

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

MEETING

Tuesday, 31 October 1972,
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Hady TOURÉ (Guinea).

AGENDA ITEM 38

The policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa (*continued*) (A/8666 and Corr.1, A/8670, A/8689, A/8703, paras. 501-519; A/SPC/L.239, A/SPC/L.240, A/SPC/L.241/Rev.1, A/SPC/L.242/Rev.1, A/SPC/L.243, A/SPC/L.244):

- (a) Reports of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* (A/8722 and Add.1, A/8770);
- (b) Reports of the Secretary-General (A/8822, A/8833)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(*continued*)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the revised texts of draft resolutions A/SPC/L.241 and A/SPC/L.242 that had just been circulated, together with the note by the Secretary-General (A/SPC/L.244) on the administrative and financial implications of the former. He also announced that Somalia had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/SPC/L.240, relating to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. He invited comments on the various drafts.

2. Mr. MACRIS (Greece) said that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/L.239 relating to the maltreatment and torture of prisoners and detainees in South Africa, in line with his Government's strong opposition to racial discrimination and its long-standing policy of upholding the Charter. He reiterated his country's firm support of the Declaration on the Occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2627 (XXV), in which Member States pledged themselves to a continued and determined struggle against all violations of the rights and fundamental freedoms of human beings, by eliminating the basic causes of such violations and by promoting universal respect for the dignity of all people. Greece pledged itself to continue in 1973 through the Greek Orthodox Church its modest annual contribution in support of the victims of *apartheid*. His delegation would therefore vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/L.240.

3. During the general debate on the item, his delegation had expressed the view (820th meeting) that world public opinion must be fully awakened to the evils of racial discrimination. The Greek Government had stated in response to the Secretary-General's

inquiry, that during 1971, the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, special programmes had been carried out in Greek schools and universities, and appropriate activities had been organized by various bodies in connexion with the principles of equality and non-discrimination. The Greek radio and television networks had broadcast special programmes, including the messages of the Secretary-General and of the Greek Association of the United Nations, and the celebrations had also been covered in the Greek press. In keeping with his Government's firm policy, his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/L.242/Rev.1 on the dissemination of information on *apartheid*. It wished to state, however, that the interest of the specialized agencies in combating racial discrimination should not be detrimental to the specific functions with which the Organization had entrusted them.

4. Mr. GRIGG (United States of America) said with reference to draft resolution A/SPC/L.239 that his delegation was deeply concerned over the maltreatment and torture of prisoners in South Africa outlined in the Special Committee's report (A/8770). The fact that the victims were often selected by reason of their opposition to *apartheid* made their treatment all the more reprehensible. The United States of America considered that the maltreatment and torture of prisoners in South Africa or elsewhere was intolerable and inconsistent with the international standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, as expressed in resolution 5 (XXIV)¹ of the Commission on Human Rights. It therefore wished to join in the new appeal to South Africa to put an end to such conduct. His delegation would support draft resolution A/SPC/L.240, but its support should not be construed as a commitment to contribute to the Trust Fund.

5. Mr. AHMAD (India) asked whether the Secretariat or the representative of the ILO could throw some light on what progress had been made in connexion with the proposed ILO trade union conference on *apartheid* to be held in 1973.

6. He also requested that the consideration of the agenda item should not be concluded after the voting on the draft resolutions before the Committee, since it was expected that at least two more draft resolutions would be submitted—one on the ILO conference, and

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4, chap. XVIII.*

another on the co-ordination of work relating to southern Africa, as suggested by the former Chairman of the Special Committee.

7. The CHAIRMAN hoped that the representative of the ILO would be ready to make a statement at the

next meeting, and confirmed that members of the Committee would be afforded a further opportunity to submit draft resolutions.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.