

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records \*



THIRD COMMITTEE  
8th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 5 October 1976  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany)

CONTENTS

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

AGENDA ITEM 69: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

- (a) DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
- (d) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (continued)

UN LIBRARY  
OCT 8 1976  
UN/SA COLLECTION

\* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room LX-2332.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

76-73038

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/31/SR.8  
7 October 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/..

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

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said he expected that, at the following meeting, it would be possible to proceed with the election to the remaining office of Vice-Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM 69: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/31/97, 151, 166, 170, 178, 206; A/C.3/31/2) (continued)

- (a) DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/31/3 (chap. III, sect. F), A/31/148, 223; E/5759 and Add.1, E/5760 and Add.1, E/5763) (continued)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/31/201; A/C.3/31/L.3) (continued)
- (d) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (A/31/209) (continued)

2. Mr. LIUNDI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that racial discrimination, a cancer in human society, was the root cause of many problems afflicting millions of people. In some countries, racial injustice was manifested in repressive and discriminatory laws. Under South Africa's policy of apartheid, the economy was controlled by the small white minority but was heavily dependent on the black labour force. The majority of the people were jobless, landless and homeless, and the few that were employed were paid a mere subsistence wage. That situation created dissatisfaction and insecurity. The uprising of youths at Soweto and elsewhere indicated a rejection of the oppressive system and a search for a new order. His delegation was totally opposed to the inhuman policies of apartheid. As President Nyerere had emphasized, the apartheid policy of South Africa must be replaced by a system which accepted the principle of human equality; anyone who failed to understand the depth of Africa's feeling on that matter did not understand apartheid.

3. His delegation fully supported the two draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly (A/31/148, annexes I and II), and hoped that all members of the Committee would endorse them. He also congratulated the representative of Ghana on his up-to-date information and on his Government's efforts to prepare for the forthcoming World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

4. His delegation was proud to inform the Committee that the United Republic of Tanzania had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and was doing its utmost to eradicate racial discrimination in conformity with its Constitution and the Arusha Declaration. Racism, racial discrimination and apartheid demanded the immediate collective attention and co-ordinated action of Member States. As the Secretary-General had indicated in document A/31/148, paragraph 2, the Programme for the Decade for

/...

(Mr. Liundi, Tanzania)

Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination called for a continuing effort by all peoples, Governments and institutions to eradicate racial discrimination and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, irrespective of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. In his delegation's view, that goal could be attained.

5. Mrs. RANA (Nepal) said that her country's Constitution prohibited discrimination based on religion, race, sex, caste or tribe, and that a new law enacted in 1963 had abolished the deep-rooted system of untouchability. The Civil Liberties Act of 1954 predated the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Members of the backward and minority communities had been appointed to important political and social organs, including the Council of Ministers. That was an important step in promoting the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Nepal was doing its best to make the Decade a success. Human Rights Day was celebrated on a nation-wide basis and its cherished goals had been given the widest publicity. Since 1963, 1 August had been celebrated as Liberation Day to commemorate the date on which the country had received a new Civil Code from the King of Nepal; the Code had abolished discrimination throughout the country.

6. In the international arena, Nepal had actively supported efforts to combat apartheid and racial discrimination. It had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination without any reservation. Racial discrimination persisted in some parts of the globe, and the Secretary-General had rightly warned Member States of the increasing likelihood of interracial violence on a large scale. Twenty-eight years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, some colonial and racist Governments continued to deny fundamental rights to the great majority of their people. That was most conspicuous in southern Africa, where millions were still deprived of equality, freedom and justice. The racist minority régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury continued to oppress the indigenous people through their policy of racial discrimination and apartheid. South Africa's official policy of apartheid, which entailed racial segregation and the denial of the rights of the black majority, was a challenge to the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although apartheid had long been recognized by the international community as a crime against humanity, that heinous policy still survived.

7. The United Nations had made every effort to arouse the world's conscience against racism and apartheid. In that connexion, she commended the invaluable role of the Special Committee against Apartheid. Nepal, as a member of that Committee, would continue to co-operate closely in efforts to mobilize world public opinion against apartheid and to expose its evils. Mere verbal condemnation and the adoption of resolutions would not help eradicate racial discrimination. Her delegation appealed to those Member States which maintained ties with the racists to terminate their economic and other relations with South Africa. The racist régime there continued to flout United Nations resolutions; mandatory sanctions against that régime must therefore be agreed upon and fully enforced. Furthermore, the international community must increase its moral and material assistance to the liberation movements of South Africa in their just struggle for equality and freedom.

(Mrs. Rana, Nepal)

8. In its continuing illegal occupation of Namibia, the Pretoria régime had intensified its policy of terror and exploitation and had fragmented that Territory into bantustans. The United Nations Council for Namibia had provided an invaluable service to humanity and her delegation firmly believed that the Council would continue to expose and condemn South Africa's exploitation and illegal occupation of the Territory. In Southern Rhodesia, the racist régime was doing its utmost to postpone the inevitable day of liberation for the people of Zimbabwe.

9. Her delegation noted with satisfaction the measures taken by Member States to implement the Programme for the Decade. If the Programme was implemented at the national, regional and international levels, the last remnants of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid would be swept away.

10. Her delegation would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly in document A/31/148, annex I, and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

11. With regard to the other draft resolution recommended by the Council for adoption (A/31/148, annex II), she said that the forthcoming World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would represent a high point in the Decade. She was sure that all Member States would co-operate to make the Conference a landmark in the struggle for the liberation of the people of South Africa. Her delegation welcomed Ghana's offer to act as host to the Conference and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by acclamation. Despite the intransigence of the racist régimes in southern Africa, the forces of progress were marching ahead and, if the international community was united, the last remnants of colonialism, racism and apartheid would crumble.

12. Mr. CARTAS (Romania) said that his country had always attached great importance to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, one of the major problems confronting the United Nations. Romania firmly supported the abolition of all foreign domination and took the view that the persistence of racial discrimination threatened peace and international security. As had been pointed out by President Ceaușescu, the establishment of peace, co-operation and understanding among peoples required the intensified efforts of all anti-imperialist forces to eliminate apartheid and colonial domination. Romania had consistently promoted the principles of international law and the observance of the inviolable right of each people to freedom and independence. Accordingly, the Romanian people expressed its solidarity with the struggle of all peoples against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and other forms of domination and exploitation. Romania continued to grant full political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the national liberation movements and to peoples fighting for freedom, independence and the right to decide their own destiny.

13. In view of the increasing need for new international relations based on legality and observance of the inalienable right of peoples to freedom, the United Nations must take firm action to support the oppressed population of South Africa. To that end, Romania had taken a firm stand at the meetings held by the Security

/...

(Mr. Cartas, Romania)

Council earlier during the current year in connexion with the bloody events in South Africa. It had strongly condemned the crimes of the South African racist régime - which, through its inhumane behaviour, had placed itself outside the community of civilized nations - and it had manifested its solidarity with the courageous struggle of the African people. Romania had co-sponsored resolution 392 (1976) adopted by the Security Council on that question.

14. The policy of apartheid practised in South Africa represented a total anachronism. The victories of the liberation movements of Africa, and particularly the foundation of the independent States of Angola and Mozambique, had opened up to the peoples of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia new prospects for the abolishment of colonialism, racism and apartheid and for the free development of all the peoples of the region in accordance with their legitimate aspirations.

15. Faithful to its principles, Romania would co-operate by all means in its power to implement the Programme for the Decade. It fully supported the two draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly (A/31/148, annexes I and II). His delegation welcomed Ghana's generous offer to act as host to the World Conference, and pledged its full co-operation to make that Conference a success.

16. Mr. DANOVI (Italy) said that racism and racial discrimination were among the most abhorrent forms of the negation of human rights, human dignity and the human personality and that, as such, they were a direct threat to the basic principles of the United Nations. The search for the most appropriate means of bringing such practices to an end was probably the heaviest responsibility entrusted to the Organization and to its Member States. The appropriateness of the action taken thus far was seen in the dynamic evolution of events in southern Africa. The political and economic pressure brought to bear for years on the régimes of southern Africa - now paralleled by the revolt of peoples too long the victims of racism and oppression - had unleashed a process which could no longer be halted. His Government which, together with its partners in the European Community, had constantly worked to promote equitable race relations and a peaceful transition to majority rule in southern Africa, welcomed those developments and hoped that the transition would take place with a minimum of suffering.

(Mr. Danovi, Italy)

17. In October 1976 Italy had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had become a party to it in February 1976. The Italian Parliament had previously adopted all the legislative measures needed to implement the Convention, although it should be noted that in the case of Italy the purpose of those measures would be to prevent the possible emergence of racism rather than to combat a phenomenon which was unknown in his country.

18. With regard to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he recalled that his delegation had joined in the consensus on General Assembly resolution 3057 (XVIII) and had strongly supported both the idea of the Decade itself and the Programme for the Decade annexed to that resolution. However, an unfortunate initiative taken at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly had introduced into that Programme an extraneous element which had since proved highly divisive. Italy had followed with appreciation the efforts made by numerous delegations at the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Council and elsewhere to redirect the Programme for the Decade towards its original objectives. Those efforts had culminated in the submission of a draft resolution on the Decade (A/31/148, annex I) which, although including some aspects about which his delegation had reservations, contained no elements that it might find unacceptable in principle. That was a highly positive development, in the light of both the recent events in southern Africa and the need to concentrate on eliminating the most heinous forms of racial discrimination. Unfortunately, the periodic attempts - including those made during the current debate - to revive an issue which his delegation firmly rejected continued to oblige it, much against its wishes, to be cautious. Yet it was more than willing to look towards the future rather than dwell on the past.

19. As to the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council on the convening of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/31/148, annex II), his delegation thanked Ghana for its offer to act as host to the Conference. It had some reservations about the financial arrangements provided for in the draft resolution and had already expressed them in the Council. However, it fully understood the economic factors which had prompted the Government of Ghana to ask the United Nations to share the heavy burden of organizing the Conference. The representative of Ghana had correctly remarked that a favourable decision on that matter would be regarded as a precedent only if the Third Committee or any other committee wished to regard it as such. In such a case, his delegation would refuse to regard any such decision by the Committee as a precedent.

20. Mr. BOUTHOMB (Belgium) said that during the sixtieth session of the Economic and Social Council his delegation had explained its position on all problems concerning the Decade and that, in addition, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, speaking recently in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly, had stated the position of the European Community, including that of Belgium, on the question of southern Africa. The Belgian Government considered that the compromise reached in connexion with the Decade during the Council's sixtieth session must be maintained in order to avoid reopening an acrimonious debate.

/...

(Mr. Rothomb, Belgium)

If maintained, the compromise would also have a favourable influence on the preparatory work for the World Conference.

21. He then introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.3, which related to the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The sponsors hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

22. Mrs. BIRIUKOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union consistently opposed all forms of racism and racial discrimination, exploitation, oppression and colonialism as a matter of principle and actively supported and observed all United Nations decisions aimed at eliminating them. That position was a reflection of the socialist nature of the multinational Soviet State, which was free of all forms of oppression and discrimination, and it had been reaffirmed in the decisions of the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

23. Racism was a product of social conditions and a tool of those classes which profited from the exploitation of man by man. The recent intensification of repression in southern Africa, particularly the events in Soweto, had caused special concern and aroused the indignation of all freedom-loving peoples. The racist régime of South Africa continued to flaunt world opinion by its illegal and repressive occupation of Namibia, and to ignore United Nations demands for the transfer of power to the Namibian people. The pattern of repression of the African populations in southern Africa was also reflected in the behaviour of the illegal white minority régime of Southern Rhodesia which not only persisted in its brutal oppression of the Africans of that country but also committed acts of aggression against neighbouring African States.

24. Those racist régimes owed their survival and the impunity with which they ignored the demands of the international community to the support and encouragement of the transnational corporations of certain Western countries which sought to perpetuate neo-colonialism in that part of the world. The failure of a number of countries to comply with the requirements of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination could only be interpreted as support for racism and neo-colonialism and as complicity with the racist régimes.

25. The wide-spread condemnation of apartheid and the growing power of the peoples who were throwing off the tyranny of the racists made the defeat of racism in southern Africa inevitable. The Soviet Union continued to demand an unconditional end to the policy of apartheid and racism in South Africa. The immediate withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and the unconditional transfer of power to the people of Zimbabwe.

/...

(Mrs. Biriukova, USSR)

26. In that connexion the Soviet Union strongly supported General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) condemning zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination. The Soviet Union also welcomed, and had in fact been one of the first to ratify, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, which it viewed as a decisive step toward establishing in international law the principle that apartheid is a crime against humanity. Her delegation was convinced that the elimination of racism would be hastened by increasing the number of parties to that Convention, as well as to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It was unfortunate that some States which formally condemned racism and apartheid did not assume the international obligations clearly provided for in those Conventions. Concrete action was more necessary than ever and the General Assembly should call upon all States to accede to those instruments.

27. The United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations must also do their utmost to hasten the elimination of racism by ensuring implementation of the Programme for the Decade, which her country supported unconditionally. Some delegations had alleged that General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which branded zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination, prevented certain States from implementing the Programme for the Decade. It should be recalled that those very delegations had already expressed reservations on a number of the most important provisions of the Programme even before the adoption of that resolution. Their reluctance to implement measures to isolate the racist régimes, to curtail political, military and other aid to those régimes, and to provide moral and political support for national liberation struggles thus had nothing to do with the resolution on zionism.

28. In conclusion, her delegation gave its full and unqualified support to the two draft resolutions of the Economic and Social Council contained in document A/31/148. Only the full and unconditional implementation of all the measures provided for in those resolutions could facilitate the realization of the goals of the Programme for the Decade.

29. Her delegation welcomed the forthcoming Conference in Ghana and was prepared to co-operate in the preparation for it. The major task of the Conference should be to take effective measures for the unconditional and definitive elimination of racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and colonialism.

30. Mr. DIEZ (Chile) said that there had been no discrimination in Chile since the establishment of the Republic 166 years before. The principle of the equality of all races before Chilean law was laid down in the Constitution of 1836 and had since been amplified by subsequent legislation. That principle now applied not only to equality before the law, but to equality before the administration and equal opportunities in respect of employment, housing, social benefits and so on. Chile had taken in immigrants from all parts of the world, which it treated on the same footing as its own nationals.

/...



(Mr. Diez, Chile)

31. Chile abhorred and had always condemned all racial discrimination. The present Government of Chile was fully in accord with the country's ancient traditions, as could be seen from the constitutional acts that had been promulgated during the current year. Article 1 of Act No. 3 of 11 September 1976 on constitutional rights and duties provided that all men were born free and equal in dignity, and it ensured that all persons and groups were equal before the law. There were no privileged persons or groups in Chile. Article 1 of Decree No. 383 of 16 September 1976 prohibited any discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or national or social origin which might interfere with equal opportunity for employment or the equal treatment of employed persons. Article 2 of the Decree provided that the selection of persons having special qualifications for certain jobs or special measures of protection for workers in certain activities such as heavy manual labour or night work should not be considered discriminatory. Furthermore, persons working in isolated places where the cost of living was higher than elsewhere because of the lack of communications might be paid higher wages and enjoy special social security benefits without that being considered discrimination.

32. In the international sphere, Chile had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1971 and had striven to translate its precepts into legislation. He urged all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention.

33. Chile was a member of the Committee of 24 and of the Council for Namibia, with which it had always co-operated. In accordance with its traditions, Chile condemned the policy of apartheid, which violated all human rights. It welcomed the offer to host the World Conference made by Ghana. Chile would co-operate to the utmost to ensure the success of the Conference.

34. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that the measures to be taken against racism laid down in the Programme for the Decade were rightly divided into national and international measures. In his view, the evils of racism should be attacked primarily at the national level and the domestic legislation must be sufficiently clear to prevent any resurgence of racial discrimination, from which no country could be entirely free. He would like to mention some of the measures taken in France in the last few years to combat discrimination measures which affected the status both of French nationals and of other persons living in France.

35. The problem of racism and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination lay close to the heart of all Frenchmen and affected both France's domestic and its foreign policy. Racial discrimination had always been proscribed in French law and yet, immediately following the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1971) France had decided to strengthen its own already strict domestic legislation against discrimination. The French Parliament had adopted the Act of 1 July 1972 on combating racism, which imposed stringent measures for the repression of racism and even went so far as to restrict the freedom of the press in that connexion. He would mention only the most significant provisions. First, every person or group of persons, whatever their origin, was

/...

(Mr. Fauris, France)

protected against slander and libel based on their racial, ethnic or national origin without there being any need to prove incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence. Secondly, discrimination on economic and social grounds, such as a refusal to grant benefits to certain persons or to recruit them, or their wrongful dismissal, was forbidden. Such acts could be punished with special severity if they were committed by civil servants. Thirdly, organizations were authorized to sue before the courts, with the agreement of the victim, and to constitute themselves partie civile. That was most important because such associations thus had the power to ensure that criminal proceedings were started. Those measures were fully in accordance with the Programme for the Decade, although they had been taken one year before resolution 3057 (XXVIII) had been adopted.

36. France had taken another series of measures to prevent discrimination, concerned with the protection of immigrant workers in France. The French regulations relating to foreign workers were based on the principle of non-discrimination. All the French labour laws applied equally to foreign and to French nationals. Administrative measures had also been adopted in the past few years to improve residence conditions and employment opportunities of foreign nationals wishing to work in France, the most recent relating to the reception of their families, education, the cultural environment, social action and housing. Special educational programmes in harmony with the Decade and aimed at making the French public more aware of the problems of racial discrimination and of immigrants had been broadcast on radio and television. If many countries took the kind of domestic measures he had mentioned, that would help to improve international attitudes to racism and discrimination.

37. In the international field, France had supported the United Nations efforts and had taken an active part in drafting the international legal instruments on discrimination. France had adhered to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was reporting regularly to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the steps it was taking to give effect to the provisions of the Convention.

38. France had taken a firm position against apartheid and all other forms of racial segregation, and it was contributing to the United Nations programmes of assistance to the victims of apartheid. France had always spoken out clearly against apartheid and all forms of racial segregation. At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, it had participated in the consensus on resolution 3411 B (XXX), which condemned South Africa for its refusal to heed the United Nations resolutions calling for the release of all persons imprisoned or restricted for their opposition to apartheid. France was as anxious to eliminate racism root and branch as any of its victims.

39. With some reservations, his delegation had concurred in the texts on the Programme for the Decade and in resolution 3378 (XXX) on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination because the aim sought had France's full support. However, it had to be borne in mind that when the United Nations confirmed its intention to combat racism, it had in mind a definite programme of activities.

/...

(Mr. Fauris, France)

40. He recalled that his delegation had warned the sponsors of resolution 3379 (XXX) that it might have to abstain on the Programme and on resolution 3378 (XXX) before actually doing so, thus demonstrating that it had made every effort to leave the door open for further discussion. Conciliation had produced encouraging results at the spring and summer sessions of the Economic and Social Council held in 1976. It would be unfortunate if through confusion over words and meanings or by a process of amalgamation the Programme became distorted when it was applied, in which case France would be compelled to voice its disagreement.

41. Mr. HACHEME (Benin) said that the present item was of particular importance to his country in view of the situation in southern Africa, where South Africa exercised economic and racial domination over its African population. The policy of the Government of South Africa had been stigmatized in the resolutions of the Security Council expressing abhorrence of the apartheid system. It was to be hoped that the Decade would bring greater awareness of the terrible evils of such policies and lead to the adoption of effective measures against them. The Economic and Social Council had recognized the legitimacy of the struggle of the Africans against the régimes in southern Africa which employed violence to deprive Africans of their freedom and human rights. He therefor supported the two draft resolutions (A/31/148, annexes I and II) submitted by the Council for the consideration of the General Assembly. Some progress had been made at the recent meeting of non-aligned countries at Colombo, but much still remained to be done if the world was to be freed of the fascist white régimes which had enslaved African peoples, a classic form of capitalist exploitation.

42. He welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had decided that the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be held at Accra. It would provide an opportunity to consider what further measures must be taken to put an end to the present disastrous situation.

43. Mr. DAMMERT (Peru) said that there was no racial discrimination in Peru, where many different races had converged to become Peruvians, without distinction based on creed, colour, race, sex, language, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or any other condition. All had the same rights and duties and the same free access to professional and productive employment in both the public and the private sectors. Peruvian legislation was based on the principle of the equality of all human beings and on the prohibition of all discrimination on the grounds he had mentioned.

44. The revolution that had taken place in Peru was a revolution of human values. Peru could not accept such régimes as those in southern Africa, which degraded men and were based on the outworn concept of racial superiority. The aim of the revolution was to reclaim men, not as individuals, but as members of a society governed by a system of values which ensured their full participation and real freedom. Its philosophy of human values involved a dedication to the struggle for their full development within an order of real social justice, which could not exist side by side with domination, discrimination and other forms of exploitation and enslavement.

/...

(Mr. Dammert, Peru)

45. All the negative characteristics he had mentioned were to be found in southern Africa. The peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Azania were oppressed, exploited and dominated by white minorities which denied them their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The efforts of the international community to eradicate racism and racial discrimination had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) approving the Programme for the Decade, the principal aim of which was to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, colour, descent or ethnic or national origin by eradicating racism, racial discrimination and racial prejudice. It also aimed at combating all forms of racial discrimination, as provided in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Decade was now in its third year and progress had already been made towards the elimination of racial discrimination, which had gone hand in hand with the disappearance of colonialism, particularly in Africa. As a result, many States had achieved independence and were now full Members of the United Nations.

46. Peru was concerned to ensure the success of the Decade, which could not be achieved until apartheid had been completely eliminated. It was the duty of the international community to come to the aid of the oppressed peoples and help them to secure their fundamental rights and freedoms. In that connexion, it must be borne in mind that the racist régimes were able to survive because of economic, political, military and strategic considerations and thanks to the assistance they received from certain Powers that were seeking their own self-interest.

47. Ghana was to be congratulated on having offered to act as host to the World Conference in 1948 to evaluate, half-way through the Decade, the progress that had been made in the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. Peru was following with close attention the preparations being made by Ghana and it hoped that the assistance which the United Nations could provide would ensure the success of the Conference.

48. Lastly, his delegation would vote for both the draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council contained in document A/31/148.

49. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) observed that the item on racial discrimination had become increasingly important as a result of recent events in southern Africa. In the introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/31/1/Add.1), which gave priority to the problem of racial discrimination, it was stated that there could be no peace in southern Africa until the necessary changes called for by the United Nations came about, and that the world could no longer afford delay, as the potential for major disaster became more real every day.

50. The time for paying lip service to freedom and equality was over. The Philippines had an excellent record, as her country's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Romulo, had stated before the General Assembly at the 13th plenary meeting, of consistently and uncompromisingly supporting the righteous cause of the

/...

(Mrs. Shahani, Philippines)

African peoples. In the case of southern Africa, he had added, it had scrupulously implemented United Nations decisions, including the application of economic sanctions, the severance of diplomatic and consular relations, and even the observance of sanctions in the field of sports. Mr. Romulo had further pointed out that the formulas offered for transition to majority rule in Zimbabwe should conform to the legitimate demands of the African people and that proposed solutions should not be dictated by expediency or considerations relating to the balance of power; they should be consonant with the Charter and with the expressed desires and aspirations of the African people (A/31/PV.13).

51. Her Government whole-heartedly supported the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and welcomed the forthcoming Conference in Ghana. She particularly welcomed the fact that women had been given an important role to play in the Programme for the Decade, for past events had already shown how effective they could be in combating racial discrimination.

52. Her delegation fully supported the two draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly (A/31/148, annexes I and II). The Philippines, which was a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, also warmly welcomed the fact that as of 1 September 1976, five States parties to the Convention, namely, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Uruguay, had made the declaration provided for under article 14 of the Convention.

53. Her delegation was also gratified to note that 21 States had already acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, ratification of which was especially important in the light of recent events in southern Africa.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.