



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 83: PRESERVATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL VALUES
(A/31/111, A/C.3/31/L.8) (continued)

1. Mr. DOBROSIELSKI (Poland) said that he took pleasure in submitting the draft resolution in document A/C.3/31/L.8 and pointed out that the German Democratic Republic and not the Federal Republic of Germany should be listed among the sponsors. He asked the members of the Committee to keep to a minimum any amendments they might wish to introduce so that the draft could be adopted by consensus.
2. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the report submitted by the Director-General of UNESCO on agenda item 83 (A/31/111) set forth new ideas which deserved attention. Until the present the Committee's efforts had been concentrated on humanitarian and social matters and had been practically non-existent in the cultural sphere; therefore, Poland was to be thanked for taking the initiative in drawing the item to the Committee's attention. There was certainly no question of underestimating the efforts of UNESCO to provide assistance in eradicating illiteracy and enhancing the cultural and artistic heritage of peoples, but the Committee must now assume its responsibility with respect to that matter.
3. Efforts must be made to promote cultural development together with the establishment of the new international economic order, without losing sight of the divergent opinions and varying priorities of countries determined by their different levels of technological development. The countries of the third world had made valuable cultural contributions to civilization, important among which were those that Arab thought had given to mankind; however, the long periods of colonialism to which those countries had been subjected had erased their cultural landmarks and had impressed on the countries in question the stamp of poverty, disease and, above all, ignorance, which lay at the root of the problem. Any systematic international approach to cultural integration should begin with the granting of assistance to newly independent countries for the promotion of literacy and education and the establishment of cultural structures, so that the developing world could recover its cultural values and be integrated on a footing of equality into contemporary cultural trends. No other approach would be anything but a continuation of the suppression and neglect of those cultural entities.
4. It would be wrong to transmit to the peoples of the newly independent countries the modalities of technological and scientific progress of the advanced countries, with their possible harmful consequences for the realization of human rights, unless an adequate foundation was first established which would ensure the strengthening of those people's cultural values, the development of norms compatible with modern progress and the adaptation of that progress to the characteristic features of the national life. Otherwise, the transfer of science and technology would constitute a form of intrusion and cultural colonialism. The success of efforts to strengthen human rights and develop universal social values depended on the preservation of the cultural values of the developing countries and on the assistance which those countries were given to enable them to eradicate illiteracy,

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(Mr. Al-Hussamy, Syrian Arab Republic)

promote education and mobilize their natural resources so that they could discover their cultural identity and authenticity.

5. His delegation was happy to join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8.

6. Mr. QUADRI (Argentina) said that the report submitted by the Director-General of UNESCO (A/31/111) made it possible to members to bring up to date their information on the programmes undertaken by that organization for the preservation and further development of cultural values and that he was particularly glad to note the emphasis placed on the cultural values of each region and the preservation of local aspirations in the execution of development plans.

7. General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) envisaged a balance between the intrinsic cultural values of each people and the integration of cultural policies in a fruitful international exchange, leaving it to Governments to identify those values and calling upon the international community through UNESCO to promote such exchanges. It was the inalienable right of every people to define for itself what it considered its own culture, but it must be recognized at the same time that the scientific and technological advances which were capable of accelerating the economic and social progress of peoples could also threaten their traditional cultures. Accordingly, his delegation wished to keep attention focused on resolution 3148 (XXVIII), which it regarded as the appropriate framework for the item, and he therefore proposed to the sponsors of the draft resolution in document A/C.3/31/L.8 the incorporation in that text of a new operative paragraph reading: "Requests the Director-General of UNESCO to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a progress report on the implementation of resolution 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973."

8. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that Romania's cultural policy was the manifestation of its particular interest in the dissemination of culture among the masses of the people and the creation of the conditions required to enable the people to have access to all forms of culture, a policy which was reinforced by the ideas expressed by President Nicolae Ceaușescu to the effect that the Romanian people should be given the opportunity to benefit from the artistic and spiritual wealth of the world and respond to the need to create a new culture, based on the realism of the new society and socialist humanism and dedicated solely to the people.

9. Romania endorsed the principle affirmed in General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) concerning the sovereign right of each State to formulate and implement, in accordance with its own conditions and national requirements, the policies and measures conducive to the enhancement of its cultural values and national heritage. His delegation was therefore pleased that the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (A/31/111) stressed recognition of cultural identity as an essential factor in independence and national development. In that spirit, Romania was dedicated to promoting the development of international cultural relations, having in mind the need for the Romanian people to enhance their spiritual life with the contributions of other peoples and at the same time to make their contribution to the world cultural heritage.

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

10. In its cultural policy, Romania fully applied the provisions of resolution 3148 (XXVIII), both in practical activities and in national legislation. One of the most recent and important activities carried out in Romania had been the holding of the Congress on Political Education and Socialist Culture, at which a broad programme for the multilateral development of culture in the country was studied. At the present time a public debate was in progress concerning a programme of measures relating to ideological activities and cultural and educational policies the main purpose of which was to intensify the development of socialist awareness and stimulate the creative participation of all workers in the country's cultural life. Specific measures had been taken to select, study, preserve and evaluate the country's cultural heritage in a scientific and educational way, and to that end it had been decided that the most valuable and representative elements of that heritage should be concentrated in the national museums, which were being requested to emphasize the characteristic features of Romania's artistic heritage, to highlight the contribution of the art of the people to the enhancement of classical art, and to combat the denaturalization of folklore.

11. Efforts were being made in a variety of ways to stimulate the creative activity of the people and, with a view to transforming socialist art and culture into a benefit to be enjoyed by the great masses of the workers, conditions were being created in which the authentic talent of the people could be affirmed so that the arts could develop not only as a profession but also as a means of giving full expression to the human personality. As far as legislative measures were concerned, he would like to draw attention to the law adopted by the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the protection of the national cultural heritage, which provided the requisite legal framework for the preservation and further development of cultural values. That law was particularly important in the light of paragraph 59 of document A/31/111, which noted that few States provided in their national legislation for satisfactory protection of their cultural heritage.

12. As sponsor of General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) and a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8, his delegation stressed once again the importance which it attributed to the study of the preservation and further development of cultural values. He hoped that the Director-General of UNESCO would continue with the very useful work he had been doing in that sphere, which was clearly guided by recognition of the contribution of cultural co-operation to the building of a new international order.

13. Mr. HALL (Australia) said that he did not wish to sound a discordant note in a debate which had pointed to the very useful contribution made by the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (A/31/111), but he felt bound to recall that General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) requested the Director-General to study all the legal implications flowing from the existence of legislation for the protection of the national artistic heritage. His delegation noted, however, that the report did not fully comply with that request, merely discussing generally solutions to problems which were themselves not coherently analysed. It therefore hoped that when the General Assembly next considered the item "Preservation and further development of cultural values", it would have before it a report based on information supplied by Governments with respect to their national legislation and

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(Mr. Hall, Australia)

analysing more deeply the problem of the protection of the artistic heritage. His delegation was not sure that the delicate phraseology of the report wholly satisfied the original intent of the 123 countries whose representatives had voted for General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII).

14. However, UNESCO had an enormous task in bringing home to the peoples of the world the importance of the protection of culture in an environment in which peoples were becoming more and more interdependent every day. One of the dichotomies the world was facing was that the growth of international co-operation brought with it a certain amount of cultural fusion. If UNESCO could successfully help to solve the problem of the preservation of cultural values, it would leave a magnificent legacy to the future.

15. His delegation supported the over-all aim of the draft resolution in document A/C.3/31/L.8 and wished to encourage UNESCO to continue to develop its interest in the topic.

16. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that the report of the Director-General of UNESCO in document A/31/111 contained an in-depth analysis of the item under discussion, raised some important questions and suggested the course of action to be followed at the national and international levels, while at the same time providing a wealth of information on UNESCO's activities in that domain.

17. The delegation of Cyprus believed that the cultural dimension of life should be furthered and enhanced. As was pointed out in the report, just as the individual had the right to participate freely and completely in the cultural life of society, countries also had the basic right to seek recognition of the value and dignity of their culture. Thus cultural identity must be promoted, while at the same time cultural pluralism must be respected. His delegation supported all efforts to ensure the conservation, protection and development of a cultural heritage, since it was a basic element in the affirmation of the cultural identity of nations. The definition of what constituted the cultural and artistic heritage of a nation was to be found in the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by UNESCO in 1970.

18. The conscience of all civilized peoples and the bitter experience of the past prompted support for UNESCO's activities in that domain and a request to UNESCO to intensify its efforts. In his delegation's view, two considerations of fundamental importance should be underlined. Firstly, the vast programme for the promotion and dissemination of reading material undertaken by UNESCO with the co-operation of the other specialized agencies should be primarily directed towards young people, for it was through them that the cultural heritage had to be preserved. Secondly, technological advances had brought a reappraisal of the fundamental issues relating to peace and security, to the promotion of social progress and development, to the bridging of the gap between the developing and the industrialized countries and to the preservation and promotion of mankind's common cultural heritage and the specific cultural heritages of individual countries; the inescapable conclusion was that improvement of the quality of life was the just and indispensable corollary of economic growth.

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19. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that in her delegation's view, the report of the Director-General of UNESCO in document A/31/111 reaffirmed the Third Committee's concern with cultural questions, a concern also proved by the fact that it had given high priority to the present item. Among the points in the report that were of special importance, she wished to mention paragraph 4, which stated that for peoples which had recently regained their independence, the affirmation of cultural identity lay at the basis of the search for a world order based on a new system of values. At the same time, owing to the progress of science and technology, there was now a trend towards uniformity, and one of the major problems of today concerned the chances of survival and further development of the specific within the global. It was therefore of fundamental importance that nations should preserve their national identity while sharing a common system of values at the international level.

20. The Philippines, a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8, had striven hard to find its own cultural identity, for the intricate ethnic mosaic of the country had provided it with a rich plurality of cultures that had one common denominator, namely, the universal human ideals of peace, equality and liberty. In the southern Philippines there was an interesting assortment of ethnic and linguistic communities composed of persons commonly referred to as "Christians", not necessarily because of their religion but because of their relatively modern lifestyle, of the hill tribes, which had preserved their traditional religious beliefs and of the Moslem Filipinos, classified according to the languages they spoke. The national Government hoped to strengthen those cultural communities so that they would be able to fulfil their aspirations within the framework of the Philippine nation.

21. Since achieving independence in 1898, the Republic of the Philippines had strictly adhered to the principle of the separation of Church and State. In connexion with its policy towards the Moslem population, she emphasized that the Government's efforts to improve socio-economic conditions in the southern part of the country were based on the preservation of Islam, which was the heritage of the whole Philippine people, on the preservation of Islamic culture and tradition and on the promotion of the well-being of the Moslem communities, including the restoration of their rights to ancestral lands. Therefore the allegations that attempts had been made to stamp out Islam in the Philippines were entirely baseless.

22. As to the policy of integration, the Government was seeking an interpenetration of cultures which would strengthen the cultural communities of the country, so that each one could transcend its particular interests to the benefit of the whole Philippine nation. That policy rejected the idea of assimilation, which presupposed that national integration could be achieved only by imposing a single way of life and system of government on the whole Philippine people, and by absorbing the cultural communities into the mainstream of Philippine society, which would imply that everyone would ultimately have to become "Christian".

23. In that connexion, she quoted a statement of President Ferdinand E. Marcos on the subject. He had said that in the Moslem areas it was necessary to build speedily the conditions that would accelerate their development, for, as in other

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(Mrs. Shahani, Philippines)

parts of the country, the peace in the Moslem south would endure only if it was based on social justice. To achieve that purpose, legislation had been adopted which, inter alia, authorized the use of Arabic as a medium of instruction in Moslem schools and areas, codified Philippine Moslem laws and provided a system of controlling funds for the codification of Philippine Moslem personal law.

24. At the invitation of President Marcos, Dr. Amadou Karim Gaye, the new Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference, had visited the Philippines with a delegation from the Conference to observe the situation in the south, and had held meetings with Moslem leaders in Mindanao and Sulu. On his return from the south, Dr. Gaye had had an interview with President Marcos, during which he had expressed confidence in the Government's ability to solve the problems of the southern Philippines and voiced the hope that a final solution could be found for them.

25. In conclusion, she said that her delegation would be happy if UNESCO would give priority and special attention to cultural integration as a means of achieving political cohesion.

26. Mr. JAIN (India) proposed two amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8. First, a new paragraph should be added after the second preambular paragraph, to read as follows: "Stressing the need to evolve a harmonious blend of the cultural values of the traditional civilizations with developments in science and technology". Secondly, the last paragraph of the preamble should be reworded to read as follows: "Noting with satisfaction UNESCO's work in increasing awareness of the need for concerted action in the field of preservation and development of cultural values".

27. Mr. OGURTSOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said his delegation felt that the preservation and further development of cultural values and co-operation in the cultural sphere contributed to a better understanding among peoples and different cultures. UNESCO's assiduous work in that field had contributed greatly to creating a climate of mutual understanding among States which was conducive to greater trust and a climate more favourable to world peace. Cultural exchange, which contributed to a better understanding not only of other peoples' cultures but also of one's own, was especially important. The Byelorussian SSR, under its socialist system, had since 1917 evolved steadily from its former backwardness to reach a high level of technological and cultural achievement. Illiteracy had been completely eradicated, and the prevalent system of social justice had enabled the people to share in the benefits of science and culture. At the same time, international cultural co-operation had been encouraged and cultural ties were being maintained at all levels, in accordance with the recommendations of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, held at Helsinki. There was no doubt that the relaxation of international tensions created the necessary conditions for the development of mutual understanding and co-operation among peoples.

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(Mr. Ogurtsov, Byelorussian SSR)

28. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8 included some very positive features that would help to improve and safeguard cultural values, and therefore his delegation would give it its full support.

29. The CHAIRMAN announced that Benin, Morocco, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia, the United Republic of Cameroon and Zaire had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.8. He then suggested that the list of speakers for the general debate on item 83 should be closed at 1 p.m. that same day.

30. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 76: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/31/152 and Add.1-3, A/31/206, A/31/237, A/C.3/31/L.7) (continued)

31. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.7, said that the sponsors had taken into consideration the progress achieved so far on the question of decolonization and had made an objective assessment of recent developments in that area, especially in so far as those developments had had adverse effects on the enjoyment of human rights in different parts of the world, particularly in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. The sponsors had also taken careful note of the general trend of the debates in the Third Committee, which had been dealing with the current topic for several years and had in the end always adopted a similar resolution. Hence it could not be claimed that resolution A/C.3/31/L.7 offered anything basically new, except perhaps for the references to Seychelles, whose recent attainment of independence deserved special mention, and the Comoros, which had been subjected to clear interference in its internal affairs since the last session of the General Assembly.

32. The threat to international peace and security caused by recent events in southern Africa and the denial of the human rights of the native population of that area called for urgent measures at the national and international levels, as spelt out in the operative part of the resolution. The sponsors hoped that it would be unanimously adopted by the Committee.

33. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) said her delegation was astonished that the resolution made no mention of and gave no welcome to the changes under way to bring about majority rule, that is, self-determination, in Rhodesia.

34. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) and Mr. DABO (Guinea), in reply to the observation made by the representative of the United Kingdom, said that the present situation with respect to the problem of Rhodesia was not clear enough to justify a categorical pronouncement and that in view of that fact, and in order not to interfere with the negotiations in progress, it had been decided not to prejudge the matter.

35. The CHAIRMAN announced that Benin, Democratic Kampuchea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mozambique, the Niger, Somalia and Togo had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.7.

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AGENDA ITEM 70: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/31/221) (continued)

36. Mr. JAMAL (Qatar) said that his delegation was concerned over the current situation in Rhodesia and South Africa; the white racist minority in power there must realize the historical inevitability of independence and decide to recognize the right of the African peoples to self-determination. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in its report in document A/9623, the Special Committee against Apartheid, in document A/10022, and the General Assembly, in resolution 3246 (XXIX), joined in denouncing the economic activities which certain States Members of the United Nations, especially the NATO countries, were carrying on in southern Africa and which contributed to the strengthening of racism and racial discrimination there and elsewhere in the world and at the same time encouraged the racist minority to carry out its relentless suppression of the aspirations of the indigenous peoples. Those countries, acting as the instruments of the international strategy of multinational corporations, maintained political, economic and military ties with the racist minority Governments which were trying desperately to crush the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples and maintain their dominance.

37. The barbarous acts perpetrated by the Pretoria régime against the indigenous population, in open defiance of the principles of self-determination and independence, were well known. The policy of bantustans, whose only purpose was the fragmentation of the country, must be condemned in the strongest terms. The situation in Namibia was a threat to international peace and security. The illegal régime in Rhodesia continued to promulgate repressive laws to punish those who opposed it.

38. He drew attention to the increasingly close ties which, in defiance of General Assembly resolutions, had been maintained for years between the South African régime and the Zionist racist entity and which were based on historical and ideological affinity. Those régimes had intensified their co-operation in the political, economic and military spheres, especially as a result of the victories won by the national liberation movements against Portuguese colonialism. In the military sphere, the delivery of arms and the exchange of technology had been increased. In the economic sphere, South Africa maintained a volume of trade with the Zionist entity which amounted to millions of United States dollars, and elaborate arrangements had been made between the public sectors of both countries under which the Zionist entity imported raw material from South Africa and exported experience and technology to it. The Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Colombo had denounced the co-operation between Tel Aviv and Pretoria in the most energetic terms and urged a closing of ranks and an intensification of efforts to consolidate the struggle of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Palestine against colonialism.

39. Qatar, convinced of legitimacy of the principle of granting self-determination and independence to peoples, denounced colonialism and racial discrimination in all

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(Mr. Jamal, Qatar)

their forms and maintained that independence could not be achieved in Zimbabwe and South Africa unless a majority Government was established. It reaffirmed its support of the repeated appeals to all countries to suspend economic, political, military or other aid to the racist régimes and to sever all ties with them. It was convinced that the oppressed peoples would emerge victorious from the struggle they were waging against colonialism. That conviction derived from its deep faith in the realization of the inalienable right of peoples to independence and self-determination.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.