colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa.

24. His delegation shared the grave concern expressed in the resolutions adopted by the Commission concerning the violation of human rights in the occupied territories in the Middle East as a result of Israel's policy of occupation. The inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a State of their own, already recognized by the United Nations, should be fully and speedily implemented.

25. The violation of human rights as a result of the use of force in Cyprus was also a matter of grave concern, and his delegation supported the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to give priority to that question at its thirty-fourth session. The problem of missing persons in Cyprus called for urgent action, and the Government of Turkey should provide, on humanitarian grounds, facilities for obtaining information about those persons.

26. Yugoslavia was a sponsor of the draft resolution on the question of migrant workers (A/C.3/32/L.39). Being a country of emigration, it was interested in securing for migrant workers and their families all the rights enjoyed by citizens of the countries of immigration. At the same time, it was constantly endeavouring to create the necessary conditions for halting further migratory movements and ensuring the return of migrant workers and their integration into the economic and social life of their country. One concrete measure had been the conclusion of a Social Agreement on Yugoslav Citizens Temporarily Employed Abroad and Their Return to Yugoslavia, which had entered into force in August 1974.

27. The United Nations system had always placed emphasis on the human rights of peoples or individuals, while minorities, especially national minorities, had been neglected. That neglect could not continue, because, among other things, minorities could exert a significant influence on relations between countries. In that connexion, the Vice-President of the Yugoslav Government and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs had referred at the 14th plenary meeting of the current session of the Assembly to the particular need to ensure the protection both of minority groups and of minority individuals, in view of the great importance of the regulation of that question to the promotion of co-operation and rapprochement among peoples and States and the threat to peace and security in many regions of the world resulting from the failure to respect minority rights. It was encouraging that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had recommended to the Commission on Human Rights the

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(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

preparation of a draft declaration on minorities, which would be a first positive step within the United Nations system to elaborate adequate principles for the full protection of the human rights of minorities.

28. His Government would take the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an opportunity to further enhance the ideals of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Yugoslav socio-political system, which was based on workers' management and social self-government, provided adequate conditions for the genuine enjoyment of human rights by all Yugoslav citizens.

29. Mr. DAGRA (Niger) said that, among the many important topics considered by the Committee in connexion with the report of the Economic and Social Council, that of social development occupied a special place. It was self-evident that social objectives and programmes were matters of constant concern, if only because they aimed at assuring the well-being of the individual and a better future for society. In that connexion, the Report on the World Social Situation, which appeared every four years, provided a meaningful outline of the situation and of the efforts made to achieve real and general progress.

30. He agreed with the Acting Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs that solutions to the problem of social development revolved around three imperatives, namely, improvement of the standard of living at all social levels, advancement of the most disadvantaged categories, and the need for sometimes audacious structural reforms. If those considerations were borne in mind, it was unlikely that other factors would frustrate the general process of development, in the sense of the fulfilment of the individual within his social group. Social development called for combined efforts by the community, including a just redistribution of income. Equal attention must therefore be given to all the components of society, young and old, men and women, urban and rural, physically fit and handicapped. Then, but only then, would it be possible to achieve "the self-development" which alone could lead to the establishment of the new world economic order.

31. Ms. RODRIGUES (Mozambique) said that the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile (A/32/227) confirmed once again the mass violation by the fascist Government of Chile of the noble ideals set forth in the United Nations Charter and of the two International Covenants on Human Rights, which Chile had ratified.

32. For four years, the Chilean people had been subjected to the dictatorship of the military junta and had been denied their collective and individual fundamental rights. Despite the junta's efforts to convince the international community that internal conditions in the country had improved, massive violations of human rights continued, the number of persons in detention increased, and patriotic and revolutionary leaders were kidnapped or reported missing. The notorious DINA had been replaced by the National Information Agency, but the change had been in name only. Pinochet had arrogated to himself the patently unconstitutional power to arrest individuals under the state of emergency without having to go before a court. Chileans could be deprived of their nationality, and restrictions had been imposed

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(Ms. Rodrigues, Mozambique)

on trade union rights under the state of emergency. The purpose of decree-law No. 1877 had been to institutionalize the existing machinery of repression.

33. The hunger strike conducted by 26 persons at ECLA headquarters in June had shed new light on the junta's policy of terror. The strikers had appealed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to assist them in obtaining information regarding the fate of their missing relatives. They had decided to end their hunger strike when the Government of Chile had promised to provide the requested information and had pledged not to apply sanctions against any of the strikers. Once again, however, the Government of Chile had resorted to its usual demagoguery, as could be seen from document A/C.3/32/7.

34. Despite all the international community's appeals to Member States to refrain from trade and diplomatic contacts with South Africa, the Chilean military junta was actively pursuing co-operation with the apartheid régime. The alliance between two régimes espousing inhuman policies was further evidence of the nature of the junta. The establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975 had accelerated trade and military contacts, and South African investments in Chile were on the increase. The two régimes had recently concluded agreements for the mining of uranium in Chile, thus making it possible for the Vorster régime to realize its dream of acquiring atomic weapons despite the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. The acquisition of nuclear weapons by South Africa would pose a threat to all the countries of southern Africa. In the politico-military field, Chile had a sizable number of men under arms who were ranged on the side of the forces of colonial and racist oppression affecting the peoples of southern Africa, whose sole legitimate representatives were the national liberation movements fighting against foreign occupation, colonialism, apartheid and racism. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Pinochet junta was the only Government to have recognized the puppet régime of the Transkei, with which Chile had a large volume of trade. The collusion between Chile and South Africa must be strongly condemned as being contrary to all the efforts of the international community to promote understanding, respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, and international co-operation in establishing a just society free of the exploitation of man by man.

35. The Government and people of Mozambique felt profound indignation at the constant and flagrant violation of human rights in Chile, particularly the institutionalized practice of torture, the disappearance of persons struggling against exploitation, arbitrary arrest, detention and exile and deprivation of nationality. Her delegation paid tribute to the Chilean nationalists who had been brutally murdered by the junta and to all Chilean patriots who had died in prisons and concentration camps of torture and other inhuman treatment at the hands of the Pinochet régime. The mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group should be renewed so that it could continue to provide the General Assembly with information on the situation of human rights in Chile.

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36. Mrs. DINCEN (Turkey) said that, despite the complex problems caused by the massive international migration of workers, the phenomenon had long been regarded as a purely economic one and its implications for human rights had been overlooked. It was therefore gratifying to note that many international, regional and bilateral agreements had been concluded and national legislation had been enacted to ensure that migrant workers exercised their human rights on the basis of equality of treatment with the nationals of the countries of employment. The difficulties of migrant workers, which had been aggravated by the economic recession of recent years, had aroused the conscience of the international community, and in November 1972 ILO had begun work on the drafting of an instrument dealing with problems inadequately covered by the existing international instruments. That work had culminated in June 1975 in the adoption of Convention No. 143 and Recommendation No. 151. In addition, the work of ILO in setting standards encouraged States to take bilateral action, which was essential to the success of international efforts to protect the fundamental rights of migrant workers.

37. One of the areas on which the activities of States should focus was the enjoyment of social security rights. Multilateral and bilateral agreements had helped to ensure that the rights of migrant workers with respect to social security were widely protected. In order to achieve true equality of treatment, however, it was necessary to protect not only the rights already acquired by migrant workers in social security matters but also those which they were in the process of acquiring, such as the right to a pension. The problem in that respect was the territorial limits of social security legislation, which in some cases precluded the exercise by migrant workers of all their rights. In order to overcome that difficulty, efforts had been made both bilaterally and multilaterally to co-ordinate social security legislation. For example, Recommendation No. 151 concerning migrant workers, adopted by ILO in 1975, stated that a worker leaving the country of employment should be able to obtain the reimbursement of his social security contributions irrespective of the legality of his situation there.

38. According to article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the family was the natural and fundamental group unit of society and was entitled to protection by society and the State. Yet in many countries the migrant did not always enjoy the right to be accompanied by members of his family or to be joined by them later on. In some cases "family reunion" was allowed, but because of lack of financial means and numerous legal and other restrictions even that was not effectively enjoyed. Even when a migrant worker obtained permission for a child to reside with him, he was faced with the lack of help for children of migrant workers in overcoming their inadequate knowledge of the language of the country and other cultural handicaps. The fact that only 0.5 per cent of children of migrant workers reached the university level of education showed the magnitude of the problem. Clearly, migrant workers and their families needed greater social assistance than citizens.

39. The vocational training of migrant workers was another field in which public awareness had increased in recent years. It was recognized that workers did not automatically acquire new skills and needed to be trained in order to practise their

(Mrs. Dinçmen, Turkey)

employment adequately. However, while most receiving countries insistently demanded qualified workers, they seemed somewhat reluctant to provide in-service vocational training for the unskilled ones. The ideal solution would be to grant migrant workers the right to vocational training, as was already done in some host countries.

40. For those reasons, her delegation was co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.39, which it hoped would meet with the unanimous approval of the Committee.

41. Mr. MONCKEBERG (Chile), speaking on social development questions, said that, although mankind yearned for the elimination of poverty and injustice, and although considerable efforts had been made to achieve that goal, the bulk of the world's population nevertheless continued to suffer from poverty, unemployment or underemployment, malnutrition, illiteracy and diseases caused by an adverse environment. Far from improving, that situation had deteriorated dangerously.

42. Social development was closely linked to economic development. As the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/32/3) pointed out, the economic development of the poorer countries during the past decade had fallen short of the targets that had been set. Output per inhabitant in those countries had expanded annually by less than 1 per cent, and in many of them it had declined. It had therefore become more necessary than ever to take corrective measures to promote rapid economic development. The world had become a single entity and the fate of a part could not be separated from that of the whole. His delegation agreed that there was a need to adopt national and international strategies of economic and social development for all countries. At the international level, a new economic order was essential. It was equally urgent that action should be taken at the national level to ensure harmonious economic and social development. The ultimate goal must be to ensure equality of access to food, health, housing, education, security and culture and, in general, to ensure the development of the individual within a framework of mutual respect.

43. While social backwardness was greatest in poor countries, it also existed in advanced countries, where it had still not been possible to eliminate poverty and inequality. In view of the complexity of the problem, a detailed analysis must be made of causes and the various conditioning factors as a first step towards implementing a policy of social development. Poverty was degrading not only to the person suffering from it but also to those who tolerated it or tried to ignore it.

44. In recent decades his country had expended ever-increasing amounts on programmes of social development, and more than 50 per cent of the national budget was now invested in such programmes. While progress had been made, the goals set in the struggle against poverty and inequality were still far off. Infant and pre-school mortality had dropped substantially, illiteracy had declined, housing and sanitary conditions had been improved. Life expectancy had increased substantially. Nevertheless, much remained to be done.

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(Mr. Monckeberg, Chile)

45. The kind of programmes traditionally adopted by Governments for the redistribution of income through progressive taxation and the provision of social benefits to those who had least had not proved sufficient, in that the very poor had historically benefited only marginally from such programmes. Social and political scientists had established that an individual born and raised in poverty suffered from physical, psychological and moral damage from which it was very difficult to recover. Such misery passed from generation to generation. The subculture of misery, and the many factors which conditioned it, damaged the individual and left him in a condition of less value than other members of society, into which he found it impossible to integrate himself. Poverty was different from misery. Poverty did not damage the individual, as it depended on external circumstances; once those circumstances had passed, it was possible to escape from a condition of poverty. Misery, on the other hand, damaged the individual and resulted from generations of individuals living on the margin of existence. The damage resulting from misery prevented the individual from seeing his position clearly, so that he was not motivated to try to improve his situation. Dealing with misery was difficult, as it required direct action to reintegrate the individuals concerned as effective elements in society. A special strategy was required, over and above the mechanisms involved in a mere redistribution of income. Recent studies had shown that the physical and intellectual damage to such individuals stemmed from misery during the first years of life; thereafter the damage was irreversible. At present, there were 500 million children in the world who did not attend school; of those who did, only a minority finished their primary education. In Latin America, out of every 100 children who entered primary schools, only 20 completed that level of education. In a modern society, an individual who had not completed his primary education was permanently condemned to underemployment, lay-offs or very low wages; thus, the vicious circle of misery was propagated for one more generation.

46. Efforts must be made to prevent such damage by implementing programmes designed to change the child's environment during his earliest years. In the past, it had been believed that the responsibility of the State only commenced at the primary education level, after the first six or seven years of life; by then, however, the damage had been done. His Government was therefore making a great effort in education, and in the provision of food and care at the pre-school level, particularly in areas of extreme poverty. Through special programmes, efforts were being exerted to make the child a social being capable of respecting his own individuality and creativity, and to guide him towards forming habits and attitudes which would enable him later to confront the educational process and life in general with hopes of success. The programme currently under way in Chile covered almost 50,000 children; however, a further 300,000 children were in need of such a programme, and it was hoped that they would be covered by it within the next five years.

47. In short, it was not sufficient to favour a better redistribution of income through programmes of social development; the whole of society must become involved in developing direct action programmes for extreme poverty groups, and resources must be concentrated on those groups. A purely economic approach had failed to solve the problem of misery and inequality, and other means must therefore be

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(Mr. Monckeberg, Chile)

found. The strategy followed by Chile in its programme of social development aimed at those goals, and his Government hoped that the success already achieved would show the way for other countries with similar problems of under-development.

48. Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) said that the question of human rights in Chile had been of interest to the international community ever since 11 September 1973, when, as a result of imperialist intervention, the reactionary military régime had taken control of the country, subsequently repressing the Chilean people brutally and systematically. Efforts had been made by various United Nations bodies and organizations to bring about the restoration of the rights and freedoms of the Chilean people. Special mention should be made in that connexion of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile and its Chairman, Mr. Allana; after overcoming many obstacles, the Working Group had been able to furnish the General Assembly with a report (A/32/227) containing sufficient information to enable it to assess the situation in Chile precisely and objectively.

49. The report showed that the Chilean authorities had not only ignored the repeated calls of the world community to end their systematic and massive violations of human rights but had extended them to other sectors of Chilean society, employing not only torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment condemned by the General Assembly, but also new methods of intimidation designed to perpetuate, through the use of terror, a Government contrary to the interests of the great majority of the population. Public opinion, both inside and outside Chile, had repudiated the arrest and subsequent disappearance of political and trade union leaders and of others simply opposed to the régime. The Chilean Government had continued to ignore protests and had refused to provide information on the fate of the victims, although most of them were known to have been detained by DINA or other instruments of repression. The Chilean authorities had even deceived the Secretary-General of the United Nations by violating their undertakings, given at the time of the hunger strike at ECLA headquarters, to provide information regarding prisoners who had disappeared, and to refrain from reprisals against those who had participated in the hunger strike. The United Nations itself had recently been visited by three brave women whose demands for information on the fate of their relatives and all other prisoners who had disappeared in Chile had so angered the fascist authorities that the latter had denied them entry to Santiago and had sought to doom them to forced exile.

50. The international community must strongly condemn the Pinochet régime and force it to provide information on what it had done with thousands of patriots seized by DINA and other instruments of repression. The international community was confronted by a system in which the power of the State had been employed to seize and make a hostage of any citizen, who was subsequently deprived even of those rights and guarantees enjoyed by ordinary prisoners. Their behaviour with regard to persons who had disappeared branded the Chilean authorities as a band of malefactors who acted without regard to any law or any norm of civilized conduct. The investigations made by the Ad Hoc Working Group showed that the Chilean authorities continued to torture their victims and to extend repression even to

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(Mr. Alarcón de Quesada, Cuba)

political groups which had opposed the popular Government of President Allende, including some which had collaborated with the present military régime at the time of the 1973 coup d'état.

51. The Chilean authorities had apparently been unable to impose an overtly anti-popular policy without resorting increasingly to terror and the use of force. The progressive internal isolation of the Chilean régime and the rise in popular resistance, notwithstanding terror and repression, could be explained when one analysed the economic and social situation, the position of the hundreds of thousands of unemployed and the deterioration in education, public health and nutrition services described by the Ad Hoc Working Group in its report. Growing trade union unrest demonstrated that the Chilean workers were not prepared to tolerate a régime which restricted their rights and plunged them into misery while a small minority of the privileged enriched themselves through crime and terror.

52. In the meantime, the Chilean authorities had been following an international policy of alliance with racist and colonialist régimes. The growing links between the Chilean authorities and those of Pretoria had been condemned during the recent debate in the General Assembly on the policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa; the support afforded by Santiago to the bantustan policy and the participation of Chilean soldiers in repressive operations against SWAPO in Namibia had been the subjects of special condemnation. Accordingly, in October 1977, at Algiers, representatives of the Chilean resistance and of the African National Congress of South Africa, of SWAPO and of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe had denounced the growing collaboration between the Pinochet and Vorster régimes and had called on the international community and the General Assembly to condemn them. The struggle to restore democracy and freedom in Chile was an inseparable part of the continuing struggle to free the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America from imperialism, colonialism and racism. Like their African brothers, the Chilean fighters would eventually be victorious.

53. The CHAIRMAN announced that Ethiopia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.38 and that Barbados, Senegal and Sweden had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.39.

OTHER MATTERS

54. The CHAIRMAN said that Iceland had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.25/Rev.1, submitted under item 76.

55. Two new draft resolutions (A/C.3/32/L.40 and A/C.3/32/L.41) had been submitted under items 78 and 84 respectively; in both cases, Bolivia should be added to the list of sponsors.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.