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Fifty-eighth Session

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST TO  
SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
from 8 to 30 April 1975

Chairman:

Mr. LONGERSTAEY

Belgium

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751st meeting

Tuesday, 8 April 1975,  
at 3.20 p.m.

ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN

The CHAIRMAN said that, since no nominations had yet been submitted, the election of the two Vice-Chairmen would, if there was no objection, be deferred until the next meeting so that the consultations could continue.

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (E/5630, E/L.1638 and E/L.1639)

The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the note by the Bureau on the organization of work (E/L.1638). Three items on the agenda (E/5630) had been allocated to the Social Committee, namely item 7 (Social development questions), item 8 (Human rights questions) and item 9 (Narcotic drugs). As to the order in which those items should be considered, he suggested that the Committee should first take up item 7, then item 9 and lastly item 8. That suggestion was based on the availability of documentation. All the documents on social development questions had been issued some time before, whereas not all of the documents relating to the other two items were ready. The report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (item 9) should be issued the following day in English, French and Spanish and on 18 April in Russian. The report of the Commission on Human Rights (item 8) would not be available before 21 or 22 April.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) stressed his delegation's desire to co-operate with the Committee in order that the latter might carry out its mandate. Without wishing to object to the Chairman's suggestion concerning the order in which the items should be considered, he noted that whenever the Committee met, it was unable to begin by considering the important items because the documentation was not ready. The Secretariat had always provided an explanation, but the problem persisted. The International Narcotics Control Board had always sent a

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representative to assist in the consideration of the item on narcotic drugs. He wondered whether the order of consideration of items suggested by the Chairman took into account the fact that that person should be present. In another connexion, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was the most important question allocated to the Committee, because the General Assembly expected it to be given the necessary attention. As could be seen from document E/L.1639 containing the list of documents submitted to the Council at its fifty-eighth session, the two basic reports of the Secretary-General on the Decade (E/5636 and E/5637) were already available to the Committee. Only one more document was required for the consideration of that question, namely the decision on the Decade to be adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its current session. He asked when that decision would be submitted to the Social Committee, since if it became available soon the Decade could be separated from human rights questions and the Committee could begin considering it forthwith.

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Committee) explained that the reports of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Human Rights covered the sessions held in Geneva which had ended in March 1975. The documentation problem resulting from the calendar of meetings of the two bodies concerned had been drawn to the attention of the Council at its 1975 organizational session held in the preceding January.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he fully supported the reservations expressed by the representative of Egypt. Although the Secretariat had been repeatedly told that documentation must be submitted in time to enable the members of the Committee to prepare themselves properly for the debate, it had become customary for the Committee to fail to receive in time the documentation it needed to do its work. Moreover, that situation subjected representatives to unnecessary pressure, since they were obliged to assimilate a great deal of material in a very short space of time. His delegation supported the proposal by the representative of Egypt to the effect that the Committee should consider the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination immediately after the item on social development questions, since

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the General Assembly had devoted considerable attention to that question and in accordance with resolution 3057 (XXVIII) the Council was to perform its functions relating to the Programme for the Decade in plenary meetings.

Mr. GUARIGLIA (Italy) said he would like capital punishment to be discussed towards the end of the consideration of the item on social development questions (item 7). That did not mean that his delegation did not attach importance to that question; on the contrary, it wished to study and discuss it in greater depth.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said the proposal that the question of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be considered separately seemed plausible. In that connexion, he wished to know whether the idea was to take up the item on human rights questions (item 8), beginning with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, proceed to consideration of the item on narcotic drugs (item 9) and finally revert to the item on human rights questions for examination of the remaining questions.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, said his proposal was that the Committee should begin with the item on social development questions and immediately after that take up the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as a separate item. His delegation had no preference concerning the question the Committee might decide to consider after the Decade.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out to the members of the Committee that the proposal by the representative of Egypt created great difficulty, because the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was part of the item on human rights questions and the report of the Commission on Human Rights would not be ready before 21 April.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) observed that in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) on the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination the Assembly had not associated the functions of the Council concerning the Programme for the Decade with human rights questions. The adoption of the

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agenda in document E/5630, in which for organizational reasons and in order to facilitate the Council's work, the Decade had been included under human rights questions, did not mean that the consideration of the Decade was an integral part of the report of the Commission on Human Rights. He reiterated his proposal that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be considered immediately after the item on social development questions, and added that that in no way impinged on an organizational question already settled by the Council.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that the purpose of his previous statement had been to resolve the procedural difficulties confronting the Committee. The provisional agenda in document E/5630 had already been adopted by the Economic and Social Council. Rule 17 of the Council's rules of procedure stated that "the Council may revise the agenda for the session by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items", but it did not say that the Committee was competent to add an item. Consequently, in order to eliminate procedural difficulties, he proposed that the consideration of the human rights item should begin with the Decade and that the rest of that item should be discussed after the item on narcotic drugs.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation did not wish to slow down the Committee's work and consequently would not oppose the procedural solution suggested by the United Kingdom representative. However, that did not change its position concerning the importance of complying with General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), and it continued to believe that the grouping of questions under items should not impede their consideration.

The CHAIRMAN, summing up the proposals made by members of the Committee concerning the organization of work, said it was his understanding that the Committee wished to consider first item 7 on social development questions, would proceed to consider the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination under item 8 (Human rights questions), would then consider item 9 on narcotic drugs and would conclude its work by considering the other questions included under item 8, with the exception of the Decade.

It was so decided.

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Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Committee) said that the resolution of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be issued at the end of the week as an addendum to document E/5636.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that at the following meeting the Committee should take up item 7, in connexion with which Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, would make an introductory statement. On Wednesday 16 April the Committee could take up item 8 on human rights questions, beginning with the Decade. With regard to item 9 on narcotic drugs, the Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs would personally introduce that item after consideration of the Decade. He drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the suggestion made in paragraphs 2-6 of document E/L.1638 concerning the organization of work of the Committees. The Committee should complete its work no later than 1 May so as to leave time for the preparation of its reports to the Council.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) inquired whether there was any specific idea regarding the number of meetings to be devoted to each item, so that delegations would have some guidance regarding the allocation of time.

The CHAIRMAN said that, according to the available information, it was believed that the consideration of item 9 (Narcotic drugs) might take up three meetings. It would be advisable to wait for more information before giving a definitive reply concerning the other items.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

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752nd meeting

Wednesday, 9 April 1975,  
at 10.55 a.m.ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN (concluded)

Mr. NEYTCHEV (Bulgaria) nominated Mr. Ropotean (Romania) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Ropotean (Romania) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mrs. SEKELA (Zaire) nominated Mr. Badawi (Egypt) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Badawi (Egypt) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/5597, E/5615, E/ 5616 and Corr.1, and E/5617 and Corr.1 (Russian only))

Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the substantive questions included under the agenda item reflected the wide scope of the United Nations programme in the social development area. In addition to the items it had decided to consider in accordance with its priorities for the 1974-1977 work programme, the Commission for Social Development had also considered a number of questions referred to it by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly on which it had been requested to report to the Council. Those questions were: the convening of a United Nations conference for an international convention on adoption law, social indicators for measuring social progress, a unified approach to development analysis and planning, channels of communication with youth and international youth organizations, and migrant workers. The Committee also had before it reports of the Secretary-General on capital punishment (E/5616) and on the contribution made by the co-operative movement to the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5597).

The substantive questions considered by the Commission in accordance with its priorities were: the rehabilitation of disabled persons, crime prevention and control, the world social situation, the mid-term review and appraisal of the

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International Development Strategy, popular participation and its practical implications for development, and programme objectives for the medium-term plan 1976-1979.

The Council was also expected to take a decision on the confirmation of one member, nominated by the Commission, of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for the unexpired portion of the term of a former member which would end in 1977.

Nine draft resolutions contained in chapter I of the Commission's report (E/5617) had been recommended for adoption by the Council. She also drew attention to the Commission's resolution 7 (XXIV) on the world social situation, the text of which also appeared in chapter I of the same document.

The Council had before it the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation which, in addition to serving as a quadrennial review of world-wide social conditions and trends, provided analysis to assist in the review and appraisal of progress towards the achievement of the goals of the International Development Strategy during the Second United Nations Development Decade. The report dealt with the demographic, environmental and economic background of social development, taking into account patterns of income distribution and social consumption and trends relating to particular social groups. It also dealt with new dimensions of social policy.

Since the previous report had been issued in 1970, mass poverty had continued to prevail in many parts of the world and had been exacerbated by problems of inflation, balance-of-payments deficits and exchange rate uncertainties. While such issues required urgent attention, a stronger national commitment was also needed to mobilize limited resources to provide the basic elements of a better life for all people as called for in the International Development Strategy. While there had been several successful initiatives in social development policy in a number of countries, further progress on any significant scale required a reaffirmation of the social goals of development and a will, at the national and international level, to achieve those goals.

The recent deterioration in the world economic situation and the persistence of mass poverty in many areas of the world had been emphasized in the Statement on

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the world social situation adopted by the Commission for Social Development. The Statement called for a comprehensive strategy to improve conditions of life through national and international efforts. Draft resolution VII of the Commission endorsed the Statement and reaffirmed the role of the Commission in review and appraisal. The attention of the Committee was also drawn to the debate of the Commission on that question summarized in chapter VII of document E/5617.

The medium-term work plan for 1976-1979 provided for continued study of social indicators and social reporting and a report on the subject, with particular reference to the needs of developing countries, had been included in the agenda of the Commission's next session.

A report on a unified approach to development analysis and planning (E/CN.5/519) had been prepared by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development as requested by the Council in 1973. It had been considered by the Commission for Social Development in January 1975 and a summary of the debate was contained in chapter IX of document E/5617. In a statement to the Commission, the Director of the Research Institute had announced its plans to publish a number of papers prepared in connexion with the unified approach project, together with reports on the subject that had been submitted to the Commission for Social Development. The question of a unified approach to development analysis and planning would be included in the agenda of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

The report of the Secretary-General on the convening of a United Nations conference for an international convention on adoption law (E/CN.5/504 and Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2) had been prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1750 (LIV) and had been submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session in order to afford the Commission an opportunity to express its views on the matter to the Council. Members of the Commission had noted with satisfaction the large number of replies received to the questionnaire on which the report had been based and had concurred in the view that, in matters of adoption and foster placement, the interests of the child were paramount. The question had been raised, however, of the advisability of convening at the present time a United Nations conference on that subject. It had been pointed out that, above and

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beyond the problems of priorities and availability of funds, the question itself was so complex and the cultural and historical differences between countries so great that it might be impossible to achieve international uniformity of legislation on adoption. It had been felt that the question required further study at both regional and national levels with particular attention to the intercountry movement of children.

Draft resolution V submitted to the Council by the Commission would, inter alia, request the Secretary-General to convene, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, a geographically representative group of experts with experience of family and child welfare to draw up a draft declaration on social and legal principles relating to adoption and foster placement of children nationally and internationally, as well as to review the relevant material and establish guidelines for the use of Governments. A non-governmental organization had expressed interest in making available the funds needed to convene such an expert meeting. The draft resolution also drew attention to the advisability of holding regional seminars and called for the co-operation of international organizations, the regional commissions and appropriate non-governmental organizations in the study of the question.

The two draft resolutions dealing with youth policies and programmes reflected the strong emphasis given to the practical needs and aspirations of young people at the national level. Draft resolution II, which was to be considered by the UNDP Governing Council at its twentieth session and then referred back to the Council with a view to its adoption at the fifty-ninth session, recommended the expansion of the terms of reference of the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers programme to include the receipt of additional contributions in support of United Nations youth programmes. It called for close collaboration between the staff of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs responsible for youth activities and that of the United Nations Volunteers programme, a most natural collaboration in view of the latter's basic mandate to provide practical development assistance at the national level and its increasing concern with the establishment and strengthening of national volunteer programmes.

Draft resolution III approved the Secretary-General's recommendations for a

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modest effort to encourage international co-operation among youth research and information centres that could have the effect of strengthening national efforts to involve youth in development activities. It also called for an inquiry into the feasibility of incorporating the practical emphasis underlying United Nations programmes in the field of youth into a possible international document. In both those areas the principal concern was to orient national and international thinking and action on youth problems increasingly towards the provision of specific opportunities for youth to participate in development.

It was hoped that in its work with youth organizations in the future, the United Nations would place more emphasis on co-operation between itself and national youth organizations, in order to increase their joint impact on youth problems at the national level. The question of United Nations co-operation with youth organizations would be dealt with in a report by the Secretary-General to be submitted to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

On the question of migrant workers the Commission had considered two reports: document E/CN.5/523 prepared by the ILO and document E/CN.5/515 and Corr.1 and 2 submitted by the Secretary-General. There had been general agreement in the Commission on the need to give priority attention to the requirements of children, youth and women involved in migration and to the importance of developing long-term social policies emphasizing preventive action. Draft resolution VI recommended that further efforts of the United Nations system of organizations towards developing effective programmes designed to improve the welfare of migrant workers and their families should be pursued primarily at the regional level and requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the ILO, UNESCO and WHO, to prepare a document incorporating principles concerning migrant workers and their families in order to enable the Commission to assess the main principles applicable in that matter, and to make the necessary recommendations.

The report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment (E/5616), the fourth report on that subject submitted to the Council since 1962, was the first in a series of periodic, up-dated and analytical reports to be issued at five-year intervals in accordance with Council resolution 1745 (LIV). At the time of the completion of the report, 32 Governments had responded to the questionnaire

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circulated by the Secretary-General; 2 more had responded since then. The relatively low number of responses was probably due to the short period allowed for conducting the inquiry. The information obtained suggested a decline in the number of persons actually executed. Capital punishment had been abolished in one country, suspended or restricted in three others, as well as in a number of federated States, and efforts to reintroduce capital punishment had been rejected in several countries since the publication of the Secretary-General's third report (E/5242 and Add.1). Those developments notwithstanding, one conclusion set forth in the third report - that many countries had made no progress towards the abolition of the death penalty - still held true.

The report of the Secretary-General on the subject of the co-operative movement (E/5597) had been prepared in response to Council resolution 1668 (LII) as part of the mid-term review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade and was the fourth in a series on that subject submitted to the Council by the Secretary-General since 1970. It identified new trends emerging within the co-operative movement in response to the changing needs of society, particularly in developing countries; it described national and international assistance provided for the promotion of the co-operative movement; and it assessed the contribution made by co-operatives towards the attainment of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

The potential of the co-operative movement to contribute to the objectives of the Decade derived from the fact that co-operatives were not only collective business enterprises, but also democratic institutions based on principles of equality and justice. They were thus an important means of providing people with informal training for effective participation in economic development in a democratic society. In developing countries, where poverty and low productivity were often the products of non-participation and structural inequalities, it was necessary to strengthen the co-operatives' principal function of organizing and helping the poor. That posed a new challenge, which might necessitate a self-examination, primarily within the movement, and possible qualitative changes in existing policies and programmes. The focal point of the self-examination should be poverty and the poor.

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Draft resolution VIII related to equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort and was in keeping with Economic and Social Council resolution 1849 (LVI) which proposed that the goals and objectives of International Women's Year be included in the agenda of all conferences of United Nations bodies as part of the programme of International Women's Year. Accordingly, the UNDP Governing Council at its nineteenth session had adopted a decision emphasizing the importance of the integration of women in development, from planning to implementation. That was of particular importance in rural development, where women's needs had been least recognized in the past and where significant changes could be made without additional cost by scrutinizing plans and programmes so as to guarantee the involvement of women. The brochures for the use of Governments and UNDP resident representatives, which contained guidelines for the integration of women, would be made available at the Conference of the International Women's Year.

The Population Commission at its eighteenth session had urged Governments to implement the recommendations relating to the status of women set forth in the World Population Plan of Action and in resolutions IV and XII of the World Population Conference. The Commission had also requested continuous monitoring of all United Nations development programmes and projects with a view to assessing their impact on women. The Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme, at its twenty-seventh session, had considered the question of food aid as a contribution to the improvement of the status of women and had drawn the attention of all field officers to the potential role of women in World Food Programme projects, and to the impact of those projects on women.

The Trade and Development Board, at its recent sixth special session, had emphasized the full and productive use of human resources as a key factor in the promotion of trade and development and had invited Governments to facilitate the greater participation of women in all activities relating to the expansion and diversification of international trade, as well as to economic and social development.

At the regional level, the third meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa had adopted a resolution on the integration of African women in national development and had endorsed the plan to establish an

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African training and research centre for women, to be inaugurated during International Women's Year. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had recently adopted a regional plan of action for the enhancement of the role of women in development and had endorsed the establishment of a regional institute for research and information. There was no doubt that that trend would continue throughout the conferences of the organizations in the United Nations system.

With regard to the most recent developments concerning International Women's Year and the preparations for the related Conference, the Consultative Committee established by General Assembly resolution 3277 (XXIX) had met at Headquarters from 3 to 14 March 1975 to consider a draft plan of action prepared by the Secretariat, and had made many constructive comments and suggestions to be taken into account in the preparation of the draft plan to be submitted to the Conference. The plan had been revised accordingly and would be distributed very shortly.

In addition, an Encounter to celebrate International Women's Day had taken place at Headquarters on 7 March under the auspices of the Office of Public Information and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Thirteen panelists from a number of countries had exchanged views on the theme "Women and Men: The Next Twenty-five Years". The debate had been widely covered by the media and had been acclaimed as bringing International Women's Year into public focus.

International Women's Year had stirred great interest and a sense of commitment at the national level all over the world. A Declaration of Support for the Year had been signed by more than 80 Heads of State and Government and had been presented to the Secretary-General by Princess Pahlavi of Iran. Many countries had inaugurated the Year with special ceremonies, seminars and symposia and had established machinery to intensify action for the achievement of the goals of the Year.

Sincere thanks were due to the Government of Mexico for its whole-hearted and extensive co-operation with regard to the preparations for the Conference. International Women's Year would benefit not only women but society as a whole, and would enhance economic and social development in general.

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## ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom), supported by Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil), proposed that, in order to expedite the work of the Committee with regard to social development questions, the action to be taken on the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission for Social Development should be considered at informal meetings. Such a procedure would not prevent any delegations so wishing from stating their Governments' positions at formal meetings of the Committee.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) supported the proposal of the representative of the United Kingdom.

He noted that a number of specialized agencies had asked to address the Committee on items relating to their respective fields of competence. Since the views of those specialized agencies would undoubtedly be most valuable, he suggested that representatives of specialized agencies should make their statements at an early stage in the Committee's discussion of any given item.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) agreed with the suggestion made by the representative of Egypt concerning the timing of statements by representatives of the specialized agencies.

He supported the United Kingdom proposal, on the understanding that such informal meetings would be devoted to discussion of specific questions. Furthermore, it might be preferable to hold informal meetings after members had had an opportunity to express their views.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the United Kingdom proposal.

The proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

753rd meeting

Thursday, 10 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/5597, E/5615, E/5616 and Corr.1, and E/5617 and Corr.1 (Russian only)) (continued)

Mr. LAURENT (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that FAO welcomed both the greater attention being given to youth projects by the United Nations and the search for greatly needed funds for the United Nations Volunteers programme. He stressed, however, that programming efforts should be co-ordinated and discussed at policy level at the planning, execution and evaluation stages. Similar procedures would also be very useful in respect of the identification of priority projects and the use of all financial resources, regardless of their source. FAO fully supported the reconvening of the interagency meetings on youth within the framework of ACC, together with the proposal to allocate funds to non-governmental youth organizations, which had given great impetus to development efforts. FAO would also welcome initiatives for a model project for rural youth which would take account of non-formal educational activities relating to agricultural development and rural employment programmes.

Turning to the question of migrant workers, he said that rural structures and services, when too rigid, could not cope with large-scale outward migration. Such a situation normally required economic and social adjustments which could seldom be made without effective public participation. Usually, the very poverty of rural resources in relation to population actually forced adult males to migrate. Any effort to arrest that process in certain non-autonomous Territories, for example, would be ineffectual without fundamental rural development work on a massive scale. A great portion of the funds spent for education and training in poor rural areas and countries tended to benefit the developed areas through the "brain drain", rather than the areas of origin. That fact in itself would seem to justify a higher level of subsidies by the more developed sectors or countries. FAO agreed that Governments should initiate strong policies in favour of migrants and areas of outward migration. In general,

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the assistance in the rural areas should facilitate migration in order to enhance over-all and local development, while at the same time reducing the cost of family and community disintegration, as well as the decline of agricultural productivity.

FAO's position with regard to social indicators had been stated at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development. Efforts were currently being made to collect information on a selected priority list of indicators being compiled by the technical divisions concerned. Those indicators would supplement those being compiled by other international agencies. In carrying out that task, FAO attached great importance to popular participation in the social, cultural, political and economic fields. It was essential to develop statistical measurements with some degree of standardization in order to have a meaningful international exchange of information on social and agricultural policies and programmes. That work would open up some far-reaching possibilities. For example, the use of international comparisons based on numerical measurements would lead to identification of problem areas, such as mass poverty. Indicators might, therefore, often dictate follow-up action in particular countries by raising questions relating to the levels and processes of their development. FAO co-operated closely with the interested sections of the United Nations Secretariat in their work on social indicators, relied heavily on the United Nations system of social and demographic statistics and had suggested ways of adjusting methodologies in that field to the needs and conditions of non-industrialized countries.

Referring to the contribution of the co-operative movement to the objectives of the Second Development Decade, he said that many benefits had resulted from the establishment at FAO headquarters of the secretariat of the Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC). Those benefits had been anticipated in Council resolution 1668 (LII) and were reflected in the relevant FAO regular budget subprogramme for 1974/1975, which included a symposium on the promotion of co-operatives in the developing countries with the participation of donor agencies, three consultations on the contribution of rural associations to development programmes and a seminar in Kenya on the role of women in the co-operative movement. In many cases, prevailing inequalities, the transplanting

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of alien concepts and rigid control from above were likely to provoke the creation of rural organizations which were heavily influenced by the wealthier groups or by governmental authorities. FAO action programmes for the immediate future were taking full account of that consideration.

COPAC itself had lost no time in taking specific and co-ordinated action by promoting the establishment of co-operative development groups in the Philippines and Panama and fostering various projects in Lesotho, Mali, Ghana, Chad, Nepal and the Sahel countries. It had also been instrumental in conducting educational seminars in East Africa and in planning co-operative ventures with African and Asian Governments.

Referring to paragraphs 68, 69 and 73 to 75 of document E/5597, he said that FAO considered that the equalizing of resources among members of a given society must be achieved by basic land reform, a process which must be enacted and reinforced as necessary by Governments. Although in many countries co-operatives were seeking structural changes as a pre-condition for social and economic justice, they could not be expected, as local institutions, to bring about such fundamental changes. Furthermore, although adequate training of co-operative members tended to develop their awareness of wider socio-political problems, co-operatives were generally expected to remain politically neutral.

Many of the recommendations of the FAO/COPAC Symposium held in Hungary were already reflected in chapter VI of document E/5597. In addition, the Symposium had stressed that a basic infrastructure and favourable market situation were prerequisites for any advancement by means of co-operatives. It had also deemed it necessary that financial assistance to co-operatives should be related to the absorptive capacity of their members and had stressed evaluation involving all parties as essential to determining whether a programme could be expanded and duplicated. The Symposium had recommended the strengthening of COPAC and had suggested that it should meet biannually.

FAO believed that co-operatives represented one of the best means of achieving economic and social development. However, their final success might depend on their level of practical efficiency and might require a revision of approaches and constant efforts to improve the quality of decision-making.

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Mrs. MEAGHER (World Health Organization) said that the views of WHO on the questions of the world social situation, a unified approach to development analysis and planning, the rehabilitation of disabled persons, drug abuse and alcoholism in the context of crime prevention and control, and migrant workers, were reflected in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-fourth session (E/5617) and in the summary records of the Commission's meetings.

As far as the world social situation was concerned, she was able to inform the Committee that the Executive Board of WHO, at its fifty-fifth session, had adopted a resolution (EB55.R16) requesting the Director-General to develop a programme of activities in the field of primary health care, including identifying the primary health care activities best suited to populations in developing countries, and to consult member countries and relevant agencies in order to obtain assistance in the development of an expanded long-term programme of primary health care, including the technical and financial aspects, with the aim of formulating a plan on which action could be taken as soon as possible. The resolution also emphasized the importance and urgency of promoting national health services, particularly primary health care, and suggested that, at an appropriate stage, a review might be conducted of the experiences of health services of various countries in providing primary health care. The provisions of that resolution represented an important new development in the policy and programmes of WHO.

As far as the rehabilitation of disabled persons was concerned, WHO was fully prepared to play its part in the system-wide effort referred to in draft resolution I in the Commission's report. WHO also took an active interest in the health aspects of migrant policies and fully supported draft resolution VI.

WHO proposed to increase substantially its activities to combat drug abuse and alcoholism and to continue treatment and rehabilitation projects throughout the world, supervised by WHO and financed by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. In the current biennium, epidemiological studies would be carried out in two or more countries in the western Pacific region, utilizing extrabudgetary funds.

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(Mrs. Meagher, WHO)

As far as social indicators were concerned, as part of its extensive activities in the field of vital and health statistics, WHO had a continuous programme concerned with the development of epidemiological studies on the health status of the population, the identification of their requirements for health services, and their consumption of various kinds of medical care. Within that programme, WHO provided advice and technical assistance on the application of modern techniques of conducting national and international health statistics surveys, which it was hoped would ultimately contribute to the more accurate measurement of the health status of populations.

Mr. AZIZ (International Labour Organisation) said that ILO had a deep-rooted interest in the question of migrant workers, and an important draft Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers, together with a parallel draft recommendation, would be before the sixtieth session of the International Labour Conference in 1975 for final adoption. The draft Convention dealt with the prevention and elimination of abusive migrations for employment purposes in which the migrants were subjected to conditions contravening relevant instruments or agreements, and provided for the prosecution of the authors of manpower trafficking, regardless of the country from which they operated, and for the application of severe penal sanctions. The draft recommendation concerned migrant workers in countries of employment and provided for the prevention and elimination of abuse during recruitment; the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment; and the formulation of a social policy to enable migrant workers and their families to share fully in the advantages enjoyed by nationals. The draft recommendation also stressed family reunion and the prevention of any special health risks.

ILO had co-operated closely with the Commission for Social Development and with the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. That co-operation stemmed from the request made to ILO by the Council in resolution 1706 (LIII). Largely in response to that request, the whole question had been placed on the agenda of the Conference and was about to result in a convention and recommendation.

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(Mr. Aziz, ILO)

The Conference would also consider the question of equality of opportunity and treatment for women workers, and was expected to adopt a resolution and declaration on that question. The Conference would have before it a survey conducted by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, in connexion with the Equal Remuneration Convention.

ILO activities in respect of the rehabilitation of disabled persons were concentrated in the area of vocational services, and were based on Recommendation No. 99 concerning Vocational Rehabilitation of the Disabled, 1955, and on the resolutions of 1965 and 1968 adopted by ILO, and included technical co-operation projects in some 70 developing countries. Those projects covered all vocational aspects of rehabilitation programmes for the physically and mentally disabled; vocational training and retraining; and sheltered employment. ILO was also undertaking rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts in co-operation with the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, WHO and UNESCO.

As far as the role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development was concerned, ILO was involved in a very active programme of technical co-operation and training designed to promote and expand the co-operative movements of developing countries.

ILO activities relating to youth were integrated in the major technical programmes concerned with employment promotion, human resources development, and social institutions development. Certain ILO activities, such as the World Employment Programme, were of special interest to youth. The primary aim of the World Employment Programme was to make employment a major objective of national and international development policies, thereby halting and possibly reversing the current trend towards growing unemployment and underemployment. The Programme was therefore by definition youth-oriented since, in developing countries as a whole, persons under 20 years of age constituted more than half the total population. The ILO report submitted to the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development and covering the fields of employment, wage and price trends, and social security, could be found in document E/CN.5/512/Add.10.

One of the basic programmes of ILO concerned the development of human

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(Mr. Aziz, ILO)

resources and, since youth constituted the bulk of those resources in the developing countries, that programme was also necessarily youth-oriented. The fifty-ninth session of the International Labour Conference had prepared a draft convention and recommendation designed to promote a modern view of vocational guidance and training as life-long processes. At its sixtieth session, the Conference would take final action on the two texts. The aim of the proposed measures would be to develop the workers' ability to participate actively in bringing about changes in the economy and in work processes, which would permit a nation's labour force to acquire new skills and knowledge as needed.

Mr. BEN AMOR (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that, in recognition of the contribution which the social sciences could make to an understanding of major social problems, the eighteenth General Conference of UNESCO had recommended increased activities in the developing countries in the social sciences with a view to the establishment of a viable infrastructure of adequately funded social science institutes, centres and services. UNESCO had already launched a programme for the 1975-1976 biennium in that field. That programme called, firstly, for the development of the social sciences through efforts to improve the working conditions and increase the professional responsibilities of social scientists and to enhance the contribution of the social sciences to the solution of problems raised by the scientific and technological revolution. He mentioned a number of projects undertaken by UNESCO, in co-operation with regional organizations, to promote the institutional and organizational development of the social sciences in Africa, Asia, the Arab countries, Latin America and Europe.

The second component of the UNESCO programme in the social sciences encompassed efforts to promote the development of methods of analysis, inter alia, through studies to establish a system of social indicators, the improvement and dissemination of evaluation methods and the training of experts in techniques of analysis and planning.

The third component of the programme involved research in the application of the social sciences to development. Studies were being made for the purpose of assessing research conducted by the United Nations family of organizations

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(Mr. Ben Amor, UNESCO)

and scientific research institutions on the unified concept of development, highlighting the conclusions of that research and determining how they could be used to help plan UNESCO activities in various sectors. Particular attention was being given to the relationship between development and social justice and to the conditions necessary for balanced economic, social and cultural development. Further studies on developing countries would be prepared pointing out, in particular, disparities in levels of economic, social and cultural development. The resulting comparisons would be used to develop a reference system which could be used to analyse specific situations and which would make it possible more effectively to adapt development aid programmes to local conditions.

UNESCO was also conducting sociological studies of population trends and problems, with reference to the interaction between population programmes and cultural values. Studies were being carried out on the social and cultural consequences of environmental change. In that regard, a document on the social and cultural effects of urbanization would be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976. Yet another UNESCO activity involved research on the social problems posed by drug abuse.

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) said that the review and appraisal of the world social situation was an integral part of the examination of the entire process of development within the new economic and political world order. His delegation had been pleased to participate in the discussion of those matters in the Commission for Social Development, whose report provided a sound basis for discussion in the Committee. The statements by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the representatives of the specialized agencies would also prove useful to the Committee.

The intensive work accomplished by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-fourth session could be credited to the competence of its members and to the assistance provided by the Social Development Division and the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies. The Economic and Social Council should show its confidence in the Commission by commending its work.

The main characteristic of the Commission's debates had been that they had

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(Mr. Ropotean, Romania)

approached social problems within the framework of the new economic and political order, an orientation which was consistent with the general approach followed in the United Nations with regard to all development problems.

Among the subjects discussed by the Commission, his delegation attached particular importance to policies and programmes for youth; Romania had recently established an organization of youth and students for the United Nations. The resolutions, decisions and recommendations which had emerged from the Commission's very thorough debates provided sound material for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. His delegation was prepared to participate in informal negotiations to make any necessary improvements.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation was prepared to support the draft resolutions recommended by the Commission for Social Development for adoption by the Economic and Social Council in document E/5617. With regard to draft resolution I, concerning prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons, his delegation attached special significance to paragraph 6, which called for assistance in that field, particularly for the developing countries. With regard to draft resolutions II and III, which dealt with the problems of youth, his delegation agreed with the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the United Nations Volunteers programme be designated as the principal operational unit of the United Nations for the execution of youth programmes and with the recommendation to establish a co-operative arrangement among youth research and information centres. Although his country agreed that specific opportunities for youth to participate in development efforts must be created at the national and international levels, it had doubts regarding the usefulness and feasibility of an international document incorporating that principle.

Turning to draft resolution V, on adoption and foster placement of children, he said that if the Secretary-General decided, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to convene a group of experts to prepare a draft declaration on social and legal principles, the group should first consider whether, in view of the existence of the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law and Recognition of Decrees relating to Adoptions of 15 November 1965, additional principles of world-wide significance should be

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

drafted. Moreover, the European Convention on the Adoption of Children of 24 April 1967 was open to accession by non-member States of the Council of Europe.

Draft resolution VI, concerning migrant workers, was of particular interest to his delegation. His country ensured equal treatment for migrants in the framework of social and labour legislation and also recognized the need to give particular attention to the families of migrant workers, as was called for in paragraph 2 of that draft resolution. Schooling was provided for the children of migrant workers in their own languages, and migrant workers had access to media in their languages as well.

His delegation congratulated the Secretary-General on the excellent 1974 Report on the World Social Situation. His Government recognized the need for an integrated and balanced approach to development which encompassed both the economic and social sectors. His country had developed a high level of social justice and an effective economic system and endeavoured to help less fortunate countries to build a world in which social justice and human dignity would gradually become a reality. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Statement endorsed in draft resolution VII, he recalled that his delegation had expressed reservations concerning certain principles contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Draft resolution VIII, on equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort, was a valuable contribution to International Women's Year. The full integration of women in the development effort would be a particularly important item on the agenda of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and, as was stated in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, should constitute part of a long-term sustained effort.

Lastly, his delegation was also in favour of draft resolution IX, on popular participation and its practical implications for development. The mobilization of the population and its full integration in society was very important for the development of society as a whole. Only a Government which applied democratic principles and was recognized by its own people as being genuinely concerned with their well-being would be able to enjoy the popular involvement called for by the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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754th meeting

Friday, 11 April 1975  
at 10.50 a.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/5597, E/5615, E/5616 and Corr.1 and 2, and E/5617 and Corr.1 (Russian only)) (continued)

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that all peoples of the world were interested in promoting genuine social progress and, as emphasized in General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV), in eliminating obstacles to social progress, particularly such evils as inequality, exploitation, war, colonialism and racism. His delegation was convinced that the Council would make a noteworthy contribution to the solution of those problems at its current session, which coincided with the celebration in May of the thirtieth anniversary of the great victory of the Soviet people and other peoples in the anti-Hitlerite coalition over fascism and militarism. The thirtieth anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, an event made possible by the victory over fascism, would also be celebrated in 1975. The victory over aggression and forces of imperialism has ushered in a new era in man's struggle for peace, freedom and social progress in which the socialist commonwealth of States had been formed and the downfall of colonialism ensured.

Genuine social progress was possible only in conditions of peace and security. Such conditions were also the goal of the Programme of Peace and International Co-operation adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Progress had been made in the international arena with the triumph of the principles of coexistence and the spread of détente, which was in the interest of all peoples irrespective of their social system, size or level of development. Efforts to strengthen international peace and the achievement of social progress were inseparable.

The focal point of the agenda item under discussion was the Report on the World Social Situation. Unfortunately, as had been noted by many delegations at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, the Report did not accurately reflect the development situation in a number of regions, particularly the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

his delegation regarded that short-coming as intolerable. In order to compensate for the inaccuracies of the Report, he wished to comment on certain aspects of the social situation in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet people had achieved great success in the implementation of monumental economic and social programmes such as the ninth five-year development plan covering the period 1971-1975. The main objective of the plan was to raise the material and cultural standard of living of the workers through the rapid development of socialist production. In the first four years of the plan, new measures had been taken to raise the salaries of a large number of workers including doctors, teachers, railroad workers and experts in mechanized agriculture. A higher minimum wage had been established and wage rates for industrial workers at the middle of the pay scale had also been raised. Such measures were of great importance for closing the gap between the living standards of various groups. Over four years, the average monthly wages of manual and non-manual workers had been increased by more than 15 per cent and those of collective farm workers by more than 22 per cent. Real per capita income had increased by almost 19 per cent. He emphasized the role played by public funds in that process. By virtue of increases in pensions, students' grants, allowances and other benefits, 30 million people presently enjoyed increased revenues while the production of consumer goods had also been increased.

The Soviet building industry was more active than any other in the world. Between 1971 and 1974, over 45 million people had acquired new apartments or improved their existing housing. The transition to universal secondary education was being completed and improvements were being made in the instruction and vocational education provided. Efforts were being made to improve the physical health of the people and their living and working conditions, and to protect the environment. In the Soviet Union social and economic rights were meant not only to be proclaimed but to be implemented. Workers in the Soviet Union were free from unemployment, exploitation and discrimination of any kind and were given an opportunity to participate actively in public life. Those facts had not been duly reflected in the Report on the World Social Situation, despite the large amount of published official data which could have been used.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

The state of the world economy was a decisive factor to be taken into account in any evaluation of the world social situation. The growth in unemployment, the decline in workers' real income, the aggravation of the housing crisis, and the reduction in expenditure on education, public health and social security, were the social consequences of the economic crisis affecting the capitalist system and were also hampering the social development programmes of the developing countries.

While his delegation had expected the Report on the World Social Situation to contain an objective analysis of such phenomena, he noted with regret that the Report had little to say on the subject. Such an arbitrary approach to the preparation of the Report was inadmissible. His delegation had in the past insisted that the Report should be based solely on official statistical and factual information supplied by Governments.

The Report on the World Social Situation and the resolutions of the Commission for Social Development had laid stress on the importance of positive changes stemming from détente and their beneficial influence on the world social situation. If the existing productive forces of society throughout the world were used in the interests of all strata of society and the colossal sums spent for military purposes reduced, the solution of the social problems besetting the world would be greatly accelerated. The decisions taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session, especially the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, had recognized the direct link between disarmament and development and had proclaimed the obligation of all States to promote disarmament. Such decisions had to be implemented; without disarmament it was impossible to tackle the problems of development and social progress. Yet the arms race continued. It was estimated that \$250 thousand million were spent annually for military purposes and such expenditure was the main cause of inflation and economic crises in the capitalist world.

His delegation noted with regret that the amendments submitted by a number of delegations in the Commission for Social Development had not been incorporated in the Report on the World Social Situation, despite the fact that the Commission had drawn the attention of the Secretariat to the need to make such changes. The Soviet delegation had emphasized the need to highlight in the part entitled

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

"Social trends: a global overview" the basic social advances peculiar to the socialist countries. His delegation had also pointed out the wrongness of applying to socialist countries social criteria peculiar to market economy countries and of lumping those two groups of countries together under the heading "Developed countries". His delegation requested once again that the Secretariat make the appropriate changes in the global overview.

In any discussion of the world social situation, emphasis must be placed on the importance of far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress. Unfortunately, although the item had been included on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, national experience in that field had not been discussed by the Commission owing to the fact that, despite decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Secretariat had not prepared the necessary documentation. It was important that the Secretariat should prepare up-to-date and high-quality documentation on social questions.

With regard to the activities of the Commission and the Secretariat in the social field, he observed that the unjustifiable over-burdening of the Secretariat's work schedule with secondary items had had an adverse effect on deliberations on the important and timely problems of social development. Particular attention should be given to key problems and the duplication of work done by other United Nations bodies should be eliminated. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3273 (XXIX), the Secretariat work plan should include consideration of national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress. The Commission for Social Development and the Secretariat should also devote greater attention to the influence on the social situation of disarmament and scientific and technological change. His delegation was pleased to note that the Commission for Social Development had given due attention to such issues and had pointed out in draft resolution VII that it should concentrate on the examination of fundamental problems.

The twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development had made useful contributions with regard to a number of items including a unified approach to development analysis and planning, popular participation in development and the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

world social situation. The resolutions of the Commission and its Statement of the world social situation had received very broad support and his delegation was confident that they would be adopted by the Council.

With regard to the Conference of the International Women's Year, his delegation believed that the international plan of action which had been prepared by the Secretariat and discussed in the Consultative Committee should be issued as soon as possible. Mention should be made in that document of the changes proposed and various comments made in the Consultative Committee which had received widespread support. Furthermore, the amendments and proposals which had been submitted in writing should be issued as an annex to the report of the Consultative Committee. It was also to be hoped that the documentation which the Secretariat was preparing for the Conference would be issued as soon as possible.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that social development remained the Cinderella of the international development debate. Although a unified approach to development was gaining acceptance, its application was still far from universal. A number of factors were responsible for that situation such as the inherent difficulty of assessing qualitative progress and the supposed low rate of return over the short term on investments for social development. As the report of the Commission for Social Development had made clear, however, if long-standing basic problems were not tackled anew they would continue to cripple the over-all development effort. The task was, therefore, to deal with such problems as mass poverty, over-population and the lack of health facilities and to make every effort to overcome the inadequate development of human potential whether in developed or developing countries.

Especially in view of the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy which would be carried out in 1975, it was necessary to be conscious not only of the quantitative aspects of development but also of its qualitative aspects and the need for greater economic and social justice. Preoccupation with the gross national product and other traditional measurements must be complemented by an active concern for people.

Commenting on the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission for Social Development, he said that his delegation would support draft resolution I. It

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(Mr. Campbell, Australia)

was in agreement with the general thrust of draft resolutions II and III dealing with youth, although it remained to be convinced of the usefulness of the international document proposed in draft resolution III. His delegation had no difficulties with draft resolutions V and IX. In view of Australia's well-known commitment to the objectives of International Women's Year, it whole-heartedly supported draft resolution VIII. The potential contribution of women to development activities had been ignored or suppressed for too long and in too many countries.

Draft resolution VI received the full support of his delegation. Australia's immigration policy accorded priority to immigrants with relatives already resident in the country in the interests of achieving the proper integration and social development of migrant workers in the host society. His delegation supported resolution IV and accorded considerable importance to the question of crime prevention and control. The Commission for Social Development had postponed its consideration of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and his delegation hoped that new target date would be met.

Finally, his delegation also fully endorsed the Statement on the world social situation and believed it should receive the widest possible distribution.

Mr. NEYTCHIEV (Bulgaria) said that he was confident that the Committee's discussion of the items on its agenda would provide new impetus to efforts to solve the world's social problems. The victory of the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples over fascism nearly 30 years earlier had convinced those people that in future they would be able to live in peace. Peace was essential if social ills were to be eliminated, and further progress towards détente was a prerequisite for peace. Nations should put an end to the arms race, the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council should be reduced by 10 per cent and a world disarmament conference should be convened.

The economic and social policies of certain countries hampered the development of their own populations and subjected the developing countries to new forms of colonialism, impeding their economic growth and threatening the world social situation. The economic crisis affecting the capitalist countries was being exported to other nations.

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(Mr. Neytchev, Bulgaria)

The 1974 Report on the World Social Situation failed to indicate that the socialist countries of Eastern Europe had not been affected by the economic crisis in the capitalist countries. The conclusions drawn in the Report concerning the former group of States were based on incomplete data and did not accurately reflect the situation in those countries. For example, it would have been better to give figures for urbanization and migration relating to past years, instead of projections for 1975 based on inaccurate assumptions. In addition, those data should have been related to structural changes in the economy and to economic and social development. The part dealing with economic growth failed to discuss the role of manpower and the educational level and skills of workers, and only superficial information was provided regarding health services.

Bulgaria was succeeding in its major goal of increasing the standard of living of its population. An information system had been developed integrating economic and social data in order to show the relationship between the various factors affecting social development. The Report should have described that system.

Since the Report had been issued, the process of détente had been advanced, progress had been made towards the elimination of colonialism, and cultural ties between countries had been strengthened. However, certain economic and social problems which threatened to increase the dependence of former colonial countries had been exacerbated. In order to ensure improved social conditions in all countries, and particularly in the developing countries, in the remaining part of the Second United Nations Development Decade, the International Development Strategy, the Declaration of Social Progress and Development and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should provide guidelines for the attainment of national and international objectives. Efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger should be set within an integrated policy structure, as had been emphasized by various organs of the United Nations. It was necessary to determine those areas in which reforms were most urgently needed, to improve the distribution of national wealth and to promote popular participation. His delegation would support draft resolution VII.

Although Bulgaria did not experience problems relating to migrant workers, it

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(Mr. Neytchev, Bulgaria)

endorsed the humanitarian ideas contained in draft resolution VI. His delegation considered draft resolution VIII a positive contribution to the initiatives to be taken in the context of International Women's Year.

Mr. POEDJIOETOMO (Indonesia) said that his delegation fully supported draft resolution VIII, on equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort. Indonesia was convinced that women should have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential as individuals, to make their maximum contribution to the development of their country on the same terms as men and to receive their full share of the benefits of development. An international seminar for young women on population, education and development recently held in Indonesia had issued a declaration designed to enhance the status of women and promote the equality of rights of men and women. His Government had ratified the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, and national labour legislation contained measures which protected women and guaranteed their rights. The Indonesian Constitution guaranteed every citizen the right to an education, and many laws existed which protected the society as a whole.

Numerous women's organizations in Indonesia endeavoured to enhance the opportunities available to women so that they could assume responsibilities in public life and thus participate in the national development effort. Women's organizations reviewed laws and regulations which discriminated against women and developed new goals and policies which were submitted to the Commission on the Status of Indonesian Women, whose findings were submitted to other levels of government. His country would continue to ensure that the goals of International Women's Year and those stated in draft resolution VIII were achieved.

Turning to draft resolution I, on prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons, he said that Indonesia agreed with the Director of the Social Development Division that rehabilitation measures were required at the international and national levels to ensure that the disabled could enjoy a life with rights and dignity. Accordingly, his delegation supported the draft resolution, in particular paragraphs 3 (a) and 6. Indonesia provided care for destitute, stranded and handicapped persons and disabled children. The Department of Social Affairs, in co-operation with UNICEF, had organized training courses for

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(Mr. Poedjioetomo, Indonesia)

social workers to assist those children. The Government also assisted the mentally and physically handicapped, the blind, and the deaf and dumb. Indonesia welcomed increased United Nations efforts to improve the welfare of the disabled and urged all delegations to vote in favour of the draft resolution without any reservations.

With regard to youth policies and programmes, the United Nations should increase its efforts to help create meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in the social and economic affairs of their societies. While projects to involve youth in the development process had been launched in Indonesia with assistance from the United Nations and the Government, much more needed to be done in that area. Although the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Youth had clarified some of the attitudes of young people towards international efforts to advance peace and development, more youth groups should be given a greater voice and a higher status within the United Nations system. Indonesia had two Government-sponsored programmes which endeavoured to increase the participation of youth in development activities and provided training for youth workers. It was essential for the United Nations to reach young people in all segments of society, among the educated and highly motivated as well as among poor uneducated youth in rural areas. Otherwise, the dialogue which had slowly been developed by the United Nations and its Member States with young people would be jeopardized. Draft resolution II should be adopted without reservations.

Mr. FAKTOR (Czechoslovakia) said that social development issues were important in the context of efforts to find solutions to fundamental political problems with a view to strengthening international peace and security and broadening international co-operation. The current crisis affecting the capitalist system, whose negative consequences unfortunately were also borne by the developing countries, testified to the need for far-reaching structural and social changes. In particular, it was necessary to carry out fundamental social reforms and effective land reform and to ensure the equitable redistribution of national income and the just distribution to all strata of society of the benefits of development. The broadest popular participation in the development process should be encouraged, and the primacy of the State sector over the private sector should be ensured.

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(Mr. Faktor, Czechoslovakia)

Aid to developing countries must be provided on the basis of mutual advantage, avoiding any kind of exploitation, and should be concentrated in the State sector. Furthermore, sovereignty over natural resources should be fully respected. The position of the eight socialist countries regarding the Second United Nations Development Decade had been expressed in detail in document A/8074 of 21 September 1970. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was particularly significant in that regard.

Following the liberation of his country from fascist occupation by the victorious Soviet army, the people of Czechoslovakia, led by the Communist Party, had experienced fundamental political and social changes on the path towards socialism. The Czechoslovak people enjoyed a high standard of living and full social security. The achievements of the socialist economy and the benefits of co-operation among the socialist countries within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance were increasingly obvious at a time when the capitalist world was plagued by inflation and increasing unemployment.

Social progress, particularly in the developing countries, required the strengthening of international security, disarmament and international co-operation. Suggestions which had been discussed in other United Nations bodies for many years regarding ways to assist the developing countries had not yet been applied. One concrete contribution was the Soviet initiative which had resulted in the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution calling for the reduction of the military budgets of States permanent members of the Security Council by 10 per cent and the utilization of part of the funds thus saved to provide assistance to developing countries. The provision of such funds and the implementation of further disarmament measures would provide the means for a partial, immediate solution of the most burning problems of social development.

Mr. KIYA (Japan) said that in general his delegation could support all the draft resolutions contained in chapter I.A of document E/5617. With regard to draft resolution I, entitled "Prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons", he stressed his Government's support for earlier relevant resolutions, in particular General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI), entitled "Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons". The physically and

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(Mr. Kiya, Japan)

mentally handicapped should receive special protection, as they were unable fully to share the benefits of social and economic progress. Particular attention should be paid at the national and international levels to the problems of the elderly.

Turning to draft resolutions II and III, concerning youth, he noted that Japan's Juvenile Problem Council had made recommendations to the Government in 1972 emphasizing that a policy on youth should be an integral part of over-all national policy and should, in particular, promote the optimum use of spare time, the participation of youth and the improvement of the social, cultural and natural environment. Policies based on those recommendations were now being implemented. Although his delegation generally was in favour of resolutions which encouraged international co-operation concerning youth, it felt that further studies might be needed regarding the adoption of a new international document on youth.

With regard to draft resolution VII, concerning the world social situation, he recalled that his delegation had expressed reservations regarding certain provisions of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States at the time of its adoption at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

With regard to draft resolution VIII, on equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort, he noted that the Japanese Prime Minister had expressed his determination to make greater efforts at the national and international levels to improve the status of women. Moreover, his Government had contributed \$30,000 for activities in connexion with International Women's Year.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that growth was no longer the sole indicator of development; the well-being of the masses was equally important. On the other hand, growth was essential for development; it could increase the production capacity of a country and ensure the just distribution of its resources. What was needed was balanced and integrated development. Although the efforts of individual countries were of primary importance, they were limited by colonialism, wars of aggression, occupation, foreign exploitation, racism, apartheid, and racial discrimination, as well as by the unfair terms of trade of industrial goods and raw materials. The items dealt with in the report of the Commission for Social Development confirmed that view and revealed the importance of the Commission.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

The Report on the World Social Situation, for example, correctly noted that the persistence of colonialism, aggression and threats against national sovereignty, foreign occupation, racial discrimination and apartheid and imperialism continued to exercise a negative effect on the world social situation. The Report stressed the need for far-reaching progressive economic and social reforms. During the twenty-fourth session of the Commission, his delegation had stated its views on the Report as a whole and on the part contained in document E/CN.5/512/Add.4 in particular (E/CN.5/SR.603 and E/CN.5/SR.606). Before the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation was published in final form, the views voiced in the Commission should be considered and incorporated in it in order to make it fully relevant and useful, in accordance with the terms of United Nations resolutions and those adopted by UNESCO, ILO, WHO, and the resolutions on the occupied Territories in western Asia.

At a later stage his delegation would introduce some additions to draft resolution VII. His delegation would support the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission as a sign of full confidence in it, but reserved its right to comment in detail on the various drafts when they were taken up for consideration.

He wished to commend the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for her enthusiasm in guiding the work of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. His delegation appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Government and people of Mexico to ensure the success of the Conference of the International Women's Year. It shared the views of the Soviet delegation on the preparation of useful documentation for the Conference. Since there would be interest in the work of the Consultative Committee for the Conference and since many amendments submitted to the Committee would not be acted upon, it would be most helpful if those amendments could be circulated before the Conference. It would also be useful if United Nations documents such as the one concerning women and children in armed struggles for liberation could also be made available before the Conference.

The Committee should make continued efforts to secure for the Commission the best logistic and technical service available, and ensure that the Commission's work and recommendations were in the heart of the total development machinery of the United Nations.

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Mr. NEUGEBAUR (German Democratic Republic) said that the broad resonance which the objectives of International Women's Year had found in many countries proved that maintaining and safeguarding peace, détente, disarmament measures, ending foreign occupation, the elimination of colonialism, racism and fascism were not only important for social development in general, but especially also for the equality of women. To increase the role of women in those tasks would advance their political, economic and social development.

Although his delegation appreciated the problems that had arisen in compiling and evaluating the vast amount of information contained in the Report on the World Social Situation, it shared the reservations expressed about certain aspects of the report in general and the part relating to the socialist countries in particular. His delegation wished to emphasize again the views it had expressed on the item at the 602nd meeting of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/SR.602).

A high degree of objectivity was required in such a comprehensive and far-reaching report, in order to provide an objective and informative overview of the social development trends in the various countries. That included the presentation of certain results and achievements in the economic and social development of the socialist countries. The achievements of the German Democratic Republic in all those fields were an expression of the humanist character of his Government's policy. His delegation therefore wished to demand once again that the incorrect presentation in document E/CN.5/512/Add.5, on Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, should be corrected and that the report should be circulated in a revised version.

Furthermore, the part of the report entitled "Social trends: a global overview" (E/CN.5/512) contained no mention of the present crisis in the capitalist world, which exerted a most negative influence on all aspects of social development in the countries affected and which had deteriorated the social and living conditions of the working people. The reason and forces behind that crisis had not been analysed. No mention was made of the economic and social development of the socialist countries, which continued free of crisis.

One reason was that the method applied by the Secretariat was to divide the world simply into developed and developing countries. That was bound to distort the presentation to some extent, because it did not take into consideration the general socio-economic and socio-political differences in the various countries.

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(Mr. Neugebaur, German Democratic Republic)

In the past 25 years, the German Democratic Republic had not only succeeded in overcoming the chaos and misery left by the wars unleashed by German fascism and imperialism; it had also built up an efficient national economy and carried out fundamental economic, social and cultural changes. The successes achieved by the socialist States and the achievements in the German Democratic Republic were linked with the victory of the Soviet Union and its allies in the anti-Hitler coalition over fascism. That victory had paved the way for fundamental political, economic and social transformation, and commanded all peoples to do everything to preserve peace and to let democracy and social justice prevail everywhere. The people of his country were dedicated to that objective.

The social policy of a State could not be separated from its economic policy and from its policies in general. In the German Democratic Republic, as in all other socialist countries, no one had to be afraid of losing his job. Every citizen had good prospects for his own future and for his family. The economic situation was characterized by continuity, stability and dynamic development. As in all socialist countries, the average income of workers and employees had constantly increased. There had been no inflation or wage depreciation. Under socialist conditions, what was produced was distributed justly.

There could be no economic and social progress unless international peace and security were safeguarded. Without the creation of social ownership of the most important means of production, without the broad and democratic participation of the people in the process of planning and directing social development, the degree of social security, the high educational and cultural level of the people, their improved working and living conditions could not have been achieved. For his delegation, the item "popular participation and its practical implications for development" was also of great importance. Popular participation in all fields of social life paved the way for genuine social and economic progress in the interest of the majority of the people and made democratic rights a social reality, as had been the case in the German Democratic Republic.

It was not possible to establish neutral models and indicators for the struggle against poverty and exploitation. Nor was it possible to pursue a successful social policy without opposing aggression and occupation, colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid and racial discrimination and the arms race.

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(Mr. Neugebaur, German Democratic Republic)

The interdependence of disarmament and the satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the people was clearly postulated in article 15 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as well as in General Assembly resolutions 3093 B (XXVIII), 3260 (XXIX), 3264 (XXIX), 3256 (XXIX), and many others. To the extent that peaceful coexistence gained ground and was complemented and strengthened by disarmament arrangements, it would be possible to advance economic and social progress throughout the world. Such factors had to be considered and included in the studies made so as to achieve a comprehensive evaluation of the world social situation and of social development trends.

Some of the points he had just made had been included in condensed form in the Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade. In view of its comprehensive and fundamental character, that Statement should be included in decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the item.

Mrs. CAVALLONE (Italy) said that, as could be seen from the report on its twenty-fourth session, the Commission for Social Development considered development as an integrated process, from which it followed that planning should start from an analysis of the needs and hindrances of an economic and social nature that interfered with the achievement of development objectives. To that end, methods and instruments for obtaining basic social data and methods for qualitative analysis of social conditions such as social indicators were of great importance. As had been confirmed in the Report on the World Social Situation, there were considerable deficiencies and gaps in that area in most countries. Such deficiencies hindered planning efforts and made it difficult to establish international comparisons.

While recognizing the notable contribution of the United Nations in that field, her delegation would like to underline the importance of more intensive action aimed at providing information, technical assistance and occasions for a mutual exchange of experiences on the subject of social recording and social indicators. She added that the elaboration of social indicators, being an important aspect of development planning, should not remain the concern of specialists and policy makers, but should involve the whole gamut of professionals engaged in development and, above all, organized social forces and grass-roots movements.

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(Mrs. Cavallone, Italy)

Turning to the emphasis placed by the Commission on the necessity for considering the fundamental problems in social development and the need for changes in over-all economic and social conditions, she pointed out that there did not necessarily have to be a sharp dichotomy between that orientation and action directed at the needs and problems of specific social groups, provided that the ultimate goal of such action was development and not merely a response to immediate problems on an individual level. Unless the problems of social groups were dealt with in that perspective, there was a serious danger of perpetuating their marginality and thus failing completely to achieve the real goals of development. One example was the case of migrant workers. The Commission's draft resolution on that social group stressed the importance of action at the level of economic and social policies as well as the need for specific welfare services. Similarly, in considering the problems of migrant workers in her own country and particularly on the occasion of a recent conference on migration, her Government had reaffirmed that, in order to reduce the heavy human and social cost of emigration, action had to be taken so that migration could become a free choice. The basic problems of migration could be prevented only in the context of national integrated development planning that took into particular consideration the needs of less developed areas of the country.

The Commission for Social Development had reaffirmed the view that the unifying principle of the over-all activity of United Nations bodies dealing with social development was a common conception of integrated development. That should help to focus the programme for the coming years and provide a frame of reference for the review and reappraisal of the achievements and failures of the Second Development Decade.

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) said that the Commission for Social Development, which met only biennially, had two separate centres responsible to it, namely the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies. Since the latter had assumed the responsibilities of the Social Policy and Planning Unit of the Division only in 1973, there had not been much time for co-operative working procedures to evolve. In general, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had

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(Mrs. Picker, United States)

concentrated mainly, but not exclusively, on welfare items, while the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies had the responsibility of preparing the Report on the World Social Situation, the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy and the report on social indicators.

The Commission itself had voiced some concern about its dual responsibilities in the social welfare and social development fields. Her delegation regarded such self-evaluation as very healthy. The Commission served an important role in development, since it was the only body that considered development in its social context or in relation to what was commonly referred to as "the quality of life".

Her delegation had already expressed its appreciation for the Report on the World Social Situation, especially its introduction, and had suggested that it be transmitted to the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal.

Her delegation also believed that by encouraging work on social indicators the Commission had helped to develop a very important tool for assessing the quality of life.

Mr. WU Miao-fa (China) said his delegation wished to make a few observations on the Statement on the world social situation.

In the first place, the existing international situation was characterized by great disorder. The third world countries and peoples were daily awakening and growing in strength. The struggle against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism was being waged vigorously in various fields and continuous victories had been won. The whole situation was developing in a direction more and more favourable to the people of the world and unfavourable to colonialism and imperialism. In order to extricate themselves from their difficulties at home and abroad and to shift their crisis onto the third world countries, the super-Powers were stepping up their contention throughout the world. The so-called détente simply did not exist. Was there a shadow of détente in Europe, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean? Chanting détente every day, one super-Power was using that hackneyed tune merely as a smoke-screen to cover up its contention with the other super-Power for world hegemony. The international community should never be taken in.

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(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

Secondly, the national economies of the third world countries had long remained underdeveloped and the broad masses of the people there were still living in poverty. The root cause was the exploitation and plunder of numerous third world countries and peoples by colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism, and by the two super-Powers in particular. Only by strengthening their unity, carrying through to the end their struggles against colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism and unswervingly developing their independent national economies, thus further consolidating their political independence, could the third world countries and peoples gradually improve their social situation. Of great significance in that respect was the earnest implementation of the basic principles of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth special session, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. In that connexion, it was necessary to continue the struggle to overcome the difficulties that had been and would be encountered.

Thirdly, the reference to "effective measures towards disarmament to release resources for development" contained in the Statement was a sheer hoax squeezed in by a super-Power. His delegation was resolutely opposed to it. The facts were very clear: while talking constantly about disarmament, the two super-Powers were actually engaged in arms expansion every day. It was precisely the super-Power labelled with "socialism" that was extolling "disarmament" and "détente". Despite its difficulties at home and abroad, it had wild ambitions and was trying hard to expand its military force and establish military bases everywhere in an attempt to realize the old czarist dream of world domination. That super-Power was unabashedly peddling everywhere the lies of "disarmament". The "funds saved from disarmament", as advertised by that super-Power, were in fact delusive soap bubbles, but they were being peddled everywhere by that super-Power as being capable of "improving housing", "improving the conditions of women and children" and so forth. Now they were talking about "improving the social situation"; that was nothing new, but a sheer fraud. More and more people had come to see through that super-Power's deceptive trick. In his delegation's opinion, the disarmament fraud of that super-Power must be resolutely exposed. The present world situation was one of

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(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

ever fiercer contention between the super-Powers for world hegemony and accelerated race for arms expansion and war preparations. In those circumstances, his delegation would never allow a super-Power to insert its lies about the so-called disarmament into serious documents.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

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755th meeting

Friday, 11 April 1975,  
at 3.20 p.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/5617 and Corr.1 (Russian only), E/5615, E/5616 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/5597) (continued)

Ms. SHAHKAR (Iran) said that her delegation, without entering into details about the documents relating to the item under consideration, wished to make some comments on the draft resolutions contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development (E/5617, chap. I A).

Her delegation supported those draft resolutions on the whole and appreciated the quality of the work carried out by the Commission. It particularly supported draft resolution I, "Prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons", because it was aware of the tragic plight of such persons and of the difficulties which they faced. In that connexion, international organizations had an important role to play in which they must be encouraged.

Because it considered youth problems to be very important, her delegation supported draft resolutions II and III. In the former, it considered paragraph 1 of the draft entitled "Youth policies and programmes", containing a recommendation that the United Nations Volunteers programme be designated as the principal operational unit of the United Nations for the execution of youth programmes, to be particularly well-conceived. The programme had proved to be very fruitful and it was well received both by young people themselves and by the Governments of the countries to which they were sent. The progress achieved might appear slow, but that was due to the fact that the programme had been implemented very cautiously and judiciously. The experience gained in Iran showed that the programme was well-founded and constituted a suitable instrument for the implementation of other youth programmes, and it was therefore appropriate also to support the expansion of the terms of reference of the Special Voluntary Fund of the programme.

With regard to draft resolution III, "International policy on youth", her delegation particularly supported paragraph 2, relating to the feasibility of preparing an "international document setting out practical modalities for involving

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(Ms. Shahkar, Iran)

youth in development activities". The question deserved thorough study and it was to be hoped that the Economic and Social Council would adopt constructive decisions on that subject at its sixty-second session.

Concerning draft resolution V, "Adoption and foster placement of children", her delegation considered that the convening of a group of experts to draft guidelines on the subject (para. 4) and the holding of regional seminars (para. 6) deserved particular support. Traditions and laws differed greatly from one country to another, but what was important was to provide adequate protection and a warm human environment for children, on whom the future of mankind depended.

With regard to draft resolution VII, on the world social situation, her delegation congratulated the Secretary-General on the quality of his report (E/CN.5/512) which stressed the concept of integrated development and qualitative aspects which her Government believed to have priority importance. Also, the views set forth in the Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/CN.5/L.420 and Corr.1) generally accorded with the basic concerns of her Government. Her delegation therefore fully supported draft resolution VII.

As for equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort, which was dealt with in draft resolution VIII, the importance her Government attached to any measure aimed at improving the status of women and integrating them into the development process was well known. The declaration which H.I.H. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi had presented for signature to the Heads of State and Government of the entire world, in which they proclaimed their support for International Women's Year and undertook to take all possible measures for the advancement of women, had already received over 80 signatures.

She praised the work of the Consultative Committee, which augured well for the success of the Conference to be held in Mexico and which had shown the overriding importance of the integration of women in development and the direct connexion between solving the serious problems afflicting the world and improving the status of women. That connexion was clearly reflected in the headings - "Food",

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(Ms. Shahkar, Iran)

"Population", "Education", etc. - of the working paper submitted by Iran to the Consultative Committee on the subject of the international plan of action which the Committee was to help prepare. In that connexion, her delegation endorsed the suggestion that the document of the Consultative Committee should be made available to the representatives participating in the Conference and fully supported draft resolution VIII, which was a positive addition to the various measures adopted by the United Nations in the field of development.

Ms. FINBORUD (Norway) said that, as the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had noted in her introductory statement, it was a deplorable fact that all the development efforts so far had not brought about a decisive improvement in the world social situation, and that fact indicated the essential need to implement adequate policy measures with a view to attaining the goals of the International Development Strategy.

Her delegation complimented the Commission for Social Development on its valuable report (E/5617), and wished to focus attention on the Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade, mentioned in paragraph 1 of draft resolution VII (E/5617, chap. I A). The Statement, together with the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/512) and the note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.5/522, were valuable contributions which should be considered in conjunction with the mid-term review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, since they clearly reflected the perception of development as a complex process which called for an integrated approach.

Development in terms of economic growth should not be an end in itself, but a means to achieve social and humanitarian objectives. In that connexion, she wished to refer to the report on a unified approach to development analysis and planning contained in document E/CN.5/519, which suggested that development could not be measured only on the basis of national averages, but should be measured on the basis of its qualitative aspects. The crucial problem was to work out criteria for measuring and assessing levels of progress in the social field, and priority must therefore be accorded to research efforts aimed at developing meaningful indicators of social progress.

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(Ms. Finborud, Norway)

While it was encouraging to note that some improvements had been achieved, as the Commission for Social Development pointed out, a grave crisis was engulfing many areas of the world. In many countries progress had been severely limited, and the majority of the population continued to live in varying degrees of deprivation and mass poverty. The current situation would necessarily lead to a further elaboration of, or shifts of emphasis in, the implementation of policy measures laid down in the International Development Strategy. The tasks ahead were enormous and included many interrelated aspects of the complex development process. For example, measures should be adopted regarding public administration, land ownership, education, employment opportunities, income distribution, etc.

Her delegation supported the other draft resolutions contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development, and wished to refer in particular to draft resolution VIII, on equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort. Despite the many pronouncements and recommendations in favour of equality between men and women, such equality was still far from existing in the present-day world.

The majority of women throughout the world were affected by the serious problems which the establishment of a new international economic order was intended to solve. One of the principal aims of the new order must be the improvement of the situation of women. In connexion with the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy, a thorough review should be undertaken of the status of women and their role in economic and social development. It was to be hoped that International Women's Year, and in particular the forthcoming World Conference of the International Women's Year, would contribute substantially to the mid-term review and appraisal of the Strategy.

Efforts must be made to ensure that the development process did not perpetuate or worsen situations that were unfair to women. Norway had repeatedly stated that development should be evaluated especially on the basis of its qualitative aspects. Equality of opportunity for women - not only in economic life but also in the decision-making process - was one way of raising the quality of society. In order to achieve those aims it was imperative that traditional attitudes should change and that Governments should consider themselves politically and morally committed to adopting measures to that end.

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Mr. DEIBEL (Netherlands) said that his delegation had listened attentively to the introductory remarks on the item under consideration by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in the hopes of finding explicit reference to the importance of - indeed, the need for - consideration of social factors in United Nations forums that dealt primarily with economic matters, such as the bodies engaged in preparations for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly. His delegation regretted that, once again, such specific reference had not been forthcoming. Apparently it was difficult to do more than pay lip service to what was called a unified approach to development analysis and planning.

However, his delegation was of the opinion that every opportunity should be taken to consider social and economic factors on an integrated basis. As a practical measure to that end, he suggested that the 1974 Report on the World Social Situation be taken into account in the documentation of the bodies involved in the preparations for the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, a stronger effort was needed to make the unified approach concept more operative. In that context his delegation suggested that the Social Committee should invite the Director of the Centre for Development Planning, Projections and Policies to present the Centre's views on the incorporation of social factors in the discussions on the new international economic order.

His delegation wished to make some remarks concerning the unified approach, popular participation and social indicators. Industrialization had led to a concentration of the means of production and growing social inequality. The structure of production had not adjusted to social objectives; in fact, on the whole, the reverse had happened. More Government influence on the means of production was appropriate only if carried out by popular participation, involving every form of communication between population and decision-makers that directly influenced decisions and enabled the population to collaborate in the balanced integration of the economic and social aspects of society. If such participation was to be operational it must primarily be effected at the level of the country or smaller functional unit, since it was at those levels that the social and economic factors could be appropriately linked.

Such a limited, geographical approach would also make it possible to differentiate the social indicators by region, country or smaller unit. A social

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(Mr. Deibel, Netherlands)

indicator was a measurable component of one or more aspects of the social structure. Each social system had its own identity and its own levels of development; accordingly each region required specific social indicators and it was impossible to try and formulate global indicators. Moreover, the possibilities of collecting the necessary statistical data still varied greatly in different parts of the world.

His delegation considered it important that social indicators should be limited in number, established by region and directed at basic elements of development. It might be wise for the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to limit the scope of its studies on social indicators to the following points:

(1) the extent to which different sectors of the population shared in the benefits of development and progress (which could be determined on the basis of such indicators as income, housing and health care); (2) the obstacles that might confront various population groups with regard to the accessibility of social welfare provisions.

If it was possible through those indicators to demonstrate the changes in degree of social injustice and the relevant obstacles, decision-makers would then have at their disposal objective criteria for balanced social and economic development policies.

His delegation supported the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission for Social Development (E/5617, chap. I A) and wished to comment briefly on them.

With regard to the draft resolutions concerning youth (II and III), the measures designed to promote the active participation of young people in the development of their respective societies had the concrete support of the Netherlands Government. The designation of the United Nations Volunteers programme as the principal operational unit for the execution of youth programmes was in line with the original terms of reference. The expansion of activities would relate primarily to training programmes for youth workers and pilot projects concerning the participation of youth in the development process. The UNDP Governing Council had already authorized the United Nations Volunteers programme to undertake programmes supporting volunteer organizations in the developing countries. His delegation wished to emphasize that the five-year-old international volunteers programme should not suffer from those new activities, which would have to be approached with caution until it was proved that their multiplier effect was positive and sufficient experience had been gained.

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(Mr. Deibel, Netherlands)

As far as draft resolution V, on adoption and foster placement of children, was concerned, his delegation wished to propose that in view of increasing intercountry adoption, in particular between different parts of the world, the Secretariat should make a further appeal to Governments which had not yet replied to the questionnaire. On the basis of a comprehensive inventory the group of experts mentioned in the draft resolution might be requested to make recommendations for adaptation of the 12 principles on intercountry adoption formulated several years earlier at Leysin, in Switzerland.

As for the question of migrant workers, referred to in draft resolution VI, his delegation was keenly interested in the new international convention currently under discussion in the ILO. International migration of workers not only had repercussions on the labour market but also raised serious problems of housing, education, discrimination and remigration. His Government, in co-operation with non-governmental organizations, had initiated a comprehensive programme on all those aspects. For example, the equivalent of \$6 million had been set aside in 1975 to promote industry in the countries of origin of the migrant workers, and \$10 million were available for the promotion of vocational training programmes in those countries.

Finally, with regard to equality of opportunity for women in the total development effort, which was dealt with in draft resolution VIII, he pointed out that that goal would be achieved not only by legislation and other regulations but also, and in particular, by changes in the attitude and outlook of both men and women, and he hoped that that process of change would be reinforced through the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

Mr. PUNTSAGNOROV (Mongolia), after congratulating the officers, praised the work of the Secretariat and the authors of the Report on the World Social Situation. However, the document had a number of deficiencies - a biased approach, a lack of clarity in defining specific points, superficiality and a lack of coherence in portraying the development of the socialist countries, etc. - all due to the fact that the viewpoints and methods of western sociology had been adopted. A fundamental requirement in such a document was that it should objectively reflect the social situation within the context of opposing ideologies. The report should pay the utmost attention to the situation of the different economic and social

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(Mr. Puntsagnorov, Mongolia)

systems. The references to lack of statistical data on some countries were not convincing, and in Mongolia there was ample information on the social situation. The report quite rightly drew attention to the worsening economic and social situation in many countries. Nevertheless, it was necessary to improve the content, and in particular, to adopt a less sweeping and more analytical approach, and to rationalize documents.

The 1974 Report on the World Social Situation drew attention to the seriousness of social problems and their relationship with the world political climate. The conclusions of the report should arouse concern in the conscience of mankind. In the developing countries poverty and unemployment were rampant. By 1969, 40 per cent of the population in the developing countries - one quarter of the total world population - had been plunged into poverty. Hunger and disease afflicted hundreds of millions of persons. Malnutrition was the principal cause of infant mortality. In the circumstances, huge and unproductive military expenditure was anachronistic. In order to solve social problems, whether national or international, it was essential to strengthen détente, to halt the arms race and to eliminate racism and colonialism. His delegation supported the parts of the report which indicated that international measures should include assistance to combat poverty and which recommended disarmament as a means of releasing resources to be used for development. The permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent, as had been proposed at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The world disarmament conference would contribute to the solution of social problems.

Although it did not give a clear picture of the social situation in the socialist countries, the Report highlighted two definite trends: in the capitalist world - beset by the energy crisis, monetary instability and shortages of raw materials - unemployment was increasing and the situation of the masses was worsening; in contrast, the socialist countries were characterized by stability, economic growth and improvement in the social well-being of workers. After defeating Hitler, thanks to the USSR, the socialist countries had outstripped the capitalist countries in economic growth. The rise in national income had been eight times greater for the former than for the latter. In a brief period of time

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(Mr. Puntsagnorov, Mongolia)

Mongolia had gone from feudalism to full development; private ownership of the means of production and the exploitation of man by man had been abolished; and the material and technological groundwork for socialism was being done through industrialization, agricultural mechanization and the extension of technology in all spheres. Between 1961 and 1973 industrial output had increased at an average rate of 10 per cent each year. Education and medical care was free of charge and financed from the national budget. The level of instruction was equal to that in the most highly developed countries. There was one physician for each 504 inhabitants and 99 hospital beds for each 10,000 inhabitants. Real income continued to rise with increasing sums being allocated to public needs. The Government had taken steps to establish pensions and increase allowances for large families.

Mongolia was observing International Women's Year and had established a national committee for the purpose, which had undertaken activities designed to promote the participation of women in development and had sent representatives to participate in all international conferences and seminars.

Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) noted with satisfaction that the report of the Commission for Social Development gave considerable attention to the question of migrant workers, which was a world-wide problem. Her delegation welcomed paragraph 7 of draft resolution VI and endorsed the inclusion in the report of the issue of workers' participation in decision-making. That topic should be dealt with in future reports. The question of ethnic and cultural minorities should be more thoroughly studied and developed by the Secretariat. Her country had certain reservations with regard to the item on regional development. As for paragraph 1 of resolution 7 (XXIV) of the Commission for Social Development, she hoped that recommendations would be addressed to Governments and to the United Nations system.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would invite the observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to make a statement.

It was so decided.

Mr. GOLOVKO (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) congratulated the Bureau and, referring to the work of the Commission for Social

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(Mr. Golovko, Observer for  
the Ukrainian SSR)

Development at its twenty-fourth session, expressed regret at the delay in the distribution of the Report on the World Social Situation and trusted that there would be no repetition of that situation at the next session. The basic drawback of the Report was that it viewed social problems apart from the context of political events and the world situation. It was no accident that the Report and the Statement differed in their evaluations and general conclusions. The Report did not give sufficient attention to the changes that had taken place in the socialist countries. The line of demarcation between developed and developing countries was not sufficiently clear. The achievements of the socialist countries were minimized, and the problems of the capitalist countries were dealt with only partially. The approach did not focus on the positive trends or provide any help in understanding the existing differences. The Report failed to consider the consequences of colonial domination and exploitation by foreign capital. Moreover, it regarded oil prices as being unduly inflated. Population control was no substitute for far-reaching changes. He regretted that the Commission for Social Development had not been able, for lack of documents, to consider national experience in achieving economic and social changes.

He paid a tribute to the Soviet victory over Hitlerism without which the world would not exist as it did today and there would be no United Nations.

The Ukrainian SSR endorsed the holding of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and hoped that the amendments proposed and the observations made at the March meetings of the Consultative Committee would be included as an annex to its report and taken into account in preparing the plan of action.

It was essential to eliminate duplication in United Nations bodies dealing with social issues. Resolution 7 (XXIV) of the Commission for Social Development indicated the need to concentrate on problems of social development and deplored the adverse effects of persistent colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and all forms of imperialism on the world social situation. In the remaining part of the Decade, such basic documents as the Statement and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should continue to provide guidelines for both national and international policies and for the activities of the United Nations.

He supported the adoption of effective measures towards disarmament to

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(Mr. Golovko, Observer for  
the Ukrainian SSR)

release resources for development. The socialist countries advocated ending the arms race and reducing military budgets. At the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly, the USSR had sponsored a resolution, which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority, urging the permanent members of the Security Council to reduce their military budgets by 10 per cent and to utilize the funds thus saved to provide assistance to the developing countries. The holding of a world disarmament conference, which was endorsed by the developing countries, would also make possible the release of substantial funds. He recalled the proposal that had been made at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly to the effect that the use of the environment for military purposes should be prohibited, and stressed the interest which all countries had in that proposal. In conclusion, he observed that the success of the work of the Commission for Social Development would depend on the attention given to the real problems of economic and social development.

Mr. FADHLI (Democratic Yemen), summarizing the highlights of the achievements of the Government and peoples of his country, said that as far as youth policy was concerned, an independent organization named the Union of Democratic Yemeni Youth had been set up and was participating effectively at all levels of political and social planning and in the execution of programmes, building schools and roads and carrying on a campaign for the eradication of illiteracy, etc.

With regard to education, the number of schools had quintupled since independence. There were 949 primary schools, 87 secondary schools and in 1974 the University of Aden had been established. In addition, two institutions of higher education in the field of socialist studies had been established. Special schools for the nomadic Bedouins had been established in various parts of the country.

An independent Women's Union had been formed which also participated at all levels of the planning and execution of political and social development programmes. In conformity with General Assembly resolution 3276 (XXIX), concerning the World Conference of the International Women's Year, a national committee had been formed which was responsible for the preparation for International Women's Year in

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(Mr. Fadhli, Democratic Yemen)

Democratic Yemen. A family planning law had been passed prohibiting the marriage of a man to more than one wife and prohibiting divorce without the consent of the courts of Democratic Yemen.

With regard to paragraph 4 of draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development, concerning migrant workers, his delegation would emphasize the need for the specialized agencies to participate to a greater extent in that sphere and to co-ordinate their work with the regional commissions and with Governments.

With regard to draft resolution VII, concerning the world social situation, his delegation would have preferred to see some mention of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly, in view of the great importance that developing countries attached to that Declaration.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that at the morning meeting one representative had made slanderous accusations about the Soviet Union's policy on disarmament. It was well known that the Soviet Union believed that détente, disarmament and co-operation between States were the only alternative to another world war. For that reason, the Soviet Union would continue to sponsor, within the United Nations and outside it, measures aimed at achieving disarmament and ending the arms race, and it was convinced that those initiatives were strongly supported by all countries interested in maintaining international peace. The representative of China had made slanderous accusations which proved that his country was an enemy of détente and did not recognize the importance of the international agreements reached through negotiations aimed at securing international peace.

China's hegemonistic position was shown in its opposition to the convening of a world disarmament conference and to the Soviet initiative that the permanent members of the Security Council should reduce their military budgets and utilize the funds thus saved to provide assistance to the developing countries. It was well known that for many years China had refused to take part in disarmament talks and that it had not signed the Treaties on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and on Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and in Outer Space, or the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. Those were certain facts which could not be denied; yet the Chinese delegation presumed to speak on behalf of the third world with the aim of confusing the developing countries.

He quoted the Presidents of the Congo and the Gambia, who had recently made statements in the Soviet Union in favour of détente, general and complete disarmament and the convening of a world disarmament conference. He also quoted article 15 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which proclaimed that all States had the duty to promote the achievement of general and complete disarmament and to utilize the resources thus freed for the economic and social development of countries, allocating a substantial portion of such resources as additional means for the development needs of developing countries.

It was clear that China's attempt to assume the right to speak on behalf of the third world was absolutely groundless. When listing the difficulties which States encountered in achieving economic and social development, colonialism and imperialism were usually mentioned, but China's hegemonism should also be added to the list.

In conclusion, he cited the remarks made recently in the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of the Soviet Union, who had said that the Chinese representative never proposed anything positive or constructive and that all his statements were confused and were covered by a veil of anti-Sovietism.

Mr. Wu, Miao-fa (China), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Soviet representative had made a slanderous attack against the Chinese delegation and a futile attempt to cover up the features of social imperialism. His delegation's statement had uncovered the essence of the matter so that it was small wonder that the Soviet representative had become so exasperated. The Soviet representative had endlessly harped on using the so-called funds saved through disarmament for aid to the developing countries: that demagogic propaganda was nothing but a cheap fraud. The Soviet Union trumpeted disarmament but had never reduced the number of its war ships or missiles. In reality, it was engaged in frenzied arms expansion and in war preparations in

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(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

contention with the other super-Power with the aim of attaining world hegemony. As his delegation had stated long ago, if the Soviet Union really wished to give aid to the developing countries it should first of all declare that all the military aid used for resisting foreign aggression would be granted freely, that all the past military loans would be cancelled and that it would not practise extortion against other countries by taking advantage of their difficulties. It should also declare that it would not subject other countries to intervention, control, subversion and exploitation in the name of "aid". Would that not be more practical than empty talk about disarmament?

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in his second statement the Chinese representative had repeated his anti-Soviet attacks and his habitual fabrications. His delegation had no intention of entering into polemics in order to refute slander. The Chinese representatives used the United Nations as a forum for attacks against the Soviet Union, and their aim was clear: they were trying to distract the attention of the United Nations organs and to avoid an ordered debate on the various subjects.

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) joined other delegations in expressing concern about the documentation for the World Conference of the International Women's Year. The initiative for the celebration of International Women's Year had originated in the United Nations, and the Organization should do everything in its power to ensure the success of the undertaking. The Consultative Committee for the World Conference of the International Women's Year, which had met in New York in March, had been informed of the efforts made by the Government of Mexico to provide the best possible conditions for the holding of the Conference. He expressed appreciation of Mexico's attitude and promised that his country would do everything in its power to achieve the same end. However, all those efforts could be jeopardized if the Secretariat did not prepare the documentation in time and did not incorporate in the draft plan of action for the World Conference of the International Women's Year all the proposals which had been made during the meeting of the Consultative Committee.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that his delegation also considered it

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

very important that the documentation for the World Conference of the International Women's Year should appear in time, but it could not accept the suggestion that all the amendments which had been made at the time to the plan of action should be included in the Consultative Committee's report. That would mean reproducing a minimum of 80 pages of amendments in all the languages, which would be costly and would have to be financed solely from the fund of voluntary contributions. Those who had made contributions to the fund would wonder whether that was the purpose to which they wished their donations to be devoted.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) associated himself with the speakers who had stressed the urgency of receiving the documentation for the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to be held in Mexico City on 19 June.

Miss St. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Committee) informed representatives that the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was ready in English, French and Spanish and was available to members of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

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756th meeting

Monday, 14 April 1975,  
at 10.55 a.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolutions (E/5617, chap. I, section A; draft decision (a), section B;  
E/AC.7/L.677-L.679)

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) introduced an amendment to the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution VI, dealing with migrant workers (E/5617, chap. I, section A). The amendment (E/AC.7/L.677) was intended to eliminate the negative implications of a specific reference to the citizens of the receiving States. If that reference was retained, there was a danger that it might incite to ethnic or racial discrimination against migrant workers.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica), noting that her delegation had co-sponsored the amendment, endorsed the remarks of the representative of Yugoslavia. Migratory movements were both a blessing and an evil, and migration was a very important issue for the Caribbean area. It was a problem warranting international attention because it reflected a serious imbalance in regional development. Draft resolution VI represented a major advance in developing appropriate policy for migrant workers and supplemented the work of the specialized agencies on the problem. However, the fifth preambular paragraph, by referring specifically to the citizens of the receiving States, distorted the perspective in which the problems of migratory movements should be viewed and placed disproportionate emphasis on the effects of migration on the citizens of the receiving States. In dealing with the problems of international migration, the receiving States and the sending States should be placed on the same footing since both experienced the effects of migratory movements.

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) observed that the Commission for Social Development, in addition to the cogent resolutions it had adopted on a number of serious social and economic problems, had issued a Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5617, p. 15), which the Algerian delegation unreservedly supported. It also

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(Mr. Lehtihet, Algeria)

supported all the draft resolutions contained in section A of chapter I of the Commission's report (E/5617) with the exception of draft resolution V, on adoption and foster placement of children. It would abstain in a vote on draft resolution V because Algeria was a Moslem country and adoption was not recognized under Moslem law. Moreover, the complexity and difficulties involved in the action called for by the draft resolution made it doubtful that it could be effectively implemented.

Economic relations between States were still governed by an anachronistic economic order and the current economic crisis had placed severe restraints on the economic and social development of the poor countries and further widened the gap between the developed and developing worlds. In particular, there was an urgent need to revise trade arrangements between the two groups and to remedy the dangerous disequilibrium in world trade.

Draft resolution IX, on popular participation and its practical implications for development, was of special interest to his delegation because popular participation in economic and social development in Algeria had become a reality since independence, and workers held high posts in industry, agriculture, cultural activities, etc. The Algerian delegation was also pleased to support draft resolution VI, on migrant workers, an issue of primary importance to the Algerian Government. Solidarity with Algerians working abroad had recently been expressed in seminars organized by the National Manpower Office on the reintegration of those migrant workers upon their return to Algeria. The discussion had centered on a three-stage procedure for absorption of returning migrant workers as part of a new approach to the whole problem of migration. That new policy had been launched by an agreement concluded in April 1974 with the German Democratic Republic guaranteeing against exploitation of Algerian migrant workers and providing for their training, advancement and social protection. Algeria had in fact reversed its emigration policy and was now giving priority to solving the difficult problems of the reabsorption of returning workers, such as housing, readaptation, schooling and the restructuring of family life. It was estimated that Algeria would be able to accommodate as many as 60,000 returning workers in the near future. It was profoundly grateful to ILO and other United Nations specialized agencies for their efforts to see that social justice was applied to migrant workers.

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Miss OBREGON (Colombia), referring to draft resolution I, on prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons, said that her delegation had been a sponsor of the original draft resolution in the Commission for Social Development.

In the interests of development and as a matter of social justice, it was essential that handicapped persons should be integrated in the economic life of nations and that their rights should be fully respected. Draft resolution I adopted a generous, humanitarian approach to the problem and deserved unanimous support.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) endorsed the remarks made by the sponsors of the amendment to draft resolution VI (E/AC.7/L.677) and said that the Mexican delegation wished to become a sponsor.

The CHAIRMAN, observing that draft resolutions I to VI had been adopted by the Commission for Social Development without a vote, suggested that the Committee might wish to follow that precedent.

Draft resolution I was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution II was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution III was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution IV was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution V was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution VI, as amended (E/AC.7/L.677), was adopted without a vote.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that his delegation's support of draft resolution II should not be construed as any change in Soviet youth policy and programmes. Moreover, it was his delegation's understanding that the implementation of paragraphs 4 and 6 of draft resolution V would not entail additional expenditure under the regular budget of the United Nations.

Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) recalled that in the Commission for Social Development his delegation had supported draft resolutions II and III, for practical reasons. The two proposals offered greater opportunities for implementing the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 1972 and 1973

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

concerning channels of communication with youth and the participation of youth in development. The provisions of the two texts concerning concrete measures for financing youth programmes and, practical modalities to be worked out in the United Nations for involving youth in development activities and for increasing opportunities for such involvement through United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and research were of special importance for the future. Indeed, the surge of interest manifested in the United Nations in the participation of youth in development should be maintained and strengthened by concerted action within the context of activities to establish a new economic order.

Mrs. DIALLO (Guinea) said that, since development required a multifaceted approach aimed at the harmonious integration of all social groups, including young people and women, her Government was establishing an infrastructure and devoting substantial resources for training youth and women to become productive participants in the development process. Draft resolutions II, III, IV and VIII represented the minimum that could be accomplished within the United Nations system.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take a decision on draft resolutions VIII and IX, as well as draft decision (a) in section B (E/5617).

Draft resolutions VIII and IX were adopted without a vote.

Draft decision (a) in section B was adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider draft resolution VII, on the world social situation.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), introducing the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.679, said they were not controversial and his delegation hoped they would receive the full support of the Committee. The first of the new preambular paragraphs proposed by his delegation contained a reference to General Assembly resolution 2771 (XXVI). Such a reference was important and logical, inasmuch as the resolution in question dealt with the Assembly's consideration of the world social situation in 1970. It was both useful and relevant to establish a link between the Assembly's consideration of the situation in 1970 and in 1974.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

The second new preambular paragraph proposed contained a reference to the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on its establishment. The Commission's Statement on the world social situation referred to the basic documents relating to the social development process; the Declaration and Programme of Action should be included among them, since the desired development could not take place without a new international economic order. His delegation had originally felt that the reference to the new international economic order should be included in the Commission's Statement on the world social situation. The United Kingdom representative had suggested that no changes should be made in the Commission's Statement; his delegation had therefore decided to introduce the idea in the preamble of the draft resolution. The word "as" should be inserted in that amendment, between the words "establishment" and "adopted", in order to enable the Committee to avoid a controversial discussion that might hamper its work.

The second of the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.679 merely provided for a logical reordering of the two operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, since the Economic and Social Council should first reaffirm the importance of the Commission's work and then endorse its Statement.

Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) supported draft resolution VII and the Egyptian amendment. She congratulated the Commission for Social Development on its Statement on the world social situation, which pinpointed the many unsolved problems of the first half of the Decade and stressed the urgency of solving them if the Decade was to achieve anything. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Statement referred to the deterioration of the world economic situation, which was felt particularly by the most vulnerable social groups, such as youth, women and migrant workers, and showed the need for rapid change. Both the Statement and the Egyptian amendment to the draft resolution provided important guidelines for action and reflected the needs of the international community, thus placing the rest of the Decade in the proper perspective.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported draft resolution VII because the Commission's Statement on the world social situation accurately described the first half of the Second

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Development Decade. The Statement was the result of very hard work by the Commission, which at its most recent session had had the opportunity to study the problems of economic and social development and to consider the Report on the World Situation in the light of the objectives of the Second Development Decade. The conclusions reached by the Commission for Social Development were extremely important.

His delegation supported the Egyptian amendment, particularly its reference to General Assembly resolution 2771 (XXVI). The amendment focused attention on the development of the world social situation and the trends during the past four years.

In conclusion, he reiterated that his delegation was willing to support the draft resolution and the Egyptian amendment, bearing in mind that the Commission's Statement would be annexed to the text adopted.

Mr. NEUGEBAUR (German Democratic Republic) supported the draft resolution and the Egyptian amendment, and expressed the hope that a decision would be taken as soon as possible.

Mr. FADHLI (Democratic Yemen) pointed out that the Egyptian representative's revision of his amendment meant that every delegation could maintain the same position as it had held at the sixth special session of the General Assembly. The addition of the word "as" changed the meaning of the entire paragraph and should require no further explanation.

Mr. MAHMUD (Pakistan) said that the Commission for Social Development had given much thought and effort to the formulation of draft resolution VII. The Council should endorse the views set out in the Commission's Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade, and the Commission should concentrate its activities on the examination of the fundamental problems of social development, as stated in the draft resolution. The Egyptian amendment simply asked the Council to bear in mind the new international economic order as outlined at the sixth special session of the General Assembly. He congratulated the Egyptian delegation on its choice of words; his own delegation would only have made them more emphatic. Egypt had wisely decided on a more acceptable formulation, which his delegation supported. The reference to the Declaration and Programme of Action should have been included in the text of the Statement; it should at least be included in the preamble of the draft resolution.

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(Mr. Mahmud, Pakistan)

His delegation urged the Committee to adopt draft resolution VII and the Egyptian amendment without dissent in the same manner as it had adopted the other draft resolutions of the Commission.

Mr. ALEMAH (Uganda) supported the Egyptian amendment to draft resolution VII.

Mr. WU Miao-fa (China) expressed support for the Egyptian amendment.

At the 754th meeting, his delegation had stated its position regarding certain points in the Statement on the world social situation. He stressed that his delegation firmly opposed the inclusion of the phrase "effective measures towards disarmament to release resources for development," in paragraph 11 of the Statement. He formally proposed the deletion of that phrase; if it was not deleted, he would request a separate vote on it.

The CHAIRMAN invited the observer for Morocco to make a statement.

Mr. LAHLOU (Observer for Morocco) said that his delegation agreed in general with the various draft resolutions that had been discussed by the Committee. The objectives of those draft resolutions were in line with the social policy of his country. He wished to inform members briefly of socio-economic developments in Morocco.

Ever since it had achieved independence, Morocco had worked constantly to mobilize all the productive energies of the country and encourage everyone to contribute, within his sphere of activity, to the over-all effort. The underlying principle of his country's development was the sharing of the country's wealth by the largest possible number of citizens in order that social justice might prevail. Within the context of a liberal economy, based on the ideology of Islam, a high growth rate could be achieved which still primarily benefited the individual citizen.

Morocco had to face problems that were common to all developing countries. The first such problem was that of housing and the environment. The population explosion and the rural exodus had brought about a crisis in housing, both urban and rural. The current five-year plan envisaged an ambitious solution to that problem. Another problem area with which the Committee was rightly concerned was

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(Mr. Lahlou, Observer for Morocco)

youth. His country was making a great effort to meet the needs of its young people, through appropriate educational techniques and cultural activities. A number of young people had been sent abroad to improve their education and benefit from the experience of other countries. Moroccan youth made a decided contribution to the development of their country.

He wished to stress that, since independence, Moroccan women had never been institutionally discriminated against. There were certain handicaps inherent in their nature, but women benefited from programmes aimed at improving their status and their awareness of their family, social and civic role. During the past year special training had been provided to more than 100,000 women and girls.

The current five-year plan had other even more ambitious objectives which were inspired by his country's desire to take advantage of its full potential and to bring its economy to the take-off stage. The King had recently stated that it was important to reach the final take-off stage as soon as possible. He had stated that the God-given riches of Morocco could not be properly exploited, in accordance with the national reality and needs, without qualified Moroccan cadres. He had stressed the need to ensure the application of his people's socialist philosophy reflecting the teachings of the Koran. Thus, each Moroccan would be able to decide his own destiny.

Mr. DUBUC (Venezuela) suggested that the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should be mentioned in the second of the preambular paragraphs proposed in the Egyptian amendment (E/AC.7/L.679). The Charter had been approved by the majority of Member States and was closely connected with the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) supported the suggestion made by the representative of Venezuela. The Charter was too important a document to be ignored in considering the world social situation.

Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that her delegation supported draft resolution VII and the Egyptian amendment.

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Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) suggested that, if the Venezuelan subamendment was adopted, a foot-note should be added to the effect that the reference to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States should not be interpreted as indicating a change in the positions of delegations on the Charter as stated at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) said that his delegation could not accept the inclusion of a foot-note as suggested by the United Kingdom representative, since the Charter had been overwhelmingly approved. He asked that the Venezuelan subamendment be put to the vote.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation had not referred to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States in its amendment because the Charter had been mentioned in the Statement of the Commission for Social Development. His delegation had no objection to the Venezuelan subamendment.

Mrs. PICKER (United States of America) said that her delegation was in favour of the inclusion of a foot-note as proposed by the United Kingdom representative. It suggested that in paragraph 1 of draft resolution VII, the word "Endorses" be changed to "Welcomes".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that it would be inappropriate to include a foot-note; if delegations had reservations about the Charter, they could express them in their statements and could abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

After a discussion in which Mrs. PICKER (United States of America), Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) and Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) participated, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the discussion on draft resolution VII should be continued in an informal meeting.

It was so decided.

Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy), introducing draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678, on capital punishment, said that the Italian Government had always followed United Nations action on capital punishment with close attention. Four reports on capital punishment had been produced and the Secretary-General had been invited to present

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(Mr. Cavaglieri, Italy)

to the Council periodic updated and analytical reports at five-year intervals, in Economic and Social Council resolution 1745 (LIV). The reports issued so far had clarified the world situation as regarded capital punishment and had reconfirmed the complexity of the problem. Over the years there had been favourable signs of a gradual movement towards the restriction and in some cases the abolition of capital punishment. On the occasion of the latest report of the Secretary-General (E/5616), various delegations were submitting draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678. The sponsors were well aware that political and social circumstances might prevent some Governments from completely eliminating capital punishment, but their aim was to continue to focus the attention of the United Nations on the problem and to encourage further study of it. The sponsors were confident that in time the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in respect of the right to life would be generally realized.

He announced that the Netherlands had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Secretary-General of the World Conference of the International Women's Year) said that certain delegations had expressed concern about the availability of documentation for the World Conference of the International Women's Year to be held in Mexico in June. It was hoped that the basic documentation for the Conference would be circulated within the six-week time-limit, that is to say early in May. The draft world plan of action was being revised and expanded by the Secretariat, taking into account the comments made and amendments suggested in the Consultative Committee; it was hoped that the plan would be issued in the five languages of the Conference on 21 April. Ten of the background documents were being processed and should be available early in May, and the other seven would be issued as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

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757th meeting

Monday, 14 April 1975,  
at 4.15 p.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (E/5617; E/AC.7/L.677 to L.679) (continued)

Ms. PICKER (United States of America) said that, having held informal consultations in an attempt to reach a compromise, her delegation would suggest that, in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution VII, the word "generally" should be inserted between "Endorses" and "the views" and that, with regard to the amendments submitted by Egypt and Venezuela, the Committee should adopt the United Kingdom suggestion concerning the insertion of a foot-note indicating that some delegations reserved their opinion.

Mr. LOPEZ BASSOLS (Mexico) said that his delegation could not agree to the use of the word "generally". He also categorically rejected the suggestion to add a foot-note because it would undermine the whole concept of the resolution, by leaving a resolution open to individual interpretations. In an attempt to arrive at a compromise formula his delegation proposed that the subamendment submitted by Venezuela should be put to the vote.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that, for the sake of clarity, the two preambular paragraphs proposed by Egypt in document E/AC.7/L.679 should be voted on separately. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the first of those preambular paragraphs.

It was so decided.

Mr. TUROT (France) requested that the second preambular paragraph proposed by Egypt, with the subamendment proposed by Venezuela, should be read out to the Committee.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) thought that the words "as adopted" should be used in both cases, that is, in the reference to the Declaration and the Programme of Action and in the reference to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Committee) read out the second preambular paragraph proposed by Egypt, as amended by Venezuela, which now read as follows:

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(Miss St. Claire)

"Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Programme of Action on its establishment as adopted during the sixth special session of the General Assembly, and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States as adopted (reference to the relevant resolution)".

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that, with that wording, there would be no need for a foot-note.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted the second preambular paragraph proposed by Egypt, as amended by Venezuela.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted the second amendment submitted by Egypt, whereby the order of the two operative paragraphs of the draft resolution would be reversed.

It was so decided.

Ms. PICKER (United States of America) requested a separate vote on operative paragraph 2, which had originally been paragraph 1.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote operative paragraph 2, which appeared as paragraph 1 in the original text (E/5617, chap. I).

Operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution was adopted by 46 votes to 1.

The CHAIRMAN put draft resolution VII, as a whole, as amended, to the vote.

Draft resolution VII, as amended, was adopted by 46 votes to none.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that he had voted for the draft resolution but against the reference made to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States in paragraph 6 of the Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, although he had voted in favour of the resolution, for the reasons he had given in the general debate his delegation maintained the reservations it had expressed at the time of the adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. With regard

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

to paragraph 11 of the Statement, his delegation had no reservations but wished to emphasize that it referred to effective measures towards disarmament and not to propaganda activities.

Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that, while it had voted in favour of draft resolution VII, his delegation maintained the reservations it had expressed at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development regarding the reference made in paragraph 6 of the Statement to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Mr. WU, Miao-fa (China) said that his delegation had not taken part in the voting on draft resolution VII because it was opposed to the phrase "effective measures towards disarmament to release resources for development" appearing in paragraph 11 of the Statement on the world social situation in the first half of the Second United Nations Development Decade. If a separate vote had been taken on those words, his delegation would have voted against them.

Mr. ALKEN (Denmark) said that, although his delegation had voted for the draft resolution, that did not imply any change in its position regarding the contents of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Mr. TUROT (France) said that, while it had voted for the draft resolution, his delegation maintained the reservations it had expressed at the time of adoption of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that his delegation's vote in favour of the draft resolution did not prejudice its views regarding the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Mr. KIYA (Japan) said that, although he had voted for the draft resolution, his attitude regarding the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States remained unchanged.

Mr. AGUILAR (Spain) said that the fact that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution did not imply any change in the position it had adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly concerning the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

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Ms. PICKER (United States of America) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because it found it difficult to support a resolution in which the Economic and Social Council endorsed opinions against which the United States had voted in the General Assembly and the Commission for Social Development.

Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada) said that, although his delegation had voted for the draft resolution, it maintained the opinions previously expressed on the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had voted unreservedly for the draft resolution, because it constituted an important contribution by the Economic and Social Council to the improvement of the world social situation. Since the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session had supported the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, his delegation had no difficulty with paragraph 6 of the Statement. As for paragraph 11, it felt that disarmament was important from both the economic and the social point of view.

The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had concluded its consideration of draft resolution VII and invited members to return to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678 on capital punishment, which had been introduced by Italy.

Mr. MALIK (Pakistan) took the opportunity to inform the Committee about practices in Pakistan with regard to capital punishment. In Pakistan, the death sentence could be imposed only in cases of murder, dacoity, the waging of war or abetting of such acts against Pakistan, abetting of mutiny, if mutiny was committed in consequence thereof, and the giving of false evidence with intent to cause the conviction or execution of another person. Those offences could also be punished by transportation for life.

Persons accused of murder were tried in Courts of Session. A person sentenced to death not only had the right of appeal, but the judge must also refer the case to the High Court. A condemned person also had the right to have recourse to the Supreme Court. Furthermore, the judgement of the High Court was submitted to the Supreme Court, if the former certified that the case involved a substantial question of law and if a death sentence or sentence of life imprisonment had been imposed. Lastly, the Governor of the province concerned and the President of Pakistan had the power to grant pardons.

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(Mr. Malik, Pakistan)

Although the death sentence was rarely carried out, the Government of Pakistan was opposed to total abolition of capital punishment.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment (E/5616), expressed the hope that in the future, reports of that kind would be based on information provided by States and not unofficial data which might be in the possession of the Secretariat.

Mr. TUROT (France) said that capital punishment still existed in his country, although, thanks to the pardon which the head of State could grant, its application was very limited. Subparagraph (b) of the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678 was somewhat vague; it was not clear whether it was the total number of offences or the number of offences for which the death penalty could be imposed under national legislation that had declined. Perhaps the sponsors of the draft resolution could draft the text in a more precise manner. In his delegation's view, it should be understood that what had declined was the total number of offences for which the death penalty could be imposed.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) proposed that paragraph 2 (a) of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678 should be replaced by the following text:

"Positions of Member States having abolished capital punishment by law or by custom, or retained it for all or for some crimes, as well as the progress made by the latter towards the restriction of the number of capital offences."

He also suggested that the words "To study" should be deleted from paragraph 2 (b) in the English version.

Mr. MALIK (Pakistan) proposed the deletion of the words "with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment in all countries" from paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that the second amendment proposed by the representative of the German Democratic Republic was appropriate and asked him to clarify the purpose of the first amendment he had proposed. The amendment referred to States which retained capital punishment for all or for some crimes. He did not believe that any State considered that capital punishment should be applied to all crimes. The wording of the text might perhaps be improved.

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Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) said, in reply to the representative of the United Kingdom, that his delegation could not accept the idea of classifying Member States. It was impossible to study criteria for the classification of sovereign States.

Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution would examine the amendments proposed carefully. It might perhaps be necessary to replace the words "for all or for some crimes", in the amendment suggested by the delegation of the German Democratic Republic, by the phrase "for some crimes". Nobody believed that capital punishment should be applied to all crimes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) accepted the subamendment suggested by the representative of Italy.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that it was evident from page 4 of annex I of document E/5616 that the Federal Republic of Germany was among those States Members of the United Nations which were abolitionist by law. From that point of view, draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678 gave his delegation no difficulty. The draft resolution remained within the context and limitations of Economic and Social Council resolution 1574 (L). Turning to the amendments proposed, he said that the proposal of the representative of the German Democratic Republic left open the question whether the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control should study the positions of Member States or criteria for the classification of Member States. With regard to the amendment proposed by the representative of Pakistan, he pointed out that paragraph 1 of the draft resolution reaffirmed and reiterated the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1574 (L), and the wording of that resolution should therefore be maintained. The wording suggested by the representative of Pakistan was not the same as that adopted at the fiftieth session of the Council.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

758th meeting

Wednesday, 16 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS (concluded)

Draft resolution on capital punishment (E/AC.7/L.678/Rev.1, L.680 and L.681)

The CHAIRMAN said that he understood that the German Democratic Republic and Pakistan had agreed to withdraw their amendments to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678 (E/AC.7/L.680 and E/AC.7/L.681).

Mr. DUBUC (Venezuela) introduced the revised draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678/Rev.1, which took into account suggestions for changes in the text made by various delegations. No changes had been made in the preambular part of the draft resolution; the clarification requested by the representative of France regarding part (b) of the fourth preambular paragraph had been borne in mind, but the entire paragraph referred to the Secretary-General's report and was drafted in the same terms as were used in the report.

Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution had been altered in accordance with the views expressed by many delegations, and particularly by the delegation of Pakistan. The new text aimed solely at reaffirming the principle already established in identical form in two past resolutions of the Economic and Social Council. Paragraph 2 (a) had been completely reworded in accordance with the views expressed by the representative of the German Democratic Republic and by other delegations. The amendment suggested by the delegation of the German Democratic Republic in respect of paragraph 2 (b) had been accepted. Paragraph 4 had been supplemented by a reference to the resolution on the matter (General Assembly resolution 2857 (XXVI)) and clarified by a few drafting changes.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678/Rev.1 by consensus.

It was so decided.

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Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that, although the death penalty had not been abolished in Belgium and was not in process of being abolished, his delegation had unreservedly joined the consensus on draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678/Rev.1. That was because Belgium, as document E/5616 indicated, was a country which was abolitionist by custom, where the law provided the death penalty for crimes of common law but where those sentenced to death had not been executed in the recent past. The Belgian Government considered that the retention of the death penalty in the Penal Code had a preventive and deterrent effect, irrespective of whether or not the penalty was carried out.

Mr. KIYA (Japan) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution because his Government was convinced that the right to life should be respected as one of the most fundamental human rights.

With regard to his Government's position on the total abolition of capital punishment, in May 1974 the Legislative Council, which was composed of non-governmental delegates and was responsible for making recommendations to the Government on the revision of the Penal Code, had indicated to the Minister of Justice that it was not in favour of the total abolition of capital punishment in the existing circumstances. His delegation therefore had reservations about the view expressed in paragraph 1 that it would be desirable to abolish the death penalty. However, his Government fully endorsed the idea of the draft resolution that it was desirable to limit the application and utilization of capital punishment as far as possible.

Mr. MAHMUD (Pakistan) said that his delegation had stated its position on the question of capital punishment when introducing its amendment to the draft resolution (E/AC.7/SR.757). It had not insisted on the amendment, which had aimed to conserve the right of States to choose to maintain capital punishment in their countries in keeping with conditions in the area, as it understood the amendment accepted by the sponsors on the proposal of the delegation of the German Democratic Republic to reflect the same concern.

Mr. CAVAGLIERI (Italy) said that his delegation was very satisfied with the consensus reached on draft resolution E/AC.7/L.678/Rev.1. It looked forward to the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General in 1980 and recommended that the utmost care be taken in preparing the report, so that the mistakes in the current report might be avoided. Italy had been listed as a retentionist country in

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(Mr. Cavaglieri, Italy)

paragraph 20 of the current report (E/5616) and, although that mistake had been corrected in other parts of the report, he wished to repeat that Italy was totally an abolitionist country. Since 1944 the death penalty had been applicable only in time of war for a few very grave military offences.

Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that it was difficult for the United States Government to take a position on the possible further restriction of the death penalty or on its total abolition because of the interaction between the legislative and executive branches of the Government at the Federal and State levels. The constitutionality of capital punishment had been considered in recent years at the Federal and State levels.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee adopt two decisions: firstly, to propose to the Council that it take note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its twenty-fourth session (E/5617); and, secondly, to propose to the Council that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the contribution made by the co-operative movement to the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5597).

It was so decided.

Mr. AGUILAR (Spain) said that his delegation wished to repeat the proposal made by the observer for Spain in the Commission for Social Development that a second conference of European ministers responsible for social welfare be convened (E/5617, paras. 225 and 226). His Government also wished to repeat its offer to meet the major part of the expenses of the conference, in conformity with the exchange of notes between it and the Division of Social Affairs. The Division would no doubt be able to circulate a document on the administrative and financial implications of the conference.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5636 and Add.1-3; E/5637 and Add.1 and 2)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that at its 751st meeting the Committee had decided to begin its consideration of the item by discussing the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

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Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that, in advancing the consideration of questions connected with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Economic and Social Council had once again recognized the priority which all the organs of the United Nations attached to the struggle against the scourge of racial discrimination - a struggle in which the Organization had been engaged from the beginning. Over a year ago the General Assembly had decided to devote a decade to striking a decisive blow in order to attain the broadest possible elimination of discrimination based on colour or ethnic origin. In accordance with the principles on which United Nations action in the sphere of human rights was based, the objectives of the Decade should be attained throughout the world, particular attention being paid to the areas where abuses were most flagrant.

The Programme of Action for the Decade had been carefully prepared by experts from the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in co-operation with the Secretariat. The Programme essentially consisted of multiple and intensive action at the national level, and also activities at the regional and international level, including action by United Nations bodies. The Economic and Social Council, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, bore the responsibility for the co-ordination of the Programme and the assessment of the value of the activities of the Decade, and the General Assembly each year on the basis of the Council's and the Secretary-General's reports, reviewed and supervised the execution of the Programme. In order to assist the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling its functions, reports were to be submitted to it each year by the Secretary-General covering the six points mentioned in paragraph 18 (f) of the Programme. Preliminary reports had been submitted in the previous year, and the reports for the current year appeared in document E/5636 and Add.1 to 3. They contained information on the activities of the General Assembly and other United Nations organs in connexion with the Decade, and also information provided by specialized agencies; they also covered the utilization of the programme of advisory services for the purposes of the Decade. Finally, the report contained information provided by a number of non-governmental organizations, and information on the activities of the Office of Public

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(Mr. Schreiber)

Information and of UNITAR. Document E/5637 and its two addenda corresponded to paragraph 18 (b) (ii) of the Programme and complemented the report in document E/5636. It contained a summary of information received from Governments and regional organizations on the Decade and some comments on the world conference envisaged in the Programme.

It was for the Committee to evaluate the reports, and determine whether the information received from those approached under the General Assembly resolution was adequate and whether Governments should be reminded of the determination they had shown in unanimously accepting the principle of the Decade and of its Programme. The Decade was undoubtedly an invaluable initiative, beneficial to the action of United Nations bodies such as the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Committee of 24 and the Council for Namibia, but its scope extended to the struggle against racial discrimination wherever it persisted.

The questionnaire provided for in paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme would be completed taking into account the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly, international instruments and other data, and would be submitted to Governments as soon as the Council had pronounced itself on the question during the current session. It was likely that, stimulated by the questionnaire and more aware of what information would be useful to the United Nations, a greater number of Governments would provide more detailed information on their action in the realization of the aims of the Decade.

The Secretariat was encouraging the holding of as many seminars as possible within the framework of the advisory services programme in the field of human rights on questions connected with the Decade. The previous year a very successful and fruitful seminar had been held in Yugoslavia on the problem of minorities, and in the current year a seminar on the human rights of migrant workers was planned in Tunisia in the autumn, and a further seminar was planned on various aspects of the problem of racial discrimination in the context of the Decade, to be held in Guinea in the autumn. Invitations had been received from the Government of Lesotho to host a seminar on aspects of the problem of migrant workers in the following year, and from the Government of Egypt offering to provide a training course on questions connected with the Programme for the Decade. The Secretariat was giving full

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(Mr. Schreiber)

attention to all invitations from Governments to host seminars or to provide other forms of technical assistance.

The Division of Human Rights had been able to continue its essential work during its transfer to Geneva, and now that it was installed in Geneva it would give all possible attention to the responsibilities of the Secretariat in connexion with the Decade. At the time of the adoption of the Programme it had made some budgetary proposals to the General Assembly, and had obtained two of the four posts it had asked for in connexion with the Decade. Financial resources would be needed for the broad programme of research and study envisaged in article 15 of the Programme and, in view of the tightness of the United Nations budget, voluntary financial assistance by Governments in a position to extend such assistance would of course permit a fuller implementation of the Programme.

A system of co-ordination with the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations had been evolved, and representatives specially designated by each specialized agency concerned would meet soon after the conclusion of the Council's session to exchange information and distribute tasks. All legitimate activities outside the United Nations which would serve the purposes of the Decade would be encouraged.

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had indicated that it was prepared to contribute to the execution of the Programme, and the collaboration of the eminent members of that body would in his view be invaluable.

The world conference provided for in the Programme independently of its own result would undoubtedly stimulate and promote the activities of the Decade and give specific orientation to the activities carried out under it. The conference should perhaps be held a little earlier than originally planned. The Committee would note the offer from the Government of Ghana to host the conference; there had been no other offers so far and, if the offer was acceptable to the Council, the Secretary-General would be ready to hold consultations with the Government of Ghana as to the practical arrangements for the conference and to report back to the Council at its next session. If so requested, the Secretary-General would also be ready after appropriate consultations to formulate a draft provisional agenda for the conference and make suggestions concerning participation in the conference and other matters.

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Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) expressed the hope that at future sessions of the Council the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be discussed in plenary meetings, in implementation of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and in recognition of the fact that the issues involved had political and economic as well as social aspects. Consideration should be given to the possibility of establishing an ad hoc committee or working group of the Council, which could meet shortly before the session at which the Council considered the Decade in order to study the reports of the Secretary-General and formulate recommendations.

The Decade had been launched in the firm conviction that the fight against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid should be action-oriented. Accordingly, the Council's review and appraisal should assess successes and failures in attaining the goals of the Decade in order to ensure their ultimate realization.

Pending the submission by Governments of the biennial reports referred to in paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade, which would constitute the major source of material for the review, other activities provided ample material for reflection. His delegation welcomed the offer of the Ghanaian Government to host the international conference referred to in paragraph 13 (a) of the Programme, since it would be highly significant to convene the conference in the continent where peoples still suffered from the most oppressive and abhorrent form of racial discrimination, namely, apartheid.

Certain preliminary steps should be taken to ensure that the conference yielded the maximum results. The effective performance by the Council of the tasks entrusted to it in the Programme would be a major contribution. Proper timing of the conference and a carefully prepared agenda were also important. Consultations should be undertaken not only with Governments, but also with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the Committee of 24 and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. His delegation welcomed the readiness of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to take part in the preparations for the world conference and to contribute to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade, as expressed in decision I (XI) adopted by that Committee (E/5636/Add.1), and was confident that a way could be found to involve that

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

Committee more closely in the activities of the Decade. It would also be useful to learn whether the Division of Human Rights intended to draw upon the expertise of that Committee in matters relating to the activities of the Decade.

The decisions and activities of the United Nations organs and the specialized agencies described in the documents before the Committee should be followed by action on the part of organizations and Member States. In particular, those States which supported the forces of apartheid, racial discrimination, colonialism, alien domination and foreign occupation should realize that they were perpetuating the suffering of the people subjected to those evils and threatening international peace and security and their own interests. The entire international community should strengthen its determination to eradicate those evils.

Non-governmental organizations could play a very useful role; he welcomed the activities referred to in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular, those described in paragraph 72 of document E/5636. Such organizations must be guided by the Charter, United Nations resolutions and the goals of the Decade. If they permitted themselves to be used for political purposes inconsistent with those goals, they would no longer be useful and could even damage the cause for which the United Nations was fighting. His delegation commended in particular those non-governmental organizations whose activities were action-oriented, particularly those which provided financial support for liberation movements and educational activities, assisted the victims of apartheid and brought pressure to bear on foreign investors operating in racist societies and on Governments protecting colonial or racist Powers.

His delegation also welcomed the activities undertaken or contemplated during the Decade under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the action of the Office of Public Information (OPI) with respect to the Decade described in chapters III and IV, respectively, of document E/5636. It supported the emphasis which OPI placed on apartheid. OPI should give wider publicity to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the activities pursued under the Convention and activities which

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

were relevant to the Decade. The decision to hold seminars in Guinea, Tunisia and Botswana was commendable. Egypt would do its utmost to assist; the Egyptian Government had expressed its readiness to host a seminar on racial discrimination in the administration of criminal justice.

His delegation attached great importance to the activities of UNITAR in relation to the Decade, in particular the studies on economic colonialism, its mechanisms and its experience in relation to the social structure of a country.

The questionnaire on which Governments would base their biennial reports should be circulated as soon as possible, in order to give Governments adequate time to respond. It should elicit specific information regarding the provisions of the Programme and arrangements envisaged or undertaken by Member States regarding the Decade. National commissions might be established to follow up the implementation of the provisions of the Programme. The questionnaire would greatly assist the Council in discharging its task under paragraph 18 of the Programme.

Encouraging developments had occurred in southern Africa in recent years: Guinea-Bissau had won its independence and had joined the United Nations, and Mozambique, Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe would soon follow. The liberation struggle had advanced in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa and in other Territories under colonial domination or foreign occupation. A decision had been taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session which had had the effect of suspending the representatives of South Africa from participation in its work, and the Assembly had invited the liberation movements to participate in the debates on apartheid. A growing number of States had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was becoming increasingly universal.

If possible, the Council should, when discussing the Decade, have the opportunity to hear the Chairmen of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Condensed summaries of the discussions in those Committees should be incorporated in the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Council under paragraph 18 of the Programme.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

The fight against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid had been complicated by the persistence of illegal racist régimes and Powers which did not observe the principles of the Charter and by the fact that the world was not yet free from aggression, threats to sovereignty, foreign occupation, economic deprivation and racial discrimination. Every effort must be made to pursue the noble goals of the Decade in the faith that the United Nations would achieve a new and just international social, political and economic order.

Egypt had been consistently combating racism and co-operating fully with the liberation movements. His country was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Equality was a constitutional right and a living practice in Egypt, which had always supported all United Nations resolutions regarding racism, apartheid and racial discrimination.

His delegation hoped that there would be sufficient time to prepare a draft resolution on the subject under consideration.

Mrs. DIALLO (Guinea) said that, ever since it had become independent, her country had firmly opposed any form of racial discrimination and colonial and racial domination. In various international and regional forums, Guinean representatives had repeatedly condemned racial discrimination, had denounced the grave consequences of economic and military aid to racist and colonial régimes and had deplored the many violations by the adherents of apartheid and racism in southern Africa of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

Her delegation supported the recommendation in paragraph 3 (a) of the resolution adopted by the Committee on Racial Discrimination and reproduced in document E/5636/Add.1, calling for the inclusion of an item or items on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and that Committee's work in the agenda of the world conference on combating racial discrimination. It also endorsed the suggestion in paragraph 4 that a special task force should be set up within the Division of Human Rights to accelerate the momentum of action on the Programme for the Decade.

The recent special session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity had illustrated the determination of the African people to abolish

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(Mrs. Diallo, Guinea)

the racist régimes of southern Africa, thereby marking an important stage in their struggle for respect and dignity. The people of Africa were united in their determination to end colonial domination and the degrading practice of apartheid imposed by a shameless fascist clique. The situation in Africa and the world as a whole could be improved only if that practice was abolished once and for all.

Her Government welcomed the proclamation of the Decade and the fact that a regional seminar on the struggle against racial discrimination would be held in November at Conakry. During the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1975, Guinea had reaffirmed its position on the struggle against racial discrimination, expressed its profound gratitude to progressive countries and international organizations for their material and moral assistance to the liberation movements in southern Africa and invited them to increase that aid.

Mr. MALIK (Pakistan) commended the activities of Governments and international organizations in combating racism and racial discrimination as described in document E/5637.

Racial discrimination did not exist in any form in Pakistan, and the Pakistan Government had constantly supported peoples who were struggling against racial discrimination. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been observed throughout Pakistan in a fitting manner, and racial discrimination and apartheid had been condemned in the press and in public meetings. The Constitution of Pakistan provided adequate legal protection for the fundamental rights of all persons - including minorities - living in Pakistan, either permanently or temporarily, without any discrimination. All citizens of Pakistan enjoyed the human rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Government of Pakistan had also assisted the families of victims of apartheid and had supported the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. His Government was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

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(Mr. Malik, Pakistan)

His delegation welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to host the world conference on combating racial discrimination and supported decision I (XI) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (E/5636/Add.1). However, the proposal to set up a special task force within the Division of Human Rights should be examined by the Secretary-General before it was considered by the Council.

Mr. WU Miao-fa (China) said that the racist and colonialist régimes in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa were in a situation of increasing isolation and difficulty. They were resorting to counter-revolutionary dual tactics of political deception and military adventurism in an attempt to save themselves. Recently, the South African authorities had declared their desire for "reconciliation", "friendly co-operation" and "peaceful coexistence" with the African countries and their readiness to provide them with aid and had announced that they would not allow pure racial or skin-colour discrimination. The racist Smith régime likewise had laid great stress on its "reconciliation" plan, had released leaders of the Zimbabwe national liberation movement and had sent high-ranking officials to meet with them. That régime had also pledged, among other things, to release political prisoners, to abolish the ban on liberation organizations and to convene a constitutional conference within two months. Those two criminal fascist régimes had made themselves appear as angels overnight. However, their pronouncements had been merely a smoke-screen; not long after the Mozambican people had attained their right to independence, the South African authorities had hastily increased by 50 per cent their already very large national defence budget. Meanwhile, they continued to arrest African freedom fighters and had stepped up their suppression of the Azanian workers' strike movement. Not one of the several thousand military policemen sent to Southern Rhodesia to suppress the national liberation movement there had been recalled. Namibian patriots continued to be subjected to ruthless persecution by the South African authorities, which were still hanging on in Namibia.

The racist Smith régime had also increased its defence and police budgets by 17 and 23 per cent respectively. It had again arrested Mr. Sithole, President of ZANU, who had been imprisoned for many years, and had assassinated Mr. Chitepo,

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(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

another leading member of that organization. Both Vorster and Smith had done their utmost to suppress the national liberation movement through deception, intimidation, division and slaughter. Vorster had clamoured that no force on earth could seize political power from the hands of the whites, who would continue their rule in South Africa. In the same vein, Smith had clamoured that, as long as he was still alive, he would not allow the emergence of majority rule. The so-called Defence Minister of the Smith authorities had threatened the Zimbabwe freedom fighters by asking them to give themselves up or leave the country; a so-called Vice-Minister had declared that, as in the past, the Rhodesian Security Forces would encircle and suppress the freedom fighters and that they must be dealt with even more severely. Such acts clearly showed that those régimes, while professing a desire for reconciliation, friendly co-operation and peaceful coexistence, were actually trying to undermine the fighting will of the African people and to induce them to give up their struggle for national liberation. While hypocritically professing that they would not allow pure racial and skin-colour discrimination, those régimes were actually trying to maintain their increasingly isolated reactionary rule. All those ploys were part of a death-bed struggle waged with the support of some Western Powers in an attempt to divide the African countries, to undermine the national liberation movement, and to protect the huge economic interests of some Western Powers in southern Africa.

The reactionary Smith and Vorster régimes were doomed to destruction, and the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and Azania would certainly be victorious. In their protracted struggle, the African people understood that the enemy could be defeated only by continuously developing and expanding the strength of the African national liberation movement, basing it on armed struggle and using revolutionary dual tactics to deal with counter-revolutionary dual tactics. His delegation was deeply convinced that, as long as the great African people increased their vigilance, strengthened their unity, summed up their experience and persevered in their struggle, they would be able to eradicate colonialism and racism and to win the liberation of the whole of Africa.

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(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

His delegation supported the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and maintained that imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism must be strongly condemned for all their military activities in the colonial Territories; the reactionary Vorster and Smith régimes must be strongly condemned for their despicable acts of suppressing the national liberation movement; every effective measure should be taken to stop all military, political and financial support and assistance provided by the imperialist Powers to the colonialist and racist régimes; all justice-upholding countries and peoples should give powerful support to the just struggle of the colonial peoples.

Mr. CHIRILA (Romania) said that Romania had always attached great importance to the struggle against racial discrimination and apartheid. His Government would continue to support the measures provided for in United Nations decisions and resolutions with a view to stepping up international action to combat racism and racial discrimination in all their forms and manifestations and, in particular, to eliminate such policies and practises from southern Africa.

Racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid constituted serious obstacles to the establishment and strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between States and peoples. The racial discrimination still practised in certain parts of the world, and particularly in southern Africa, was a cause of constant concern to the United Nations. Its persistence indicated that racial discrimination and apartheid would never be eliminated as long as peoples were deprived of their right to self-determination, as long as millions of human beings continued to be subject to colonial and neo-colonial exploitation motivated primarily by selfish economic interests, or as long as there was interference in the internal affairs of other peoples and the use or threat of force against the national liberation movements. Such actions transgressed the fundamental principles of international law. Romania was firmly opposed to any policy of force and to the attempted domination of one country by another, and was dedicated to the protection of fundamental human rights. The Romanian Government fully supported those peoples struggling against foreign domination, colonialism and neo-colonialism and strongly condemned the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination practised by the minority régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, together with the continued colonial exploitation of the

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

peoples of those Territories. Romania had welcomed the fact that, as a result of the struggle of the peoples of the former Portuguese colonies and the radical change in policy by the new Portuguese Government, the area over which colonial and racial exploitation were practised in southern Africa had been considerably reduced. The expansion and strengthening of relations with the countries and liberation movements of Africa had always been a part of the foreign policy of Romania, and had been reaffirmed during the visits of the President of Romania to a number of African countries.

His Government supported unreservedly the aims and objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In 1974 and 1975, a number of events had been organized in Romania in support of the struggle of the peoples still under colonial and racial domination. The people of Romania were profoundly aware of the legitimacy of the struggle of the victims of colonial and racist policies.

Romania attached particular importance to the appeals to Member States in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). In order to achieve the aims of the Decade, declarations of principle must be implemented with greater determination. More States must accede to the relevant international legal instruments and, in particular, to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Multilateral support to national liberation movements and to all those struggling against apartheid and racism must be intensified. At the same time, the competent organs of the United Nations must concentrate their efforts on the total elimination of colonialism and racial discrimination. The Office of Public Information must place particular emphasis on the threat posed by such policies to international co-operation, economic and social development and international peace and security. United Nations youth programmes must educate the younger generation to believe in equality and to reject any discrimination, particularly that based on race. National and international youth organizations could also make a substantial contribution towards achieving the objectives of the Decade. His delegation supported the proposal of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that a seminar be devoted to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

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(Mr. Chirila, Romania)

Romania would continue to participate actively in the international effort to combat racial discrimination. Such activities were merely an extension, at the international level, of its domestic policy.

The world conference on combating racial discrimination should constitute a significant step forward in the international community's effort to eliminate racial discrimination. His delegation was ready to support any proposals designed to help the Economic and Social Council accomplish that important task.

Ms. FINBORUD (Norway) said that the Government and people of Norway were firmly opposed to all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination.

The main items of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination might form a suitable basis for the agenda of the proposed world conference on combating racial discrimination. Her Government had noted with particular satisfaction that a recurrent theme in the Programme was the need for education and information. As the illusion of racial superiority was nourished by prejudice and ignorance, particular emphasis should be given at the national level to continuous and systematic education and information of the public in the spirit of respect for human rights and, in particular, opposition to all policies, practises and manifestations of racism and racial discrimination.

The Norwegian Government attached great importance to United Nations efforts to provide a legal basis for the struggle against racial discrimination. In that context, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was of particular significance. Her delegation appreciated the very valuable work carried out by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. That Committee was well placed to contribute to the Decade and should co-operate closely with other organizations taking part in the activities of the Decade. The Convention and the efforts made by that Committee should be given wider publicity.

Norway had hosted the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa. It had given and would continue to give humanitarian and economic support to the liberation movements in southern Africa. It had also made substantial contributions to various United Nations funds, and had recently been the largest contributor to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

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Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), replying to the question of the representative of Egypt concerning the proposals contained in document E/5636/Add.1, said that in his view the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could play a most useful role in the preparations for the world conference on combating racial discrimination, in particular by giving its views on the substantive matters which might usefully be discussed at that conference. The Secretariat, if entrusted with tasks relating to the preparation of the conference, would be ready to consult that Committee on the subject. The Secretariat would also welcome the participation of representatives of the Committee in the conference and in international and regional seminars as envisaged in paragraph 13 (b) of the Programme. As he had stated, such activities could be organized with United Nations assistance if the necessary resources were made available and offers of resources from Governments would be helpful. Members of the Committee were also perfectly qualified to participate in student workshops and pilot studies.

If the Council agreed, there would be no difficulty in including an item on the International Convention in the agenda of the world conference or in presenting papers on the work of the Committee at that conference. The idea of a seminar devoted to the provisions of the Convention was an excellent one. A number of Governments had expressed a wish to host seminars and the Secretariat would be prepared to suggest to host Governments the holding of a seminar on that topic.

If the Council agreed, the questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretary-General could include a question of the type described in paragraph 3 (d) of the resolutions reproduced in document E/5636/Add.1. With regard to paragraph 3 (e), the Secretariat had already started to forward the documents available to the Social Committee to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and would continue to do so.

The unit referred to in paragraph 4 was already in existence and would be strengthened, as necessary, within the limits of available resources.

Consideration was being given to organizing a meeting between the Division of Human Rights and the Office of Public Information to consider ways of intensifying information activities on the subject of racial discrimination.

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Mr. LAHLOU (Observer for Morocco) said that Morocco, by conviction and tradition, had always combated all forms of discrimination both within and outside its borders, particularly through the Organization of African Unity. That fact was attested to by both the domestic legislation and by the foreign policy of Morocco. The Moroccan Constitution of 1972 had been simply the affirmation of his country's beliefs with regard to human equality and the absence of any discrimination. That attitude was in keeping with the moral values of Morocco and with the principles of its religion.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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759th meeting

Thursday, 17 April 1975,  
at 10.45 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5636 and Add.1 to 3; E/5637 and Add.1 and 2)  
(continued)

Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada) said that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should help to concentrate public attention, both internationally and nationally, on the problems of racial discrimination and the pressing need to find solutions. His country had always opposed any form of racial discrimination, particularly the institutionalized and hateful form of apartheid which continued to be practised in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

Recent events in Southern Rhodesia and, to a certain extent, Namibia, did however seem to provide a glimmer of hope for an improvement in the situation that might lead to the abolition of the discriminatory system and to the granting of self-determination to those Territories. The recent visit to Canada of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia had enabled the Canadian Government to study the various aspects of its position regarding Namibia. The positive developments in those Territories could certainly be attributed to the constant efforts of the Organization and to the impact of recent favourable events in the Territories under Portuguese administration. The new countries that would soon emerge from the former Portuguese Territories would need the support of the international community in order to achieve socio-economic development in an orderly and balanced fashion. The Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had announced that a special mission was being sent to Angola and Mozambique to establish contact with the provisional Governments and leaders of those countries and to lay the foundations for fruitful co-operation in all fields, particularly economic and social development.

Racism and racial discrimination were not restricted to a single region; no country had been entirely free of that disease. All Governments must conduct an in-depth study of their legislations and social systems in order to eliminate any vestiges of discrimination. Furthermore, everyone should be personally involved in the struggle at both the international and the national levels.

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(Mr. Sullivan, Canada)

Individuals must become sensitive to the problem of racism and aware of their responsibilities in seeking a solution.

Since the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Canada had undertaken various activities in connexion with the Decade. The Federal Government had sponsored a series of meetings with representatives of voluntary organizations concerned with human rights. It had recently published a brochure containing the Programme for the Decade and the principal United Nations texts on racial discrimination. At the Government's request, radio stations had enthusiastically agreed to broadcast messages on the subject at regular intervals. Special importance had been attached to the messages for 10 December, as would also be the case on 10 August, the anniversary of the Canadian Declaration of Human Rights. Information programmes had been launched in the provinces, particularly in schools. The various Government agencies had held regular consultations regarding programmes to combat racism and racial discrimination, and the Federal authorities were considering new programmes to improve understanding between different ethnic groups. In November 1974 a meeting of provincial ministers in charge of human rights questions had considered the problem of racial discrimination.

He had every reason to believe that Canada would soon have its own human rights commission, parallel to the commissions already existing in most of the provinces.

Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly his delegation had informed the Third Committee of many concrete measures taken in Belgium within the context of the Decade. Those measures had been aimed not at changing Belgian legislation, which contained no elements whatsoever of racism, but at educating the already receptive public on the subject. One of the two legislative chambers of Belgium had already approved the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the other chamber had the matter on its agenda. It could therefore be assumed that Belgium would soon ratify the Convention.

In February 1975 his Government had had the honour of receiving the visit of the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid. Following his very cordial and constructive discussions with the Belgian Government, the Chairman of the Special Committee had expressed appreciation of the manner in which the

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(Mr. Nothomb, Belgium)

Government and people of Belgium had opposed apartheid and particularly of their enforcement of the arms embargo and their humanitarian and educational aid to the victims of apartheid. The Belgian Foreign Minister had stressed that the Government and people of Belgium condemned the policy of apartheid of South Africa and the illegal occupation of Namibia. He had assured the Chairman of the Special Committee that Belgium supported the efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement in southern Africa and would continue to provide the victims of apartheid with humanitarian assistance in education and other fields. Belgium contributed an annual amount of 1 million Belgian francs to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and an identical amount to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

His Government wished to congratulate the many specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on their activities in connexion with the Decade as described in document E/5636. He noted that the Government of Ghana had offered to host the world conference, which would be the major event of the Decade, and hoped that the Council would accept that offer.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his country had taken an active part in preparing the Programme for the Decade, which it supported without reservation. It attached great importance to the annual discussion in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the implementation of the Programme. The activities of the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the struggle against racism had borne fruit and made a remarkable contribution to the emancipation of oppressed peoples. As had been pointed out in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the remaining vestiges of racial discrimination, apartheid and neo-colonialism continued to be among the greatest obstacles to the full emancipation and progress of the developing countries and of the peoples involved. The Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order had stressed the importance of efforts to end all forms of foreign occupation, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonial, neo-colonial and alien domination and exploitation. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States also established the duty of all States to eliminate apartheid and social discrimination.

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

There were still a number of countries that had not rid themselves of racial discrimination, which was one manifestation of the exploitation of man by man. The racist régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury openly defied the United Nations and mankind as a whole by continuing the inhuman policy and practice of apartheid, which had been declared a crime against humanity. The Commission on Human Rights, had stressed that the policy of apartheid as practised by the racist régime of South Africa was a flagrant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and incompatible with membership of the United Nations. His delegation supported that position and felt that the Economic and Social Council should take appropriate action. It had long been known that the criminal racist régimes in southern Africa were able to keep the indigenous population in a state of slavery because of the political support and the generous military and economic assistance given by certain Western States, primarily the members of NATO. In spite of numerous United Nations decisions, certain Western Powers maintained political and diplomatic relations, extended all kinds of assistance and had trade relations with those illegal régimes. The multinational corporations had intensified their activities in that area. The Special Committee against Apartheid had repeatedly drawn attention to the many instances of such violations of United Nations decisions. The Programme for the Decade for Action called for a halt to such support, particularly in paragraphs 13 (e) and 13 (g).

What was needed was not rhetoric but action. The adoption of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII)) was an important step in the struggle for the eradication of the policy and practice of apartheid and should be ratified and put into effect as soon as possible. The Convention was particularly important in that it unambiguously described apartheid as a crime against humanity and established criminal responsibility for those who practised it wherever they might be found. That constituted a stern warning for the South African racists. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was also an important contribution to the struggle against racial discrimination. It had been signed and ratified by more than 80 States, which was a very impressive number. It should be acceded to by the largest possible number of States. The social and economic roots of racial discrimination must be

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(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

eliminated and that could be done only within a system of social relations which would exclude any manifestation of racism. Racism prevailed in many parts of the world, and often was not confined to isolated cases but was the result of a deliberate policy, which in turn was the result of a social system of exploitation of man by man.

His Government's position in the struggle against colonialism was well known. The peace programme adopted at the twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had stressed that manifestations of racism and apartheid should be universally condemned and boycotted. Throughout the history of the Soviet Union, the equality of all people had been guaranteed and therefore there was no racism. The Soviet Union had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It followed a policy of peace and friendship with all peoples and provided assistance and support to peoples struggling for their liberation. During the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union had condemned the manifestations of economic oppression and stressed the importance of continuing the struggle against colonialism.

His delegation would support any proposal aimed at achieving the effective implementation of the Programme for the Decade. It attached great importance to the world conference on combating racial discrimination, which Ghana had offered to host.

Mr. POEDJIOETOMO (Indonesia) expressed appreciation to the Government of Ghana for its invitation to host the conference to be held during the Decade. The conference would provide an opportunity to show solidarity with the people of southern Africa and those countries elsewhere which suffered from racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. General Assembly resolution 3223 (XXIX) marked the culmination of all the work already completed by the United Nations on the problems of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. His delegation urged all Member States to co-operate loyally and fully in implementing the various measures adopted by the United Nations.

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(Mr. Poedjioetomo, Indonesia)

The Indonesian Government had no political, economic or social relations with South Africa or with any Government that practised those injustices. It supported all the General Assembly resolutions on the question. The most significant sanction adopted at the twenty-ninth session had been the suspension of South Africa from participation in United Nations debates.

In fulfilling its obligations under General Assembly resolution 3223 (XXIX), his Government had made modest contributions to various causes such as the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the Trust Fund for Namibia and the Liberation Committee of the Organization of African Unity, to assist programmes aimed at enabling the victims of racism and racial discrimination to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms. Indonesia suggested that funds for those programmes and activities be continued and increased as long as they were needed. His delegation was also actively participating in the relevant United Nations bodies. Indonesia was doing its utmost to bring about the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, to end such crimes as racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and to carry out the goals and objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said the Committee's mandate for the item under discussion was a wide one, as defined in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). The documents before the Committee were useful starting-points from which to discharge that mandate.

He paid a tribute to the delegation of Egypt, which had played a leading role in establishing the Decade and in obtaining consensus on the resolution adopted on the subject. The different political approaches to many questions with racial implications made it all too easy to focus on the issues dividing Member States. However, the United Nations was at its most effective when it spoke with one voice. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination was a goal to which all Members subscribed, and the Committee should continue in a spirit of consensus if it was to maximize the Decade's effectiveness.

His delegation welcomed the offer of Ghana to host the world conference to be held during the Decade. It assumed that the agenda of the conference would be based on the Programme for the Decade. However, it wished to suggest the inclusion of an item entitled "Action by Governments to facilitate the elimination of racial

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

discrimination at the national level, to combat the growth of racial prejudice and to promote racial tolerance and harmony at all levels in society", which could perhaps be considered by a sub-committee of the conference. The most effective means of combating racism were efforts at the national level; such efforts would convince those in other countries whose goals were different that they were mistaken.

Within the United Nations system, the principal responsibility for tackling racial discrimination lay with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). His delegation agreed that the Committee's work should be integrated into the conference agenda and welcomed the Committee's initiative in suggesting ways in which it could contribute to the Decade and the conference. At the same time, his delegation considered that CERD should not be permitted to take on any commitments that might jeopardize its principal responsibility to States parties under the Convention.

The United Kingdom had adopted various national measures, as envisaged in paragraph 12 of the Programme. Financial assistance had been provided on a bilateral basis to peoples who were victims of racial discrimination, through UNICEF and the United Nations Fund for Namibia, and to the proposed research institute for Namibia in Lusaka. No support was being given to Governments or régimes which practised racial discrimination that would enable them to perpetuate racist policies or practices. The United Kingdom had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and its third biennial report was currently being considered by CERD. The means for statutory redress in any cases involving racial discrimination was provided under various Race Relations Acts. The United Kingdom had been a major contributor from the outset to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and would be making a grant of almost \$200,000 in the current year. In connexion with paragraph 12 (a) (vi) of the Programme, he could mention the studies on race relations made by the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration, the Community Relations Commission, and the Social Science Research Council. The Decade and the Programme of Action had been brought to the attention of both the Race Relations Board and the Community Relations Commission. With respect to paragraph 12 (a) (ix) of the Programme, under the Race Relations Act of 1968 it was illegal to practise racial discrimination within the educational system in the United Kingdom.

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

The existence of coloured minority groups was a comparatively new phenomenon in the United Kingdom and was almost entirely the result of migration from the British Commonwealth after 1945. It had been an enormous task to integrate so many citizens of different races into society, but the United Kingdom had been substantially successful. It thus gave its fullest support to the Decade and to any resolutions on the subject.

Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) said that the launching of the Decade had marked yet another phase in the continuing struggle of the international community to realize the objectives of the United Nations Charter. The struggle against racism, racial discrimination and in particular apartheid faced formidable obstacles, but the ultimate victory of the forces of justice, freedom and human brotherhood was not in doubt.

Recent developments in southern Africa, following the changes in Portugal and its colonies, had severely shaken the foundations of the racist and colonial régimes in that region, forcing their leaders to engage in a frantic attempt to postpone their inevitable collapse. They had now resorted to the use of deceptive tactics disguised under the umbrella of so-called détente with black Africa. Their real aim was, of course, to confuse and divide the ranks of the liberation movements and the united front of independent Africa. Such efforts would not succeed.

The burden of the just struggle for freedom, human equality and dignity in southern Africa must ultimately fall on the shoulders of the African people and in particular the oppressed people of southern Africa themselves. That struggle continued to intensify, and the international community through the United Nations must continue to give it the necessary moral support. The United Nations should increase its material assistance to the national liberation movements in southern Africa. While the efforts being made to eradicate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid were encouraging, Uganda appealed to those countries and foreign economic interests which continued to collaborate with the racist régimes in southern Africa, in violation of United Nations resolutions, to desist from such collaboration.

The serious dangers posed by the evil policies of apartheid to international

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(Mr. Acemah, Uganda)

peace and security hardly needed elaboration. Without the massive military, material and political support which certain countries continued to provide, the racist régime in South Africa might not have survived. Uganda therefore urged those countries to join in concerted international campaigns for the isolation of South Africa. The racist régimes in southern Africa could not alter the inevitable course of history, and it was in their own interest to recognize that fact.

His delegation welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to host the world conference on combating racial discrimination, and hoped that the conference would succeed in its tasks envisaged in the Programme for the Decade.

Mr. BARONA LOBATO (Mexico) said that problems of racism and racial discrimination had never existed in Mexico. In the past, conquerors and conquered had joined to form a single Mexican people. As soon as Mexico had emerged as an independent nation, the full equality of all persons had been proclaimed and consecrated in constitutional texts. The principle of full equality had remained the policy of Mexico, which had therefore always energetically condemned all forms of racial discrimination elsewhere.

There was a close link between the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and he hoped that the draft resolution in preparation would make some reference to the role of that Charter in solving the problems of racism and racial discrimination. The Universal Declaration and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, together with the Programme for the Decade, indicated how to resolve once and for all the infamous situation which should have disappeared many years ago and to eliminate the inhuman practices which unfortunately still exist in the twentieth century and were violations of human dignity. In connexion with the Programme, he wished to inform the Committee that the Government of Mexico had always condemned and would continue to condemn all forms of racial discrimination and had redoubled its efforts in support of the international community's policy of promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Mexico had discontinued consular relations with one of the régimes which practised racial discrimination.

At the World Conference of the International Women's Year, to be held in Mexico, his Government would urge all the women of the world to struggle against all the forms of exploitation and domination which subsisted under the colonial régimes.

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(Mr. Barón Lobato, Mexico)

His delegation welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to host the world conference on combating racial discrimination, and considered that the best time to hold the Conference would be in the middle of the Decade. With regard to the informal proposals made the previous day by the representative of Egypt, his delegation considered that the subject of apartheid should be discussed at plenary meetings of the Economic and Social Council, and that the working group should meet a week before the Council session to consider the Secretary-General's report in order to make specific recommendations on action to be taken. That might help the Council to fulfil its responsibility of reporting annually to the General Assembly about the progress achieved in implementing the Programme for the Decade.

Mr. KANAZAWA (Japan) said that his Government firmly supported the Decade, which was proving most useful in intensifying the concern of people everywhere over racism and racial discrimination and in strengthening the moral force of the world against those problems. His Government would co-operate with other Member States so as to realize the lofty goals of the Decade. The ultimate goal was to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind. Article 14 of the Japanese Constitution provided for full equality under the law without any discrimination. Those principles were embodied in various laws and regulations, and had been faithfully observed in practice. The Japanese Government was convinced that racism and racial discrimination had no justification of any kind and were completely contrary to respect for human beings. It would continue to support by every means at its disposal the actions provided for by resolutions of the United Nations and would co-operate in implementing the Programme for the Decade. His Government had expressed its intention to make a contribution of \$130,000 for the year 1975 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. In addition, it would make a contribution of \$10,000 to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, and a contribution of the same amount to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. The Japanese Government wished to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in the near future. It was already empowered to fulfil in practice a number of obligations required by the Convention and it was studying whether any additional legislative action was required. His delegation believed that the world conference on

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(Mr. Kanazawa, Japan)

combating racial discrimination would be important, and it was ready to participate actively in the conference. It would like to have at least one year for preparation before the opening of the conference.

Mr. PIERCE (Jamaica) said that his delegation's deep and abiding interest in the item under consideration had been shown by its participation in the debates on the subject in the Committee and in the Third Committee of the General Assembly and in its co-sponsorship of the various resolutions; he would therefore not restate his Government's position.

His delegation had been pleased to read in the documents before the Committee of the valuable world-wide campaign of information designed to dispel racial prejudice, as provided for in the Programme for the Decade. It was also pleased to note in document E/5636 that the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination would be utilized as necessary in co-ordinating the various agencies' activities and in evaluating their results.

The Programme for the Decade also called for appropriate measures to ensure support for peoples striving for racial equality, both at the national and at the regional and international levels, and it was reinforced by General Assembly resolution 3223 (XXIX). Political will and financial will were extremely important and far too little emphasis had been given in the reports to the vital need for material support and assistance. However, he was pleased to note the instances of aid outlined in paragraphs 10 to 20 of document E/5636/Add.2 and the activities of non-governmental organizations which were reported in the documents before the Committee. The statements made by various delegations on the financial commitments of their Governments were also encouraging. It was possible that more instances of assistance had not been recorded because information had not been provided to the Secretariat, and indeed his own Government had failed to inform the Secretary-General of the contributions it had made to the southern African funds. Hopefully by the time the Secretary-General's report was presented to the sixtieth session of the Council, all Governments would have responded to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General.

It was only by a concerted approach on all possible fronts including an adjustment of international economic relationships - since it was no coincidence

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(Mr. Pierce, Jamaica)

those who suffered from racism and racial discrimination also suffered economic deprivation - and by a total commitment to the principle of equality that the objectives of the Decade could be realized.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

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760th meeting

Thursday, 17 April 1975,  
at 3.20 p.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5636 and Add.1-3, E/5637 and Add.1 and 2) (continued)

Mr. DIAKITE (Mali) said that, taking into account the political, economic, legal, cultural and social aspects of racism and racial discrimination, his delegation would have preferred that question to be considered in plenary meetings. The continued existence of racial discrimination, especially in South Africa, was a permanent challenge to the conscience of mankind and a serious threat to international peace and security. The policy of apartheid had transformed South Africa into a real concentration camp. In Namibia, the African inhabitants had access only to a subsistence economy and were forced to live in the "homelands", which they could leave only when they were allowed to go to work in the "white areas" for very small wages. In Southern Rhodesia the minority rebel régime could continue strengthening its policy of racial discrimination as a result of the support it received from the Pretoria Government and because some Member States did not respect the sanctions established against that régime.

The United Nations had adopted many decisions aimed at eliminating the shameful practice of racism and racial discrimination. However, that action would continue to have limited effects so long as the racist minority régimes in southern Africa enjoyed the economic, military and political support of some Western countries: the three vetoes in the Security Council on 24 October 1974 were a good example of that fact. If international action was to be effective, all Member States must comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies.

The population of the Republic of Mali was composed of different ethnic groups, but racial discrimination was unknown. Since it had attained independence, Mali had consistently supported equality between the races and opposed in every way racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Moreover, it had ratified many international instruments on human rights, as shown in paragraph 8 of document E/5637.

With regard to the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination envisaged in paragraph 13 (a) of General Assembly resolution

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(Mr. Diakite, Mali)

3057 (XXVIII), his delegation would like the conference to be held before 1978. It supported the proposals concerning the conference in document E/5637 and Add.1 and 2 and welcomed the offer of Ghana to act as host country. It also considered judicious the suggestions made in document E/5636, which deserved the Committee's attention, and wished to emphasize in particular the strengthening of assistance to the liberation movements and the information activities relating to the Decade.

Mrs. BAZARKHAND (Mongolia) said that one of the most shameful social phenomena of the contemporary era was the persistence of racial discrimination in some parts of the world. Since its establishment, the Mongolian People's Republic had pursued a policy of ensuring equal rights for all citizens, without any discrimination. That policy derived from the very essence of the socialist system, conformed to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was aimed at the strengthening of understanding between States, the attainment of a lasting peace and the social advancement of peoples. True to that policy, Mongolia resolutely condemned the practices of the régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, which violated the Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter. The Mongolian People's Republic had been one of the first countries to ratify instruments condemning such practices, had supported General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) concerning the Decade and firmly believed that 1984 would be the year in which all forms of racism would be completely eradicated.

The Mongolian People's Republic firmly supported the policy of establishing no relations of any sort with the racist régimes, and all the recommendations calling for the imposition of sanctions against them. In Mongolia, wide publicity was given to all activities relating to the Decade and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed on a nation-wide scale. The Government had already submitted its third report on action taken to implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had recently been discussed and acclaimed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The situation had recently changed in favour of the African peoples. The régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, alarmed by those changes, were seeking a so-called "dialogue" with independent African countries with the object of

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(Mrs. Bazarkhand, Mongolia)

splitting the anti-racist front of the Organization of African Unity, but there was increasingly resolute support for those who were fighting for the emancipation of Africa and it was to be hoped that the complete and earliest liquidation of the last strongholds of racism and colonialism on that continent would soon be achieved. Her delegation would support all measures directed to that end taken by the Council.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had duly noted the documents concerning the Decade before the Committee and particularly the information supplied by Governments and international organizations.

The German Democratic Republic attached great importance to the Programme for the Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3057 (XXVIII); it fully agreed with the objective of promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without any discrimination whatsoever, and supported the idea of holding a world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination. In that connexion, it welcomed the offer of the Ghanaian Government to host such a conference.

Racism, racial discrimination and apartheid were brutal violations of human rights and instruments of imperialist and colonialist oppression. Consequently, the struggle for their elimination was an important element in the anti-imperialist movement for international peace and security, democracy and social progress.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Decade it was important to implement the measures of the Programme consistently. In that connexion, he drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization continued to support the racist régime, and demanded the immediate cessation of that co-operation.

The position of the German Democratic Republic was well known. In close alliance with the States of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the national liberation movements, it had always opposed apartheid, racism and racial discrimination. It had supported without any reservations the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council directed against the régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia and had strictly applied the sanctions imposed. Moreover, it maintained friendly relations with the African liberation movements and gave them support, and had been one of the first States to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. As a new member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, it intended to co-operate actively with the Committee to help achieve its objectives.

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(Mr. Neugebauer, German Democratic Republic)

The Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had met with great support in the German Democratic Republic, as was reflected in the information supplied by his Government (E/5637/Add.1).

In his delegation's view, it was significant that in document E/5636/Add.3 the Council's attention had been drawn to decision 4 (XI) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of nazism and fascism. That decision reflected the connexion between those ideologies and existing forms of racism. The victory commemorated had liberated the peoples of Europe from nazi domination and at the same time had created favourable conditions for the struggle of peoples to free themselves from colonial slavery and to eliminate racist ideologies. Consequently, his delegation supported paragraphs 2 and 3 of that decision - which condemned racism and all the vestiges of nazism and fascism that persisted in the world and reminded the States concerned which were parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of their obligations under that Convention to adopt measures to put an end to racism and the manifestations of such ideologies - and supported the view that the Economic and Social Council should draw the attention of the General Assembly at its thirtieth session to the interrelationship he had mentioned and to the decision in question. His delegation believed that the possibilities for effective struggle against colonialism and racist policy improved as international peace was made more secure. Members were well aware of the dangers that emanated from the racist régimes in southern Africa.

Lastly, he said that within the framework of International Women's Year it should be remembered that women had always played a great role in the struggle against colonialism, apartheid, racism and racial discrimination and were in the forefront of the anti-imperialist movements for peace, democracy and social progress.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) said that her delegation had studied with due attention the documents presented by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 18 (b) and (f) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Yugoslavia, a country whose people lived in a socialist community of equal nations and nationalities, was actively contributing to United Nations efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and was a party to international instruments aimed at ensuring respect for human rights, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which it was duly implementing

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(Miss Ilic, Yugoslavia)

in its internal and foreign policy. Recently, it had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and had established a committee to implement, at the national level, the measures envisaged in the Programme for the Decade.

As could be seen from the report of the Secretary-General (E/5636, para. 63), a world-wide seminar on the promotion and protection of human rights of national, ethnic and other minorities had been held at Ohrid, Yugoslavia, in the summer of 1974. The deliberations and conclusions of the seminar constituted an important contribution to the cause of the protection of those rights. The seminar had confirmed that the abolition of all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, as well as the adoption of effective measures to eliminate apartheid were of particular significance.

The delegation of Yugoslavia noted with satisfaction the great number of measures envisaged or undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system to implement the Programme for the Decade; it welcomed the willingness of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to contribute to the attainment of its objectives and felt that it should be invited to take part in the relevant activities. It also welcomed the Committee's decisions on "Relations with racist régimes" and on the "Thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of nazism and fascism" (E/5636/Add.3).

However, much remained to be done to ensure the complete success of the Decade. For example, there should be more scrupulous implementation of international instruments on the subject and an intensification of efforts in the fields of education, research and, especially, in the field of public information, and the General Assembly and the Council should address a further appeal to that effect to all concerned. States members must co-operate effectively in the struggle against racism.

Her delegation also welcomed the offer of Ghana to host the conference to be held as a major event during the Decade and would appreciate it if the Secretary-General could explore with the Government of Ghana details concerning its offer and report to the Council in the spring of 1976 on the outcome.

Mr. WIGGINS (United States of America) thanked the Government of Ghana for its invitation to host the world conference on combating racial discrimination. In his opinion, the ultimate goals of the Decade were to promote human rights and

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(Mr. Wiggins, United States)

fundamental freedom for all, without distinction on grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, and he joined his colleagues from the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic and other countries in applauding the progress that had been made towards eliminating colonialism in Africa since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII). The decision of the Portuguese Government to move rapidly towards full decolonization had opened up vast territories to self-determination. It could only be regretted that similar progress had not been made elsewhere and that there were no signs of movement towards self-determination within a mighty empire that had annexed countries that differed from the ruling Power in religion, ethnic origin, language and tradition, if not always in the colour of their skins. That type of neo-colonialism, which took the form of political tutelage in neighbouring countries backed up by enormous military strength, had not been mitigated.

Internationally, the evils of racism were most evident in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The United States delegation shared with its colleagues their outrage at the continued existence of apartheid and, although it disagreed about methods of promoting change, it wished to emphasize that its relations with South Africa were designed not to support the present régime but to promote peaceful evolution towards a situation in which all South Africans could participate fully in the social, economic and political life of their country - an evolution that would be favoured by the independence of Angola and Mozambique.

The United States did not provide support to Governments or régimes that was intended to enable them to perpetuate racist policies, and had instituted an arms embargo against South Africa prior to the embargo established by the United Nations itself. The United States continued to bar the sale of military equipment to South Africa, had not collaborated with South Africa on military or naval matters for over a decade, and had no intention of giving such co-operation in the future.

The United States Government believed that the South African occupation of Namibia was illegal and that the Government of South Africa should move quickly to end it. The previous autumn, the United States had contributed \$50,000 to the United Nations Fund for Namibia, and the previous month it had contributed \$50,000 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa to be used for the training of Namibians. In addition, through the United Nations High

(Mr. Wiggins, United States)

Commissioner for Refugees, it had provided and continued to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees from southern Africa who had fled to neighbouring countries.

The United States was in fact a multiracial society and it had to deal with problems of racism on an every-day basis. Thus, its adherence to the programme of the United Nations was but part of an ongoing domestic effort.

The machinery of the Federal Government had been mobilized with increasing effectiveness to eliminate racism and racial discrimination. The Department of Justice, for example, had, at the judicial level, fought discrimination against the black population in the fields of education, labour and electoral rights, as a result of which there had been a considerable drop in the number of black pupils isolated in all-black schools and an increase in the number of black voters and blacks holding elective office. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare had primary responsibility for ensuring that there was no discrimination against any person because of race, colour, or national origin in any programme or activity which received Federal financial assistance. Failure to adhere to the standards set could result in withdrawal of Federal funds or the institution of proceedings against the offender.

In response to resolution 3057 (XXVIII), the United States National Commission for UNESCO had established a steering committee for the purpose of planning a conference during 1975 to highlight United States concern for and participation in the Decade. Those activities would continue, and it was to be hoped that by the end of the Decade the purposes of the Programme and those of the United States own civil rights legislation would have been achieved.

Miss CAVALONE (Italy) said that the principle that all citizens were equal before the law without distinction as to race or other personal characteristics was deeply rooted in the conscience of the Italian people and in the Constitution of Italy. In accordance with the aims of the Decade, the Italian Government was engaging at the national and international levels in action against prejudices and practices based on racial differences with a view to the final achievement of racial harmony. As a first step in that direction, the Italian Government had brought General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) to the attention of all government offices concerned, inviting them to take appropriate action.

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(Miss Cavalone, Italy)

From the legislative point of view, the forthcoming ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would reflect Italy's full support for the aims of the Decade and the provisions of article 4 of the Convention.

With regard to the education of young people, the Ministry concerned had taken steps to disseminate the resolution to all local officers, asking them to choose the most suitable means of implementing the suggestions contained in it. Adult education programmes and information media at large should seek to create an awareness of the human and social costs of racial discrimination and of the threat it represented to all mankind. At the same time constant efforts should be made to promote deeper convictions about the value of individual differences.

The Italian delegation wished to stress that while it recognized the need for urgent action to eradicate the most deplorable forms of racism, racial discrimination and colonialism, it also considered it important to eradicate and prevent more subtle forms of racial discrimination, such as those related to ethnic differences, as in the case of migrant workers and other ethnic minorities. With regard to migrant workers, the Italian Government was committed to undertaking appropriate action at the national and international levels to develop the basis for better mutual understanding regarding ethnic differences and the prevention of discrimination and social conflicts.

As for the reports before the Committee (E/5636 and Add.1-3 and E/5637 and Add.1-2), the Italian delegation felt that the short time that had elapsed since the inception of the Decade and the very small number of new replies from Member States made it difficult to undertake a thorough evaluation of the progress made and seemed to indicate a need for more intensive preliminary analysis of the issue by the subsidiary organs of the Council.

The Italian delegation wished to express its appreciation of the work done by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and to recommend that the Council should decide the nature of the contribution to be requested of the Committee with regard to the action to be undertaken for the Decade, including the organization of the international conference. Lastly, the Italian delegation thanked the Government of Ghana for offering to host the international conference.

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Mrs. GONZALES (Trinidad and Tobago) recalled that, for over 20 years, the General Assembly had been adopting resolutions condemning the policy of apartheid as a flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and warning that the persistence of the South African régime in the practice of that crime against humanity was creating an explosive situation which was a threat to world peace.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had studied with attention the proposals of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which were entirely in keeping with the policy it practised. Trinidad and Tobago opposed racial discrimination in all its forms and would continue to give its unswerving support to any action geared to eradicating racial injustices wherever they existed. To that end, and within the framework of the Programme for the Decade, it had granted assistance to the peoples oppressed by the racist régimes in southern Africa through the offer of scholarships to the liberation movements and had contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

Her Government gave no support to régimes which practised racial discrimination. It had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had recently signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Moreover, her country's Constitution and laws upheld the principle of racial equality.

She thought that the international conference on combating racial discrimination would be a major feature of the Decade and was ready to support the offer of Ghana to host such a conference, which would hopefully advance the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, in the face of flagrant violations of human rights like those taking place in southern Africa, two different kinds of approaches were being witnessed. One approach was based on the concept that the realization of human rights began at home and that that was where any world-wide effort must start. The other attitude was to concentrate exclusively on situations in other countries and continents and to describe the situation in one's own country in idyllic and lyric language. Needless to say, the Federal Republic of Germany had chosen the first alternative.

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

The Federal Republic of Germany supported the aims of the Decade and the elimination of apartheid and of all other forms of racial, political and religious discrimination in any part of the world. It provided assistance to the victims of racial discrimination through contributions to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had presented to the Secretary-General two further contributions to those funds in the amount of 135,000 marks each.

The Federal Republic was a signatory of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in three reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination it had given a detailed account of legislative, administrative and other measures taken in the Federal Republic to safeguard the principle of racial equality. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany had been a party to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights since December 1973.

His delegation supported the idea that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should play a role in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade, as it had offered to do in its decision I (XI) (E/5636/Add.1). Within its mandate under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Committee could and ought to make contributions of great value to the implementation of the Programme; for instance, it would have an opportunity to draw the attention of those States that had ratified or acceded to the Convention to their obligations under article 9 of the Convention.

His delegation welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to serve as host to the world conference that would take place as part of the Programme for the Decade.

During the past year, the process of decolonization in Africa had been accelerated by the decision of the Portuguese Government to give independence to its former African Territories. The progress achieved in that connexion was not encouraging, particularly because it had been brought about through negotiations.

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal Republic of Germany)

The prospect that those changes would not endanger the legitimate interests of minorities would render untenable the position of those who still tried to base their racist policies on fear. The impact of those developments was felt all over southern Africa, and there were indications that through negotiations further progress could be achieved in that region.

The Federal Republic of Germany condemned the policy of apartheid in South African and had called on the Government of South Africa to take steps to abolish it and to release political prisoners. However, it did not believe in the success of a policy of complete isolation. What was needed, in its opinion, was an endeavour to exert moral and political pressure and to have increased contacts with all groups of the populations concerned. While there might be differences of opinion on the means to be employed, all agreed on the goal to be achieved. His delegation hoped that the resolution on the Decade would be drafted in that spirit so that all members of the Council would be able to support it.

With regard to Southern Rhodesia, it was to be hoped that the envisaged Constitutional Conference would lead to full participation of the majority in government and to self-determination. The illegal authorities of the Territory, and in particular the white population backing them, should realize that it was only as a result of negotiations that the legitimate rights and interests of the minority could be protected. The same applied to the situation in Namibia. South Africa had no authority to remain in that Territory, and the implementation of the right to self-determination was a matter of legal obligation, of human rights and of political wisdom.

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) noted that less than one month previously the United Nations and the peoples which condemned racism and apartheid had solemnly celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, being the fifteenth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre by the Pretoria racists. The international community had denounced that massacre of a people which aspired only to social justice, peace, dignity and recognition of equal rights, but the racists authorities in Pretoria, like those in Salisbury, have never heeded the protests.

The South African people and its liberation movements had shown by their sacrifices that they were determined to eliminate exploitation, oppression and

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(Mr. Lehtihet, Algeria)

forced segregation, in accordance with the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

At the special session of the Council of Ministers of OAU in Dar es Salaam, the representatives of African countries had taken a firm stand against the manoeuvres by Pretoria, which was trying, by means of a false dialogue, to create the impression that it was ready to change its shameful policy of apartheid. The convening of that session on the proposal of Algeria was further proof of Algeria's readiness for the struggle against the Pretoria and Salisbury régimes to ensure that the Africans should recover their national dignity. At Dar es Salaam, the African Ministers had declared that, if there was to be a dialogue, South Africa must begin with the indigenous population before trying to have one with other African countries. There could be no question of Africa's entering into a dialogue with the South African racists so long as their prisons were full and they continued to herd the population into concentration camps which constituted reservoirs of cheap labour.

The offer by an African country to hold seminars on the elimination of racism, and in particular Ghana's desire to serve as host to the world conference, were further evidence of Africa's positive contribution to the eradication of racism and racial discrimination.

Algeria, which had constantly provided assistance to the national liberation movements and contributed effectively to the elimination of racism, welcomed the report submitted by the Secretary-General and the information contained in it, and supported decision I (XI) of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (E/5636/Add.1), particularly paragraphs 2 and 3.

Lastly, he recalled that, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria had stated that the manoeuvres being carried out in Pretoria and Salisbury with the encouragement of the Western allies of those régimes should not make one forget the lessons of the Sharpeville massacre, which was an illustration of the only form of dialogue that could be imagined by a régime based on the concept of racial superiority and on the idea that domination and exploitation of the majority by a minority would never end.

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Mrs. SEKELA (Zaire) welcomed Ghana's offer to serve as host country for the world conference envisaged in the Programme for the Decade; the conference would make a considerable contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. As the President of the Republic had stated in the General Assembly in 1973, Zaire would not be satisfied so long as the peoples of southern Africa were subjugated by colonialists and racists. Zaire was the connecting link between a number of countries in central Africa. Consequently, it had an overriding political obligation to make its material and military contributions to all neighbouring countries that were subject to the colonial yoke, and it had mobilized to combat the racist and colonialist régimes of southern Africa. For the same reason, it was gratified by the changed situation in Mozambique, Angola and Cape Verde.

The Constitution of Zaire condemned all forms of discrimination based on race or sex, and Zaire, in its determination to convince the racist régimes that they must change their attitude, had signed the Lusaka Manifesto of 1970. In addition, within the framework of the Permanent Tripartite Conference of Zambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, periodic meetings of the heads of State of the three countries had been held to evaluate their mutual co-operation and to consider the strategy to be adopted for the complete liberation of Africa. She was convinced that reason, justice and continued struggle would triumph over racial segregation.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would give the floor to the observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Mr. VELESKO (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that 1975 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the victory of the anti-Hitler coalition over fascism, a culmination to the Second World War which had changed the world situation and created favourable conditions for the development of national liberation movements and the collapse of colonialism. The active peace policies of the socialist countries had made possible an irreversible détente and the establishment of relations of peaceful coexistence. Yet the policies of apartheid and racial discrimination still persisted, constituting a threat to international peace and security. Public opinion must therefore be mobilized for the struggle

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(Mr. Velesko, Byelorussian SSR)

against racism and racial discrimination, in which the United Nations had an important role to play. General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), approving the Programme for the Decade and requesting the assistance of all States in implementing it, was a significant contribution to that struggle.

The Byelorussian SSR had supported all United Nations decisions on the subject, had always opposed apartheid, imperialism and racism and had manifested its solidarity with the national liberation movements. His delegation considered that measures for the elimination of racist régimes should be applied by all, without exception, and at the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly it had appealed to all States which had not yet done so to sign the instruments relating to the protection of human rights. It should be noted in that connexion that in October 1973 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR had ratified the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights. In March 1974, the Byelorussian SSR had signed the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid; in addition, it had contributed to the fund for assistance to the victims of apartheid and racial discrimination.

The régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were applying inhuman policies of apartheid and oppression against the indigenous population, which was reduced to a condition of slavery. One of the most heinous crimes was the South African régime's policy of establishing bantustans. However, the future was promising for the national liberation movements. The racist régimes were being isolated and, despite their attempts to convince world opinion that they were liberalizing their policies, no one was deceived, since what they were in fact doing was intensifying repression, as was evidenced by the murder and detention of leaders of the liberation movements. Racism and apartheid were a threat to international security and should be completely isolated. Accordingly, the General Assembly had taken an important step at its last session in denying the representatives of South Africa the right to participate in its work.

Some countries and many enterprises, ignoring the decisions of the United Nations, were giving support to South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, and in that connexion he emphasized the role that was being played by certain members of NATO. In the present climate of détente and co-operation among States, manifestations of apartheid and racism could not be tolerated, and all resources must be mobilized to eliminate them.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

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761st meeting

Friday, 18 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

NARCOTIC DRUGS (E/5626, E/5639, E/AC.7/L.682)

The CHAIRMAN said that in conformity with the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1940th meeting to defer consideration of the calendar of meetings for 1976 and 1977 until its fifty-ninth session, draft resolution E (E/5639), appearing in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would be discussed by the Council at that session.

Mr. VANCE (United States of America) said his delegation felt that the gravity and complexity of the problems of drug abuse required that the next regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be held in 1976 rather than 1977.

The CHAIRMAN said that the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council could not be altered.

Mr. REUTER (President, International Narcotics Control Board) said that the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in document E/INCB/25 was intended to provide information relating to drug control throughout the world and was also an expression of the obligation imposed by Governments on INCB to produce an annual report which would attempt to synthesize and interpret the information available.

The international treaties on narcotics control were essential to the success of the campaign against illicit drug activities. Most Governments, to their credit, were willing to apply and respect such treaties even if they had not legally adhered to them; however, it was of course desirable that they should adhere to those instruments. It was very important that States should voluntarily join in the international struggle against the illicit traffic in narcotics and thus show solidarity with the international community.

The situation with regard to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was highly satisfactory, for 100 States had already become parties to it and new States were adhering to it every year. Many other States were co-operating in

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(Mr. Reuter, INCB)

providing information, and INCB was doing everything possible to encourage the few States which had reservations about providing information to do so. The 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention was important in that it provided for the membership of INCB to be increased from 11 to 13, and although the members of that body served in an individual capacity, the increase would permit a wider representation of the international community. The Protocol would also broaden the functions of INCB and strengthen its powers. It was significant that there had always been co-ordination between INCB and other institutions for narcotics control. The Protocol should soon come into force with the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification or accession. The 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances had so far been ratified by only 25 States; the hesitation of other States was understandable, since they were aware of the responsibilities they would assume in ratifying the Convention and the difficult measures of implementation which might be involved. Nevertheless, pursuant to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, States were voluntarily providing the information they were requested to furnish under the Convention to INCB and it was hoped that the flow of information would increase. One satisfactory development was that in 1974 one of the States which produced psychotropic substances had ratified the Convention. He hoped that other States would formally adhere to it and thus demonstrate their solidarity with the international community.

The report of INCB attached great importance to the regional situation in respect of narcotics control. That was because the narcotics situation varied in different areas owing to geographical and societal conditions, and also because the effectiveness of international narcotics control depended to a large extent on day-to-day measures at the regional level. At the same time, it was necessary for individual States to co-operate in narcotics control, since the traffic in narcotics crossed many frontiers, and drug traffickers could rapidly change their sources of supply and their routes. For example, although progress was being made in regional co-operation in South-East Asia and there had been an increase in the number of narcotics seizures, the international drug traffic was taking new routes, and heroin was reaching Europe from South-East Asia. Similarly, results had been achieved in reinforcing local co-operation in South America but there was a serious situation in the region of the high Andes, where the mastication of

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(Mr. Reuter, INCB)

coca leaves and the clandestine production of cocaine continued. Very little was known about the sociology of narcotics abuse or about narcotics as an epidemic phenomenon - a subject which was under consideration by the World Health Organization - and the problem of narcotics could not be solved overnight. Social, political and ethnological factors were involved, and States faced with the problem of enormous geographical obstacles deserved the greatest understanding and assistance. In South America some progress in narcotics control had been achieved in Bolivia and it was hoped that Peru would make progress in controlling the production and consumption of coca leaves.

With regard to the licit supply of narcotics, he said that in 1973 and 1974 there had been a shortfall in the licit production of opiates which had been overcome only because one State had put special stocks on the market. It was hoped that climatic conditions in 1975 would ensure adequate production. The international treaties on narcotics control did not give INCB specific powers regarding production of raw materials to be used in the manufacture of opiates, which would enable it to take direct action and only the Protocol invited INCB to ensure that there was sufficient production of raw materials for the manufacture of opiates to meet legitimate demand. INCB had therefore included a study on the prospects of the licit opiate market in its report for 1974, and it considered it advisable that representatives of Governments should exchange views on the matter. It believed that the problem was much larger than that of organizing markets for other raw materials in that it involved not only economic considerations but also considerations of the security of international control. faulty operation of the supply and demand mechanism had consequences far exceeding economic considerations. Furthermore, since there was a general increase in the need for opiates for legitimate purposes because of the increase in the world population and other factors, all Governments should understand that great caution was needed so as to avoid jeopardizing the aims of international narcotics control. He noted in that connexion the case of Turkey, whose Government had for many years co-operated with international control bodies and had decided to prohibit the lancing of the poppy capsules, in other words the production of opium, while permitting the harvesting of poppy straw.

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(Mr. Reuter, INCB)

The report of INCB did not, of course, cover all the action taken by the Board. It was essential that the members of the Board should have sufficient powers to enable their influence to be felt, since their task was to advise and assist Governments in achieving progress in narcotics control.

Mr. M<sup>ARTENS</sup> (Director, Division of Narcotic Drugs), introducing the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its twenty-sixth session (E/5639), stressed the importance of draft resolutions E and G. With reference to the latter, he observed that the work and responsibilities of the competent United Nations bodies and their secretariats were growing year by year, and resources must be increased to meet that growth. Draft resolution E reflected the Commission's view that annual sessions of the relevant international bodies were essential at the present time when drug abuse, especially that involving psychotropic substances, was very much on the increase. By adopting those two draft resolutions, the Council would greatly contribute to the fulfilment of the mandate it had given to the Commission and further the struggle against drug abuse. Draft resolution C was particularly opportune at a time when what was sometimes called the legalization of cannabis products was openly advocated.

The Commission had also engaged in a very important debate on the subject of poppy cultivation under properly controlled conditions so as to meet the world's requirements of opium for medical and scientific purposes. That debate had led to a number of very important conclusions and to a general agreement the substance of which could be found in chapter XI of the report.

It had been especially encouraging to hear representatives of international agencies and organizations attending the twenty-sixth session of the Commission give accounts of their effective participation in what had become a truly concerted action against drug abuse throughout the world.

Speaking in his capacity as Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, he said that a summary of his report on operations financed by the Fund in 1974 could be found in chapter VI of the Commission's report. The first major project supported by the Fund had been the country programme for Thailand begun in 1972. Subsequently, a number of other countries had requested United Nations assistance in eliminating illicit drug production, suppressing illicit traffic, or reducing drug abuse.

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(Mr. Martens)

The Fund's first pilot project in crop replacement had already demonstrated that it was possible to replace production of opium for the illicit traffic with marketable products of agriculture and home industries. Farmers wanted to change from growing opium for traffickers to honest agriculture and industry, but prices and markets were crucial to the success of replacement programmes. It was the responsibility of the Governments concerned to arrange for the orderly marketing of replacement products and to provide the enforcement and extension services necessary for the application of the project results throughout areas of former illicit production. It was paradoxical that in spite of food shortages and even famine, markets for replacement crops at adequate prices were difficult to find. It was hoped that in view of those problems all Governments and business interests in general would show understanding and offer their co-operation.

Economic development projects could be supportive of international drug control objectives. However, to be so, such projects must be formulated and executed with due regard for those objectives. The Fund was prepared to consult with Governments and international agencies to ensure that development and effective drug control proceeded hand in hand.

UNDP and the specialized agencies had important roles to play in the international effort. The UNDP resident representative was the Fund's principal adviser and point of contact in preparing country programmes, the principal representative in the country until a programme director was appointed, and a valued counsellor throughout the life of the programme. In addition, FAO, WHO, the ILO and other agencies participated in preparatory and negotiating missions and in the execution of programmes. The function of the United Nations was to organize and co-ordinate, not to seek to duplicate the skills and resources of those agencies. The new Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Drug Abuse Control promoted the close co-operation among participating agencies which the programme demanded and that co-operation had been excellent.

A substantial part of the Fund's over-all programme consisted of projects designed to strengthen control measures with a view to reducing illicit traffic. Seizures and arrests throughout the world confirmed that there had been measurable

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(Mr. Martens)

success in that co-operative effort in recent years. An increasing proportion of the Fund's assistance and resources was being devoted to projects for the reduction of demand for drugs for illicit purposes. That increase was due primarily to the fact that a growing number of Governments had requested assistance in preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation. In addition, WHO and UNESCO would continue to develop, with Fund assistance, regional and global surveys and studies to assist the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, other international agencies and Governments in their work in that field.

Research was also accorded high priority in the Fund's programme. Research begun in 1974 included the WHO project financed by the Fund on the epidemiology of drug dependence and the research carried out by the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory on the chemistry of khat and on ways of increasing the production of codeine to meet rising requirements for medical use.

The Fund's administration had worked to avoid duplication, improve co-ordination and keep administrative costs to a minimum. Costs of programme development and Fund administration had declined in relative terms, and in real terms now accounted for less than 10 per cent of current expenditures.

Fund assistance had been concentrated in those areas of the world where the need for external aid in improving drug control had been greatest. However, increasing the effectiveness of drug control in those critical areas had benefited all regions. Programmes and expenditures in other areas would increase in response to Government requests. A Fund mission had recently visited South America to ascertain assistance needs and had received preliminary requests. Increasing attention would also be given to the needs of Africa, particularly in the prevention of drug abuse.

The Fund's first regional adviser, designated for the Middle East in 1974, was helping it to achieve a better understanding of problems in that region and was assisting Governments in communicating their requests and requirements to the Fund. A regional liaison officer was currently being recruited for South-East Asia and it was planned to have United Nations liaison officers in both South America and Africa, beginning in 1975.

The Fund was responding to requests from the Government of Turkey for assistance in the supervision and control of poppy cultivation and the harvesting of poppy straw for the extraction of opium alkaloids. The Fund would provide all

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(Mr. <sup>O</sup>Martens)

practicable assistance requested to help the Turkish Government carry out its treaty obligation to enforce a control system designed to ensure that production was used exclusively for medicinal purposes and was not diverted to illicit traffickers for processing into heroin.

An increasing volume of assistance requests could be expected. The main burden on Fund resources in the future would be new multisectoral country programmes, mainly at the request of countries in South-East, Central and Western Asia and in South America. During the past year, the Fund had continued its effort to persuade Governments which had not yet done so to contribute to the Fund, and those already giving to increase their contributions. Although the Fund must depend mainly on Governments, it intended to appeal in 1975 to non-governmental organizations and private sources as well. Contributions to the Fund pledged or received as of 1 April 1975 totalled about \$18 million. A list of the contributions by 44 countries had been circulated. Since January 1975, 13 Governments, four of them new contributors, had made or pledged additional contributions. Furthermore, a letter requesting support had recently been sent to the Permanent Mission, in both Geneva and New York, of every Government which had not yet contributed to the Fund. Contributions were desired whether or not a Government received assistance from the Fund or had a drug problem. He asked for the support of the Council in obtaining the total participation of the international community in the funding of the United Nations programme. Three countries had already provided contributions in kind, and contributions for special uses consistent with the purposes of the Fund would also continue to be welcome. It was very important for programme planning and continuity that contributions should be made on a sustained, regular basis. He expressed appreciation to those Governments which had contributed regularly, in response to General Assembly resolution 3278 (XXIX). The spread of global drug abuse had by no means been contained and could be dealt with only through international co-operation and mutual assistance. He expressed the hope that each Government would determine its contribution on the basis of the value to people everywhere of an integrated international programme for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse throughout the world.

Mr. VANCE (United States of America) said that, in spite of effective law enforcement efforts, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs continued. As established patterns of illicit traffic were disrupted, new patterns emerged. Despite concerted efforts by Governments in the fields of education and publicity,

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(Mr. Vance, United States)

drugs continued to lure large numbers of young people. The most modern therapeutic techniques widely available had had little effect in reducing the problem. That problem should not be underestimated. The United States Government, for its part, intended to continue to play as effective a role as possible, both domestically and internationally.

The International Narcotics Control Board continued to make an outstanding contribution to international drug control. The Board, and indeed the whole international structure, would be considerably strengthened by the entry into force of the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was responding affirmatively to requests for assistance from important producer countries. However, the Fund must receive larger and continuing contributions if it was to perform the role envisaged for it. By no means all Governments had contributed according to their ability, let alone according to the existing need. That regrettable situation should be corrected.

The Economic and Social Council and its Commission on Narcotic Drugs could continue to exercise the important leadership role that they had played in the past. It was from those bodies that the ideas and principles which directed the international co-operative efforts must continue to come. The Council could appeal to developing countries to include rural development projects for poppy- and other narcotics-growing areas in their planning and requests for technical and economic assistance. The developed countries, for their part, could be asked to give such projects high priority in the bilateral development assistance they offered.

His delegation welcomed the draft resolutions proposed in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and would vote in favour of them. Draft resolution E was of special importance. The holding of annual meetings of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East would further co-operation in that region. Moreover, in deciding that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should hold a special session in 1976 the Council would be following a sound precedent. That was a substantive decision dictated by the seriousness of the international drug situation. He was not convinced that the Council could not proceed to the adoption of draft resolution E.

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(Mr. Vance, United States)

His delegation would warmly endorse and support draft resolutions E/AC.7/L.682 and L.683.

Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that his delegation would support all the draft resolutions referred to the Council by the Commission. With regard to draft resolution E, he stressed the importance which his delegation attached to the annual meetings of the Operational Heads of National Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies of the Far East Region and endorsed the reference in paragraph 2 to the holding of annual meetings of that body and of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East. One of the primary purposes of such meetings was to foster bilateral co-operation at the operational level and to establish mutual confidence, a prerequisite for the exchange of confidential information. Moreover, it was essential that discussions at the operational level should deal with up-to-date developments, in view of the ever-changing patterns of supply and demand which created such great difficulties for law enforcement services.

With regard to the recommendation in draft resolution E that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should hold a special two-week session in 1976, although his delegation was not in favour of using special sessions as a device to circumvent the biennial rule concerning the meetings of the Commissions of the Council, it felt strongly that the holding of the proposed special session was warranted. Firstly, there was a need for an early and critical examination of the appraisal of projects undertaken by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control; secondly, it was necessary to examine critically developments relating to opium poppy cultivation and the production of morphine; and thirdly, the development of regional sub-commissions needed to be supervised by the Commission to ensure that that recent useful initiative did not lose its impetus.

Mr. DUMAS (France), introducing draft resolution E/AC.7/L.682 on behalf of the sponsors, expressed the hope that it would be adopted unanimously.

Speaking on behalf of his own delegation, he said that as the fight against drug abuse was a difficult, long-range task, the highly commendable 1974 report of the International Narcotics Control Board once again rightly stressed the need to implement existing treaties, to continue the study of the causes of drug abuse and

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(Mr. Dumas, France)

to pursue an unrelenting attack on illicit traffic. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Turkish Government to prohibit the lancing of poppy capsules and, as it had stated in the Commission, encouraged that Government to ensure that the decision was strictly applied. With regard to the section of the Commission's report inviting Member States to ratify the relevant conventions, he said that France had ratified the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and had initiated the procedure for the ratification of the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961.

His delegation had been a sponsor in the Commission of draft resolution B, which called on States to strengthen their co-operation in the suppression of the international illicit traffic in drugs. As the higher number of seizures indicated, such traffic was increasing. Heroin from Asia continued to reach Europe and North America, hashish from Africa, the Near East and Asia flowed into Western Europe, and traffic in liquid cannabis and psychotropic substances was also on the rise. However, as a result of the agreement between France and the United States of 26 February 1971, co-ordination and strengthening of suppression services had prevented the problem from becoming as serious as had been feared.

France had also been a sponsor of draft resolution C, concerning the cannabis problem. It could not agree with those countries which, drawing a distinction between cannabis and hard drugs, showed a certain tolerance towards users and traffickers: WHO, the Board and the Commission had recognized its harmfulness, and traffic in cannabis should be halted before it was too late.

He welcomed the fact that draft resolution D, on measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs, had been endorsed unanimously by the Commission. Emphasizing the importance of providing treatment facilities for drug addicts, he noted that drug addiction must be viewed not solely as a crime to be punished but primarily as an illness to be cured. The situation as a whole was still very disturbing, despite the fact that statistics showed some improvement in comparison with earlier years. His delegation had also supported draft resolution E in the Commission and would do so in the Council, for the gravity of the problem of drug abuse was sufficient to justify the more frequent periodicity of the meetings of the bodies mentioned in paragraph 2 of the text. It had likewise voted in favour of draft resolution F, concerning co-ordination of activities of international organs and organizations in the struggle against the abuse of drugs, and draft resolution G, on adequate priority for narcotics control.

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Mr. BATIBAY (Turkey) said that the presence of Mr. Reuter as President of the International Narcotics Control Board provided another guarantee of the objectivity of the suggestions and conclusions contained in the Board's report.

He was pleased to report that his Government's decision in principle to authorize the resumption of unlanded poppy cultivation had been put into effect by a governmental decree on 8 January 1975. He described the measures taken by his Government (E/5639, para. 164) to control poppy cultivation and prevent diversion to illicit channels. He also endorsed the conclusions of the International Narcotics Control Board contained in paragraph 15 of the summary of the Board's report (E/5626).

He expressed his Government's satisfaction with the work of Mr. Martens in his dual capacity as Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs and Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. The fact that he was leading the two secretariats would facilitate co-ordination and co-operation between them.

He commended the Commission on its report and urged the adoption of the draft resolutions set forth in chapter I. Paragraph 2 of draft resolution E, which reaffirmed that the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East should hold annual meetings, simply reaffirmed the Council's endorsement, in resolution 1776 (LIV), of an earlier Commission decision to that effect. His delegation understood that the Commission was seeking the reaffirmation of that decision because it considered it indispensable to an efficient and continuous fight against illicit trafficking. Given the present situation in regard to illicit trafficking, the purpose of the Sub-Commission's meetings would not be served properly if that body met only biennially. Moreover, since the Sub-Commission planned to hold a meeting in June 1975 with the participation of experts from the member countries of the region, it was very important for the Council to endorse draft resolution E at its current session.

It was essential that adequate priority should be given to narcotics control by Governments and by the United Nations Secretariat. The adoption of draft resolution G was necessary to ensure that such priority was given and that the necessary resources were allocated within the framework of the United Nations regular budget, in order not to cause undue dislocations or detract from the

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(Mr. Batibay, Turkey)

statutory obligations of the Secretariat. The efforts of the Division of Narcotic Drugs to strengthen co-ordination among international organs and organizations in the field of drug abuse control, a matter dealt with in draft resolution F, should be praised and encouraged; the Secretariat was unquestionably well equipped to co-ordinate those efforts and the various organs active in that field should give it their full co-operation.

He emphasized the need for the Governments of industrialized countries to ratify the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, for such substances were abused at least as much as narcotic drugs. His Government would consider the ratification of the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, in the light of the situation regarding the ratifications and entry into force of the 1971 Convention.

With regard to chapter XI of the report, on poppy cultivation under properly controlled conditions so as to meet the world's requirements of opium for medical and scientific purposes, he emphasized that, apart from the humanitarian considerations vis-à-vis Turkish growers which had prompted the resumption of poppy cultivation in Turkey, his Government's decision was intended to help remedy the shortage of raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry. His Government was particularly concerned with the need to resume that production in such a manner as to prevent diversion for illicit purposes, and was grateful for the prompt response and guidance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and the Division of Narcotic Drugs in regard to Turkey's request for assistance with the preparatory work for the construction of a factory for the manufacture of opium alkaloids. He described the action taken by his Government to combat illicit traffic (document E/5639, paras. 272-276). Poppy cultivation continued to be restricted to the central part of the country as in the past, and was conducted under the strict administrative control of the Soil Products Office, in conformity with the licensing law adopted in 1971. He noted that the decision of the Turkish Government to authorize the resumption of unlanded poppy cultivation had been warmly welcomed by the United Nations.

Various United Nations missions had visited Turkey in 1974 and the current year and had discussed with the Turkish authorities avenues of co-operation in the

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(Mr. Batibay, Turkey)

field of supervision and control. Extensive co-operation with the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control would further strengthen the effectiveness of the Turkish State agencies. Furthermore, special measures had been taken to strengthen customs controls at border posts in Turkey.

He was confident that other members would agree that, in view of the gravity and urgency of the drug abuse problem through the world, every country must do its utmost, within the resources available to it, to strengthen the fight against that problem.

Mr. LOBATO (Mexico) said that his delegation considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1974 (E/INCB/25) an excellent document. It was necessary to increase efforts to control drug abuse, a task which was undertaken at the international level by the Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Concerted multilateral action co-ordinated through the relevant United Nations organs, together with changes in economic and social structures, could help to control drug abuse. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution commending the Board on its report and recommending that report to the serious attention of all States Members of the United Nations.

Turning to the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, he welcomed the fact that, notwithstanding the many items on its agenda, the Commission had been able to complete its work in only two weeks. His delegation would vote in favour of all the draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council. Draft resolution D, concerning measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs, merited special attention. While it unquestionably was essential to combat illicit traffic and clandestine production, primary attention should be paid to the causes of drug abuse and to eliminating or at least decreasing the illicit use of drugs. Also of particular importance was draft resolution E/AC.7/L.683, calling on Governments to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to enable the Fund to finance assistance programmes for Governments.

All the draft resolutions provided Member States and international organizations with the wherewithal to discharge their obligations under the relevant conventions. He recommended that they should be adopted by the Council.

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(Mr. Lobato, Mexico)

Since 1951, attention had been drawn to the importance of changing the economic and social conditions in drug-producing areas of the world. International policy should strive to reduce the demand for drugs and to change those conditions by providing farmers whose only means of obtaining their livelihood was the cultivation of drug-producing crops with alternatives and by ensuring that they received higher prices for their products.

In conclusion, he informed the Committee that Mexico expected to adhere shortly to the 1972 Protocol and the 1971 Convention.

Mr. MALAFATOPOULOS (World Health Organization) said that, in January 1974, WHO had convened a meeting of investigators on tests for the detection of dependence-producing drugs in body fluids. The meeting had concluded that certain new tests, particularly those of an immuno-chemical nature, were rapid and highly sensitive but had limited specificity, since positive results usually required confirmation by other methods.

In November 1974, WHO had convened a Scientific Group on Progress in the Methodology of Evaluation of Dependence-Liability of Drugs. The Group had reviewed the existing methods for testing the dependence-producing potential of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and had proposed multidisciplinary research to facilitate the collation of results of preclinical and clinical assessments with the results of epidemiological studies of the patterns of drug-taking by individuals.

In May 1974, the twenty-seventh World Health Assembly had adopted resolution WHA27.59 requesting the Director-General to convene a group of experts to study the influence of alcohol and psychotropic drugs and their interaction on driver skills and traffic accidents. The collection of relevant data had begun.

During 1974, WHO had published a review entitled "Problems and Programmes Related to Alcohol and Drug Dependence in 33 Countries".

In the field of direct assistance to countries, WHO in 1974 had initiated three new activities supported by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. Those activities included a world-wide operational research and reporting programme on the epidemiology of drug dependence; a pilot treatment and rehabilitation project in Burma; and training and consultation activities in Viet-Nam. The

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(Mr. Malafatopoulos, WHO)

staffing of a treatment and rehabilitation project in Thailand, also supported by the Fund, had been completed and implementation of the work plan begun. WHO had also participated in interagency teams visiting Burma, Laos and Pakistan.

Drug abuse as an emerging social and health problem in the South-East Asia region was a cause of concern in Burma, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. A Fund-assisted project for crop substitution and for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons was in operation, with WHO as executing agency for the treatment and rehabilitation aspects. Pilot projects for the prevention and control of drug abuse had been developed and advisory help had been given in the training of enforcement officers for government services in three countries, with the aim of exerting greater control over drug abuse. Since prevention and control methods called for co-ordination of national and international efforts in legislation and enforcement and also involved a number of national agencies working in the fields of public health, social welfare and education, an intercountry meeting of representatives of such agencies had been held at Jakarta in October 1974 to review the problem of drug abuse, develop national plans and prepare guidelines for WHO assistance.

WHO was making similar efforts to prevent, control, treat and rehabilitate victims of drug abuse in the eastern Mediterranean and western Pacific regions, and would continue to co-operate with the United Nations and other specialized agencies in a concerted effort to solve the problem of drug abuse and do its utmost to assist Member States upon request to design and introduce projects and programmes in that field.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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762nd meeting

Friday, 18 April 1975,  
at 3.30 p.m.NARCOTIC DRUGS (E/5626, E/5639; E/AC.7/L.682, L.683) (concluded)

Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that his delegation had taken note of the appeal by the President of the International Narcotics Control Board for greater regional co-operation in Europe in combating narcotic drugs. Belgium would do all it could in that respect, and it supported the activities undertaken by the competent authorities through the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

The measures taken by the Belgian Government to combat drug abuse included the establishment of an information centre for medical professions, a drug supervision centre and a national narcotic drugs bureau. The Belgian police and gendarmerie had made several large seizures of narcotics, and it was clear that movements of drugs were increasing both in quantity and in terms of diversification.

His delegation wished to pay tribute to WHO for its very constructive activities in that field. As Belgium had discovered a number of cases of pentazocine abuse, the Belgian Government would be grateful if WHO would forward to it whatever data it could obtain, so that it could take a position on the matter and avoid the serious consequences of lack of control over that substance.

His delegation had noted with special interest chapter XI of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639), concerning poppy cultivation under properly controlled conditions so as to meet the world's requirements for medical and scientific purposes. It was quite understandable that many members of the Commission should have said that what was most important was the suppression of illicit production and traffic. However, reference had been made during the debate on that question to the danger of a shortage of codeine, which was in increasing demand for medical purposes; the Belgian Government, which appreciated the delicacy of the question and recognized the need for stricter control, favoured a study of all methods of increasing the licit supply of codeine.

His delegation would vote in favour of all the draft resolutions transmitted to the Social Committee by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It would also vote in favour of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.682.

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Mr. EHRHARDT (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had co-operated in the drafting of resolutions A to G in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639) and would vote in favour of all of them. Particular importance attached to draft resolution C, on the cannabis problem, and to draft resolution G, on adequate priority for narcotics control.

The aim of draft resolution C was to draw the attention of the signatories of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 to the unchanged significance of the cannabis problem and to the necessity of combating the use of cannabis and its derivatives. His delegation would recommend the Council to adopt that draft resolution. From 1967 to 1971, it had been argued that cannabis was not a dependence-producing drug and that it was no more dangerous than alcohol. That opinion was contradictory to the latest results of research and clinical experience regarding the effects of cannabis, and no evidence of its harmlessness had been produced. The medical organizations had made repeated objections to a relaxation of the statutory prohibition. Attempts to make a drug like cannabis more easily accessible should not be supported.

His delegation strongly urged the adoption of draft resolution G. In its resolution 1910 (LVII), the Economic and Social Council had taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on priorities in the economic, social and human rights fields (E/AC.51/74 and Corr.1 and 2). The activities in the field of narcotics control during the past three years did not seem to justify its inclusion among the programmes of lowest priority. According to its resolution 3279 (XXIX), the General Assembly seemed to share that opinion. If the subject of narcotics control was included in the lowest group of priorities, that would have adverse effects for the different institutions responsible for drug control within the United Nations system. His delegation would also vote in favour of draft resolutions E/AC.7/L.682 and E/AC.7/L.683.

Mr. KAUFMANN (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported all the draft resolutions in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639), and also draft resolution E/AC.7/L.683. With regard to draft resolution C, concerning the cannabis problem, in 1974 his delegation had given a summary of its Government's plans for dealing with drug abuse generally; action

(Mr. Kaufmann, Netherlands)

to combat the illicit traffic in dangerous drugs was to be stepped up, and there would be submitted to the parliament a plan for amending the Opium Act so as to control traffic in opium and to supervise licit uses of it, which would also include a plan of action for education, assistance and scientific research on narcotics.

Although there was some uncertainty as to the possible harmful effects of cannabis, it was less harmful than heroin and amphetamines. In the case of cannabis, dependence was not the rule but the exception. Its social consequences seemed to be less than those of other, more dangerous drugs. The illicit use of and traffic in cannabis no doubt merited much greater attention than had been the case less than 15 years previously. The consumption of cannabis for medical purposes had not declined since the adoption of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; in fact, it had increased. The Netherlands Government had decided to propose to the parliament that penalties for the use of cannabis should be reduced and that such use should be made a minor offence. Canada had proposed similar legislation, and in the United States the state of Oregon had also reduced the penalties for the use of cannabis. In Western Europe, within the framework of the Council of Europe, the European Ministers of Justice had recommended that a study should be carried out to determine whether distinctions ought to be made between drugs according to their dangerousness and that the findings of the study should be reflected in national legislation. The text of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, signed at Vienna on 21 February 1971, reflected that principle in the structure of the national and international controls which it laid down.

With regard to the increased availability in many parts of the world of new concentrated forms of cannabis, it seemed obvious to the Netherlands Government that the more potent such preparations were, the more apparent would the social risks attaching to their use become.

In connexion with the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution C, he said that the Netherlands Government's policy was to do everything possible to

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(Mr. Kaufmann, Netherlands)

prevent any adverse effects resulting from the reduction of penalties for the use of cannabis. To that end, it was willing to discuss its policies with the members of the European Economic Community.

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution was not in accord with the policy of the Netherlands, which was aimed at preventing the risks resulting from the use, rather than the abuse, of cannabis. Paragraph 2 was acceptable, provided it was understood that not all abusers of cannabis needed treatment or rehabilitation. The Netherlands Government intended to continue and accelerate scientific research in relation to cannabis, which was the subject of paragraph 3 of the draft resolution.

Mr. POEDJIOETOMO (Indonesia) said that the main problem of Indonesia concerning narcotic drugs was the illicit trafficking taking place on the high seas and through the air. In curbing that smuggling, co-ordination of national, regional and international efforts was essential. Indonesia recommended that the lines of communication should be improved among nations, with a view to facilitating communications between national agencies. Where there was no means of transmitting urgent information of a confidential nature to the counterpart agency in another country, the co-operation of the diplomatic mission of that country should be sought for the purpose of passing such information in the most expeditious manner possible.

With that concept in mind, the Government of Indonesia had co-ordinated the efforts of its law-enforcement agencies with those of the other countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations in order to stem the illicit traffic of drugs through their territories. Unfortunately, that act alone would not be enough to stop the illicit production of drugs. His delegation therefore suggested that, in addition to augmenting national and regional co-operation efforts, regional narcotic bureaux should be developed. The obstacles to the establishment of such bureaux should be overcome by building up a system for gathering, assessing and disseminating data with a view to achieving a frank exchange of information of all kinds between national services. In addition, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control should assist in the preparation of a technical paper on a specific subject in the drug field that would serve as a guide to promote expertise

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(Mr. Poedjioetomo, Indonesia)

in the national law-enforcement agencies. For the regional bureaux to function efficiently, training programmes should be designed so as to keep officials up to date on all matters related to drugs. Indonesia considered that new drugs and psychotropic substances were a serious threat to all nations and therefore urged member States to increase their efforts to curb smuggling and production.

The report of the operational heads of national narcotics law-enforcement agencies, which had convened in Bangkok last year, contained recommendations to upgrade and increase the promotion of international efforts. His delegation believed that the United Nations should consider that report and other regional reports and was convinced that the recommendations contained in document E/CN.7/569 concerning the Far East region would serve as a basis for improving international co-operation in that area.

Furthermore, Indonesia supported the proposal to convene a special session on narcotic drugs in Geneva in 1976. Indonesia suggested that the length of the session in 1977 be reduced from three weeks to two weeks in order to compensate for the special session and agreed that the annual reports should be simplified and include provisions for the addition of lists of new psychotropic substances.

His delegation believed that studies of the different varieties of papaver should be carried out but they should be cultivated only under strict supervision and control by government officials and the production of such drugs should be used only for scientific and medical purposes. Indonesia supported all efforts directed to that end and expressed its satisfaction with the progress achieved by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. To enable the Fund to carry on its programme, contributions should be increased.

Increased emphasis should be placed on measures to reduce illicit demand for drugs and to take the profit out of their cultivation. However, the main effort should be devoted to determining the causes of the problem by means of research, reducing demand both through education and social measures, and treating the consequences of harmful drug use. Since the methods used to solve the problem of drug abuse varied in different parts of the world, international

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(Mr. Poedjioetomo, Indonesia)

comparisons could be very useful for all countries in coping with the problem of narcotic drugs.

Mr. YEPES ENRIQUEZ (Ecuador) thanked the Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs for their statements. Ecuador did not have any problems with the production of coca or with the abuse of cocaine, but had become a country of transit for drug traffic. In spite of the efforts made through publications, courses to inform the public and police measures of suppression, etc., it had proved impossible to put an end to such activities. Hence, the Government of Ecuador felt that international co-operation was essential and had signed the Single Convention of 1971, the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, as well as regional and bilateral agreements designed to combat the abuse of and illicit traffic in drugs.

Ecuador would support all United Nations measures in that field and in particular the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639).

Mr. KIYA (Japan) said that his Government attached great importance to the question of the control of drug abuse.

Ten years previously the major preoccupation had been the abuse of heroin, the number of whose victims had been estimated at 40,000. Since amendments to the laws in that field, the number of heroin victims detected each year was possibly 100.

However, there was another problem of concern to the Government of Japan: the abuse of psychotropic substances. In 1951 measures had been adopted to combat it. The number of violations had reached its highest level in 1954 and subsequently the situation had improved up to 1969. Unfortunately, the number of violations had begun to rise again and the Japanese Government had redoubled its efforts to deal with it.

Control was very difficult because it required close co-operation between the various administrative organizations. Bearing that in mind, Japan had established a central body and regional centres.

International co-operation was also essential. For that reason, Japan would support the draft resolutions submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639, chap. I) which recommended both national and international action.

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(Mr. Kiya, Japan)

The Government of Japan had participated with great interest in the special activities for the Far East recommended in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1780 (LIV) and 1845 (LVI) and continued to contribute to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. It was also a party to the Single Convention of 1961, had ratified the 1972 Protocol and was considering the possibility of acceding to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

He hoped that draft resolution E/AC.7/L.682 would be unanimously adopted and expressed his support for draft resolution E/AC.7/L.683.

Miss CAVALONE (Italy) expressed her delegation's appreciation for the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639) and said that she would vote in favour of the draft resolutions recommended by the Commission and in favour of documents E/AC.7/L.682 and L.683.

The Italian Government was particularly concerned about the increase of drug abuse and illicit traffic and firmly intended to support all initiatives for their eradication. Consequently, it had ratified the Single Convention of 1961 and the 1972 Protocol amending it and also contributed to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

In Italy a special interministerial committee had been set up to co-ordinate all appropriate action in that field and parliament was examining new legislation.

She reaffirmed the commitment of the Italian Government to support any activity of the United Nations aimed at the control and prevention of drug abuse and any effort to improve research and co-ordination in that field.

Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada) thanked the Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs for their statements and said that the Canadian Government viewed United Nations activities in the area of drug abuse and control as highly important.

His delegation was pleased to be a co-sponsor of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.682; it also welcomed the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639) and fully endorsed the draft resolutions recommended to the Council.

So far the Canadian Government had contributed a total sum of \$800,000 to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and his delegation supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.683 which exhorted Governments to contribute to the Fund.

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(Mr. Sullivan, Canada)

He drew special attention to operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution D (E/5639, chap. I). He felt it was appropriate that assistance should be given to Governments in applying treatment and rehabilitation measures and that the World Health Organization should take part in those activities. The Canadian delegation would submit a draft resolution on that topic to the World Health Assembly which would meet in May.

Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) thanked the President of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Director of the Division of Narcotic Drugs for their statements and said that drug abuse was an evil affecting everyone and that the illicit drug traffic was one of the main problems her country had to face.

Therefore, her Government had undertaken a broad programme to combat such evils. It strictly controlled poppy cultivation and had set up a ministerial committee to co-ordinate the struggle against the production of, illicit traffic in and abuse of drugs.

There were four main aspects to the programme that her Government was carrying out: (1) education and information concerning the dangers of drug abuse; (2) medical care for drug victims; (3) rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-addicts into society; and (4) relevant legislative and juridical measures. That policy was reflected in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Her Government fully supported the resolutions recommended by the Commission (E/5639, chap. I) and regarded draft resolution E as particularly important, especially the reference to the holding of a special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and annual meetings of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

Her delegation also supported draft resolutions E/AC.7/L.682 and L.683.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote draft resolutions B, C, D and F recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/5639, chap. I).

Draft resolution B

Draft resolution B was adopted by 33 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Draft resolution C

Draft resolution C was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution D

Draft resolution D was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution F

Draft resolution F was adopted by 34 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 1940th meeting, consideration of draft resolution E would be deferred to the fifty-ninth session and draft resolution G would be considered in plenary at the current session.

Mr. BURDEKIN (Australia) said that, notwithstanding the decision of the Council referred to by the Chairman, his delegation thought it appropriate for the Committee to express its opinion on draft resolution E. Such an opinion would be useful for the consideration of that draft resolution by the Council at its fifty-ninth session. Furthermore, the draft had been supported by all delegations which had mentioned it and the Committee's opinion would be based on the statements made.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) supported the remarks of the representative of Australia and felt they applied to draft resolution G as well.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought that, because of the decision of the Council at its 1940th meeting, the Committee should express no opinion on draft resolutions E and G, but should postpone consideration of them until the plenary meetings, when those delegations which so desired could state their views. Moreover, the report of the Committee to the Council could indicate that "some delegations pointed out the importance of those matters".

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) supported the remarks of the representative of Australia. However, the position of his Government concerning draft resolution B was somewhat different. His delegation had supported it in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and would do so again in the Committee if it was decided to put it to the vote, but in both cases it would have acted with some reservations. If meetings were to become more frequent, it raised the question whether United Nations organs could give proper attention to the many reports produced as a result. His

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

delegation considered that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had taken rather a cavalier attitude to Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV).

With reference to the text of draft resolution E, he thought that the aim of minimizing costs mentioned in operative paragraph 1 was a step in the right direction. However, with regard to paragraph 2, he could not agree with the interpretation of Council resolution 1776 (LIV) given in paragraph 438 of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Mr. VANCE (United States of America) supported the position of the representatives of Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany in the sense that, since the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had been considered and the Committee had heard the opinions of the representatives of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Secretariat, the Committee should express its views so that the Council could take them into account in the plenary meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking in a personal capacity, said that the point at issue was observance of the rules of procedure. In his opinion, if draft resolutions E and G were put to the vote, it would be a procedural error. Moreover, as he would be in Geneva and would be a member of the Bureau, he could communicate to the officers the opinions expressed in the Social Committee; furthermore, those opinions would be reflected in the summary records. He did not wish to impose his view but wondered whether it would not be better to take a vote on whether or not the Committee should put draft resolutions E and G to the vote.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) requested that no vote should be taken on whether or not to put draft resolutions E and G to the vote.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that the Chairman's interpretation was clear and correct and that therefore it was better not to put the matter to the vote. The question had already been resolved in plenary meeting. The opinions of delegations would appear in the summary records and would be communicated by the Chairman to the officers in Geneva.

The CHAIRMAN said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee had decided not to put draft resolutions E and G to the vote.

It was so decided.

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Draft resolution A

The CHAIRMAN said that if heard no objection he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/AC.7/L.682

The CHAIRMAN said that if heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board", which appeared in document E/AC.7/L.682.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution E/AC.7/L.683

The CHAIRMAN, at the request of the delegation of the Soviet Union, put to the vote the draft resolution entitled "United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control" contained in document E/AC.7/L.683.

Drafted resolution E/AC.7/L.683 was adopted by 34 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had supported draft resolution D on the understanding that it did not involve additional financial implications.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolutions because it attached great importance to the matters involved and considered that they should receive the fullest attention at the international, national and regional levels.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.

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763rd meeting

Monday, 21 April 1975,  
at 10.55 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/AC.7/L.684) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the name of Guinea had inadvertently been omitted from the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. BOYE (Senegal) announced that his delegation had decided to join the sponsors.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) thanked the representative of Senegal for his support and announced that Democratic Yemen and Trinidad and Tobago had also become sponsors. Introducing the text (E/AC.7/L.684), he said that operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A had been included in the hope that the opportunity provided by the International Conference of the International Women's Year, which was scheduled for June, would be used to further the aims of the Decade. Drawing attention to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A, he said that a reference to the need to halt emigration to South Africa had been included in subparagraph (d) because it was also mentioned in the Programme for the Decade. While subparagraph (g) referred to the need for national arrangements to follow up the implementation of the Programme, the nature of the arrangements had been left up to the individual State. Subparagraph (h) had been included because it was generally agreed that racism and racial discrimination were contrary to the obligations assumed by Member States under the Charter.

Turning to draft resolution B concerning the World Conference on Combating Racial Discrimination, he pointed out that as the phrase used throughout the resolution had been "racism and racial discrimination", the title should be amended accordingly. Paragraph 2 of the draft resolution proposed for adoption by the General Assembly, which requested the Secretary-General to consult with the Government of Ghana on, inter alia, the nature of the financial contribution that that Government could make in connexion with its offer to host the World Conference, had been included in view of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) regulating arrangements for holding international conferences.

He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously to demonstrate the political will of all Members to fight racism and racial discrimination. /...

Mr. SOLOMON (Ethiopia) associated his delegation with the expressions of appreciation to the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his informative statement and expressed satisfaction at the growing emphasis placed on victims of apartheid and racism. His delegation supported the draft resolution in document E/AC.7/L.684. Despite numerous related resolutions of the General Assembly, the situation in Africa had changed little owing to the lack of real support for the resolutions from Member States, including the permanent members of the Security Council who had put their vested interests first. The victims of racial discrimination must be provided with moral and material support, as stated in paragraph 4 (a) of the text recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in draft resolution A. In that connexion, he said that the initiatives taken by UNESCO, UNDP and FAO were commendable. He urged Members to adopt the draft resolution unanimously, for to deny support for the victims of apartheid would be a betrayal of the Charter.

Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution and thanked the representative of Ghana for his Government's kind offer to host the World Conference.

Mr. MINIKON (Liberia) expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his statement and his role in organizing seminars in implementation of the Programme. He also thanked the countries which had offered to host such seminars. The offer from the Government of Ghana to host the World Conference which was the subject of draft resolution B was most welcome. The United Nations must intensify the offensive against the inhuman system prevailing in southern Africa and other parts of the world. As the draft resolution proposed action to be taken to make the Decade meaningful, he urged that it should be adopted unanimously.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed his delegation's full support for both of the draft resolutions in document E/AC.7/L.684.

Mr. MAHMUD (Pakistan) said that his delegation had consistently supported the fight against racism and racial discrimination. He read to the Committee the text of the message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.

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Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) introduced an amendment sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany and his own delegation. The amendment provided for the insertion of a new paragraph 4 in the text recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in draft resolution A which would read: "Urges Member States which are parties to the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to continue to comply fully with their obligations under that Convention and, in particular, to submit their reports within the time-table laid down under article 9." The Convention was the foundation for the United Nations repudiation of racism and should therefore be closely associated with the Programme. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had already passed a resolution on ways in which it might contribute to the activities of the Decade. Accordingly, it was gratifying that paragraph 7 requested the Secretary-General to draw on the expertise of that Committee. While paragraph 3 (f) calling on States to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant instruments was welcome, such States must also comply fully with the Convention, after ratifying it, through the submission of reports. Currently, there was strong evidence of backsliding among Member States in that respect.

Miss ST. CLARE (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the statement by the representative of Egypt to the effect that General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) had been taken into account, said that paragraph 10 of that resolution permitted United Nations bodies to hold sessions away from their headquarters when the Government issuing the invitation agreed to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom representative would raise no difficulties among the sponsors. Although his delegation would have liked the draft resolution to be adopted at the current meeting, it was willing to postpone the decision if it would enable certain delegations which might otherwise not have been able to support the draft resolution to do so.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

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764th meeting

Wednesday, 23 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645; E/AC.7/L.684)  
(continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee first to continue its consideration of document E/AC.7/L.684: draft resolution A dealt with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and draft resolution B with the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination. Draft resolution A had been orally revised by the sponsors at the preceding meeting.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that he had been asked to explain the nature of the consultations which the Secretary-General would enter into with the Government of Ghana pursuant to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in draft resolution B. He was certain that United Nations practice concerning such consultations would be borne in mind. He also trusted that, in finalizing their position regarding the commendable offer of the Government of Ghana to host the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination, the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council would take into account the fact that Ghana was a developing country.

Mr. NEMBE (Gabon) announced that his delegation had become a sponsor of the draft resolutions in document E/AC.7/L.684, thus reiterating its confidence in the concerted effort of the United Nations to eliminate racial discrimination, an evil which was vigorously condemned in the Gabonese Constitution. All Member States must work actively to topple all systems of domination based on racism and racial discrimination, particularly in Africa and Palestine. Certain countries must avoid contradictory attitudes in choosing between the racist minorities which enabled their economic interests to flourish and the just cause of peoples who were the victims of racial discrimination. In keeping with the spirit of the Decade, his Government had rejected any compromise with the apartheid régime and other systems of racial discrimination which continued to deny millions of citizens their human dignity in southern Africa and in Palestine. The Decade should provide

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(Mr. Nembe, Gabon)

an occasion for all such victims to count on world solidarity as a weapon against the forces of evil.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his Government was endeavouring to ensure the implementation of the Programme for the Decade at the national and international levels. The Programme was being widely publicized in the Netherlands, particularly among young people, and the Government had made budgetary provision to support relevant activities in the Netherlands; some of the funds had already been disbursed to assist activities organized by non-governmental organizations. Convinced that racism and racial discrimination constituted a serious danger to the international community and an unacceptable denial of the dignity of the human being, his delegation had actively participated in the work leading to the formulation of the Programme for the Decade.

The documents on the Decade which had been submitted to the Committee emphasized only one form of racial discrimination, namely, apartheid, which his delegation recognized to be an abhorrent denial of human rights and the most flagrant - but not the only - form of racial discrimination. Although his delegation could support document E/AC.7/L.684, with some reservations, it felt that the text lacked balance because it took little or no account of other forms of racial discrimination.

The faithful implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by all Governments would be a significant step towards the realization of the goals of the Decade. His delegation therefore regretted that not all countries had acceded to the Convention and that States parties appeared to be tardy in submitting periodic reports under the Convention.

He welcomed the willingness of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to take an active part in the efforts to attain the goals of the Decade. The United Nations should consider how that Committee could be more actively involved without in any way jeopardizing that body's independence and expertise. He hoped that within a short time a sufficient number of States would have made the declaration required for the entry into force of article 14 of the Convention, in order to give the Committee an even more meaningful role.

The momentum generated thus far with regard to the Decade could be further

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

stimulated by a well prepared world conference such as that envisaged in the Programme. He welcomed the Ghanaian Government's generous offer to host the conference.

Miss CAO PINNA (Italy) noted the agreement of the international community regarding the need to intensify action at all levels to eradicate and prevent the further spread of all forms of racism and racial discrimination. However, certain provisions of draft resolution A in document E/AC.7/L.684 did not reflect the view of all delegations regarding ways and means of combating racism and racial discrimination, and her delegation hoped that the sponsors would consider revising the draft resolution in order to make it fully acceptable to all.

The fact that the problems of racial discrimination and the struggle for self-determination occurred in the same areas of the world did not justify their joint consideration in a resolution on the Decade. Draft resolution A gave the impression that it dealt with self-determination, since many references were made to recent resolutions of the General Assembly on that question, particularly resolution 3246 (XXIX), on which a number of delegations had abstained. Moreover, several delegations, including her own, had voted against certain paragraphs of that resolution. Her delegation continued to have reservations concerning the condemnation in that text of the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for their alleged encouragement of the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The defensive nature and aims of NATO bore no relationship to the struggle of colonial peoples. Her delegation therefore appealed to the sponsors to delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX) in the first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A.

Her delegation also had reservations concerning paragraph 3 (b) of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in draft resolution A, for it implied that by isolating racist régimes in southern Africa racial discrimination would be eradicated in that area and self-determination would become a reality. On the contrary, only through contacts and moral pressure on those régimes was it possible to begin the gradual process of eradicating racial discrimination.

With regard to paragraph 3 (d) of the same text, her delegation considered

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(Miss Cao Pinna, Italy)

freedom of movement to be a fundamental freedom, recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Moreover, her delegation did not fully understand how the cause of eliminating racial discrimination stood to benefit from the cessation of emigration to South Africa.

Lastly, her delegation reserved its position on paragraph 3 (f), since Italy had abstained in the vote on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, for the reasons explained at the time of the Convention's consideration and adoption by the General Assembly.

Mr. COLLOR (Brazil) said that his delegation would vote in favour of both draft resolutions, in keeping with its belief that it was necessary to intensify the fight against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and in order to reiterate the profound aversion of the Brazilian Government and people to those evils.

Brazil had consistently supported the fight against racism and racial discrimination waged by the United Nations. His delegation had signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on the date of its conclusion. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been celebrated at a very high level in Brazil.

His Government fully supported the convening of a world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination and appreciated the Ghanaian Government's offer to host that conference.

He hoped that the draft resolutions before the Committee would be adopted unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolutions in document E/AC.7/L.684, as revised without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium), commenting on draft resolution A, said that the reservations which his delegation had expressed at the time of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX) were still entirely valid. With regard to paragraph 3 (d) of the draft resolution proposed for adoption by the General

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(Mr. Nothomb, Belgium)

Assembly, he said that his Government had always supported the principle of freedom of movement and could not prevent Belgian citizens from emigrating. However, his Government had not taken and would not take any measures to encourage emigration to South Africa. With regard to paragraph 3 (f) of the same text, he said that Belgium had not ratified the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Lastly, with regard to new paragraph 6 of the same text, he noted that Belgian sports federations were private entities.

Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for accepting the amendment which his own delegation and that of the Federal Republic of Germany had submitted to draft resolution A. The consensus by which the two draft resolutions had been adopted reflected the common will of the Committee vis-à-vis the Decade, a will which was a prerequisite for the success of the conference which Ghana had generously offered to host. In view of Ghana's commitment to fostering racial understanding and harmony, the Committee's decision to examine the offer was particularly welcome.

It was the sovereign right of each Government to decide what measures should be taken to implement the Programme for the Decade. While the United Kingdom was particularly interested in fostering racial harmony at the national level, he wished to indicate which of the measures suggested in draft resolution A his Government would be unable to carry out.

Firstly, he noted that his delegation had abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX), because that resolution contained a false and derogatory reference to NATO. The same specious argument about NATO had been advanced again during the current debate, not by sponsors of the draft resolution, but by those delegations which were in the best position to know that NATO was a defensive alliance established under Article 52 of the Charter and that it had no competence in regard to, no interest in, and no relationship to the racial policies of States in southern Africa. NATO was no more relevant to the problems of racial discrimination in southern Africa than was the Warsaw Pact or any other defensive alliance. There was no reason to endorse in the context of the Decade a falsification designed to divert attention from the real task of the NATO alliance.

With regard to the operative part of the draft resolution recommended for

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(Mr. Broad, United Kingdom)

adoption by the General Assembly, his Government was not convinced that boycott measures per se could solve the problems of southern Africa. To outlaw a Member State was to render it less rather than more susceptible to international influence.

His delegation was unable to endorse the recommendation in paragraph 3 (d), which would constitute unjustifiable interference with the individual's right to freedom of movement. Nor could it endorse the call for ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, for the reasons it had stated when that Convention had been adopted by the General Assembly. His delegation supported new paragraph 5 (a) only in so far as it was compatible with the United Nations Charter. Finally, the United Kingdom Government did not have the power to compel independent sporting bodies to boycott all sports activities with South Africa.

Those essentially political issues should not detract from the essential commitment of all delegations to the objectives of the Decade, objectives to which the resolution made a notable contribution and to which his delegation remained firmly attached.

Mr. DESBIENS (Canada) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolutions because it endorsed their principal objectives and the goals of the Decade. His delegation welcomed the generous offer of the Ghanaian Government to host the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination.

With regard to paragraph 3 (d) and new paragraph 6 of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the General Assembly in draft resolution A, he said that Canada did not interfere with the freedom of movement of its citizens; however, the Canadian Government did not encourage sporting contacts with South Africa. With regard to paragraph 3 (f) of the same text, the Canadian position on the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was well known. Lastly, he referred the Committee to the views expressed by his delegation on the occasion of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX).

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed his appreciation to the sponsors - particularly Egypt - of the draft resolutions for their efforts to enable his delegation to support the texts.

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal Republic of Germany)

The statement made by his delegation at the 760th meeting explained its position with regard to paragraph 3 (b) of the draft resolution addressed to the General Assembly in draft resolution A. With regard to paragraph 3 (f) of the same text, he recalled that his delegation had reservations of a legal nature with regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

His delegation had abstained in the vote on General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX) and its position remained unchanged. It was significant that two member States of the Warsaw Pact had, during the general debate on the Decade, once again referred to NATO, a defensive alliance limited to Western Europe and the North Atlantic. That was another indication that some delegations could not resist the temptation to exploit the situation in southern Africa and the Programme for the Decade for their own political designs, which had nothing to do with the promotion of human rights and the struggle against racism in that region.

Mr. TRAVERT (France) said that his delegation, which praised the spirit of conciliation demonstrated by the representative of Eypgt, had not opposed the adoption without a vote of the texts in document E/AC.7/L.684, in order not to impede the smooth development of the debate. France welcomed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and fully endorsed its principles. However, it had a number of reservations concerning the texts just adopted, for some of their provisions implied an interpretation of the Charter which it could not support. Furthermore, document E/AC.7/L.684 directly or indirectly referred to resolutions which his delegation had been unable to accept or on which it had expressed serious reservations, and called for the collaboration of bodies in whose work his delegation could not participate, in view of the mandate entrusted to them.

His delegation's position remained unchanged with regard to the primacy of negotiations as a means of acceding to independence, the incompatibility of certain provisions of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid with French law, the principle of the sovereignty of States in internal matters and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and, lastly, the principle of freedom of movement, pursuant to which French citizens were free to travel to any country.

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(Mr. Travert, France)

The French Government had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 28 July 1971. However, his delegation had doubts regarding the interpretation which the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination tended to give to that instrument. He was not questioning the competence, devotion or objectivity of the experts on the Committee, but wondered to what extent, and on the basis of what legal principle, they were empowered to undertake any task other than that envisaged in the Convention, namely, to study the reports of States parties. His delegation believed - and some of that Committee's members had acknowledged - that the members of the Committee could participate in the Decade only as independent experts, in a private capacity.

His delegation also had reservations of a legal nature concerning the provisions of draft resolution A which dealt with the relations of States with the racist régimes of southern Africa. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was not empowered to consider the foreign relations of States parties to the Convention.

Lastly, he said that France, which participated in the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Fund for Namibia, would continue to do its utmost to advance the fight against racism and its most odious form, apartheid. The world-wide scourge of racism must be attacked at its roots through education, and its innocent victims must be provided with assistance.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), referring to remarks made by the representative of Egypt, explained that it was difficult to discuss the financial aspects of the conference without having some basic assumptions as to its nature, structure, agenda, duration, participants, languages used and so forth. The Secretary-General would endeavour to establish such assumptions, consulting whenever possible and appropriate with the United Nations bodies concerned, and the discussions with the Government of Ghana would necessarily be of a preliminary nature. No final decision or commitment would be made without first submitting proposals to the Council, which under the Programme for the Decade functioned as the preparatory committee for the conference.

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Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Committee had just adopted a highly significant draft resolution aimed at ensuring the implementation of all the provisions of the Programme for the Decade. His delegation supported the draft resolution without any reservation, as it supported all the provisions of the Programme. It was most unfortunate that certain delegations had tried to sound a discordant note despite the consensus that had been reached. In order to be effective, the Programme had to be implemented in full. That meant that the racist régimes which practised the most abhorrent form of racial discrimination, namely apartheid, must be completely isolated. Many delegations paid lip service to the struggle against apartheid, but expressed reservations when it came to taking decisive action.

Some delegations objected to the fact that the draft resolution referred to General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX). Although that resolution had been adopted by a great majority of Member States, some Members continued to provide assistance to and maintain relations with the racist régime of South Africa. The socialist countries, including his own, had no relations whatsoever with the criminal régime of South Africa.

Mr. JACHEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, in view of the reservations expressed by certain delegations, he wished to stress his support for all the provisions of draft resolution A. His delegation had also supported all the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3223 (XXIX) and 3246 (XXIX).

He also wished to express the appreciation of his delegation to the Government of Ghana for its generous offer to host the world conference on combating racism and racial discrimination.

Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation had been pleased to join in approving the draft resolutions because of its commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination and the importance it attached to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He joined others in expressing appreciation to those delegations that had been instrumental in producing draft resolutions which had been approved without dissent.

He wished to reiterate the United States position with regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

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(Mr. Baker, United States)

His delegation understood the references to moral and material assistance to liberation movements to mean liberation movements recognized by OAU. Assistance to those movements by United Nations bodies and organs was understood to be of a humanitarian and educational nature and consistent with the charters of the organs and bodies concerned. In every case, his delegation would understand that provision of assistance would be consistent with the rules of international law.

Finally, he joined others in expressing appreciation to the Government of Ghana for its offer to host the conference on combating racial discrimination.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation fully supported the aims of the Decade, which were extremely important in connexion with the provision of assistance to the peoples of southern Africa struggling against apartheid and racial discrimination.

Mr. DIAKITE (Mali) said that he had been surprised to hear the reservations of certain delegations, because those same delegations had had no reservations with regard to the draft resolutions on Hitlerite nazism. He had expected that they would have the same attitude with regard to apartheid.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of document E/AC.7/L.684, thanked members for adopting the draft resolutions without dissent. He thanked the Director of the Division of Human Rights for his clarification. He was confident that, with the expertise of the Secretary-General and his experience in organizing international conferences, he would be able to co-operate with the Government of Ghana in the preparation of the conference.

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the remaining questions under item 8 and drew attention to the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-first session (E/5635), the note by the Secretary-General on allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in the Bahamas (E/5645), the note by the Secretary-General on allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa (E/5638), the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts prepared in accordance with resolution 1796 (LIV) and decisions 18 (LVI) and 25 (LVII) of the Economic and Social Council (E/5622), and the explanatory report of

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(The Chairman)

the Secretary-General on relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights and the status of women (E/5628).

Chapter I of the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/5635) contained four draft resolutions and five draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council. In accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its 1940th meeting, draft resolution II, entitled "Study of situations which reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights: written and oral statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerning human rights" would be considered in plenary under item 6 of the agenda and draft decision 5, entitled "Place of meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights" would be referred to the fifty-ninth session for consideration in connexion with the item on the calendar of conferences.

He also drew attention to annex IV of the report, concerning the financial implications of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-first session.

Turning to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/5622), he drew attention to chapter V, which contained the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), introducing the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/5635), remarked that the Committee's discussion on the report represented the only opportunity which the Council had to review the Organization's activities in the field of human rights and thus to fulfil one of the most important responsibilities assigned to it under the Charter.

He apologized for the delay in the distribution of the report of the Commission. He hoped that his introduction would help members in their study of the report, which followed the format recommended by the Council. He did wish to explain briefly the reason for the distribution delay. The Commission on Human Rights had concluded its session on 7 March, and a week later the revised and edited report had been submitted to the technical services in Geneva, which had had other documents to print as well and which had provided excellent service during the Commission's session. The delay was due to other problems, which he had mentioned the previous week and would mention only once more. In his view, the

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(Mr. Schreiber)

Commission's session was held too early in the year and too close to the session of the General Assembly which, through the Council, entrusted to the Commission most of its tasks. The Commission's session was also too close to the Council's spring session. That situation affected the documentation. In his opinion, the problem could be solved by scheduling the sessions further apart and by having the Council take up human rights questions either at its summer session or at least during special meetings which might be held in June or at the end of May.

Turning to the report itself, he said that, without passing judgement on substantive issues, he wished to comment only on some of the characteristics and on the outcome of the Commission's thirty-first session. The Commission had worked intensively for five weeks with the participation of representatives of very high calibre and under the leadership of a wise Chairman and a dedicated Rapporteur. It had worked closely and effectively with the Secretariat, in a general effort to seek formulas that would be acceptable to the Commission as a whole. Furthermore, all States that were not members of the Commission and that had expressed a wish to make statements had had the opportunity to be heard, as had also the specialized agencies, regional organizations, liberation movements, and non-governmental organizations.

To a large extent, the Commission had moved away from the abstract elaboration of norms and shown increasing concern for the general application, in specific situations, of the many principles, definitions and aspirations in the field of human rights that had been drawn up by the Organization over the first 25 years of its existence - in short, for the manner in which the Member States complied with the solemn obligations which they had accepted under Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter. It had tried to reconcile constructively the respect of Member States for their obligations and the limits imposed by the Charter on the action of the Organization with regard to sovereign States.

The Commission, meeting at a time when tension had been high in Cyprus, had adopted by consensus its resolution 4 (XXXI). In that resolution, the Commission had expressed its concern at the continuation of the human suffering in Cyprus and called upon all parties concerned to abide by the relevant human rights provisions of the Charter and the United Nations instruments in the field of human rights, and to assist the Secretary-General in his humanitarian efforts.

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(Mr. Schreiber)

The Commission had followed with gravest concern the effects of the policy of apartheid on the human rights of the population of southern Africa and given serious attention to the yearly reports submitted by its Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. In that connexion, it recommended draft resolution I and draft decision 1 for adoption by the Council.

Every year the Commission examined the situation with regard to human rights in the occupied territories of the Middle East and had before it the communications from the Governments involved. It had adopted resolution 6 (XXXI), on the question of the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East.

Under the procedures prescribed in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Commission had an important role to play in the consideration of situations referred to it by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Under the terms of that resolution, all actions envisaged in implementation of it must remain confidential until such time as the Commission might decide to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council. Since the Commission had not as yet made any such concrete recommendations, he could not dwell at length on the subject. It could be said, however, that certain cases and situations that appeared to reveal the existence of gross and systematic violations of human rights had been brought to the attention of the Commission, which had examined such cases carefully, with the assistance of a working group of five of its members. The Commission kept in touch with the Governments concerned, which attached considerable importance to the questions raised.

Earlier in his statement he had mentioned the effort made by the Commission to reconcile the commitments of the Organization and its Members in the field of human rights with the limits on its competence with regard to Member States. In that connexion, the Commission had adopted draft resolution II for submission to the Council, concerning the study of situations which revealed a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights: written and oral statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerning human rights.

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(Mr. Schreiber)

The Committee would not be considering that draft resolution, however, because the Council had decided to examine it in conjunction with an item that it would be taking up in plenary. In his view, the draft resolution represented only a step which would ultimately result in a balanced implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), in which the non-governmental organizations wished to play an effective part.

He also drew the attention of members to draft decision II, on the study of situations which revealed a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights; it bore witness to the importance which all members of the Commission attached to the proper application of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII).

The Commission had adopted resolution 8 (XXXI) on the study of reported violations of human rights in Chile, with particular reference to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Council was already familiar with the question, since it had considered it the previous year. In the interval, the matter had also been dealt with by several other United Nations bodies, including ILO and UNESCO, as well as by the Organization of American States and various non-governmental organizations. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3219 (XXIX) on the protection of human rights in Chile. In that resolution, the Assembly had endorsed the recommendation made by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-first session should study the reported violations of human rights in Chile. It also requested inter alia the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session on the action taken and progress achieved in that connexion. The Commission's report on its thirty-first session (E/5635) and the summary records described the Commission's discussion on the subject, which had been very thorough and moving. Intensive consultations had been held in search of a formula for action that would be acceptable to all parties concerned. The relevant resolution had been adopted by consensus as a result of such consultations. The observer for the Government of Chile, who had actively participated in the debate, had expressed his satisfaction in principle with the provisions of the resolution. It was now for the Council to express itself as regards the Commission's decision.

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(Mr. Schreiber)

It was envisaged by the Chairman of the Commission that the Ad Hoc Working Group of five representatives of the Commission should hold a preliminary meeting in May to decide on its methods of work; it should visit Chile in July and then meet in August in Geneva to prepare a preliminary report to be transmitted to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly. The financial implications of the Commission's resolution had already been mentioned, but would be further clarified in a document which would be circulated in the near future.

Another very important resolution adopted by the Commission was resolution 12 (XXXI) on periodic reports on economic, social and cultural rights. The Commission had had before it 46 reports from States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies and information from non-governmental organizations.

At the end of its session, the Commission had adopted the text of a telegram which it had sent to the United Kingdom Government urging it to intervene and secure the immediate release of the Reverend Sithole from detention in Southern Rhodesia. It had received a reply from the United Kingdom on that subject.

The Commission had continued its work on the draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. It had established a working group for that purpose. The working group had only been able to adopt the provisions of the preamble. The Commission had therefore decided to accord priority to the drafting of the Declaration at its next session.

Another important question calling for future action was that of the effects of scientific and technological developments on human rights. All the studies by the Secretariat requested by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights on the subject had been completed or were in preparation, and a final comprehensive study would be prepared on the balance to be maintained between the development of science and technology and the observance of human rights.

The decisions of the Council regarding the methods of work of its subsidiary organs had been brought to the attention of the Commission by the Secretariat. Although the Commission and the Sub-Commission were responsible for the preparation

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(Mr. Schreiber)

of a number of studies which, because of their scope, could not be limited to a pre-determined number of pages, the Special Rapporteur, the Commission and the Secretariat had endeavoured to make those reports as concise as possible. The Commission had not been able to consider in depth the question of summary record coverage, but had already decided to dispense with summary records for procedural questions. It hesitated, however, to abandon summary record coverage of the discussion of substantive questions, since it felt that it was important for Governments and delegations to be able to refer to records of decisions and discussions on very sensitive issues. Summary records of the Commission's work were also of some importance to other organizations and universities which followed United Nations activities in the field of human rights. The questions of summary record coverage would be submitted to the Commission again at its next session. If it was considered necessary to limit the size of the Commission's report even further, that might possibly be done by eliminating records of discussions in the report and retaining summary records of important substantive discussions of the Commission. As decided by the Council, the question of the venue of the next session of the Commission would be considered at the fifty-ninth session.

The Commission's programme of work was currently being considered by the Commission itself. In that connexion, it was important for the Council to take note of the detailed provisions of resolution 10 (XXXI).

The Commission had already prepared a preliminary draft agenda for its next session and had expressed the view that questions of economic, social and cultural rights and self-determination should be included regularly in the agendas of its sessions.

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was currently engaged in a large number of studies on minorities, aspects of self-determination, the effects of aid to the régimes of southern Africa, the human rights of aliens and the obligations of individuals. The Commission had requested the Sub-Commission to prepare a five-year programme of work, indicating that it would not be able to consider more than two substantive reports of the Sub-Commission at each of its sessions.

United Nations activities in the field of human rights had been the subject of

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(Mr. Schreiber)

both praise and criticism. Criticism, in his opinion, could be useful in reminding Governments of the obligations which they had assumed under the Charter and in reminding the United Nations itself that it must give the necessary priority to the attainment of its objectives in the field of human rights. It should always be remembered that, before the creation of the United Nations, there had been a total lack of organized international action in that field, with the well-known consequences which had preceded and accompanied the Second World War. Neither the Member States nor the Secretariat had cause to regret what had been achieved, whether in the area of standard setting or in the recently established procedures and institutions which made it possible for all questions of infringements of human rights to be raised by Governments, private organizations or individuals and acted upon by the Organization. There was no ground for regret or apology provided that the determination to attain the Charter objectives remained firmly alive.

Mr. Badawi (Egypt) took the Chair.

Mr. MAHMUD (Pakistan) regretted that the Committee had been unable to give higher priority to the other human rights questions currently under consideration. He understood that the current arrangement was a compromise and hoped that such an arrangement would not be necessary in the future.

Pakistan's age-old firm belief in the equality of all human beings was shared by all members of the Moslem religion. While many had for centuries harassed, exploited and even terrorized religious minorities or espoused other concepts of racial superiority, as was still the case in some parts of southern Africa, the concepts of discrimination had remained alien to the Moslem civilization. The Government and people of Pakistan continued to be inspired by the belief that no individual could claim superiority due to his lineage or the colour of his skin, and as a consequence deny equal status or rights to his fellow human beings. Pakistan had always opposed and would continue to oppose all denials of fundamental human rights, be they in the form of apartheid based on racism and racial discrimination, inequality of status for women or minorities or, as in some cases, even for majorities.

The people of Pakistan noted with pleasure the growing international commitment - albeit grudging in some cases - to the principle that all human beings

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(Mr. Mahmud Pakistan)

were born equal and had identical fundamental rights. It was to be hoped that the perseverance of the international community would ensure the adoption of that principle by all segments of human society.

Pakistan's own experience during a century of political bondage prior to 1947 had simply confirmed and reinforced its own commitment. The Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed the basic and fundamental rights of all human beings, men or women, including the minorities as envisaged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. His Government supported the elimination of all vestiges of exploitation, oppression and suppression, and had always assisted peoples denied their basic human rights. His delegation's support of the Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Council for Namibia, for example, was a source of justifiable satisfaction. The ambitions of dominance and hegemony were relics of a bygone era. The world had changed since then and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights symbolized a period when no denial of human rights escaped attention. Pakistan had always lent its unstinting support to all victims of violations of human rights and to all activities in the field of human rights within the United Nations and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Resolution 4 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights expressed support for United Nations humanitarian assistance to all parts of the population in Cyprus. His delegation looked forward to an early resolution of that situation to the satisfaction of both communities. The intercommunal talks at Vienna should help to create a climate of understanding and accommodation.

Referring to resolution 5 (XXXI), he said that Pakistan had consistently supported the fight against racism and racial discrimination and urged the international community to hasten change in South Africa and Zimbabwe by continued co-ordination of all efforts at both the regional and international levels.

With regard to resolution 6 (XXXI), he said that the international community must not perpetuate or prolong the denial of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people by indifference or inaction. The sooner justice was done and injustice undone, the sooner would tranquillity return and tension disappear from the Middle East.

His delegation shared the views of those speakers who had expressed serious

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(Mr. Mahmud, Pakistan)

concern at the reported events in Chile, and looked forward to examining the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group which was to visit Chile.

Ms. FINBORUD (Norway) said that the protection of human rights was a matter of crucial importance, not only to individuals but to the entire international community. The revolution in mass communications had made an increasing number of individuals more aware of their fundamental human rights and of the obligations of States to promote universal respect for those rights. Although Member States often invoked the principle of non-interference in matters within their domestic jurisdiction, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms had a negative influence not only on relations between individual nations but on the international climate in general. Consequently, her delegation fully agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment of the situation with regard to human rights, contained in the introduction to his annual report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session (A/9601/Add.1). Her Government had always been in favour of strengthening the United Nations machinery for dealing with violations of human rights. It continued to support the creation of a post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. However, since the creation of that post did not seem to be realistic in the immediate future, Norway attached great importance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights, of which it had been a member from 1972 to 1974.

Her delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that in many cases little or nothing could be said publicly about the efforts made to safeguard human rights, if those efforts were to have any hope of succeeding. The procedures laid down in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) offered one means of ensuring the necessary confidentiality of communications and affording the State concerned a full opportunity to respond. It was most encouraging that the Commission, at its thirtieth session, had decided for the first time to apply those procedures. She welcomed the decision of the Commission that the established working group of five members should meet one week before the next session of the Commission.

Referring to draft decision 3, she said that her delegation considered that the decision of the Commission to set up an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the present situation of human rights in Chile implemented General Assembly

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(Ms. Finborud, Norway)

resolution 3219 (XXIX). It was also gratifying to note the willingness of the Chilean authorities to receive the Ad Hoc Working Group and to assist it in its work.

Her delegation eagerly awaited the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights, as their implementation would greatly increase the effectiveness of United Nations action to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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765th meeting

Thursday, 24 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645) (continued)

Mr. NOTHOMB (Belgium) said that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and to General Assembly resolution 3321 (XXIX) on the improvement of the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It had noted with disappointment that the Commission had not been able to approve a Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. It hoped, however, that such action would be possible in 1976. His delegation fully supported draft decision 4. It was unfortunate that in the French text the word "belief" had been translated by "conviction" instead of "croyance", the word used in all the texts adopted on the subject by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

His delegation noted with satisfaction the decisions of the Commission with regard to the study of reported violations of human rights in Chile. His delegation had been one of the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX) on the protection of human rights in Chile. It also supported the Commission's resolution 8 (XXXI) which provided a logical follow-up to resolution 3219 (XXIX). Belgium hoped that the Council would ratify draft decision 3 and wished to express its satisfaction with the Chairman's choice of members for the Ad Hoc Working Group set up to inquire into the situation in Chile.

His delegation would vote in favour of draft resolutions I, III and IV.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that, since the Commission had not yet been able to identify its true role, his delegation had welcomed the item on the agenda of the thirty-first session which had provided an opportunity to discuss the Commission's long-term programme of work. Resolution 10 (XXXI) on the further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of a long-term programme of work of the Commission, should pave the way for a more comprehensive debate at the next session. It was to be hoped that by then more Governments would have replied to the Secretary-General's note asking for their

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

views. His delegation hoped that the question would receive more than passing mention at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly.

At its thirty-first session, the Commission had achieved rather more than had frequently been the case in the past. One promising area was the procedure set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. His delegation believed that the confidentiality required under paragraph 8 of that resolution was essential if Governments were to give their whole-hearted co-operation in the procedure set forth.

His delegation welcomed the decision to reactivate the Commission's working group. He expressed appreciation to the individuals who had agreed to assist in their personal capacities in that delicate and arduous task.

He wished to draw attention to resolution 5 (XXXI), on the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa. The United Kingdom supported the decision to extend the Group's mandate as well as the request that the Group's report be given wide publicity. It offered its co-operation to the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group and looked forward to receiving them once again in London during the summer.

With regard to human rights in Chile, it was gratifying that the Commission had been able to reach a consensus which had embraced all geographical groups and political persuasions. The Commission's resolution provided the concrete and progressive action requested by General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX). The Chilean Government had agreed to allow the Working Group to visit Chile and study the situation at first hand. A progress report on its findings was to be submitted to the General Assembly. The Council should not prejudge the findings of the Working Group by adopting a resolution which would add nothing to what the Commission on Human Rights had already decided, which would prejudge what the Council itself would have to decide in any case at its next session, and which would carry the risk of undermining the Commission's considerable achievement in arriving at a consensus on so controversial a topic. He appealed to all those who felt strongly about the situation in Chile to do no more than adopt the decision brought to the attention of the Council in draft decision 3. Of course, when the situation was discussed in 1976, a resolution could be passed which would carry real

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

conviction and which would incontrovertibly be based not on political considerations or even only on concern for the human rights situation in Chile, but on hard evidence provided by the Ad Hoc Working Group as a result of its investigations.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic) said that resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights was an important contribution to the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa still under colonial and racist oppression, and to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. His delegation fully supported resolution 6 (XXXI) and considered resolutions 11 and 12 (XXXI) as also important.

The documentation and information about the continued reign of terror by the fascist military junta in Chile were alarming proof of the massive, flagrant, systematic and deliberate disregard for and violation of the fundamental rights and liberties of the people of Chile. According to recent information, the fascist junta had again resorted to the use of secret military tribunals, after massive international protest had forced it in 1974 to abandon the use of tribunals against leaders of the legitimate Government of Salvador Allende and to release some of those politicians. However, thousands of political prisoners still languished in prisons and concentration camps, mass arrest and torture continued on an increasing scale and many patriots, including Luis Corvalán, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Chile, were being held in prison. His delegation demanded their immediate release.

The crimes against humanity committed by imperialist circles in various regions of the world, and by the military junta in Chile, were not only a challenge to the United Nations but also a danger to international peace and security in general. His Government had always demonstrated its unflagging support for human rights and had supported the victims of imperialist acts of aggression. It was necessary and urgent for the United Nations and the specialized agencies to keep under constant consideration the violations of human rights in Chile. Economic and Social Council resolution 1873 (LVI) and General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX) must be implemented immediately in all their parts.

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(Mr. Neugebauer, German Democratic Republic)

The third session of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the Military Junta in Chile had provided irrefutable proof of the mass murder of defenceless and innocent people and of the reign of terror of the fascist junta. The documents of that session proved that international monopolies had helped to prepare and had supported the coup of 11 September 1973. The forces currently supporting the military junta were similar to those which had brought Hitler to power. The military junta, supported by reactionary imperialist circles, tried to hide its crimes against its own people and to divert attention from those crimes by engaging in fierce anti-communism, and by speaking of tranquillity and order in the country while tens of thousands of anti-fascists were murdered or held in prisons and concentration camps. Constant violations of human rights in Chile had also been confirmed by reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Commission of Jurists. According to the latter report, which could certainly not be called an instrument of communism, 85 to 90 per cent of political prisoners had been imprisoned without trial and more than 70 per cent of those prisoners asked said they had been tortured once or several times.

The situation in Chile had been confirmed by many other reports and documents of international organizations and individuals. All attested to crimes committed by the military junta which were so grave that they must be considered as crimes against humanity. All available means must be used to restore human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Efforts must also be made to ensure that the irrefutable evidence of the situation in Chile was not obscured by diversionary manoeuvres.

Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) welcomed the fact that, out of the 12 resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-first session, five were aimed at improving the implementation of human rights and at eliminating gross violations in specific countries or areas. However, not all those resolutions were fully consistent with the Italian Government's interpretation of the procedures available to the Commission for securing the implementation of human rights; the Italian views were stated in document E/CN.4/1168.

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(Miss Cao-Pinna, Italy)

Her delegation welcomed the positive action decided upon by the Commission in resolutions 4 (XXXI) and 8 (XXXI). The Italian Government viewed the reported violations of human rights in Chile with deep concern and looked forward to the results of an objective, on-the-spot study by the Ad Hoc Working Group. Her delegation would vote in favour of draft decision 3.

Her delegation also welcomed resolution 5 (XXXI) and would vote in favour of draft resolution I and draft decision 1. The Council should endorse the view expressed by the Commission on the relationship between the policy of apartheid and the obligations flowing from the status of a Member of the United Nations.

Resolution 6 (XXXI), part A, was similar to previous resolutions on which her delegation had had to abstain because that approach to the delicate and complex situation in the Middle East was not calculated to end the human sufferings in that area. Her delegation reiterated its concern at those sufferings and hoped that all parties would make sincere efforts to end them by, among other things, observing the relevant Security Council resolutions. Part B of the resolution concerned an individual case which had been dealt with by the Commission outside any established procedure or practice concerning allegations of human rights violations. Consequently, her delegation could not support either part of that resolution.

Referring to resolution 7 (XXXI), she said that, although it was perhaps too early to evaluate how procedures for dealing with communications on human rights were being applied and with what results, her delegation felt some concern at the apparent lack of progress in that field. Decision 7 (XXXI) of the Commission appeared to indicate a certain reluctance on the part of Governments to co-operate with the Commission and the Sub-Commission and also on the part of the Commission in performing its functions.

Although there was general agreement on the Commission's valuable contribution to the elaboration of international instruments in the field of human rights, some of the rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration had not yet been translated into international norms. One such area was the elimination of religious intolerance. It appeared that much work remained to be done before the draft Declaration would be finalized. That situation was viewed with concern by her delegation.

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(Miss Cao-Pinna, Italy)

The large number of studies which the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had decided to undertake might lead to a bottle-neck in its work. Furthermore, the Commission itself considered those studies only after long delays and in a somewhat perfunctory manner. Consequently, the Sub-Commission should avoid undertaking new studies until those already being conducted had been completed and the Commission should examine such studies and reports in greater depth as soon as they were completed, in order to evaluate their results and decide the most suitable follow-up measures.

At the thirty-first session, the Commission's agenda had been very heavy. As a result, it had not been possible to give equal consideration to every agenda item. Furthermore, there was increasing duplication of work on items which fell principally within the competence of the Commission for Social Development. There was therefore an urgent need to define clearly a short-term and medium-term programme of work for the Commission on Human Rights along the lines laid down in General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII) and in the decision taken by the Council at its 1849th meeting, on 10 January 1973. Her delegation would welcome information from the Secretariat regarding the apparent failure of the Commission to implement those decisions.

Her delegation had been surprised to note that only a very limited number of Member States had replied to the request by the Secretary-General for suggestions on the Commission's programme of work.

She fully supported resolution 10 (XXXI).

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Commission on Human Rights had prepared a number of important international legal documents designed to guarantee basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. For example, it had adopted resolutions concerning flagrant violations of human rights in southern Africa and in the occupied Arab territories. Sometimes, however, the Commission descended to the level of trivial matters; to prevent that, he suggested that it should concentrate on measures to strengthen international peace and security and to create the most favourable conditions for respect for human rights and freedoms.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

At the thirty-first session, representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization and several African national liberation movements had participated in the Commission's work. His delegation welcomed their participation and looked forward to an increasing contribution from them in future.

In view of the importance which his delegation, like other socialist and many developing countries, attached to economic, social and cultural rights as the basis for and the most important component of human rights as a whole, he welcomed the Commission's decision in resolution 2 (XXXI) to keep economic, social and cultural rights as a standing item with high priority on its agenda. He also welcomed resolution 3 (XXXI) concerning the importance of the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, a matter which had been dealt with recently by the General Assembly in its resolution 3246 (XXIX), and hoped that it would enable the Commission to make a further substantial contribution to effective implementation of the right of peoples to self-determination.

The Commission had also discussed proposals concerning its long-term programme of work. Such a programme could be very useful and would reflect current important problems related to the implementation of basic human rights, taking into account the observations of as many Member States as possible. His delegation had already expressed its views on what questions should be included in the long-term programme of work. One of the most important questions was the right of everyone to live in conditions of international peace and security. The Commission had continued its consideration of a draft resolution on that question at its thirty-first session but had unfortunately not had time to complete its consideration; he hoped that it would be able to adopt an appropriate resolution on that matter at its next session. His delegation also felt that, in drawing up its programme of work, the Commission should concentrate on the most important and topical problems of human rights, although some representatives had taken a different approach which he did not feel was in accordance with the tasks entrusted to the Commission and its place in the United Nations system.

Referring to the flagrant and mass violations of human rights in southern Africa and in the occupied Arab territories, he expressed support for resolution 5 (XXXI) adopted by the Commission approving the report of the

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. In the past during debates on the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, many delegations, including his own, had criticized and condemned the racist régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury for their policy of apartheid and had called for strong measures to curb the racists. The Economic and Social Council should approve resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission. Anyone who was truly interested in eliminating apartheid must realize that the policy of the racist régime in South Africa, disregarding all United Nations decisions concerning the elimination of apartheid, was a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and a serious violation of South Africa's obligations as a Member of the United Nations.

His delegation had also supported resolutions 6 (XXXI) and 7 (XXXI) of the Commission concerning the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East, describing Israeli actions in the occupied territories as war crimes and an affront to humanity and condemning the continuing violations of basic human rights. New efforts were essential in order to end the violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

Many documents providing evidence that the Chilean junta, disregarding protests from world public opinion and United Nations resolutions, was continuing its policy of terrorism, repression and persecution of patriots and democrats had been submitted at the thirty-first session of the Commission. Many delegations had expressed concern over the torture, arbitrariness and violence used against innocent people. He recalled that the Commission had, at its thirtieth session, sent a telegram to the Chilean authorities calling for the cessation of violations of human rights and for the release of persons arrested without trial or imprisoned for political reasons; the junta had disregarded that cable. The Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1873 (LVI) concerning the situation in Chile, which had also been ignored by the Chilean authorities. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had adopted resolution 8 (XXVII) expressing concern over the situation in Chile and appealing to the Chilean authorities to take all necessary steps to restore and safeguard basic human rights; in response, the Chilean junta had made gross attacks on that Sub-Commission. Even the General Assembly, in resolution 3219 (XXIX) had

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

expressed deepest concern over the continuing violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile and urged the Chilean authorities to take all necessary steps to rectify the situation; that resolution had been supported by States from all areas of the world with different social and political systems.

Faced with such strong criticism from world public opinion, the Governments of many countries, the United Nations and other international organizations, the Chilean junta had recently invited representatives of certain international organizations to visit Chile. The Chilean authorities had not been able to conceal all their flagrant violations of fundamental human rights, however, and objective visitors had reported on the situation. A special mission had been sent by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, whose report had confirmed mass violations of human rights in Chile and indicated very serious violations of the human rights which Chile had undertaken to respect in international instruments.

The International Labour Organisation, at the fifty-ninth session of its General Conference, had established a commission of inquiry into violations of human rights and trade union rights in Chile, which had visited Chile in late 1974. Its report had concluded that as a result of events in Chile guarantees of human rights had been seriously undermined, and had stressed the vital importance of complete restoration of civilian freedoms and personal security in Chile.

The third session of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of the Military Junta in Chile had been held in Mexico in February 1975. Renowned jurists, government and public leaders of varying political convictions, members of parliament, trade union leaders, and representatives from 35 countries had participated. The Commission, after studying a vast amount of documentation, had reached the conclusion that the junta was openly terrorist and that the methods of its secret police were comparable to Gestapo methods. There had been many eye-witness accounts, including one by Laura Allende, the sister of the former President of Chile.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

The International Committee on Solidarity with the Chilean people had rejected the claims of the Chilean junta that some kind of liberalization was taking place. Democratic leaders and patriots were still imprisoned, including leaders named in the telegram from the Commission on Human Rights of 1 March 1974; the world press had reported that the lives of Luis Corvalán and other democratic leaders were still in danger.

The Commission on Human Rights had expressed serious concern in its resolution 8 (XXXI) at the continuing reports of violations of human rights in Chile. As stated in paragraph 97 of the report of the Commission (E/5635), almost all speakers had called for urgent action by the Commission to secure the release of persons held without trial and the restoration of full respect for human rights in Chile. His delegation had not opposed the adoption of resolution 8 (XXXI), since it was intended to promote implementation by the junta of many United Nations resolutions concerning the restoration of human rights in Chile which so far had not been implemented. His delegation maintained, however, that the Economic and Social Council could not restrict itself to formally approving the Commission's decision to establish a Working Group. The Commission on Human Rights had expressed its views on the continuing violations of human rights in Chile; the Council could not stand aside from the problem but should take measures to ensure the rapid implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. He was not convinced by arguments that the Committee should await the report of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, since several other groups had already visited Chile and provided information on the situation there. It was the duty of the Economic and Social Council to state once again its views on the situation in Chile and to express its deep concern at the continuing violations of human rights there.

Miss VON ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, noted that, while the South African Government was trying hard to convince the world that it was turning over a new leaf, the number of people in its prisons kept increasing. It was also strange that new repressive laws had been adopted in 1974, some of them clearly aimed at stifling the growing trade union movement among black workers. The desperate situation of those workers was shown in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights.

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(Miss von Roemer, ICFTU)

Another indication that no truly significant changes were intended was the continued effort of South Africa to attract white immigrants, despite the fact that it had a high unemployment rate. Her organization wished to call on States Members of the United Nations to refrain from extending official co-operation to South African immigration officers and to discourage their recruitment and publicity activities. States should consider whether the recruitment and advertising campaign directed exclusively at securing white workers did not contravene the national legislation on race relations and discrimination which had been enacted in several countries, for instance the United Kingdom. ICFTU also urged Governments to revoke any cultural agreements signed with South Africa that would facilitate the diffusion of propaganda material by that country. No official encouragement or financial assistance should be given to persons who decided to emigrate to South Africa. Thanks to the pressure of the Netherlands trade union movement, the Government of the Netherlands in 1973 had cancelled the emigration subsidy payable to all Netherlands emigrants to South Africa. The Confederation's affiliates had been urged to put pressure on employers with operations in South Africa so that they might review their policies and consider whether, instead of recruiting foreign technical personnel, they should not make the greatest effort to train and promote local Africans. The trade union campaign against emigration to South Africa had already brought results. In September 1974, the South African Minister of Labour had been forced to announce that over 5,000 jobs reserved exclusively for whites would be available to Africans as from the following year because of shortage of labour.

ICFTU had taken various practical measures to assist black workers in establishing their own unions. The Government of South Africa was still opposed to the recognition of African trade unions. There had been some encouraging signs as regarded the attitude of individual employers. Some of them had openly supported the idea of African trade unions and a few had said that the works and liaison committees were not effective and had been rejected by the African workers. Some employers had discussed the idea of dealing with Africans through registered white trade unions. As had been pointed out in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group, that idea had been rejected by the African workers, who insisted on

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(Miss von Roemer, ICFTU)

recognition for their own trade unions. According to the information available to ICFTU, there were more than 22 African trade unions, with a total membership of over 45,000.

She wished to draw attention to the communication from ICFTU in document E/5638 concerning the arrest and reported maltreatment of the General Secretary of the Black Allied Workers' Union and two union organizers. ICFTU urged the Council to recommend investigation of the matter by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts.

A number of practical measures had been adopted by the free trade union movement to urge companies investing in South Africa to recognize African trade unions and negotiate with them on wages and terms of employment. To co-ordinate all those activities, ICFTU had established a special committee on South Africa, which had already made a number of important proposals. That committee had examined the repercussions of foreign investments on the continuation of apartheid and its furtherance through white immigration. It had also reviewed developments in Namibia.

ICFTU also continued to follow with concern the developments in Southern Rhodesia. At the thirtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, it had denounced the introduction of a system of forced labour. It had continued its action to ensure that sanctions against Southern Rhodesia were respected and to prevent white emigration to that country.

The General Secretary of ICFTU had recently written to the European Economic Community, expressing dismay at the report that an EEC committee had approved a project to be undertaken jointly by the Rhodesian Iron and Steel Corporation, the British Pig Iron Group and their counterparts in France, Italy, Finland, Norway and Sweden. ICFTU had stated that co-operation of that kind would violate the United Nations mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia and prejudice current efforts to return Rhodesia to legality through a constitutional conference based on the principle of one man, one vote.

The free trade movement would do everything in its power to ensure that, when the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination came to an end, the picture in South Africa would be radically different.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

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766th meeting

Friday, 25 April 1975,  
at 11 a.m.HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645) (continued)

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution I and draft decision 1 recommended to the Council by the Commission on Human Rights in its report on its thirty-first session (E/5635), since it had also voted in favour of resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission. With regard to paragraph 2 of draft resolution I, his delegation's position on the policy of apartheid had been explained in the debate in the Commission on resolution 5 (XXXI) and during the Committee's discussion of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

He was confident that draft resolution III, which his delegation had sponsored in the Commission, would receive the Council's unanimous support. Mrs. Rajan Nehru was eminently qualified for the task assigned to her in that draft resolution.

His delegation would also vote in favour of draft decision 2. Referring to paragraph (a), he said that the adoption of the draft decision would facilitate the work of the Commission, which was confronted with an enormous amount of documentation at the beginning of each session. The establishment of the working group called for in paragraph (b) would permit the Commission to discharge its functions under Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) in a responsible and balanced manner. The working group established for the same purpose the previous year had been most helpful.

His delegation fully supported draft decision 3, calling on the Council to approve the Commission's decision in resolution 8 (XXXI) - which had been adopted without a vote - to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the present situation of human rights in Chile within the terms of that resolution. Resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission had resulted from intensive negotiations, and its final version was primarily the outcome of sustained efforts by Commission

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(Mr. von Kyaw, Federal  
Republic of Germany)

members from the third world. The overwhelming majority in the Commission had wisely rejected a proposal to condemn the Chilean Government: the Commission had accepted the declared willingness of that Government to co-operate fully and had recognized the need to inquire into the situation before drawing conclusions. Moreover, the Commission had recognized that, given the circumstances, the most likely way to bring about a genuine improvement in the human rights situation in Chile was not to cause a confrontation, with all the risks that entailed for individual victims, but to take the Chilean Government at its word and send a group of distinguished members of the Commission, backed by the full authority and prestige of that body thoroughly to examine, and prepare an objective assessment of, the situation. Commission resolution 8 (XXXI) effectively reflected the concern over the human rights situation in Chile and the importance of taking the right approach to the problem.

The members of the group of inquiry would have a heavy responsibility; however, that was even more true for the Chilean Government. While the composition of the group guaranteed an objective analysis of the situation in Chile, the contents of its progress report to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly and its final report to the thirty-second session of the Commission would depend primarily on the actions taken by the Chilean authorities in Chile, namely, on whether the situation would have improved significantly and, in particular, whether the release of political detainees would have accelerated.

He urged delegations to approve draft decision 3 and not to jeopardize the mission of the group of inquiry by trying to anticipate its results. To endorse draft resolution 3 also meant, for the time being at least, to accept and remain within the framework of Commission resolution 8 (XXXI). Nothing must be done to encourage those forces within and outside Chile which had an interest in preventing the group of inquiry from carrying out its mission. His delegation would not join any endeavour to undo or jeopardize what the Commission had accomplished in resolution 8 (XXXI).

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that the Commission on Human Rights had acted wisely by deciding, in resolution 8 (XXXI), which had been adopted by consensus, to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the present situation

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

of human rights in Chile. His delegation had advocated that course of action the preceding year because it had been convinced that that would be the best way to further the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission had proved that, where genuine concern existed regarding respect for the dignity of man, it could rise above the political differences which often marred its debates and adopt a unified approach. The Government and people of the Netherlands shared the concern felt in many quarters about the situation in Chile. The wealth of information from many sources which had been available to the Commission presented a tragic picture of repression and intimidation against large numbers of people. The wide concern regarding the situation showed that the outcry was not merely a campaign by a particular group of countries.

Accordingly, it was of the utmost importance that the Working Group be able to carry out its task in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolution and that the Government of Chile extend its full co-operation, as it had indicated that it would. That result could best be ensured if the Council adopted draft decision 3.

His delegation regretted that the Commission had been unable to comply with the General Assembly's request in its resolution 3267 (XXIX) that the Commission submit, through the Council, to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, a single draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief. It was unfortunate that after so many years no progress had been made on the operative part of the draft.

His delegation was also disappointed that the Commission had decided to defer until the next session consideration of the item on the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights. In keeping with his delegation's keen interest in the question, and in the related issue of the right of conscientious objection to military service, it had repeatedly but unsuccessfully attempted to initiate a substantive discussion of the questions in the Commission. It sincerely hoped that such a discussion, leading to positive decisions, would take place at the thirty-second session of the Commission.

The resolution which the Commission had adopted following its useful debate on its long-term work programme indicated that its activities, which thus far had been directed primarily towards establishing the normative structure for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, were shifting towards the implementation

(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

of those norms. The resolution provided a solid basis for the future programme of work. The Commission's mandate covered the totality of the rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants, and the Commission should be the catalytic force within the United Nations for the protection of human rights. However, where appropriate, it should refer the task of taking specific action to those United Nations organs which had direct responsibility for and greater competence in certain areas.

His delegation also welcomed the tendency in the Commission to rely more on the informal method of adopting decisions rather than resolutions. The process of reaching a consensus was often facilitated if resort was had to informal draft decisions, when the occasion so warranted.

His delegation commended the excellent work being carried out by the Commission's Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the situation in southern Africa, which had provided an insight into the dismal situation of human rights in that part of the world. The Netherlands sincerely hoped that the Group's efforts would prove a significant factor in bringing about a change in that situation.

He suggested that the report to be prepared by the same Working Group on trade union rights and other economic and social rights of the peoples of southern Africa should be submitted to the Council through the Commission, and not directly to the Council, as was presently envisaged. That would not limit the Council's responsibility under its resolution 277 (X), since the Council had the authority to ask the advice of any of its subsidiary organs. It was not in the best interests of the consideration of the entire range of problems relating to the protection of human rights in southern Africa if different but closely related reports of the Working Group were not submitted in the first instance to the same organ. The Commission was no longer, as it had been at the time of the adoption of that Council resolution, concerned mainly with the codification of instruments.

Mr. ALKEN (Denmark) said that, as was indicated by the fact that it had ratified the relevant United Nations instruments, his Government attached great importance to efforts to establish a firm basis for human rights activities in the United Nations. The annual report of the Commission on Human Rights was an important source of information on the degree to which that process was advancing. Furthermore, the efforts of the Commission to fulfil its important obligations

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(Mr. Alken, Denmark)

depended on the degree of support which Member States, particularly those represented in the Council, gave to the Commission's work. That could best be accomplished through discussions of the major issues dealt with in the Commission's report. His delegation's interest in the discussions was further stimulated by the fact that Denmark was a candidate for a seat on the Commission; if elected, his country would contribute the experience it had gained in the Council of Europe, as well as an inspiration based on the Nordic legal and humanitarian tradition of respect for the rule of law and the rights of the individual.

He recalled that criticism had been expressed of the fact that the report of the Commission dealt predominantly with procedural matters. However, inasmuch as the task of codifying the legal framework of the United Nations human rights system had occupied the Organization during its first 20 years, it was perhaps understandable that the actual implementation of the programme would be a gradual process.

His delegation welcomed the Commission's decision to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the situation of human rights in Chile and would endorse draft decision 3 on the subject. His delegation had sponsored General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX) on protection of human rights in Chile. The Commission's decision might be setting a precedent by establishing the general competence of the United Nations to secure respect for human rights in all situations where they were disregarded. It was encouraging that the Chilean authorities had provided assurances of their willingness to co-operate with the Working Group. His delegation sincerely hoped that that attitude indicated that the Chilean Government was aware of the international community's concern for human rights in Chile and willing to terminate the causes of that concern, which unfortunately still seemed to be well founded.

His Government considered that there was a role for a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. However, in the absence of such an office, the task of sifting the communications concerning alleged violations of human rights received by the Secretary-General and distributing them to the appropriate human rights bodies clearly created problems of co-ordination and of substance. Although the procedure instituted pursuant to Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) was still in the experimental stage, his delegation was disappointed that the Commission had not yet

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(Mr. Alken, Denmark)

formulated recommendations to the Council on the basis of the substantial material received and discussed under that procedure. However, it supported the establishment of a working group of the Commission which would meet before the next session of the Commission to examine the list of confidential documents submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), for it was essential that the Commission give that material thorough consideration.

Lastly, his delegation would vote in favour of all the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), replying to a question asked by the representative of Italy, said that the resolutions and decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly relating to the work programme had been brought regularly to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights by the Secretariat. Owing to great pressure of other work on substantive items during the past few sessions, the Commission had been able to devote only limited time to a systematic review of its programme. However, it had discussed with great attention the order of priorities of items which it considered at each of its sessions, and many of its members considered that the decisions constituted a valuable indication of the Commission's views as to the importance it attached to the questions which were submitted for its consideration.

The question of the long-term programme had, however, been carefully considered at the thirtieth session of the Commission, which had declared its firm intention to consider the matter in detail at its thirty-first session. Governments which had not yet responded to the Commission's invitation had been asked to submit their own suggestions. The Commission had adopted in that connexion resolution 10 (XXXI) which the Committee had before it.

The Secretariat, in presenting its budget estimates as well as its projections for the programme of future years, was taking full account of the views of the Commission. The Commission was, however, only one of the United Nations organs active in the field of human rights, and the priorities and importance given by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council itself, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were also given full weight, when programme budget presentations were made.

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(Mr. Schreiber)

He had been informed that human rights activities of the United Nations currently accounted for 0.77 per cent of the total United Nations expenditures and as proposed for the 1975-1977 budgetary period they would account for only 2.24 per cent of the appropriations for economic, social and human rights activities for which the Economic and Social Council was responsible. There would be necessarily some expansion over the previous level of expenditure as a result in particular of the activities of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, including the proposed International Conference, the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights and the liaison activities with Headquarters resulting from the transfer of the Division to Geneva. The report of the Commission contained a number of requests to the Council and to the General Assembly to ensure that the necessary resources would be made available for human rights activities of the Organization in general or for specific projects.

Mr. SOFFER (Observer for Israel), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that in certain parts of the world the Jewish people still remained under the yoke of oppression. Only 30 years had passed since more than one third of the Jewish nation had been ruthlessly and systematically exterminated while the rest of the world had kept silent. Yet Jews were still crowded into ghettos, deprived of all elementary and fundamental civil rights and completely cut off from the outside world.

One of the most serious situations was that of the Jews in the Syrian Arab Republic. Since the representative of Israel had addressed the Commission on Human Rights on that question, new and even more alarming information on the situation of the Jewish community in the Syrian Arab Republic had come to light. That community, which numbered about 4,500, had for many years been subjected to discriminatory restrictions, unjustified arrest, torture and even murder. But, above all, they were virtually held hostage and deprived of the fundamental right to leave the country. A veritable iron curtain had been drawn around the Jews in the Syrian Arab Republic by the Syrian secret police with the obvious aim of concealing their wretched condition from the world. Nevertheless, reports of their intolerable plight had reached the outside world. Those reports showed that the Jews of Damascus were isolated from the rest of the city, persecuted and deprived of the most elementary civil rights, and that a number of Jewish women had been arrested

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(Mr. Soffer, Observer for Israel)

and taken to Damascus where they had been tortured. During an international conference on the deliverance of the Jews of the Middle East, held in Paris in 1974, it had been revealed that no Jews were allowed to emigrate from Syria, that they must carry a special identity card marked with the word "Jew", that they did not have the right to work in banks, government departments, or export-import businesses and that no foreigner had access to the Jewish quarter, which was under constant surveillance. At the same conference, the Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man had stated that the treatment of Jews in Syria constituted a violation of international covenants and agreements which Syria had ratified.

It was not surprising that certain young Jews preferred to risk their lives in desperate attempts to escape rather than submit to such degradation. Six of them had been brutally massacred near the Syrian-Lebanese border less than a year before.

The Syrian authorities treated the Jews living in the Syrian Arab Republic as hostages and scapegoats, as though they were involved in its conflict with Israel. Such a cruel and inhuman attitude was utterly reprehensible. The international community must unite and demand that the Syrian Arab Republic cease its persecution of the Jews and allow them to leave for countries where they could live in safety, dignity and peace.

The situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union had deteriorated still further and had become the most crucial of human rights problems. The situation was a simple one: since the Jews in the Soviet Union were not allowed to live as Jews, they wished to leave.

The Soviet Union was committing a total violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Anti-semitism, in one form or another, prevailed more than ever in the Soviet Union. Over the past two years, more than 100 books containing anti-semitic material had been published under the auspices of the Soviet authorities. The New York Times of 30 March 1975 had reported that a squad of uniformed police had entered the Moscow synagogue and ordered the congregation to leave. That act was conclusive evidence that the conditions in which the Soviet Jews lived continued to deteriorate. Harassment and intimidation of Soviet Jews applying for exit visas had been further intensified. In spite of mass arrests, interrogations, trials and imprisonments, dismissal without notice, eviction and enforced exile in the Soviet Union, the Jewish community spontaneously reaffirmed its identity.

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(Mr. Soffer, Observer  
for Israel)

More than 140,000 Jews awaited exit permits, in spite of the fact that they had received affidavits from Israel. Some of them had been waiting for more than 13 years. The Soviet representatives had maintained that the Jewish emigration rate from the Soviet Union had decreased because fewer applications to emigrate were being received. If that was so, it was certainly due to the harassment to which would-be immigrants were subjected.

The plight of the Soviet Jews was a humanitarian rather than a political question. His Government called on the Soviet Union to take account of international opinion, which increasingly supported the just and legitimate request of Jews waiting to leave the Soviet Union.

Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 49 to 52 of the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-first session.

Although it was 30 years since the Zionists had deprived the Palestinian people of all their rights and eight years since the Israeli invasion and occupation of Arab territories, the representative of Israel had once more declared that his Government did not intend to abide by the United Nations Charter and resolutions.

The question of the violation of the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Arab population in Israeli-occupied territories and of the Palestinian people had not been solved. For many years his and other delegations had spared no effort to bring that serious question to the attention of the competent United Nations bodies. As a result, all those bodies, including the General Assembly, had adopted a number of resolutions supporting the Arab case. However, Israel's persistent refusal to implement those resolutions had compelled the Commission on Human Rights to adopt resolution 6 (XXXI).

By its persistent violation of international instruments, Israel was threatening international peace and security. The representative of Israel had once more attempted to divert the Committee's attention to the fabricated issue of the violation of the human rights of Syrian Jews, an unfounded claim which had been refuted many times by the Syrian delegation. Jews in the Syrian Arab Republic enjoyed the same rights as Syrian citizens.

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(Mr. Al-Hussamy, Observer for  
the Syrian Arab Republic)

The case of the occupied Arab territories was one of the most serious examples of the violation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the current period. It was high time for the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter to be implemented so as to safeguard the reputation of the United Nations and the principles of the Charter itself. It was the responsibility of the Council to consider the humanitarian aspects of the problem and to suggest action to prevent it from jeopardizing international peace and security.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if the representative of Israel was really concerned about respect for human rights, he should start by paying attention to the decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights. Resolution 6 (XXXI) emphasized the Commission's alarm at the continued violations of human rights by Israel, particularly the continued occupation of territories and the measures aiming at annexation and expropriation of Arab property, and stated that Israel's exploitation of the human, natural and other resources of the occupied Arab territories was an infringement of the sovereignty of the Arab people over their natural resources. The resolution further described Israel's actions in the occupied territories as an affront to humanity. The General Assembly had adopted a resolution at the twenty-ninth session condemning Israel for gross violations of human rights and demanding that such violations cease.

Instead of informing the Committee of what the Israeli Government was doing to end the gross violations, the representative of Israel had repeated slanderous allegations about certain countries. The allegations concerning Jews in the Soviet Union were pure fantasy and his Government rejected them. Jews in the Soviet Union enjoyed the same rights as all other Soviet citizens. The accusations of anti-Semitism were ridiculous, particularly in a year in which the socialist countries were celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism. The representative of Israel would have done far better to state what his Government was doing in answer to the condemnations contained in General Assembly resolution 3324 (XXIX) of the strengthening of political, economic, military and other relations between Israel and South Africa.

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Mr. SOFFER (Observer for Israel), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that he was sure that members were aware that the factual distortions and slander engaged in by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries were intended to divert attention from the real issue. As representatives of his country had repeatedly refuted all those allegations, most recently at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, he would not waste the Committee's time by repeating the refutations. Referring to the claim by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that Syrian Jews enjoyed equal treatment with other citizens of that country, he asked whether that claim was consistent with the fact that Jews were forbidden to emigrate from the Syrian Arab Republic, that they had to apply for special permission if they wished to travel more than four kilometres from their homes - such permission was usually denied - and that they had to carry special identity cards at all times identifying them as Jews. Such requirements did not seem quite proper in a free society.

The Soviet representative had denied all allegations without adducing any proof that the Soviet Government had done anything to ease the plight of Russian Jews. The representative of the Soviet Union could not fail to be aware of the appeals which had been sent to his Government even from some of its good friends.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), referring to the statement by the representative of Israel to the effect that he had been motivated by humanitarianism, said that concern for humanity was what inspired the Committee itself in considering the report of the Commission on Human Rights. Indeed, the credibility of all who participated in the discussion should be judged in that light and there should not be different standards for different people.

In that connexion, he recalled that General Assembly resolution 3240 (XXIX) reaffirmed the applicability to the Arab territories occupied since 1967 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and called once more upon Israel to comply with that Convention. A recent meeting of the International Committee of the Red Cross had adopted a similar resolution, drawing attention to the immense suffering among civilians which resulted from the failure to apply that Convention. However, although it was a party to the Convention and although the Convention formed part of the body of international law, Israel did not recognize that it applied to the territories which it occupied since 1967.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

With regard to the appeal by the representative of Israel to the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil its obligations as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, he wondered whether Israel felt that, not being a party itself to that Convention, it was free to do as it liked with respect to the occupied territories. Suffering persons in any part of the world were related to all men by a common bond of humanity. The credibility of the statements by the representative of Israel should be judged in that light.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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767th meeting

Monday, 28 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645) (continued)

Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that his Government attached great importance to the work of the Commission on Human Rights. His delegation welcomed its report (E/5635) and commended in particular the members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the way in which they had discharged their responsibilities.

He welcomed the decision of the Commission to consider its long-term programme of work thoroughly and comprehensively at its thirty-second session. That decision had been taken at a most opportune moment when the emphasis in the work of the Commission and its perception of its own role were shifting significantly away from emphasis on codification towards closer attention to the implementation of the international instruments formulated by the Commission over the last three decades. The two most "delicate" draft resolutions before the Committee - those relating to Chile and to non-governmental organizations - provided clear evidence of those evolving priorities. The Commission, however, needed to plot its future course deliberately. For that reason, at its thirty-second session it would have to apply a realistic criterion to determine how much time it would devote to that item.

The concern of the Australian Government at the violations of human rights in southern Africa was well known. For that reason, his delegation supported resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission. It also commended the work done by the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and supported draft resolution I, which recommended that the Council should approve the decision taken by the Commission to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts and requested the Secretary-General to give full publicity to its report.

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(Mr. Campbell, Australia)

His delegation fully supported resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission since it was most concerned about the reports of violations of human rights in Chile. That resolution was an excellent example of the way in which the Commission should operate. His delegation had the fullest confidence in the five members appointed by the Chairman of the Commission and wished them well in their important mission. In his opinion, any additional resolution on the subject was not only unnecessary but could change the delicate balance achieved in the Commission's resolution.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) commended the efforts made by the Commission on Human Rights to deal with as many questions on its agenda as possible and to adopt important decisions on them. Her delegation, bearing in mind the contribution that the reports of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts had made to United Nations efforts to investigate and expose the gross and flagrant violations of human rights in South Africa and in other territories, fully supported draft resolution I. Her delegation endorsed the view of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts that South Africa's policy of apartheid and racial discrimination constituted a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter and of the obligations of Member States, as well as the recommendations that the suppression of trade union rights, discrimination in wages, training facilities and working conditions of African workers and the recruitment of white workers should cease. The recommendation that the attention of the competent United Nations bodies should be drawn to the need to put an end to the support extended to South Africa by certain foreign and multinational companies was of particular importance.

In the territories occupied by Israel the serious situation regarding human rights had not improved, the military occupation of the territories continued and changes in their physical character and demographic composition were being effected. For that reason, her delegation fully supported the action taken by the Commission on Human Rights in that regard.

Her delegation had studied with deep concern the reports concerning violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile. Despite the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, many people were still held in prison without

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(Miss Ilic, Yugoslavia)

trial, the freedom and security of individuals was in constant danger and, under the pretext of granting them safe-conducts so that they might leave the country, many Chileans had been compelled to leave against their will. The decision of the Commission to send an Ad Hoc Working Group to Chile to inquire into the present situation regarding human rights and to report thereon therefore represented an important step. She regretted, however, that, unlike General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX), resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission did not fully reflect the concern that had been expressed concerning the violation of human rights.

Her delegation subscribed to the appeal addressed in resolution 4 (XXXI) to all parties concerned to adhere strictly to the principles of the Charter, General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX), which had been adopted unanimously, and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and to work towards the full restoration of human rights in Cyprus. It also attached great importance to the fact that the Commission had decided, in its resolution 2 (XXXI), to keep the question of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights on its agenda as a standing item with high priority.

With regard to resolution 12 (XXXI), her delegation was in agreement with the appeal addressed to all Governments to participate in the reporting system and felt that paragraph 7 (b) of the resolution was particularly valuable. In that connexion, she referred to the situation of the Macedonian national minority in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Constitution in force a few years earlier had recognized the existence of minorities and had guaranteed their right to be educated in their vernacular and to develop their national culture. However, the new Constitution, which had been adopted in 1971, made no mention at all of national minorities and consequently the Macedonian minority was now deprived of such fundamental human rights as the use of its mother tongue and the development of its own culture. Deeply concerned over that situation, the Yugoslav peoples had merely asked that the rights of the Macedonian national minority in Bulgaria, namely, the rights provided for in United Nations instruments and international treaties, should be respected.

She also noted that unfortunately in the latest periodic report of Austria there was no mention of the situation and rights of the Croatian and Slovene

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(Miss Ilic, Yugoslavia)

national minorities. The situation of those minorities, which lived in an area in which chauvinistic and neo-nazi organizations were creating an atmosphere of hatred and intolerance, was being aggravated by the fact that the Austrian Government continued to insist on carrying out a special census of their members, which would inevitably lead to a further curtailment of the rights guaranteed to them by the State Treaty on the Establishment of the Republic of Austria. Yugoslavia hoped that the Austrian Government would accept and implement the constructive proposals and legitimate demands of the Slovene and Croatian national minorities. Good and stable relations between neighbours were possible only if the treatment accorded to minorities did not constitute an obstacle. Yugoslavia, which had established relations with other countries, in particular with its neighbours, on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference and active co-operation to solve questions of common concern, considered that its attitude should be matched by the other side.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that the Commission on Human Rights played an important role in the promotion of human rights. Its work was not merely one of codification; it also examined violations of human rights and took appropriate measures. He commended the work done by the Commission at its thirty-first session, as reflected in its report (E/5635).

By admitting to observer status the national liberation movements of Africa and the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose contribution to the work of the Commission would be of crucial importance, the Commission had reaffirmed that the right to self-determination of the peoples subjected to colonialism and foreign domination was a fundamental human right and that, between the enjoyment of the right to self-determination and the enjoyment of other human rights there was a cause and effect relationship, as there was between foreign oppression and the violation of human rights.

In connexion with the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/5622), the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions had drawn attention to the situation of the African workers. One of the major factors contributing to that situation was the assistance which the racist régimes of southern Africa received in the form of manpower. Immigration to South Africa was tantamount to denying the South African workers the means of subsistence. For

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

that reason, States had been asked to co-operate to put a stop to such immigration. Some had alleged that to do so would constitute interference with the freedom of movement of the individual. He himself was of the opinion that, in that case, what was involved was finding a balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of society, since such immigration was an attack on the right to life of other people and on the right of peoples to self-determination, and constituted a veritable invasion. In that connexion, he referred to the well-known fact that every potential immigrant must be inspected by a South African immigration official in his country of origin.

The Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories knew what it meant to be evicted from their homes and their land so that others could settle there. That was the policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the United Nations resolutions - a policy which totally negated the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the population, including the Palestinian people.

The Commission on Human Rights should detect and redress violations of human rights. Otherwise the very basis of the United Nations would collapse. Consequently, its members should make a positive contribution to the reaffirmation of faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity of the human person. In so doing, they should bear in mind that in human rights there should be only one standard for all peoples and nations and that the basic guarantee lay in respect for and implementation of the principles of the Charter and the resolutions of the United Nations. Nevertheless, certain régimes had decided to violate them, as was demonstrated by the persistence of apartheid, the illegal occupation of Namibia and the existence of the racist régime of Southern Rhodesia. Similarly, in the Middle East Israel was continuing to ignore the United Nations resolutions concerning violations of human rights in the occupied territories. For example, Israel was continuing forcibly to evict the population of the occupied territories in order to make way for new settlers, to interfere in freedom of worship and religion, to harass religious personalities, such as Archbishop Capucci, to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to return to their homeland, to occupy Jerusalem and to repress the Arab people. That was why the Commission had adopted its resolution 6 (XXXI).

(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Commission's efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and its consideration of its long-term programme of work would be crowned with success.

Mrs. BAZARKHAND (Mongolia) emphasized the importance of United Nations human rights activities and of international co-operation in that area and said that the people of Mongolia were following with interest the work of the Commission on Human Rights to protect and guarantee the exercise of fundamental freedoms, with no discrimination of any kind.

Her delegation had studied the Commission's report (E/5635) and was glad to note that attention had been concentrated on such important questions as the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the right of peoples to self-determination; the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East; and the reported violations of human rights in Chile. Priority should be given to all those problems and any proposal to give priority to other questions should be rejected.

As had been stated by the USSR delegation, the Commission on Human Rights should include in its long-term programme of work the study of the right of everyone to live in peace and security. In response to the objections which had been raised to the inclusion of that item, the Mongolian delegation reiterated its belief that human rights, on the one hand, and international peace and security, on the other, were closely linked. War was a crime against humanity.

Mongolia's position with regard to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid was well known. It was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to other international instruments on human rights, and it strongly supported the implementation of the principles established therein.

At its thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, the Commission on Human Rights had had considerable evidence of the violations of human rights which were being committed in Chile. There had been reports from specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, newspapers and witnesses, which showed that the fascist junta was still pursuing its policy of repression and terror. That policy

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(Mrs. Bazarkhand, Mongolia)

had rightly been compared to that of the Hitlerite régime and had been duly condemned by international gatherings.

It was essential to strengthen the world movement of solidarity with the Chilean patriots, and not to be deceived by the manoeuvres of the junta, which was trying to make people forget its crimes by making minimal "concessions". Efforts should be redoubled to restore the rights of the Chilean people and to achieve the unconditional release of the political prisoners. Her delegation would support any measure designed to achieve those goals.

Mr. PIERCE (Jamaica) said that his delegation hoped that, when the calendar of meetings for 1976 was drawn up, consideration would be given to the suggestion made by the Director of the Division of Human Rights that the session of the Commission on Human Rights and the spring session of the Council should be held further apart.

His delegation congratulated the Commission on Human Rights on the work which it was doing in its area of competence and was pleased that the Commission had to a large extent moved away from the abstract elaboration of norms and shown increasing concern for the application in specific situations of the principles concerning human rights drawn up by the United Nations.

The Jamaican delegation agreed with the Commission about the importance of the item entitled "Question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and study of special problems relating to human rights in developing countries" and supported its decision to keep that item on its agenda as a standing item (E/5635, resolution 2 (XXXI)).

He would refrain from commenting on chapters VI and VIII of the Commission's report, since his delegation had already had an opportunity to record its position in that regard. It supported resolution 8 (XXXI) concerning the study of reported violations of human rights in Chile and recalled that his delegation had supported General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX), paragraph 4 of which had endorsed the recommendation made by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that the Commission on Human Rights study the reported violations of human rights in Chile. Jamaica was also glad that the Government of Chile had expressed a willingness to receive the Ad Hoc Working Group and assist it in its work.

(Mr. Pierce, Jamaica)

Lastly, his delegation was pleased to note that, despite its busy schedule, the Commission on Human Rights had found time to discuss and adopt a resolution on the situation in Cyprus.

Mr. WU Miao-fa (China) said that, with regard to opposition to racism and colonialism, the Chinese delegation had already had occasion to expose the despicable tactics of the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The Government and people of China would continue to support the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against racism and colonialism, as a major component of the struggle against imperialism.

The realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the developing countries was a basic goal of the third world countries and peoples, whose struggle against imperialist and particularly super-Power exploitation had recently acquired new impetus. As a result of the efforts of those countries, the General Assembly had adopted at its sixth special session the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and, at its twenty-ninth session, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and the Second General Conference of UNIDO, held recently in Peru, had adopted the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation. Outside the United Nations, other important instruments had also been adopted on the subject. The countries of the third world strongly demanded the implementation of the principles established in those instruments and the adoption of measures to change the old economic relations based on inequality and exploitation. Those aspirations should be supported and a firm and vigilant attitude should be maintained towards the two super-Powers. The developing countries should persevere in their just struggle, since that was the only way in which they would achieve full enjoyment of their political, social and cultural rights.

Another important aspect of the item under consideration was the violation of human rights in the territories occupied by Israel. The facts showed that zionism had not changed its policy of aggression and was continuing to oppress and exploit the Palestinian and the Arab peoples in those territories. In the opinion of the Chinese delegation, the reason why the Middle East question had not yet been solved was Israel's obstinate expansionism and the super-Powers' competition for hegemony in that region. Arabs and Palestinians, struggling in close unity,

(Mr. Wu Miao-fa, China)

would certainly regain their territories and their national rights, which would end the violation of human rights in that area.

With regard to the question of Cyprus, his delegation had already stated its position in detail and had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 3212 (XXIX) and Security Council resolution 367 (1975). It was glad that the parties had agreed to resume negotiations and hoped that the negotiations would lead to an early solution of the question and to implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Mr. BATIBAY (Turkey) said that, as a member of the Commission on Human Rights, Turkey had actively participated in the work of the Commission's thirty-first session, which was summarized in the report (E/5635) before the Committee. In the Commission, Turkey had co-sponsored some of the draft resolutions which were submitted to the Council and it unreservedly supported the resolutions and decisions contained in the report.

He welcomed the participation in the Commission's work of an observer delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organization; that reflected the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He paid a tribute to the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ghulam Ali Allana, and reaffirmed Turkey's full support for the Commission's work.

Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that at its thirty-first session the Commission on Human Rights had made significant progress in the consideration of certain questions of major importance, and welcomed the spirit of co-operation and compromise which had characterized the deliberations.

His delegation felt, however, that one area which had not been adequately dealt with was that concerned with the Commission's long-term programme of work (resolution 10 (XXXI) (E/5635)), and he appealed to Member States which had not yet done so to reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire on the matter.

With regard to reported violations of human rights, his delegation felt that the Commission had made a genuine effort to act objectively and in a constructive manner. The Economic and Social Council had before it, in particular, draft decision 3 concerning reported violations of human rights in Chile, which called for approval of the Commission's decision in its resolution 8 (XXXI) to set up an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the present situation of human rights in Chile.

(Mr. Baker, United States)

That resolution of the Commission had been adopted by consensus after intensive informal consultations and reflected the deep concern of many States over the matter. His delegation felt that the sending of an Ad Hoc Working Group to Chile represented a very sound solution which did not prejudice the problem and, at the same time, provided for a full inquiry. The Government of Chile had pledged its co-operation, and his delegation was confident that a thorough and objective study would be undertaken. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the approval of draft decision 3 by the Economic and Social Council.

Turning to the other issues that required action by the Council or had been brought to its attention (E/5635, chap. I), he noted that his delegation had supported draft resolution I in the Commission on Human Rights. It reserved its opinion for the moment on draft resolution II concerning written and oral statements by non-governmental organizations in consultative status concerning human rights, since the subject was being considered in another body; the same applied to draft decision 5 concerning the place of meeting of the thirty-second session of the Commission. His delegation supported draft resolution III and was pleased that the Commission on Human Rights was to be represented at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. Finally, his delegation regretted the fact that there had not been time to prepare a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (draft decision 4).

Mr. ROPOTEAN (Romania) said that international co-operation in promoting and ensuring the effective exercise of human rights was an important means of protecting international peace and security and fostering friendship and understanding between peoples on the basis of observance of the principles of international law and of equality between States.

His delegation could support all the resolutions and decisions submitted by the Commission on Human Rights to the Economic and Social Council in its report on its thirty-first session (E/5635). It particularly welcomed draft resolution I approving the extension of the mandate of the Working Group of Experts, since it believed that the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination of the Government of South Africa was a flagrant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and constituted a serious violation of the obligations flowing from the status of a Member of the United Nations. Public opinion would unquestionably

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(Mr. Ropotean, Romania)

benefit from the publicity given to the report of the Working Group of Experts and would become more familiar with a number of specific examples of violations of the principles of the Charter. His delegation was also pleased to note the initiative taken by the Commission in arranging to send a representative to the World Conference of the International Women's Year and was in agreement with the draft decisions concerning situations which revealed gross violations of human rights.

With regard to the work done by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its twenty-seventh session, his delegation endorsed the Sub-Commission's action in concentrating on the studies which it was preparing, some of which were very important from both a practical and a historical point of view. The Romanian expert who was responsible for the study of the historical development and present situation with regard to the right of self-determination had already presented a summary of his study and was maintaining close contact with the United Nations Secretariat and the other experts.

As to the question of the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, his Government's position had always been that the implementation of United Nations decisions and resolutions concerning self-determination was essential to the achievement of peace and security throughout the world.

His delegation had always shown interest in the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, and it wished to commend the Commission on Human Rights for its decision to give priority to that matter at its thirty-second session. With regard to the question of human rights and scientific and technological developments, it felt that the time had come for the various studies conducted by the United Nations on that subject to be given thorough analysis so that generally acceptable conclusions could be drawn from them.

As to advisory services in the field of human rights, his delegation was appreciative of the fact that most of the seminars had been held in developing countries and reminded members that the Romanian Government had offered to act as host for one of them. That offer had been brought to the attention of the Division of Human Rights and had been noted.

The Statements made so far reflected the interest of all Member States in

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(Mr. Ropotean, Romania)

international co-operation in the matter of human rights, particularly in combating the gross violations of those rights which were still occurring in some parts of the world. It was also to be noted that there was general concern over the situation with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile, and his delegation shared that concern.

He was pleased at the manner in which the Commission on Human Rights had dealt with certain procedural questions with a view to fully carrying out its task. His delegation did not share the view that the number of items considered by the Commission should be reduced. The fact that its programme included a large number of subjects did not prevent it from establishing priorities and acting effectively. Experience showed that the Commission had always been able to organize its work, as was evidenced by the valuable resolutions and decisions which it adopted.

Miss SHAHKAR (Iran) said that she shared the views already expressed concerning the quality and usefulness of the work done by the Commission on Human Rights, noted with deep satisfaction the Commission's efforts to ensure that its decisions and resolutions were adopted by consensus and gave support to the Commission's tendency to move gradually away from the task of formulating abstract rules and devote itself primarily to the problem of implementing the principles already established.

As a member of the Commission on Human Rights, her delegation had voted for all the draft resolutions and decisions contained in the report (E/5635). With regard to draft resolution I concerning the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, she expressed satisfaction with the work done by the Group and emphasized how important it was to give proper publicity to the report which had been prepared.

Regarding draft resolution II concerning non-governmental organizations, she said that if those organizations wished to be heard and understood, it was essential for them to show genuine independence vis-à-vis the various conflicting interests and to carry out all their tasks in a moderate, objective manner.

The question of the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, dealt with in Commission resolution 2 (XXXI), of which her delegation has been a sponsor, appeared regularly on the agenda of the Commission, which gave it priority. Her delegation attached

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(Miss Shahkar, Iran)

great importance to that question, since the realization of economic, social and cultural rights was the basic prerequisite for the enjoyment of other human rights. Economic, social and cultural rights were therefore fundamental rights in the truest sense, and it would be paradoxical for the Commission on Human Rights not to deal with them. Furthermore, the report on the subject had been widely praised and it had not been prepared in order to be filed away along with other good intentions.

Commission resolution 4 (XXXI), which related to Cyprus, had been adopted at a time when the situation appeared particularly confused. It had nevertheless been possible to reach a consensus on that purely humanitarian resolution, and she trusted that the parties concerned would make a real effort to put an end to the sufferings of the people of Cyprus.

A consensus had also been reached regarding resolution 8 (XXXI), which related to Chile, and it was to be hoped that, as a result of that consensus, the Ad Hoc Working Group set up to inquire into the present situation of human rights in that country would be able to complete its work successfully with the full co-operation of the Chilean Government.

Finally, resolution 10 (XXXI) was most important to the future of the Commission; on the basis of the reports requested of the Secretary-General, the Commission would be able to take appropriate decisions on its programme of work at its next session.

Mr. AMPAT (Congo) said that the odious policy of apartheid continued to be a serious threat to international peace and security. The discrimination suffered by the victims of that policy was a violation of the very concept of freedom and justice. There were constant reports of the repression unleashed against the national liberation movements in southern Africa but such repression would in no way diminish the tenacious efforts they were making to recover their basic right of self-determination. The Congo delegation, for its part, reaffirmed its unshakable support of the national liberation movements because they were the legitimate representatives of the struggling peoples. As long as the imperialist countries continued to provide moral and material support for the racist and minority régimes of southern Africa, the resolutions of the United Nations would remain a dead letter and peace would always be threatened in the region.

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(Mr. Ampat, Congo)

Disregarding the measures adopted by UNESCO in the face of the situation prevailing in the Middle East, Israeli zionism arrogantly persisted in its violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab-occupied territories. His delegation reiterated its conviction that the struggling Palestine people would recover their right to independence and national sovereignty.

The growing reign of terror in Chile was the result of a combination of internal elements with imperialism. After having assassinated President Allende, the fascist military junta, well aware of its unpopularity, was continuing to persecute and imprison the leaders of democratic movements, for example, Luis Corvalán, Secretary-General of the Chilean Communist Party. The moment had come for the adoption of decisive measures to obtain the immediate freedom of those political prisoners.

The Government of the Congo, which spared no effort to apply United Nations resolutions on human rights, did not maintain any relations with régimes whose policies were based on fascism, zionism, racism and apartheid.

Mr. JACHEK (Czechoslovakia) said that, at its last session, the Commission on Human Rights had done commendable work aimed at supporting the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against the racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, which continued to suppress basic human rights and to apply their policy of colonialism, racism and apartheid. His delegation unreservedly supported resolution 5 (XXXI), adopted by the Commission on the basis of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. It also supported resolution 6 (XXXI) aimed at supporting the struggle of the Arab peoples and the Palestinians against Israeli aggression, which was accompanied by repressive measures designed to change the physical, demographic and statutory character of the occupied territories.

The terror unleashed by the Chilean fascist junta against the democratic forces of that country had not ceased in spite of the many appeals which had been made. Proofs of continuous gross and systematic suppression and liquidation of democratic forces in Chile were indisputable. His delegation agreed that an Ad Hoc Working Group should be established under the guidance of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and should inquire into the actual situation of human rights in Chile and should present a report to the Commission at its next session (resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission). At the same time, his delegation felt that,

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(Mr. Jachek, Czechoslovakia)

in view of the situation of human rights in Chile, the Economic and Social Council should adopt urgent measures at its present session, since the Council enjoyed an exceptional position with regard to the protection of human rights and was called upon in Article 62 of the Charter to make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Hence, the Social Committee should recommend that the Economic and Social Council should adopt a resolution calling for the speedy cessation of the dangerous situation in Chile, the restoration of fundamental human rights, the freeing of thousands of persons gaoled for their democratic opinions or activities, and the freeing of representatives of Chilean political life, such as Luis Corvalán, Secretary-General of the Chilean Communist Party.

His delegation supported resolution 4 (XXXI) on the situation in Cyprus, in view of its humanitarian nature, and also resolutions 2 (XXXI), 3 (XXXI) and 11 (XXXI) of the Commission.

With regard to resolution 10 (XXXI), he felt that the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should work on the basis of a long-term programme. He also agreed that the work programme should be established with the broadest possible co-operation and co-ordination among Member States, all United Nations organs and the specialized agencies whose activities were closely linked with the protection of human rights. However, the content of the work programme was also very important and it should include those questions of human rights whose solution could contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations and primarily to the strengthening of international peace and security. His delegation supported the proposal that in its long-term programme of work the Commission on Human Rights should attach importance to one of the most fundamental of human rights - the right of every man to live in conditions of peace and security - and also to the measures needed to secure that right. Priority should also be given to measures aimed at the achievement of economic, social and cultural rights. Contrary to the views of other delegations, Czechoslovakia did not believe that the international protection of human rights could become more effective through the adoption of administrative or procedural measures or through the establishment of new administrative institutions within the United Nations system.

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Mr. KIYA (Japan) supported draft resolution I, recommended in the Commission's report (E/5635), concerning the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts. His delegation shared the concern of Member States regarding the situation in South Africa and sincerely hoped that respect for dignity and human rights would soon be established throughout the world.

Turning to draft resolution II, he said that his Government recognized and appreciated the importance of the role played by non-governmental organizations in United Nations activities, especially in the social and humanitarian field. The United Nations required the collaboration and co-operation of those organizations in order to attain its objectives. From that point of view, the Government of Japan would not oppose the initiative which had been taken to review, where necessary, the abusive activities of non-governmental organizations. However, his delegation was convinced that the United Nations should not, in its turn, abuse its power of control over the non-governmental organizations. The relations between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations were clearly defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and its provisions should be observed.

With regard to draft decision 3, concerning the study of reports of violations of human rights in Chile, he felt it was very reasonable to carry out an investigation of the existing situation before envisaging the possibility of concrete measures. Since the Working Group had been established recently, the Committee should not take any decisions which might prejudice its activities.

With regard to draft decision 4, concerning the draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, his delegation accepted the decision adopted by the Commission and would hope that the Commission would do its utmost to accelerate its work in that field.

His delegation welcomed the adoption of resolution 11 (XXXI) of the Commission, concerning human rights and scientific and technological development. At the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, Japan had sponsored resolution 3268 (XXIX) and wished to stress once again the importance of the universal protection of human rights in the face of scientific and technological progress. Similarly, it hoped that the competent organs of the United Nations would continue striving to apply the resolutions adopted on that subject.

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Mr. SULLIVAN (Canada) said that the need to respect human rights and to ensure their protection and promotion was apparent at all levels. Governments should redouble their efforts to guarantee to all their citizens the exercise of their individual and collective rights. Unfortunately, they did not always do so and, for that reason, it had become necessary to establish an international system to promote respect for human rights, a system in which all States must co-operate. The Commission on Human Rights was, precisely, a key element in that system.

He drew attention to chapter IX of the report (E/5635) and to resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission, concerning the reports of violations of human rights in Chile. His delegation took note with satisfaction of the decision to send an Ad Hoc Working Group to investigate the existing situation of human rights in Chile and congratulated the Chilean Government on having expressed its intention to co-operate with the Group. That decision marked an important stage in the adoption of concrete measures by the United Nations to watch over the observance of human rights. His delegation hoped that such co-operation was not an isolated event and that, if the need arose in the future, other Governments would also be ready to co-operate with the United Nations.

It was disappointing to note the slow progress which had been made in the preparation of a draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. He was confident that the Commission would give that question the priority it deserved and would conclude its study of it at its next session.

The Commission on Human Rights should draw up a work programme in order to improve its co-ordination. Now that the Commission was reaching the end of the stage of elaborating norms, it must do its utmost to see that they were applied. He was glad to note that that question was emphasized in resolution 10 (XXXI) and he hoped that at its next session the Commission would prepare a programme of work designed to secure that end.

Finally, he announced that the Canadian Government had decided to put forward its candidacy for the Commission on Human Rights and that, if it were elected, it would do its utmost to achieve the implementation and universal promotion of human rights.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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768th meeting

Tuesday, 29 April 1975,  
at 10.50 a.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645; E/AC.7/L.685)  
(continued)

Mrs. DIALLO (Guinea) said that her delegation had carefully studied the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-first session (E/5635) and the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/5622) and that it had already emphasized the interest of the Government and people of Guinea in human rights questions in general, and in the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in particular.

Her delegation was distressed to note that, despite the many resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Government of South Africa applied cruel and discriminatory measures against the majority of the population and in favour of the white minority in the field of labour and employment. African workers did not enjoy political or trade union rights and were paid much less than whites.

For that reason, the Republic of Guinea and all of progressive Africa had no desire to talk of negotiations and dialogue with the masters of apartheid and had taken the offensive against the manoeuvres of the South African régime, which was endeavouring to emerge from the isolation to which it had been condemned.

Her delegation welcomed the conclusions and recommendations in document E/5622 and unreservedly supported resolution 5 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights (E/5635, chap. XXIII A). It was convinced that, so long as the régime of apartheid persisted in South Africa, talk of restoring the trade union rights of the black population of that country would be meaningless. No measures to promote those rights could be divorced from the liberation struggle being waged by the non-white population, a struggle which would inevitably result in the elimination of apartheid.

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Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria) said that Bulgaria had always supported the work of the United Nations in the human rights field and had played an active role in elaborating and implementing the major international instruments in that sphere. Accordingly, his delegation was extremely surprised at Yugoslavia's accusation that Bulgaria had not honoured its commitments in that regard.

The representative of Yugoslavia had referred to the Macedonian minority. Firstly, his Government believed that such questions should be examined at the bilateral level and that it was not conducive to friendly relations among countries to discuss them in international forums. However, in the case at hand, the assertions concerning the so-called Macedonian minority lacked any foundation: no such minority existed. The traditions and history of that segment of the Bulgarian population were inextricably linked with those of all the Bulgarian people. Accordingly, his delegation rejected any attempt to raise an artificial and non-existent question.

The consideration of the item on human rights at the current session was taking place against the background of two important events: the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism and the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. It should be borne in mind that the Soviet Union had played a decisive role in the victory being commemorated and that it was that struggle which had shaped the recognition of the liberty and equality of all countries and of human rights which had subsequently been incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations.

At its thirty-first session, the Commission on Human Rights had devoted considerable attention to violations of human rights by régimes which were the expression of ideologies based on racial discrimination and force. In that regard, his delegation particularly wished to mention paragraph 1 of resolution 5 (XXXI) (E/5635, chap. XXIII A). It also unreservedly supported Commission resolutions 6 (XXXI) and 7 (XXXI). In the former, the activities of Israel in the occupied Arab territories were described as war crimes and an affront to humanity. Increased efforts should be made to put an end to those activities and thereby restore the human rights of the population of the occupied territories.

The thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights had been a fruitful one, owing in part to the participation of the Palestine Liberation

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(Mr. Petrov, Bulgaria)

Organization and the African liberation movements, and to the fact that the Commission had focused on persistent and gross violations of human rights. Those factors should be taken into account in elaborating the long-term programme of work of the Commission.

In the report under consideration (E/5635), the Commission on Human Rights proposed that the Council should adopt draft decision 3 (chap. I B) on the setting up of an Ad Hoc Working Group to inquire into the present situation of human rights in Chile. His delegation had some reservations concerning the establishment of the Group and believed that the Council should adopt an approach at its current session on the basis of the following two considerations. Firstly, what was the present human rights situation in Chile? Secondly, how had the Chilean authorities responded to the appeals of the United Nations, particularly to General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1873 (LVI)?

Since many facts demonstrated that the situation had not improved and that the junta had not adequately replied to those appeals, the Economic and Social Council could not fail to draw its own conclusions and express its position on the subject. Some delegations had recommended a cautious approach. Such an approach would not be constructive and would amount to a denial of support of the resolutions he had mentioned. The Chilean people were entitled to feel that they were receiving support and, in particular, to hear the Council pronounce itself. He hoped that that viewpoint would be endorsed by those who respected the principles of human rights.

Mr. MAYRHOFER (Observer for Austria), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that he wished to refer to the statement made at the preceding meeting by the representative of Yugoslavia concerning the Croatian and Slovene minorities in Austria.

His delegation wished to stress once again that, under the Austrian Constitution, all Austrian citizens enjoyed the same rights and that the minorities mentioned enjoyed special rights enabling them to safeguard their distinct character, language and culture.

In addition to those basic measures, the Austrian Government had envisaged additional measures and considered it advisable to ascertain to which communities

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(Mr. Mayrhofer, Observer for Austria)

and in which geographical framework they should apply. The purpose of any census conducted would be to safeguard the rights and interests of all the members of the minorities concerned. Moreover, such censuses had been conducted in a number of countries, including Yugoslavia.

Guided by that constructive approach, the Austrian Government did not tolerate any action that was harmful to minorities and therefore categorically rejected the remarks by the representative of Yugoslavia regarding the activities of certain organizations in Austria.

His delegation shared the view that minorities should constitute an element of co-operation and friendship between neighbouring countries, particularly between those having close ties in many areas of common interest.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the Byelorussian SSR had always supported the implementation of measures to eradicate racism and racial discrimination.

In modern times, the existence of racist régimes - such as those of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia - which continued to receive support from international monopolies and certain States - was particularly intolerable. The violations of human rights committed by those régimes had been demonstrated and documented. Particular reference should be made to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/5622). In 1975, during which the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism - in which the Soviet Union had played a decisive role - and of the establishment of the United Nations was being celebrated, the Organization should firmly support the African peoples and intensify measures to put an end to racism and apartheid.

In its report (E/5635), the Commission on Human Rights had referred to the violations of those rights committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. In order to ensure peace in the Middle East, it was essential to restore the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to form an independent State, at the same time affording all States in the area the opportunity to exist and develop.

The Commission's report also dealt with the reported violation of human rights in Chile. The junta continued to disregard the relevant resolutions of United

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(Mr. Kudryavtsev, Observer for  
the Byelorussian SSR)

Nations bodies and to use terror and cruel tortures for political reasons; it was also implementing economic measures benefiting foreign capital and international monopolies. The United Nations must ensure that its decisions were observed, that the violation of human rights ceased and the political prisoners were released. The early attainment of those objectives would constitute a major United Nations contribution to the cause of progress and peace.

Mr. FAHDLI (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation supported the proposal to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa and to give full publicity to its reports. However, it must be remembered that many industrialized countries continued to be the main source of military, political and economic support for the racist régimes of southern Africa. As long as the Arab territories were occupied by the Zionist State, as long as there were refugee camps all over Palestine and as long as zionism continued its atrocities against the peace-loving Palestinian people, it would be difficult to bring peace to the area. The policy of the Zionist State violated the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Charter of the United Nations.

In Chile, the military junta continued murdering and imprisoning innocent people. Increased efforts must be made to secure the release of political prisoners. His delegation would support any Economic and Social Council resolutions designed to re-establish respect for human rights in Chile, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX).

Mr. HUERTA (Observer for Chile), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that the Government of Chile agreed to the establishment of a Working Group to visit Chile under the terms of resolution 8 (XXXI) of the Commission on Human Rights, which had been adopted unanimously; the Government of Chile had been and continued to be willing to allow the Working Group full freedom of action within Chile and to grant all facilities that the Group might deem necessary for the complete and timely fulfilment of its task. The Government of Chile had reached that decision in full knowledge of the rights emanating from its sovereignty, rights which could also be invoked in accepting that type of mission, particularly in the field of human rights. It was to be hoped that the

(Mr. Huerta, Observer for Chile)

investigations of the Working Group would bring out the truth to which the Chilean people were entitled, for the sake not only of the prestige of their leaders but also, basically, of their democratic and legal traditions.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), introducing draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685, said that at its 626th meeting, held in January 1974, the Commission on the Status of Women had decided, in the light of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), to discontinue consideration of communications received by the Secretary-General concerning the status of women. In the Economic and Social Council, his delegation had maintained that that decision had been regrettable and that the Council must consider all the consequences before deciding on the matter. His delegation had also suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women should be invited to continue to deal with those communications on the basis of Council resolution 76 (V) and of subsequently established practice. In its decision 11 (LVI) the Council had taken note of the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women and had requested the Secretary-General to prepare an explanatory report on all the relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights and the status of women. That report was currently before the Social Committee as document E/5628.

From paragraph 4 of that document it could be seen that two types of communications existed, namely those concerning human rights and those relating to the status of women. Communications in the first category were dealt with under the provisions of Council resolution 75 (V), which had subsequently been amended and consolidated with the amendments in Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII). That resolution still governed the procedure for dealing with communications relating to human rights. The second category of communications had been the subject of Council resolution 76 (V). Subsequently, the Council had reaffirmed that resolution in resolution 304 (XI). After reading out paragraph 10 of the explanatory report of the Secretary-General and pointing out that the word "confidential" should read "non-confidential", he said that the two categories of communications were handled in different ways. While the communications which figured in the confidential lists were also presented to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, there was a large number of communications received by the Secretary-General which related specifically to the status of women and which, as a result, were normally submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women.

There was also another procedure for handling communications, namely, that established by resolution 1503 (XLVIII). That procedure was basically different from those established in the resolutions referred to earlier. The mandate given to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under resolution 1503 (XLVIII) was limited and consisted in considering those communications for a clearly defined purpose, namely to select those which appeared "to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission".

That involved a process of selection for a very specific and clearly defined purpose. Consequently, there existed within the United Nations three separate procedures for dealing with communications. Each of those procedures had been established for a particular purpose and reason. The communications concerning the status of women which were presented to the Commission for its consideration on the basis of resolution 76 (V), varied widely and included, for example, communications concerning principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, social and educational fields. Those communications formed the basis of the two lists prepared by the Secretary-General.

If the Commission's decision to delete from its work programme the consideration of communications concerning the status of women was adopted, it would be deprived of a valuable source of information, which was essential for the fulfilment of its mandate. If the Commission's decision was adopted, those lists would cease to exist and communications concerning the status of women would receive no consideration whatsoever.

Consequently, his delegation, together with the delegations of Belgium and Colombia, which had just been joined by the delegation of Mexico, had decided to submit draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685, the purpose of which was to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women would continue to consider communications received by the Secretary-General which bore a direct relationship to its terms of reference.

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(Mr. Speekenbrink, Netherlands)

The Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women referred to in the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, was the instrument used by the Secretariat to decide whether a communication received by it fell within the competence of the Commission on the Status of Women. It would be regrettable if, in International Women's Year, the Council adopted a decision of that Commission which amounted to an abandonment of an important aspect of its mandate. The Commission should endeavour to ensure that the right of women to play a role in the community was recognized and accepted, should promote the active participation of women in all fields on a basis of equality with men, and should endeavour to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. For those reasons, the sponsors of the draft resolution felt it essential for the Economic and Social Council to guarantee that the Commission on the Status of Women received the information which it needed to carry out its mandate in the best possible way.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that the representative of the Netherlands was right about the error found in document E/5628. The second and third sentences of paragraph 10 of that document had been worded differently in the Division of Human Rights. The correct text was the following: "The communications which figure in both the confidential as well as the non-confidential lists of communications presented to the Commission on the Status of Women are those which deal specifically with the status of women and with principles relating to the promotion of the status of women in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. These communications ...".

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685, said that communications relating to the status of women should be examined in conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). The Commission on the Status of Women had studied that Council resolution and as a result had decided that it would not consider that category of communications so as not to violate the procedure established by the Council, which, in decision 11 (LVI), had taken note of that decision of the Commission. Similarly, and in conformity with that decision, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had decided not to include such communications in its programme of work.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Before 1970 a number of resolutions had been adopted on so-called communications concerning human rights, which were mentioned in the explanatory report of the Secretary-General (E/5628). Those resolutions included resolution 76 (V), under which certain communications concerning the status of women should be transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women. At that time there had been no uniform procedure to deal with all the communications relating to human rights received by the Secretariat, and a partial solution had therefore been adopted. In 1970 the situation had changed with the adoption of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). That resolution had established a procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It had also authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group "to consider all communications, including replies of Governments thereon, received by the Secretary-General under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959". The working group was to consider those communications with a view to "bringing to the attention of the Sub-Committee those communications ... which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms". The working group of the Sub-Commission should therefore consider all communications, not merely some of them, and should do so with a view to bringing to the attention of the Sub-Commission only those which revealed a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Consequently, there were only three bodies in the United Nations system which could consider communications relating to human rights, namely: the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Sub-Commission's working group and the Commission on Human Rights.

In resolution 1503 (XLVIII) no distinction was drawn between the human rights of men and the human rights of women. Such a distinction would be contrary to the very notion of equality of men and women.

Those who wished to impose on the Commission on the Status of Women decisions which might jeopardize the rights of women were acting contrary to the clear provisions of resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and might violate the confidential character of the communications received by the Secretariat. The importance of maintaining that confidentiality was very well known.

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

The best way of promoting human rights was to support the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women, which recognized the importance of observing the uniform procedure established in Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). The Commission did not have the power to take measures concerning such communications, and could do no more than consider them. That being the case, what was the purpose of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685? It was said that such communications were a source of information for the Commission. There were many communications which lacked any foundation and constituted nothing but slander. Many others had clearly political purposes. The Economic and Social Council and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had established very strict criteria for the acceptance of such communications, and communications which did not meet those requirements were not considered.

The Commission on the Status of Women had been highly praised and could make a considerable contribution in its own sphere of activity. Why, then, should a decision which had already been accepted suddenly be revised? His delegation hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 would take account of those considerations and would not press for the adoption of their text. If they did, his delegation would submit amendments to it.

Ms. FINBORUD (Norway) said that at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women her delegation had voted against the decision to delete the consideration of communications concerning the status of women from its agenda because it felt that by doing so the Commission would be depriving itself of a valuable source of information needed for the proper execution of its mandate. Her delegation still maintained that position and therefore fully supported the draft resolution submitted by Belgium, Colombia and the Netherlands.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that although in paragraph 1 of resolution 1503 (XLVIII) the Economic and Social Council authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group to consider all the communications in question, that did not amount to an exclusive mandate: in other words, it should not be construed as meaning that the three bodies mentioned in that resolution were the only ones empowered to consider such communications. While it was true that the Commission

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(Mr. Macrae, United Kingdom)

on the Status of Women had decided to remove the consideration of communications from its agenda, he believed that action had been taken without full knowledge of all the facts. Furthermore, when the Economic and Social Council had taken note of the Commission's decision his delegation had specified that its doing so was not tantamount to signifying approval, and that it was to be hoped that the question would be reconsidered when sufficient information was available.

He wondered if it would be appropriate, on the eve of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, for the Committee to take a decision which would have the effect of impeding recourse to the available procedures for studying the status of women. His delegation believed that the consideration of communications was of inestimable value to the Commission on the Status of Women in discharging its duties and that it would be unwise to take a measure which would prevent it from having access to such information. He therefore hoped that draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 would be adopted.

Mr. SOFFER (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply at the invitation of the President, said that the Committee had heard the usual slander against his country by the Arab representatives. The reference made by the representative of Egypt to Monsignor Capucci, convicted after he had admitted smuggling arms and sabotage materials to terrorists, contrasted with the statement of the head of PLO who took pride in including Monsignor Capucci in the ranks of that organization. He quoted the words of Archbishop Raya who, before the final verdict had been delivered, said that if the guilt of Monsignor Capucci was proven, he would regard him as worse than Eichman.

In the areas under its administration, Israel was doing its best to maintain normal conditions of life and coexistence based on concern for individual rights and for public welfare, as had been confirmed by innumerable objective observers, and as was proved by the fact that hundreds of thousands of Arabs crossed the Jordan every year to spend their vacations in those areas.

Mr. DABLAN (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel was again having recourse to its usual economic argument in giving a description of the situation in the occupied territories which differed sharply from reality. Furthermore, the argument itself was immoral because the occupation

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(Mr. Dablan, Jordan)

would not be justified in any circumstances. The economic situation in the occupied territories could not be separated from the over-all policy of annexation, expulsion of the population, confiscation of its lands and establishment of settlers systematically practised by Israel in order to integrate the territories into its economy and to exploit the population. Israel had found a prosperous economy on the West Bank and had devoted itself to exploiting it. Unequal trade relations had been established. Agricultural and industrial production had been regulated so as to satisfy the needs of the Israeli economy and not compete with it. Israeli businessmen had been favoured through subsidies and tax exemptions so that they could make permanent investments in the occupied territories.

Jerusalem was the main victim of that policy of annexation. The urban area had been expanded, construction was continuing on confiscated Arab land and all methods of oppression were being used to disperse the population. The Israeli authorities had seized many Arab cultural and educational institutions. The religious institutions had suffered severe blows. Neighbourhoods and religious edifices of profound significance for the Arabs had been destroyed. Illegal excavations were continuing and had been condemned by UNESCO. He referred also to the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. In Gaza Israeli villages had been established in agricultural areas whose population had previously been driven out by the army, and the same thing had happened in other places. All those measures had been aimed at changing the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories.

It was important that the process of economic and political absorption should be stopped; the best guarantee for the development of human rights would be the termination of the occupation of those territories.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her Government had tried several times, without results, to solve the problem of the Macedonian national minority on a bilateral basis with the Government of Bulgaria, and had therefore brought the problem to the United Nations, which it considered to be an appropriate forum. Her delegation was surprised that the representative of Bulgaria had denied the existence of that national minority, for in 1956 it had been mentioned in official Bulgarian documents. The position taken by the Government of Bulgaria did not contribute to solving the problem or improving mutual relations.

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(Miss Ilic, Yugoslavia)

With regard to the statement made by the representative of Austria, she noted that no special censuses of a particular group of the population were conducted in Yugoslavia. Furthermore, she did not agree that it was necessary to determine the number of people in such groups, as if the recognition of their rights depended on that number. The Croatian and Slovene national minorities considered that the census in question was a form of pressure and had informed the Government of Austria of their position. Her delegation trusted that the Austrian Government would fulfil its obligations under the State Treaty on the Establishment of the Republic of Austria and meet the proposals which had been made to it by the minorities.

Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed surprise at the negative attitude of the delegation of Yugoslavia, which persisted in raising a non-existent and artificially created question. In no way did that contribute to the work of the United Nations in the sphere of human rights. The Bulgarian Constitution of 1971 guaranteed the fundamental rights and freedoms of all Bulgaria's inhabitants, without discrimination of any kind. Article 45 explicitly recognized the right of citizens of non-Bulgarian origin to use their own language, the compulsory teaching of Bulgarian notwithstanding. For all those reasons, he categorically rejected the attacks of the delegation of Yugoslavia.

Mr. MAYRHOFER (Observer for Austria), speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, said that his delegation had clearly explained the situation of the Croatian and Slovene minorities and saw no reason for dwelling on it. He wished only to assure the delegation of Yugoslavia that the Government of Austria would continue to apply the policy which had been explained, in consultation with all the national minorities.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said it was arbitrary to describe the question of the Macedonian minority as non-existent and artificial, as the representative of Bulgaria had done. The existence of that minority was an indisputable historical fact.

Furthermore, her delegation had not attacked the Bulgarian Constitution but had referred to the fact that the Constitution which had been in force until a few years earlier had recognized the existence of minorities, whereas the Constitution adopted in 1971 made absolutely no mention of them.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

769th meeting

Tuesday, 29 April 1975,  
at 3 p.m.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/5622, E/5628, E/5635, E/5638, E/5645; E/AC.7/L.685 and L.686) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Commission on Human Rights for adoption by the Council (E/5635, chap. I).

Draft resolutions

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that draft resolution II would be discussed at plenary meetings of the Council. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolutions I, III and IV without a vote.

It was so agreed.

Draft decision 1

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision 1 without a vote.

It was so agreed.

Draft decision 2

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee adopt paragraph (b) of draft decision 2, leaving the question of the date of the meeting of the working group to be discussed at the fifty-ninth session of the Council.

It was so agreed.

Draft decision 3

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) recalled that at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights his delegation had stressed that the Ad Hoc Working Group should be set up in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation, so that a representative of each of the five main geographical regions, including the region of Eastern Europe, should

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(Mr. Smirnov USSR)

participate in its work. If that principle was not taken into account, there would be unfavourable consequences for the operation of the Working Group. He further requested the Secretariat to make a statement on the financial implications of setting up the Working Group and on the possibility of reducing the costs.

If draft decision 2 had been put to the vote, his delegation would have voted against it, because it was in violation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), which had not provided for the formation of a working group.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision 3 without a vote.

It was so agreed.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) drew attention to an apparent misprint in annex IV of the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/5635). In connexion with the financial implications of resolution 8 (XXXI), there was a reference in section II (concerning the proposed field mission to Chile in 1975) to a representative of the Secretary-General. What was no doubt meant was a representative of the Secretariat. In view of the fact that General Assembly resolution 3219 (XXIX) had requested the Secretary-General to assist in any way he deemed appropriate in the situation in Chile, the use of the term "representative of the Secretary-General" in connexion with resolution 8 (XXXI) could introduce a misunderstanding.

Mr. DAS (Deputy Director, Division of Human Rights) said he believed the term normally used was "Principal Secretary".

#### Draft decision 4

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision 4 without a vote.

It was so agreed.

#### Draft decision 5

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that draft decision 5 should be deferred for discussion at the fifty-ninth session of the Council in connexion with the item on the calendar of conferences.

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Mr. DAS (Deputy Director, Division of Human Rights) pointed out that draft decision 5 did in effect propose that the Council take into account the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights when determining its calendar of conferences for 1976.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft decision 5 without a vote.

It was so agreed.

Mr. MACRAE (United Kingdom) said that the adoption of draft decision 5 would not prejudice his delegation's position when a decision was taken on the matter at the fifty-ninth session of the Council.

Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation considered draft decision 5 to be procedural and therefore the adoption should not be considered as prejudging the final decision on the venue for the thirty-second session of the Commission.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had supported draft decision 5 at the thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights and that it would abide by its position.

Draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 (continued)

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that there was an error in paragraph 22 of the explanatory report of the Secretary-General (E/5628), the figures for the vote taken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its 626th meeting were incorrect.

Introducing his delegation's amendments (E/AC.7/L.686) to draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685, he pointed out that Council resolution 304 (XI) had been superseded by resolution 1503 (XLVIII). His delegation was therefore suggesting a new second preambular paragraph. The statement in the sixth preambular paragraph that the communications in question constituted an invaluable source of information for the Commission on the Status of Women was inaccurate; the communications contained only brief details and were not transmitted to the Commission. He therefore proposed a new sixth preambular paragraph.

The operative part of draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 invited the Commission on the Status of Women to continue dealing with the communications in question,

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

although the Commission had already decided not to do so. Since the Commission could not take any action on communications, his delegation felt that the operative paragraph should be addressed to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which would be in a position to make a specific contribution to enhancing the status of women.

Mr. BAKER (United States of America) said that his delegation could support draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685. It did not consider that the provisions of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) were exclusive; the United Nations system permitted discussion of human rights questions in several fora. Communications concerning human rights and the status of women were an invaluable source of information for the Commission on the Status of Women. It had been implied at the preceding meeting that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had in effect endorsed the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women, whereas the Committee's action had been strictly procedural.

The amendments proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union would completely change the import of the draft resolution. His delegation would find it particularly difficult to accept the first two amendments. However, although he would oppose the deletion of the existing operative paragraph, there might be merit in the text proposed for the operative part by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. von KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that, as the Commission's decision was in the form of a recommendation, the Council was free to decide on the question as it saw fit. If the Commission on the Status of Women was to play its full role, it must consider communications which had a bearing on the status of women, since it was the body most competent to do so. Such a procedure would in no way infringe the provisions of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). Consequently, his delegation could see no valid reason for the amendments proposed by the Soviet Union and would support draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685.

Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria) said that, since the Commission on the Status of Women had decided that it should no longer consider communications concerning

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(Mr. Petrov, Bulgaria)

the status of women, the Council should not endeavour to compel the Commission to do so. Furthermore, such a procedure might be in contravention of the provisions of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). Consequently, his delegation would be compelled to vote against draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that the question was both complex and delicate.

Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) had in no way replaced the procedures established by the United Nations to deal with communications, but had simply supplemented those procedures by providing for certain limited action to be taken on the basis of the communications received. The scope of such action had been severely restricted in order to protect the sovereignty of States.

He could not agree that the confidentiality of communications would be endangered if communications of a general or particular nature were passed on to the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council. That procedure had been followed for many years and had always been respected under the provisions of Council resolutions 75 (V) and 76 (V). Under the provisions of Council resolution 76 (V), members of the Commission on the Status of Women could consult the originals of relevant communications; and, since Council resolution 304 I (XI) had in no way amended that procedure, those provisions still applied and should be reaffirmed.

The amendments proposed by the Soviet delegation were unacceptable since they called for a complete change in the procedure followed thus far. That had not been the intention of the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he could not agree with the views expressed by the representative of the Netherlands. Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) had, in fact, provided for major changes in previous procedures.

As far as the confidentiality of communications was concerned, he pointed out that, under the current procedure, such communications were addressed to the Secretary-General and were kept by him as confidential information; they could be considered initially only by members of the working group. The provisions of

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(Mr. Smirnov, USSR)

Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) should prevail over those of any other resolution.

He did not see why certain delegations should have difficulty in accepting the first two amendments proposed by his delegation, both of which were statements of fact. As far as the third amendment was concerned, he found it difficult to understand how the Council could disregard the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women not to deal any longer with communications relating to the status of women, since the Commission was certainly more competent to reach a decision on that question. His delegation could not support such a decision on the part of the Council, and was opposed to any hasty action.

Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that the fact that 1975 had been proclaimed International Women's Year had made women throughout the world more conscious of their rights. Consequently, it was possible that the number of communications relating to the status of women would increase substantially, particularly after the holding of the World Conference. Her delegation therefore supported draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685.

The adoption of the amendments proposed by the Soviet delegation would change the entire import of the draft resolution. Furthermore, the amendment to the operative paragraph seemed to conflict with the provisions of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII), since that resolution referred simply to communications relating to gross and reliably attested violations of human rights.

Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that there was merit in both points of view presented.

A number of the matters raised by various delegations required further consideration before the Council could reach any final decision. The Council must take account of the wishes of the Commission on the Status of Women and ensure that the Commission played a meaningful role. Consequently, the sponsors of the draft resolution and the amendments should be given time to consult and to prepare a draft which dealt with all the points raised.

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(Mr. Badawi, Egypt)

He asked whether the Secretariat could provide some clarification as to the communications received by the Commission on the Status of Women, the subsequent action taken by the Commission and the circumstances leading up to the Commission's decision.

Mr. KEILAU (German Democratic Republic) considered that the existing procedures for handling communications relating to the status of women as established in Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) were sufficient to safeguard the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women in regard to such communications. Draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 did not advance the procedures of that Commission for dealing with those communications.

The views expressed by delegations on the subject in that Commission as well as in the Commission on Human Rights should be taken into account. His delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of the USSR at the preceding meeting, as well as the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.686. Nevertheless, he agreed with the representative of Egypt that more time was needed to consider the delicate question at hand. Accordingly, the draft resolution and the amendments should not be pressed to the vote at the current meeting.

Mr. LINDENBERG SETTE (Brazil) said that he had been particularly struck by the observations of the Soviet representative regarding the legal scope of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and his remark that draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 represented a reversal of the position taken by the Commission on the Status of Women.

In view of the delicate and complex nature of the issue, all the views expressed should be weighed carefully and action should be taken at a later stage.

Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director-in-Charge of the Promotion of Equality of Men and Women Branch), replying to the questions by the representative of Egypt, said that the procedure which the Commission on the Status of Women followed in considering communications concerning the status of women was outlined in document E/5628 and was governed by Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by Council resolution 304 (XI). Two types of communications could be brought to the attention of the Commission, in accordance with a procedure which was parallel to that applied under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) in the case of the Commission on Human Rights.

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(Mrs. Bruce)

The Commission on the Status of Women was provided with non-confidential lists of communications, with a brief indication of their contents, dealing with principles relating to the promotion of the status of women in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields; it also received confidential lists of allegations of violations of women's rights. The Commission received the non-confidential lists through the normal document distribution channels and examined the confidential lists in closed meetings. The Commission's action was confined to taking note of the two lists of communications. As was pointed out in paragraph 21 of document E/5628, Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) had not taken into account the implications of the changes in that resolution for the procedure to be followed by the Commission on the Status of Women in dealing with communications concerning the status of women under Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 (XI).

The CHAIRMAN observed that there was general agreement to defer action on draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 and the amendments in document E/AC.7/L.686.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), referring to the statement in annex IV to the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/5635) concerning the financial implications of the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group to investigate the human rights situation in Chile, said that following the Commission's decision to set up that Group, he had consulted with the Chairman of the Commission, members of the Working Group, other organizations having had similar activities in Chile and elsewhere and representatives of the Chilean Government. Having discussed the matter further with the Office of Financial Services, he could inform the Committee that no change in the total figures reported to the Commission was anticipated. However, there might be some adjustments in the number and distribution of personnel and their duties, and additional conference expenses might have to be incurred if the last session of the Working Group was held in Geneva instead of New York. Consultations were under way with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) regarding the extent to which ECLA could assist by providing technical personnel and facilities.

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(Mr. Schreiber,

With regard to the United Kingdom representative's remarks, be believed that the reference to a "representative of the Secretary-General" was routine in such presentations and that the individual who would be in charge of the secretariat of the mission would be given the appropriate designation by the Secretary-General, who would bear in mind the character of the mission.

Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) welcomed the fact that assistance was being requested from ECLA in order to reduce expenditure on the Working Group's mission. He noted from annex IV of document E/5635 that the Working Group planned to hold a two-week meeting in January 1976 in New York: however, the Group hardly needed two weeks to adopt its report. Furthermore, if the Commission's thirty-second session was to be held in Geneva, the meeting of the Working Group scheduled for January 1976 should also be held there.

He urged the Secretariat to take all possible steps to ensure the maximum savings in connexion with the activities of the Working Group.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) assured the representative of the USSR that the Secretariat would do its utmost to keep the cost of the mission as low as possible, bearing in mind the very important tasks facing the members of the Working Group and the necessity of implementing as effectively as possible the relevant resolutions of United Nations organs.

If the Council and the General Assembly decided that the Commission on Human Rights should hold its thirty-second session in Geneva, the Working Group would presumably meet there as well.

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) said that the very valuable work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, as reflected in its report in document E/5622, had brought the plight of workers in southern Africa to the attention of the international community. That work should be encouraged, and he proposed, in the absence of a draft resolution, that the Committee should recommend to the Council that it take note of the report and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) supported the proposal by the representative of Algeria. She further proposed that the allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights in South Africa (E/5638) should be transmitted to the same Working Group.

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(Miss Ilic, Yugoslavia)

With regard to the allegations concerning infringements of trade union rights in the Bahamas (E/5645), she proposed that the Secretary-General should make another attempt to contact the Government of the Bahamas before a decision was taken as to what procedure should be followed.

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) supported the proposal by the representative of Algeria and further proposed that the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts (E/5622) should be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration at its thirty-second session, in conjunction with all the reports of that Working Group. That would ensure that the entire human rights situation in southern Africa would be examined by the United Nations organ which was directly concerned with the subject, without in any way limiting the Council's ability to consider the situation itself on the basis of the report of the Commission on Human Rights.

Mr. LEHTIHET (Algeria) endorsed the Netherlands representative's proposal.

Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights) said that the Yugoslav representative's proposal regarding the transmittal of document E/5638 to the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights would follow precedents of previous Council action. He assumed that her proposal that the Secretary-General should contact the Bahamian Government was intended to elicit a reply from that Government as to whether it wished to have the International Labour Organisation or the Economic and Social Council consider the allegations. In the latter case, the Government might be requested to submit its observations concerning the complaint.

Miss ILIC (Yugoslavia) said that whatever procedure was normally followed regarding such allegations would be acceptable to her delegation, provided that the contents of the allegations were not prejudged. Before any procedure was instituted, the Secretary-General should again contact the Government of the Bahamas.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the proposals by the representatives of Algeria, the Netherlands and Yugoslavia.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

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770th meeting

Wednesday, 30 April 1975,  
at 11.25 a.m.HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/AC.7/L.685, L.686) (concluded)The CHAIRMAN read out the following draft decision:

"The Economic and Social Council, having considered the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women, taken at its 626th meeting, relating to communications on the status of women, and the explanatory note by the Secretary-General (E/5628), invites the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the advisability to continue to deal with communications on the status of women in the light of the note of the Secretary-General and the discussion in the Social Committee of the Council at its fifty-eighth session, and to report to the Council at its sixty-second session."

Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his delegation supported the text of the draft decision. He withdrew draft resolution E/AC.7/L.685 on behalf of its sponsors.

The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee adopted the draft decision he had read out.

It was so decided.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Social Committee had completed its work for the fifty-eighth session.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.