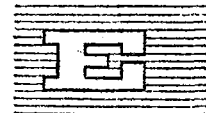


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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1592nd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 9 February 1981, at 4.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. CALERO RODRIGUES (Brazil)

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will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of
the session.

The meeting was called to order at 4.45 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES,
INCLUDING PALESTINE (agenda item 4) (continued) (E/CN.4/L.1549)

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER
COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION (agenda item 9) (continued)
(E/CN.4/L.1550)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia had become sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.4/L.1549, and Nigeria and Tunisia of draft resolution E/CN.4/L.1550.
2. Mr. VENKATESWARAN (India) introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/L.1549 on behalf of its sponsors. He noted that the Commission had already had occasion to adopt similar resolutions on the same subject but unfortunately, on account of the contempt Israel had shown for the United Nations in general and the Commission in particular, they had led to no significant improvement in the human rights situation in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine. It was, however, the duty of the Commission to continue to focus attention on the disgraceful violation of human rights in those territories and to bring to an early end the injustice and humiliation to which the Arab people were subjected, the more so since the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization had said before the Commission that the Palestinian people looked to it for moral support in their cause. Such was the purpose of the draft resolution before the Commission.
3. The text was largely based on the previous resolutions adopted by the Commission, resolution ES-7/2 adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh emergency special session, the resolutions adopted at the General Assembly's most recent session and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women. It referred also to several resolutions of the Security Council. He hoped that the text would be adopted by the largest possible majority.
4. Mr. VILA (Cuba) introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/L.1550 on behalf of the non-aligned movement. The text was based on resolutions which had already been adopted on the same subject by United Nations bodies and reaffirmed in particular various resolutions which the Commission had adopted since 1975. The action proposed took into account the central role of the Palestinian people, through its legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.
5. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) drew the attention of the Commission to paragraph 4 of the report of the Secretary-General issued under symbol E/CN.4/1422 on the question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine. He wished to know when the Secretary-General would take steps to ensure that the widest possible publicity was given to resolution 1 A (XXXVI), which had been adopted by the Commission more than a year before. The problem was crucial: it involved people whose land had been occupied and whose rights were being openly violated by Israel, with the support of the United States of America.

6. Mr. van BOVEN (Director, Division of Human Rights) replied that the request made in Commission resolution 1 A (XXXVI) had been duly brought to the attention of the Department of Public Information. The secretariat hoped it would in the very near future receive further information from the Department on the measures taken to implement the resolution.

7. Mr. EL FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) thanked the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his reply. He would nevertheless have wished to see a fuller document on the subject and hoped that the fate of the Palestinians and the United Nations resolutions adopted in the matter would be the subject of a genuine publicity campaign, on television programmes in the United States and Switzerland, with posters on all the walls of New York and in all European capitals.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the words "at a later stage" seemed to him to apply to the information which the Secretary-General was to submit and not to the publicity to be given to Commission resolution 1 A (XXXVI). He hoped the information would reach the Commission before the end of its session.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION (agenda item 23) (E/CN.4/1413; E/CN.4/1420)

9. Mr. van BOVEN (Director, Division of Human Rights) noted with satisfaction that the Commission had agreed to consider the report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.4/1413) early in the session; in previous years, the Commission had been unable to do more than take note of it, often without further comment. The Sub-Commission had been an invaluable partner of the Commission in advancing the cause of human rights. It had done basic groundwork in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the draft declaration on the rights of prisoners and detainees, and many other instruments. Its studies on racial discrimination and discrimination in education, the enjoyment of political rights, equality in the administration of justice, the rights of minorities, self-determination and the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights arising from the assistance given to the racist régimes in southern Africa had enriched human rights literature. The Sub-Commission had also contributed to the study of violations of human rights under Commission resolution 8 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII), in particular in the case of Democratic Kampuchea.

10. Among bodies concerned with human rights provided for in the Charter of the United Nations, the Sub-Commission was the only one consisting of expert members who were elected in their individual capacities and could deal with human rights problems as specialists, without being bound by their Government's instructions. The Sub-Commission's terms of reference had first been spelled out by the Commission at its fifth session and had subsequently been broadened by Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII) and Commission resolution 8 (XXIII); in addition, the Commission, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly occasionally requested the Sub-Commission to carry out special tasks.

11. At its most recent session, which had been particularly active, the Sub-Commission, whose membership was to be renewed by the Commission at its current session, had candidly reviewed the questions with which it had to deal and had expressed some impatience at the inability of the United Nations effectively to tackle gross violations of human rights. Its members felt that they should be able to present their views and recommendations to the Commission, on the understanding that the Commission in the exercise of its political judgement as an intergovernmental body would act as it saw fit.

12. He went on to give a brief outline of the Sub-Commission's many activities, several of which would be considered under other agenda items. He referred first to the studies carried out at the Sub-Commission's request by rapporteurs or by the secretariat on specific subjects such as: the individual's duties to the community and the limitations on human rights and freedoms under article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; apartheid as a collective form of slavery, which was in course of preparation; the discriminatory treatment of members of national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities at various levels in administrative and criminal justice procedures; ways and means of encouraging the implementation of United Nations resolutions on apartheid, racism and racial discrimination; updating of the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations assisting the racial régimes in southern Africa; the new international economic order and the promotion of human rights; updating of the study on slavery; the exploitation of child labour; the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers; the implications for human rights of recent developments concerning situations known as states of siege or emergency; the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations; the presentation of a draft body of guidelines and principles for the protection of persons detained on the grounds of mental health; guidelines on the use of computers inasmuch as they affected the privacy of individuals and the exercise of their freedoms. Two new studies which had been recommended or were under consideration must be added to that list: a study on the status of the individual in contemporary international human-rights law and a study of extra-territorial criminal responsibility, with special reference to the Convention against Apartheid.

13. There were various special procedures which the Sub-Commission followed on particular matters. On questions concerning slavery, the Working Group on Slavery had prepared reports on the basis of which the Sub-Commission had submitted to the Commission a series of recommendations which were to be found in its resolution 8 (XXXIII) and which he summarized. In its resolution 9 (XXXIII) the Sub-Commission had recommended that the Commission should consider a report of the Working Group on Slavery with a view to recommending appropriate action against apartheid. A special procedure had also been followed with regard to the rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; in that connection it was appropriate to recall the recommendation by the Sub-Commission that its Chairman should be authorized to appoint a group of five of its members to analyse material received concerning such persons (resolution 17 (XXXIII)).

14. The general procedures of the Sub-Commission for the examination of violations of human rights were followed on the basis of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII). The Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications examined the communications received and referred them to the Commission under the confidential procedure provided for in resolution 1503 (XLVIII); public hearings were held for other questions, in accordance with resolution 1235 (XLII), and had led to resolutions by the Sub-Commission on the occupied Arab territories, the hostages in Iran, the human rights situation in Bolivia and the human rights situation in Kampuchea. Various ideas had been put forward for defining possible future roles of the Sub-Commission as part of United Nations responses to urgent situations of violations of human rights (resolution 25 (XXXIII), annex); the conclusion which emerged was that the Sub-Commission should not contemplate adopting an independent role but should rather co-operate with other United Nations bodies, in particular in preparing the work to be placed before the Commission. In addition, the Sub-Commission had adopted resolutions expressing its wish to hold two annual sessions and the idea of establishing within the Division of Human Rights an information-gathering service.

15. In conclusion, he referred to the activities of two sessional working groups referred to in the Sub-Commission's report: the open-ended working group on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, whose report was included in the report of the Sub-Commission, and the sessional working group on the encouragement of universal acceptance of the human rights instruments. He paid tribute to the Sub-Commission and to Mr. Nettel, its Chairman, and stressed its outstanding contribution to the efforts of the United Nations to promote human rights. It was for the Commission to give it all the assistance and encouragement it required.

16. Mr. JARDIM GAGLIARDI (Brazil) said that the report of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/1413) deserved more careful analysis than it had received at preceding sessions. The fact that in the past the Commission had merely considered the recommendations of the Sub-Commission without analysing the report as a whole had led to the belief that the Sub-Commission was an independent body, as was borne out by the legal opinion reproduced on page 73 of the report. Reference was made in particular to "considerable broadening of the scope of the Sub-Commission's activity (including addressing Governments directly)... to which the parent bodies (Commission on Human Rights and ECOSOC) have not objected". His delegation could not endorse those views and warned the Commission against a tendency implicitly to authorize changes in the Sub-Commission's terms of reference by "taking note" of its reports. The members of the Sub-Commission, whose personal competence could not be questioned, must not lose sight of those terms of reference. The Commission must also take them into account, as should the Division of Human Rights in implementing the Sub-Commission's recommendations.

17. The report in document E/CN.4/1413 contained 27 resolutions in which many suggestions or recommendations were made directly to the Secretary-General, whereas they should be approved by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council, at least as far as financial implications were concerned. Other resolutions and recommendations referred directly to Governments and several of them totally ignored the procedures envisaged in Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII).

18. In a chapter-by-chapter examination of the report, he had noted first that resolution 1 (Chapter II) referred to a report which should be sent to the special working group established by the General Assembly to prepare a draft convention on migrant workers. The request made of the Secretary-General in resolution 2 did not call for any action by the Commission and was perfectly in accord with the needs of Mr. Khalifa, the Special Rapporteur.

19. In connection with chapter III, his delegation did not favour the establishment of a human rights assistance fund as recommended in resolution 3. Furthermore the requests made in paragraphs 2 and 3 appeared to exceed the Sub-Commission's mandate; such requests to the Secretary-General should be made by the Commission. Resolution 4, part E, contained a request which, in view of its financial implications, should be analysed by the Commission and the Council. That resolution was just one example of a decision having financial implications which did not fall within the competence of a subsidiary body. It was to be hoped that the Secretariat would take that situation into account and would refrain from taking action without proper instructions.

20. No resolution had been adopted in relation to chapter IV. His delegation looked forward to the study being prepared by Mr. Ferrero and hoped that the recommendations approved by the seminar on the effects of the existing unjust international economic order would constitute a starting-point for his work.

21. With regard to chapters V and VI, he recalled that some members of the Sub-Commission had expressed the view that the work of the Working Group on Slavery should not duplicate the work of the Sub-Commission; it had also been stated that some recommendations of the Working Group went beyond the competence of not only the Working Group but also the Sub-Commission.

22. In resolution 8, part I, the Sub-Commission had exceeded its powers in urging States to ratify conventions and requesting the Secretary-General to call upon States parties to those conventions to submit reports. In part I, paragraph 3, the Sub-Commission appeared to ignore all previous achievements concerning slavery, including the preparation of several conventions and the establishment of the Sub-Commission itself. Furthermore, his delegation could not support the establishment of the human rights assistance fund requested in paragraph 5. The Sub-Commission should not consider the reports of the Working Group on Slavery annually, as provided for in paragraph 6, but rather biennially, since the Sub-Commission complained that it had insufficient time. In part III, concerning slavery and the slave trade, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 contained decisions by the Sub-Commission which should first be approved by the Commission; as he had already stressed, such approval was necessary in order to address the Secretary-General or Governments. Part IV, paragraphs 3 and 4, raised the same problem; furthermore, the recommendation concerning the Government of Thailand (para. 4) ignored all considerations of confidentiality or discretion. Nor did the requests contained in paragraphs 1-4 of part V (the exploitation of child labour) and paragraphs 2 and 3 of part VI (debt bondage) fall within the competence of the Sub-Commission. For example, in part VI, paragraph 3, the request to examine the possibility of organizing a round-table on debt bondage should have been addressed to the Commission and not directly to the Secretariat. In part VII (the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others), the Sub-Commission had again exceeded its mandate, since it addressed Governments directly.

23. The six resolutions approved in connection with chapter VII provided further examples of improper decisions: appeals to Governments, direct criticism of Governments, establishment of investigative bodies, requests to the Secretary-General, etc. Resolution 18, paragraph 1, called for the extension of the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. His delegation favoured such an initiative, but considered that the Commission should first examine the report of the Working Group. Paragraph 4 of the same resolution contained suggestions which could usefully be discussed by the Commission, but it was for the Commission to request comments from Governments. In fact, resolution 18 as a whole, like many others adopted by the Sub-Commission, should be addressed to the Commission, in view of the Commission's request in its resolution 20 (XXXVI), paragraph 8.

24. In relation to chapter VIII, the Sub-Commission had submitted two draft resolutions to the Commission. His delegation had no difficulty in supporting the first of those texts, in resolution 6, which requested the Commission to recommend to the Council that Mrs. Daes should be authorized to prepare a study on the status of the individual in contemporary international human-rights law, particularly since that resolution, unlike many others, was presented in the appropriate form and was entirely consistent with the Sub-Commission's mandate. With regard to the recommendation in resolution 7, his delegation pointed out that the Commission must first consider Mrs. Daes' study of the individual's duties to the community in detail, before recommending to the Council that it be given the widest possible distribution.

25. Chapter IX of the Sub-Commission's report dealt with the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories. The Sub-Commission had been right in deciding to postpone discussion of its competence to send telegrams to Governments referring to respect of human rights in their countries (decision 3); he was convinced that the Sub-Commission was not competent to send telegrams to Governments. But in resolution 19, the Sub-Commission recommended the establishment of an information-gathering service within the Division of Human Rights. That recommendation was addressed to the Economic and Social Council, without any reference to the Commission. The Secretariat should give the members of the Sub-Commission more information on its precise role and competence. The Commission must consider Sub-Commission resolution 19 at its current session. The mechanisms for the implementation of resolutions dealing with human rights already existed, and his delegation did not therefore favour the establishment of an information-gathering service. Resolution 20 requested the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council to take, as a matter of urgency, the necessary measures for the implementation of that resolution. His delegation wished to point out that it was not for the Sub-Commission to reaffirm principles or deplore events; it should have brought the problem to the attention of the Commission, which had never failed to support countries and peoples suffering from violations of human rights.

26. In resolution 21, the Sub-Commission once again addressed itself to a sovereign Government, even though it was not competent to do so. Resolution 22 went still further, since it requested the Commission to authorize the establishment of fact-finding missions to visit any country that was the subject of discussion at the Sub-Commission's thirty-third session. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly had discussed a similar idea, had decided that the question required further consideration and had requested the Commission to discuss it.

He hoped that the working group on the over-all analysis would discuss the matter in the light of several resolutions, particularly Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), taking full account of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter. In his delegation's view, experience had shown that such investigative bodies had not proved capable of making an adequate contribution to the solution of problems of human rights violations. At the most recent session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee had again expressed its doubts on that subject. Furthermore, the Sub-Commission, in resolutions 22 and 23, had completely ignored the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and had sought to act outside the agreed procedures. Although the Sub-Commission was aware that the Commission was studying the human rights situation in Bolivia, in closed meetings, in accordance with the recommendations of the Sub-Commission itself and Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), it had not only approved a public resolution concerning Bolivia, but had also decided, on its own initiative, to appoint a special rapporteur to present an analysis to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session. Not content with having established a new procedure, that was quite unacceptable to his delegation, the Sub-Commission had requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of the Government of Bolivia, disregarding all the established procedures.

27. Resolution 24, concerning the human rights situation in Kampuchea, followed the same course. Paragraph 2 requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission the further materials reviewed by Mr. Bouhdiba, together with the summary records of the Sub-Commission's discussions, as if the Sub-Commission was unaware that the Commission was entitled to consider matters discussed in the Sub-Commission without the Secretary-General having to be asked to bring the matter to the knowledge of the parent body. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that Mr. Bouhdiba's study had been prepared at the express request of the Commission itself.

28. In resolution 25, the Sub-Commission had entirely forgotten that it was only a subsidiary body. In paragraph 1, it decided to inform the Commission of its readiness to assist the Commission in responding to reports of mass and flagrant violations of human rights" and recommended that the Commission should give attention to the contribution it could make to that end. In paragraph 6, it requested "the Secretary-General to inform the Sub-Commission at its thirty-fourth session of the deliberations of the Commission on this matter, as well as of any consideration which may be given to it by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Security Council". The annex to that resolution could be discussed by the working group on the over-all analysis, together with resolution 27. His delegation would give very careful consideration to any proposal that could lead to changes in the role or mandate of the Sub-Commission.

29. With regard to chapter XI of the report, the Commission would deal with Sub-Commission decision 1 on the draft declaration of the rights of persons belonging to minorities when it considered agenda item 24. Sub-Commission resolution 10, concerning alleged violations of the human rights of persons belonging to a religious minority in Iran, deserved some comment. Besides requesting direct action by the Secretary-General, the Sub-Commission had concerned itself with the fulfilment of international obligations by a State, although such matters did not fall within its competence.

30. Chapter XII of the report had not given rise to any public resolution. As to chapter XIII, resolution 5 on the study of the problem of discrimination against indigenous populations covered matters of interest to the Commission, which was awaiting the report of the Special Rapporteur; the request addressed to the Secretary-General was consistent with Sub-Commission's mandate.

31. Chapter XIV, which dealt with the sessional working group on the encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments, covered one of the controversial aspects of the work of the Sub-Commission. At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, his delegation had commented on Sub-Commission resolution 1 B (XXXII) which, despite its contents, had not been submitted to the Commission for approval. In that resolution, the Sub-Commission had decided to consider ways and means of encouraging Governments to ratify or accede to international human rights instruments. Notwithstanding the criticism expressed during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, the Secretariat had implemented the resolution, consulting Governments on their reasons for not ratifying the instruments listed in the resolution. The Sub-Commission had set up a working group and had analysed the replies from 20 Governments, some of which had raised the problem of the competence and jurisdiction of the Sub-Commission, a problem which had subsequently been brought up in the group itself. It emerged from the discussions on that subject within the working group that the representative of France had expressed his Government's doubts on the matter and had even indicated that the "legal opinion" was not totally convincing. The Commission would recall that, at the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee had considered an item entitled "Review of the multilateral treaty-making process" on the basis of a report submitted by the Secretary-General (A/35/312). In that report, the Secretary-General recognized that, without prejudice to the formal obligation that an international organization might have as depositary of a treaty, the general rule remained that, once a multilateral treaty had been promulgated by an organ or conference of an international organization, the organization then took no substantive interest in the steps to bring the treaty into force that must be taken by individual States. The fact that international organizations commended such treaties for ratification and requested the secretariat to report on progress made to that end could not be considered deviations from that rule. However, that would not be the case if the organization, in the current case through the Sub-Commission, took steps to ensure the entry into force of a treaty adopted under its auspices, for example by assisting States in the process of ratification or addressing questionnaires to States asking why they had failed to become parties to a multilateral treaty.

32. Furthermore, he had serious doubts about the "legal opinion" submitted by the Secretariat. In fact, the opinion was tantamount to an expansion of the Sub-Commission's mandate and the Legal Office had no authority to take such a step. The interpretation that, by taking note of the report of the Sub-Commission, the Commission approved or even accepted resolutions of the Sub-Commission which were not submitted to it for approval represented a departure from the bounds of legal consideration of topics and from the traditions of the United Nations, and thereby encroached on very dangerous ground. The interpretation that "while the action taken and envisaged by the Sub-Commission may seem to involve more than what originally seemed to be implied in the Sub-Commission's general terms of reference, it can be considered to be in line with developments in practice which have shown considerable broadening of the scope of the Sub-Commission's activity ... and to

which the parent bodies ... have not objected" was also most peculiar. His delegation felt compelled to express its strong disagreement with that interpretation. It also found it difficult to accept the view that "while Article 98 of the Charter refers explicitly to the main organs of the United Nations, it does not imply that subsidiary organs do not enjoy similar assistance by the Secretary-General". The question was not whether main or subsidiary bodies of the United Nations were entitled to receive assistance from the Secretary-General; that was a natural consequence of their existence. The question was whether a subsidiary organ could, on its own initiative, take decisions - some of which had financial implications - without the clear approval of its parent body, and whether it could directly request the Secretary-General to take measures that were not within its competence. In the case before the Commission it was even doubtful whether the United Nations itself was competent to take such steps.

33. In decision 2, the Sub-Commission implicitly extended the mandate of the Working Group, enlarged the list of international instruments to be discussed, allotted more time to future sessions of the Group and requested the Secretary-General to make a study of extra-territorial criminal responsibility. That decision was not included among the resolutions and decisions of the Sub-Commission which called for action by the Commission. However, the Commission, which must make a general ruling on such decisions, would have to consider it in depth.

34. Chapter XV on consideration of the future work of the Sub-Commission and the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session did not pose any major difficulties. However, reference should be made to the apparent refusal of the Sub-Commission to abide by the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council concerning the control of documentation. Among the documentation for its next session, the Sub-Commission was to receive about 12 documents which exceeded the limit of 32 pages set in Council resolution 1894 (LVII). While recognizing the importance of the subject-matter of those studies, his delegation felt that the Sub-Commission should try to respect the limits set by the Council.

35. The Commission should take into account Sub-Commission resolution 27 in analysing the Sub-Commission's report. At its most recent session, the Commission had decided not to consider requests such as those contained in that resolution. At its current session, the Commission would analyse in detail the suggestions and recommendations made by the Sub-Commission and would take a decision. His delegation felt that the Commission could endorse the suggestion contained in resolution 27 that the Sub-Commission should be renamed the Sub-Commission of the Commission on Human Rights, since that would emphasize the Sub-Commission's subsidiary role without affecting its mandate. In doing so, the Commission itself might devote more attention to the contribution of the Sub-Commission to its work. However, with regard to the suggestion that the Sub-Commission should be empowered to vote by secret ballot, his delegation felt that, as a subsidiary body whose members were elected in a personal capacity, the Sub-Commission should register all its votes in its report, giving the names of the experts who had voted in favour, voted against, abstained or not participated in the vote on a particular text. The Commission expected each expert to be capable of casting his vote, in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience and independence and in full cognizance of the Sub-Commission's mandate.

36. Lastly, his delegation felt that, in future, methods should be devised for considering the report of the Sub-Commission. Perhaps the Commission could establish a sessional working group to analyse the report before it was submitted to the Commission. The old method of work followed by the Sub-Commission, involving the preparation of studies and the formulation of suggestions and recommendations to the Commission, must be preserved and encouraged.