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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 75th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

later: Mr. PEDERSEN (Denmark)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 85: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/32/218 and Add.1 and 2; A/C.3/32/L.52, L.53, L.54, L.55/Rev.1, L.56, L.57, L.59 and L.66)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolutions before it on the item under discussion.
2. Mr. PEDERSEN (Denmark) said that he wished to reply to several questions which had been raised by the representative of Mali at the preceding meeting regarding paragraphs 78 and 162 of the report of the Working Group of the Whole on the Drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/C.3/32/L.59). With respect to paragraph 78, he was prepared to issue a corrigendum to the report in order to make it reflect the actual amendment which Mali had proposed. The reason why the Malian amendment to article 9, paragraph 4, had not been included in paragraph 162 of the report was that the representative of Mali had not been present at the Working Group's 12th meeting, when the final decision on article 9, paragraph 4, had been taken. However it was indicated in paragraph 158 of the report that Mali had in fact proposed deleting that paragraph of the draft Convention. The report had not been considered or approved by the Working Group, and it was possible that certain points of view expressed by various representatives had not been reflected in it. The delegations concerned should inform the Secretariat, and the appropriate corrigenda would be issued.
3. Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), speaking in reply to a request made at the preceding meeting by the representative of Argentina for more detailed information with respect to the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women in draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54, drew attention to the third preambular paragraph of the draft resolution. Whereas the General Assembly had initially called for an interagency programme for the integration of women in development, the current programme had now expanded into a more comprehensive plan. It had been agreed that the programme would consist of a conceptual framework, a statement of objectives and a synthesis of activities. The objectives, which were drawn from the World Plan of Action, included: (1) promotion of measures to ensure the integration of women in society and to monitor the programme; (2) an increase in the participation of women in political life and political decision-making at all levels, particularly in matters relating to international peace; (3) increased participation of women in economic life; (4) equal educational opportunities for women; (5) ensuring women's participation in all cultural and leisure activities at all levels and recognition of their cultural contributions; (6) promotion of attitudes conducive to stimulating the full participation of women in all aspects of society; (7) promotion of the health and well-being of women; (8) promotion of family and community life; and (9) protection of women in situations of armed conflict. A complete synthesis, based upon information provided regarding activities relating to each objective, was now available, and an analysis, which would soon be completed, would reveal where the present and planned programmes of United Nations bodies could avoid duplication and be made more effective. It had been a useful exercise to learn how the various United Nations bodies were implementing United Nations resolutions and decisions relating to women.

4. Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that his delegation supported the draft resolutions relating to women, especially draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, because it reflected fundamental and commendable ideals and concretely acknowledged women's potential contribution to important objectives of the international community.
5. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52 was the only one of the draft resolutions which Morocco had not sponsored. Like the representative of Mali, she had certain difficulties with the report of the Working Group contained in document A/C.3/32/L.59 because it misrepresented views which she had stated. She therefore could not agree to the words "takes note with satisfaction" in paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52.
6. For example, paragraph 87 of the Working Group's report completely misstated her views. She had merely said that she would have no objection to retaining the word "custom", contained in the United States proposal, on the understanding that the State Party concerned would itself judge whether a provision was discriminatory, because no outsider could make that judgement; she had in fact supported the representative of Mali. Furthermore, paragraph 158 failed to mention that, like the representatives of Syria and Mali, she had proposed deletion of article 9, paragraph 4. She therefore proposed that the words "with satisfaction" should be omitted from the draft resolution.
7. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that her delegation appreciated the co-operative spirit shown by the representative of Denmark and others in the negotiations of the Working Group on the draft Convention and realized that it had been difficult to synthesize all of the discussions which had taken place. However, since draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52 used the phrase "with satisfaction", she felt obliged to point out some inaccuracies in the report of the Working Group.
8. Paragraph 78, directly contradicted what she had said, which was "taking into account fundamental values", and she wanted that amendment to be correctly reproduced. Moreover, paragraph 162 of the report totally failed to reflect the fact that her delegation had requested the deletion of article 9, paragraph 4. She therefore could not support the draft resolution unless those observations were taken into account.
9. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that he sympathized with Mali's position but would reserve his own position pending a reply from the representative of Denmark.
10. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that draft resolutions A/C.3/32/L.52, A/C.3/32/L.53, A/C.3/32/L.54, A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1, A/C.3/32/L.56 and A/C.3/32/L.57 presented certain difficulties for his delegation, not because of their substance but because suggestions made by his delegation for improving the texts had been ignored.
11. Paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52, for example, was inaccurate because the report mentioned was a report of the Working Group rather than of the Third Committee.

(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

12. His delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 because it was fully in keeping with the aims of the United Nations Decade for Women, which were equality, development and peace. Peace and security were the main aims of the United Nations, and since women constituted half the world's population, they had an important role to play in that connexion. The question whether women's role with regard to peace should be dealt with in the First Committee was irrelevant because there were no sharp boundaries. Women could no longer be confined to traditional roles. As for the other draft resolutions, his delegation would not offer any amendments to them despite its difficulties with their wording.

13. Mrs. CHATER (Tunisia) said that the Rapporteur of the Working Group had produced its report under considerable pressure of time and had expressed his willingness to revise it. She therefore suggested that the representative of Morocco should withdraw her amendment.

14. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said she realized that the views of Mali and Morocco had not been correctly reflected in the Working Group's report but agreed with the representative of Tunisia that the pressure of time had been responsible for that. She therefore hoped that the representatives of Mali and Morocco would be satisfied if their views were reflected in the summary records of the Committee. With respect to the observation made by the representative of the Soviet Union, she thought it might be difficult for the General Assembly to take note of the report of a Working Group, although she had no objection to the Soviet suggestion.

15. Mr. CANTAVE (Haiti) said that his delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 because it reflected Haiti's view that women should contribute to the strengthening of peace. However, his delegation had reservations regarding the fifth preambular paragraph, since it felt that the reference to the Declaration of Mexico was out of place.

16. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that his delegation had no difficulties with respect to draft resolutions A/C.3/32/L.52, A/C.3/32/L.53, A/C.3/32/L.54, A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1, A/C.3/32/L.56 and A/C.3/32/L.57, although it reserved its position on the Soviet proposal relating to paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52. With respect to the comment made by the representative of Iran, he had no doubt that the General Assembly could take note of the report of the Working Group without any procedural difficulty.

17. His delegation attached special importance to draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 and asked the sponsors to consider Cuba a sponsor. That draft resolution made specific reference in its fifth preambular paragraph to the United Nations Decade for Women, the Declaration of Mexico and the World Plan of Action. The conference at Mexico City had been an important milestone in the consideration of the question of women by the United Nations and that reference was the fundamental reason for his delegation's wish to join in sponsoring the draft resolution. The third preambular paragraph concerning women's contribution to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination was also important,

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(Mr. Alfonso, Cuba)

especially in the light of the current situation in southern Africa and the growing struggle to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism by every possible means, it was appropriate that a draft resolution on women should recognize their role in that connexion. Paragraph 2 was especially pertinent, since it placed the question under discussion within the general political context of the status of women everywhere. Paragraph 4 was important because it gave recognition to an important event which women in his country celebrated with special activities stressing their role in national liberation.

18. Mr. KAPLLANI (Albania) said that he would not vote on any of the draft resolutions under the item, for reasons which his delegation had made abundantly clear during the debate. He wished, however, to comment briefly on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, which represented yet another attempt by the delegation of the Soviet Union to sponsor resolutions designed solely to serve its own propaganda purposes. Détente, peace and disarmament were no more than fraudulent slogans which had been introduced by the Soviet Union into every United Nations activity in recent years, even in connexion with such issues as the world population and food situations and currently the issue of women. His delegation maintained that there was no détente and that apart from the arms race, the main concern of the two super-Powers was to divide the world between themselves. With regard to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, Albania observed Women's Day on 8 March each year and objected to changing a date hallowed by tradition.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that Ghana had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.3/32/L.52, A/C.3/32/L.53, A/C.3/32/L.54, A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1, A/C.3/32/L.56 and A/C.3/32/L.57 and that Cuba and Ethiopia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66.

20. After a procedural discussion, in which Mr. OULD SID AHMED VALL (Mauritania), Miss SHAHKAR (Iran), Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco), Miss LEFORT (France), Mrs. WILMOT (Ghana), Mr. SOBHY (Egypt), Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) and Ms. MATTESON (United States of America) took part, the CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52,

21. At the request of the representative of Morocco, a separate vote was taken on the words "with satisfaction" in paragraph 1.

22. The words "with satisfaction" in paragraph 1 were adopted by 89 votes to 6, with 22 abstentions.

23. At the request of the representative of Mali, a separate vote was taken on paragraph 1.

24. Paragraph 1 was adopted by 117 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

25. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52 as a whole was adopted.

26. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.53 was adopted.

27. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54 was adopted.

28. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.55/Rev.1 was adopted.

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29. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.56 was adopted.
30. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.57 was adopted.
31. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66.
32. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) suggested that in the second preambular paragraph the words "are inconceivable without" should be replaced by the word "require".
33. It was so decided.
34. Mrs. BEN AMI (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that the first preambular paragraph referred to resolution 3520 (XXX), which her delegation had opposed. The fifth preambular paragraph referred to the Declaration of Mexico, 1975, which had called for the elimination of zionism. Her delegation was opposed to all documentation which referred to the Declaration of Mexico, 1975. The matter was important to Israel and the Jewish people, and she would vote against the draft resolution.
35. Mr. FUENTES IBÁÑEZ (Bolivia) said that the text of the draft resolution was bland and unpractical. Furthermore, women's rights should not be subordinated to other criteria, such as opposition to apartheid, colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression and foreign domination, however respectable those criteria might be. His delegation would therefore abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.
36. Mr. ŁOPATKA (Poland) said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution, which correctly expressed a basic problem of today's world and would help women gain a greater role in society and greater equality with men.
37. Ms. MATTESON (United States of America) said that there was nothing acceptable in the draft resolution and she would accordingly vote against it as well as against every paragraph if separate votes were requested.
38. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) said that he would vote in favour of every paragraph, whether preambular or operative, if they were put to separate votes. Women had a role to play in all the areas enumerated in the draft resolution. To ask women, more than half of mankind, to stay out of the struggle for those objectives would constitute flagrant discrimination against women.
39. At the request of the representative of Israel, a vote was taken by roll-call on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66.
40. Norway, having been drawn by lot by the Chairman, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Afghanistan, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Central African Empire, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Indonesia, Iran, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Surinam, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

41. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 was adopted by 53 votes to 19, with 52 abstentions.

42. Mr. Pedersen (Denmark) took the Chair.

43. Mrs. BEN AMI (Israel) said that her delegation had accepted the consensus in the Committee on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54 but had been disappointed to note that the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution referred to resolutions linked to the World Conference of the International Women's Year; her delegation had the strongest reservations concerning such references. She urged that future resolutions dealing with women's issues should not automatically refer to such resolutions, which created difficulties for her own and other delegations.

44. Mr. de BRCMLEY (Honduras) said that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, not because his delegation was against the participation of women in any sphere of activity but because the draft resolution referred to the Declaration of Mexico, 1975, which equated zionism with racism.

45. Mr. de FARIA (Portugal) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 because of the references in the first preambular paragraph to several resolutions introducing ideas which were alien to the question of women and on which his delegation had abstained at the time of their adoption by the General Assembly.

46. Miss APONTE (Venezuela) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, not because it opposed the spirit of the text but because the text departed from the central purpose of women's issues.

47. Miss HOLZER (Austria) said that her delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 with regret. While supporting the concept that women should play as active a role as men did in solving the world's problems, her delegation, like others, had reservations with regard to the text, which contained inconsistencies and repetitious wording and laid unreasonable stress on aspects which were not of prime concern to women. Paragraph 5, for instance, seemed to be designed to prejudge the preparation of the World Conference to be held in 1980 and requested additional work from the already overburdened Commission on the Status of Women.

48. Mrs. WILMOT (Ghana) said that her delegation had not been able to accept the Moroccan proposal with regard to deleting the words "with satisfaction" in paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.52 and had voted for the retention of those words, as it felt that the report in question (A/C.3/32/L.59) was generally good and had been prepared under severe time constraints.

49. Her delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, not because it was against the concepts set forth in the draft resolution but because it had not had time to consult its Government. The draft resolution was not entirely satisfactory, and her delegation hoped that a better draft resolution would be presented at the thirty-third session.

50. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said, in connexion with paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.57 on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, that ECLA should speed up its preparation of draft projects.

51. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66, she pointed out that although her delegation had mistakenly voted in favour of the draft resolution, its intention had been to abstain in the vote. The Argentine delegation to the World Conference at Mexico City had already expressed its position with regard to certain elements of the Declaration of Mexico, 1975.

52. Mr. NTAKIBIRORA (Burundi) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66. It had no doubts as to the place of women in the development process but felt that the ways in which women should participate in the strengthening of international peace and security and the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination were much less clear. His delegation reserved the right to reconsider its position with regard to the draft resolution after the Committee had submitted its report to the General Assembly.

53. Miss LEFORT (France) said that her delegation had been one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.54 because of the importance it attached to the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women. In her delegation's view, the words "related resolutions of the World Conference" in the first preambular paragraph referred only to resolutions relating to the interagency programme.



54. Mr. WINTER (Chile) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 because the draft resolution included elements which were not related to strengthening the role of women and their participation in society. His delegation reaffirmed its opposition to colonialism, racism and apartheid but felt that those elements were unrelated to the fundamental questions dealt with under the agenda item before the Committee. He pointed out that his delegation had supported all of the other draft resolutions.

55. Mr. CABRERA (Spain) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.66 because the draft resolution contained elements which were unrelated and irrelevant to the question of promoting women's rights. He observed that his delegation had also abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution 3519 at the thirtieth session.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/C.3/32/L.43, L.45, L.49, L.60, L.61, L.63/Rev.1, L.67 and L.70)

56. The CHAIRMAN directed the attention of members of the Committee to draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45 on the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution, which were contained in document A/C.3/32/L.67. He announced that Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Nicaragua, Surinam and the United States of America had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45.

57. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) asked the representative of the Division of Human Rights, with reference to annex B, paragraph 2, of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45, what seminars had been conducted during the past four years under the programme of advisory services within the framework of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

58. Mr. SANON (Deputy Director, Division of Human Rights) said, in reply to the question raised at a previous meeting by the representative of Mongolia, that no seminars had been decided on by the Division in connexion with the International Anti-Apartheid Year of 1978. He said that the Centre against Apartheid was involved in planning several conferences dealing with apartheid; in particular a conference against apartheid and a regional student and youth conference were to be held in Africa in 1978 with the sponsorship of non-governmental organizations and the co-operation of the Centre. Under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, a seminar on apartheid had been held at Brasilia in 1966 (ST/TAO/HR.27), and there would, of course, be the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held at Geneva in 1978.

59. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) said that she still did not feel that her question had been satisfactorily answered. In 1973 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3057 (XXVIII) designating 1973-1983 the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Programme of Action for the Decade called for the convening of international and regional seminars in line with the goals of the Programme of Action. Since 1978 had been designated International Anti-Apartheid

(Mrs. Ider, Mongolia)

Year and was at the mid-point of the Decade, she felt that it was the duty of the United Nations and bodies concerned with United Nations activities in the human rights field to devote significant efforts to combating racism and apartheid. Despite the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), no implementation measures seemed to have been taken. She suggested to the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45 that the international seminar to be organized within the programme of advisory services (annex B, para. 2) should rather be devoted to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

60. Miss HOLZER (Austria) said that draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45, of which her delegation was a sponsor, had been worked out after intensive consultations, so as to produce a text acceptable to all delegations. It would be extremely difficult at the present late stage to introduce any changes. She noted that there would, in any case, be several seminars and conferences in Africa in 1978 in connexion with the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and appealed to the representative of Mongolia to reconsider her request.

61. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Mongolia at the fact that little had been done in preparation for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. A Secretary-General for the Conference had not yet been appointed, despite an Economic and Social Council decision to that effect in May 1977, and documentation for the Conference was still inadequate. He suggested that a seminar on racism and racial discrimination should be held in March or April 1978 and that its material would be of value to the World Conference. He hoped that the suggestions made by his delegation and that of Mongolia could be accommodated, in the interests of gaining unanimous support for draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45.

62. Mr. SANON (Deputy Director, Division of Human Rights) said that the discussion in the Committee and other bodies showed the great concern of delegations for the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and delegations should see to it that proper measures were adopted to enable the Secretary-General to carry out his responsibilities in connexion with the various programmes to be undertaken. At the present time the Division of Human Rights and, in particular, the programme of advisory services were encountering great difficulties, owing to a lack of sufficient funds.

63. In connexion with the 1978 World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he said that the Division hoped to organize a seminar on southern Africa in one of the front-line African States in March or April 1978 but that much would depend on the availability of sufficient funds. With regard to documentation for the World Conference, he welcomed efforts on the parts of Member States in the form of seminars or other activities to assist the work of the Conference. In the matter of the appointment of a Secretary-General for the World Conference, he said that the Secretary-General of the United Nations was in consultation with regional groups, as required by the relevant resolutions, and hoped that it would soon be possible to announce the appointment of a Secretary-General for the World Conference.

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64. Mrs. de BARISH (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45, said that it would be difficult to make last-minute changes in the draft resolution. The sponsors had agreed, after lengthy consultations, that the seminar referred to in part B of the annex should be devoted to the promotion of human rights in general.

65. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he was aware that the Division of Human Rights had complained of lack of funds for conducting seminars. He pointed out, however, that according to document A/C.3/32/L.67, containing the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45, funds would be available to the Secretariat for that purpose. Consequently, the Division of Human Rights should have no difficulty in arranging a seminar on another subject.

66. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) said that she was very surprised at the reply of the Deputy Director. She reminded the Committee that the Programme for the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination annexed to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) clearly provided for the convening of international and regional seminars, conferences and other similar activities in line with the objectives of the Programme; yet not a single seminar had thus far been organized.

67. Under the Programme for the Decade, United Nations bodies should make every effort to support the struggle against apartheid; it would be appropriate to hold a seminar on racial discrimination and apartheid, which would provide a good opportunity to prepare for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

68. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, as he understood it, the representative of Mongolia had presented suggestions, not proposals. In the light of the information given by the Deputy Director and the very good reasons put forward by the representative of Austria, he felt that the Committee was in a position to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45.

69. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) said that she would not press her suggestion to amend the text of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45 but wished to call to the attention of those in charge of human rights activities in the Secretariat the need to abide by United Nations decisions.

70. Mr. SANON (Deputy Director, Division of Human Rights) said that two seminars whose titles did not explicitly mention racism and racial discrimination but which were relevant to the subject had been held during the Decade. One of them, held in Yugoslavia in 1974, had concerned the rights of minorities, and the other, held in Tunisia in 1975, had been concerned with the rights of migrant workers. The results of both seminars and subsequent studies would be incorporated in the documentation to be submitted to the World Conference.

71. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should proceed to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45, since it could not be adopted by consensus. He invited those delegations that so wished to explain their vote before the vote.

72. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

would not oppose adoption of the draft resolution, on the understanding that the proposals in part B of the annex to the draft resolution were regarded only as suggestions. He hoped that the Secretary-General, in planning his activities for the following year, would take into consideration the proposal that the Secretariat should take measures to ensure that General Assembly resolutions were implemented in respect of seminars on racism and racial discrimination.

73. With regard to the financial implications in document A/C.3/32/L.67, his delegation felt that they should be curtailed as much as possible.

74. Mr. DIOM (Senegal) suggested that draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45 should be adopted by consensus, any delegation that had reservations being free to state them.

75. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to follow that suggestion.

76. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.45 was adopted without a vote.

77. Mrs. Mair (Jamaica) resumed the Chair.

78. The CHAIRMAN, referring to draft resolutions A/C.3/32/L.60 and A/C.3/32/L.61, concerning missing persons in Cyprus, said that, as a result of consultations with the delegations concerned, it had been proposed that the subitem concerned should be taken up the following week, after the Committee had concluded its work for the session. Accordingly, the Committee would have to take a decision on whether it would formally conclude its work after that subitem had been considered, or would formally conclude its work on 9 December, as scheduled, with the proviso that the subitem was still outstanding and its consideration would be concluded the following week.

79. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that his delegation would not object to any decision the Committee adopted in that matter, provided that it took care to avoid setting a precedent.

80. The CHAIRMAN suggested that delegations should give the matter further thought, so that a decision might be taken at the meeting scheduled for that evening.

81. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.49, concerning the protection of human rights in Uganda, she announced that the sponsors had decided not to press the draft resolution to a vote, on the understanding that the concern expressed therein would be taken into account when the Commission on Human Rights resumed consideration of that question.

82. Mr. BOZA (Peru) said that, if a vote had been taken on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.49, his delegation would have abstained. Notwithstanding the undoubted merits of the draft resolution, which acknowledged the role of the competent regional organization and was drafted in well-balanced language, it violated the

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established procedure, according to which the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council were the appropriate bodies for considering situations with regard to human rights throughout the world.

AGENDA ITEM 82: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/32/L.51 and L.68)

83. Mrs. ALLAGHI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51, said that they had agreed to the proposed changes in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, in view of the importance of the activities to be undertaken during the International Year for Disabled Persons and the need for a reference to information activities. Paragraph 2 would now read: "Authorizes the Secretary-General to undertake the measures required to implement these proposals, including the necessary information activities prior to and during the International Year for Disabled Persons."

84. She hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

85. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bangladesh, Denmark, Iceland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Qatar had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51, and she suggested that the Committee might wish to adopt it without a vote.

86. Draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51 was adopted without a vote.

87. Mrs. SIMUKWAI (Zambia), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51 because of the importance which it attached to the item. Although her Government had been unable, owing to administrative difficulties, to submit its comments in response to General Assembly resolution 31/123, it shared most of the views of other Governments on the subject and supported the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report (A/32/288).

88. In accordance with Zambia's philosophy of humanism, disabled persons were regarded as ordinary citizens, not as a special group with different needs; it was felt that they should not be discriminated against and should be fully integrated into society. Since its independence, Zambia had carried out many programmes for the disabled. Upon completion of training, which was provided in a number of crafts and skills, disabled persons were employed in both the private and the public sectors, with encouraging results.

89. Difficulties had, however, been experienced in recruiting staff for the institutions concerned with disabled persons. Her delegation therefore wished to call on the United Nations and the specialized agencies to consider means for assisting developing countries to ensure the welfare of the disabled.

90. In conclusion, she welcomed the willingness of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other bodies to participate in activities connected with the commemoration of the International Year for Disabled Persons, which she hoped would be followed by rehabilitation activities, the only practical way in which to make the International Year more meaningful.

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91. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had not opposed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.51 without a vote or the establishment of an Advisory Committee. It wished, however, to draw attention to certain aspects of the financial implications in document A/C.3/32/L.68.

92. Firstly, with regard to the proposed August 1978 session of the Advisory Committee, it was quite unacceptable that one officer of the Secretariat should travel from Geneva to New York; his work should be carried out by a Headquarters staff member.

93. Secondly, with regard to the 12 interpreters assigned to both the August 1978 session and the March 1979 session, he suggested that the Secretariat should bear in mind that the Headquarters staff were not so busy at those times as to necessitate additional interpreters.

94. In his delegation's view, therefore, the financial implications in document A/C.3/32/L.68 were unjustified.

95. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had now concluded its consideration of item 82.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.