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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING

Chairman: Miss FAROUK (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 79: NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/10166; A/31/199; A/C.3/31/L.17) (continued)

1. Mr. CHIN HON NGIAN (Malaysia) said that his country's efforts to achieve social and economic development had to be pursued in the context of a plural society and that national integration and unity remained its overriding objectives. For a long time, Malaysian society had been characterized by socio-economic imbalances among the different racial groups and the different regions in the country. In 1970, a new economic policy had been enunciated in an attempt to remove, within one generation, the root causes of such imbalances and to lay the foundations of a just social and economic system transcending racial lines.
2. Since the appearance of the report prepared by the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/10166), Malaysia had achieved considerable social and economic progress under its second five-year development plan for the period 1971-1975. That plan had twin goals: the eradication of poverty, and the restructuring of society so that the identification of race with economic function and geographical location would eventually be eliminated.
3. The process of development and socio-economic transformation had not taken place without trials. However, strengthened by the experience gained over the years, Malaysia had embarked with confidence on its third five-year development plan for the period 1976-1980.
4. Under that plan, the aim of the strategy for socio-economic development was to enhance the role of agriculture and industry; opportunities for productive employment and access to ownership and control of productive wealth should lead to an increase in the people's incomes.
5. Agricultural programmes would aim at increasing productivity, particularly among smallholders and farmers with uneconomic-sized holdings, and at integrating landless farmers and underemployed agricultural labourers in land development schemes. The agricultural sector continued to be the main source of employment and there were plans to create approximately 126,000 new jobs during the next five years.
6. In the industrial sector, emphasis was still placed on the restructuring of society, the creation of jobs, the development of small-scale industry, the dispersal of industries to the less developed areas, the processing of local raw materials and the promotion of exports. The industrial sector was expected to provide 365,700 new jobs, or 49 per cent of the total number of jobs created.
7. One of the main tasks of the second development plan had been to assess the extent of poverty in Malaysia. The Malaysian Government intended to intensify its efforts to eradicate poverty during the next few years. In particular, it would

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(Mr. Chin Hon Ngian, Malaysia)

endeavour to improve social and public utilities and amenities for the lowest income groups in both rural and urban areas by launching low-cost housing schemes and improving public transport, electricity and water facilities and health services. In urban areas, the rehabilitation of squatters and the needs of unskilled and semi-skilled workers in the service industry and petty trade would also receive special attention.

8. Despite the progress achieved, however, much still remained to be done and the Malaysian Government was committed to the acceleration of the country's economic growth and the promotion of social justice and the well-being of all the people.

9. Mr. FAURIS (France) said that his country was prepared to continue to participate in activities in the social field, of which the report under consideration (A/10166) was an example. In that field, the legislation of Member countries was revealing in the sense that it indicated the directions adopted and characterized the social changes which were taking place at the national level, particularly with regard to planning, participation, employment, working conditions and social benefits. In its legislation and planning, France set great store by the humanitarian and social concerns which were reflected in the report under consideration.

10. His delegation would merely refer to the role played in far-reaching social changes by the specialized agencies which had a normative function, in particular the International Labour Organisation whose tripartite structure enabled social partners to participate in the formulation of international norms.

11. Among the new conventions which helped to bring about far-reaching social changes for the purpose of social progress, he mentioned in particular the Convention on the organization of rural workers, the Convention on migrant workers, and the Convention on paid educational leave.

12. Turning to the question of co-operatives, which could play a role in changes designed to promote social progress, he pointed out that the co-operative movement had acquired renewed relevance, particularly in India, and that the tripartite World Employment Conference had devoted part of its work to that subject.

13. The co-operative movement had made great strides in France since the end of the nineteenth century and was one of the basic components of the French economic structure. France now had 22,000 agricultural co-operatives with 700,000 members, small farmers who made up for their relative weakness vis-à-vis their most important competitors or vis-à-vis suppliers and tradesmen, by their membership in co-operatives. The network of agricultural credit banks, which was very highly developed in France, enabled them to obtain loan and credit terms which were often extremely advantageous.

14. There were also consumer co-operatives, known as retail co-operatives, which operated at the level of households and provided their members with current consumer goods, in particular food, as well as production co-operatives and housing co-operatives.

15. Those various categories of co-operatives helped to strengthen private enterprise, to enhance the sense of responsibility of their members, and to

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(Mr. Fauris, France)

develop a sense of solidarity and social justice. In the view of his delegation, the co-operative formula was particularly adapted to the developing world. Co-operatives were, indeed, a factor of social advancement and offered a type of structure which was in keeping with the major trends of the time in the sense that they safeguarded the freedom of the individual while promoting his integration into the social environment.

16. Mrs. KHOMENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the report under consideration testified to the growing awareness, in both developed and developing countries, of the need for social changes. In the developed countries, increasingly large sections of the population were involved in programmes to combat unemployment and poverty and were seeking to establish social structures that would make it possible to deal with the many problems which arose in the social field.

17. Many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America were endeavouring to eradicate the after-effects of colonialism. The State was trying to take over the exploitation of the natural resources of the country and the major sectors of the economy and to exercise control over the activities of foreign companies and monopolies. Agrarian reform was being carried out and the population was being invited to participate actively in development programmes. The co-operative movement should be added to those factors of social progress, and he was glad that the delegations of India and the German Democratic Republic had referred to the question in their draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.17. In many developing countries, the State was also taking steps to ensure a just distribution of the national wealth which, all too frequently, was in the hands of a privileged élite, a fact which had the effect of shrinking the domestic market and promoting the export abroad of capital which could be used for the purpose of economic and social progress. Aware of the advantages of rapid industrialization from the point of view of social progress, the State, in developing countries, was endeavouring to control the activities of the key sectors of industry, in particular the banks, transport and energy.

18. The experience of the developed market-economy countries with regard to the achievement of changes was of great interest to the developing countries. Those countries could also benefit from the experience of the socialist countries which had been the first to embark on the course of large-scale social reforms.

19. The Ukrainian SSR had embarked on a vast programme of social and economic reforms, but it had first had to make good the losses caused by the Second World War, estimated at 285 thousand million roubles. It had, however, undergone a rapid recovery and had been able to develop its economic potential and to bring about a considerable improvement in the level of living of the population.

20. Under its latest five-year plan (1971-1975), the Ukraine, strengthened by the experience it had gained, had been able to carry out social and economic reforms which had made it a highly industrialized country. Between 1971 and 1975, Ukrainian production had increased by more than 41 per cent and the national income by 28 per cent. Parallel with economic development, the adoption of social measures had resulted in an improvement in the level of living of the workers, whose monthly wages had increased by an average of 16 per cent compared with 1970 (24 per cent for collective farm workers).

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(Mrs. Khomenko, Ukrainian SSR)

21. The Ukrainian SSR had allocated 27 thousand million roubles to social security services. Medical services had been improved and there were now one doctor and three medical auxiliaries for every 300 inhabitants. The various educational services employed approximately 17 million people.

22. The Ukrainian SSR was trying to improve conditions for women and children. The population was taking an increasingly active part in the preparation and implementation of economic and social development programmes and in the life of the country, as could be seen from the fact that more than 520,000 persons had taken part in the elections of representatives, at various levels, to organs of State power. More than half those representatives came from working class and rural backgrounds. Women, too, were broadly represented, and there were 201 women deputies in the Supreme Soviet and more than 240,000 among the members of local soviets.

23. She pointed out that no social reform could be successful until the international community succeeded in bringing about world peace. She emphasized the need to put an end to the armaments race and to institute a new international economic order, beginning by eliminating the remaining vestiges of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Only on those conditions could there be any hope of promoting social progress and releasing additional resources that could be spent on that cause. The Ukrainian SSR had consistently supported United Nations measures to promote social progress. It felt, in particular, that the practice of making periodic studies concerning country experience in the field of social development should be continued and intensified. It would be helpful to all, and particularly to the developing countries, to arrive at specific recommendations concerning exchanges of experience between countries.

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; A/31/L.16/Rev.1) (continued)

24. The CHAIRMAN announced that Mozambique had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.16/Rev.1.

25. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that the Committee, in the draft resolution under consideration, was concerned solely with the social, moral and humanitarian aspects of the consequences of assistance to the racist régimes of southern Africa and was not dealing with the political and legal aspects of the question, which fell outside its competence. The oppressed peoples of southern Africa were not in a position to exercise their rights and the responsibility lay entirely with the régimes in power and the countries that were consistently providing those régimes with military, economic and nuclear assistance, despite numerous United Nations resolutions. Particular attention should be drawn to the responsibility of three members of the Security Council which, by using the veto, were preventing the Council from taking effective measures against the apartheid régime. Those three countries were mentioned by name in the seventh preambular paragraph, and the sponsors of the draft resolution would like them to be mentioned again in operative paragraph 3, to which the following words should be added after "the use of the veto": "by the above-mentioned three permanent members".

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(Miss Balogun, Nigeria)

26. The question of the veto was an extremely delicate one. The right of veto rested on obsolete foundations and had been repeatedly contested without result. The draft resolution, however, was not attempting to dispute that right, since the Committee was not competent to do that. It merely condemned strongly all forms of collaboration with the racist régimes in southern Africa, invited the Security Council to impose a total embargo, called upon all States to observe the sanctions imposed on southern Rhodesia and invited the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights, to examine the question of the consequences of the use of veto on the enjoyment of human rights by the oppressed peoples of southern Africa.

27. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that the text would be adopted by consensus. Her delegation reserved its right to ask for a roll-call vote.

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

(b) REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(A/10018; A/31/18)

28. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) noted that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which performed its functions under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, was required to report to the General Assembly each year. Since the Committee had been unable to consider the report of CERD the previous year, it now had two CERD reports before it.

29. He was particularly pleased to submit the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since he felt that it reflected a fruitful experience in international co-operation in the field of human rights. The Convention represented the first attempt to institute machinery for the implementation of international instruments on human rights - an attempt which he personally considered to have been very successful. First of all, he recalled that more than 90 United Nations Members were parties to the Convention, which therefore could now be considered to have a truly universal character. The 18 Members of the Committee, who had been elected by States Parties to the Convention and who performed functions involving considerable responsibility, showed a zeal which could not fail to impress those who, like himself, had the privilege of witnessing their deliberations. The members of the Committee, who frequently stressed their intention of performing their functions conscientiously and in a spirit of objectivity and independence, carefully considered the periodic reports submitted to them every two years by States Parties, as well as the petitions and reports concerning racial discrimination transmitted to them under the Convention by United Nations bodies dealing with non-self-governing Territories.

30. The present Chairman of the Committee was Professor Kapteyn of the Netherlands, and Mr. Sayegh of Kuwait continued to perform the functions of Rapporteur, which he had assumed at the request of the members of the Committee since its inception. Since the last session of the General Assembly nine members of the Committee whose terms had expired had been replaced in elections held by States Parties at the beginning of the present year. The term of Mr. Dayal (India) had been renewed, and the Committee had eight new members as distinguished and dedicated as their

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predecessors - namely Professor Blishchenko (USSR), Mr. Dechezelles (France), President of the Paris Court of Appeals, Mr. Pahr (Austria), now Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Professor Nabavi (Iran), Professor Sampay (Argentina), Mr. Bahnev (Bulgaria), who represented his country in the Third Committee, Mr. Brin Martinez (Panama) and Mr. Devetak (Yugoslavia). He recalled that Mrs. Warzazi, who represented Morocco in the Third Committee, was also a member of CERD.

31. He noted that the Convention contained a definition, that was now classic, of the term "racial discrimination", which meant "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin which had the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life." In implementing the Convention, the Committee had shown a very broad understanding of that definition and of the obligations assumed by States Parties in signing or ratifying that instrument.

32. The Committee had progressively evolved and refined its procedures and the methods of performing its task. At the suggestion of the General Assembly it invited representatives of States Parties to participate in its discussions when it considered reports submitted by them. The dialogue then entered into between the members of the Committee and the representatives of States Parties took place in an atmosphere of goodwill and courtesy, and one could not help but be impressed by the recommendations produced and the definite impact which the Convention now had on the deplorable problem of racial discrimination.

33. The Secretariat would try to assess the extent to which the Convention had an influence on legislation, judicial decisions, administrative practice, and social life in general, in the States which had acceded to it. It was interesting to note, on reading the report submitted by States Parties to the Convention, that a number of them, such as Ecuador, did not confine themselves to taking legislative or other measures to prohibit racial discrimination but also described the economic and social structures necessary to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. A total of 77 reports, submitted by 69 States Parties, had been considered by CERD during the two years covered by the two reports now before the Third Committee. The reports of Algeria, Czechoslovakia and Nigeria had been received by the Committee after the closure of its fourteenth session and would be considered at its next session, which would be held in Vienna during the spring of 1977 at the kind invitation of the Austrian Government, which had generously agreed to defray the costs involved in hosting a meeting of a United Nations body.

34. In conclusion he announced that the Committee had declared its readiness to play the role that might be required of it in the implementation of the Programme of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In fact it was taking a close interest in the agenda for the Conference to be held at Accra, and to which it would like to make a substantial contribution, particularly by describing the work it had accomplished and which would, at the time the Conference was held, cover a period of several years.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.