

cern to all. The strengthening of the unholy alliance of Israel and South Africa represented a serious challenge to the United Nations and confirmed the fact that aggression and racism, oppression and racial discrimination were synonymous.

46. His delegation supported the request of the Government of Ghana that half of the expenditure incurred in holding the Conference away from United Nations Headquarters should be defrayed by the United Nations through voluntary contributions for the Decade.

47. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, in conformity with the United Nations Charter and her country's well-established policy of equality before the law for all, Argentina whole-heartedly supported all United Nations programmes to combat racism and racial discrimination. Her delegation had supported the convening of a World Conference in Ghana; it hoped that the Secretary-General would provide the necessary support and that preparations for the Conference would be carried out efficiently and as economically as possible.

48. Her delegation hoped that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session proposals for concrete measures to ensure the success of the Conference.

49. Mr. MAINA (Kenya) commended the United Nations policy of devoting a year or a decade for the examination of difficult problems besetting the international community. Racism and racial discrimination could be likened to a disease for which there was no immunization and against which constant watchfulness was needed. While many parts of the world were free of the germs of racism and racial discrimination or had successfully eradicated them, a few areas, particularly on the African continent, represented some of the worst instances of that phenomenon. The South African and Southern Rhodesian régimes systematically applied constitutional and legal provisions involving racism and racial discrimination and had resisted repeated appeals by the United Nations to alter their policies. The results of the protracted United Nations efforts were disappointing, to say the least, particularly in the light of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and its extension of the evil system of racism and racial discrimination into that United Nations Territory.

50. While it was difficult, in discussing the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to avoid references to another evil whose roots were fed by racism, efforts must be made to keep the discussions somewhat separate. In southern Africa the consistent position of the African people, who were the victims of racism and racial discrimination, was that all the people living in that part of the world could be accommodated if the oppressive régimes currently wielding political and economic power changed their ways and enabled all the peoples of southern Africa to live peacefully and normally in human dignity. If changes were not made, conflicts would arise that could not be resolved without greater suffering and loss of life. It was therefore a mark of friendship rather than hostility to urge action to achieve change in those evil systems before it was too late.

51. Unfortunately, the gross distortions created by racism in southern Africa and elsewhere led to distortions at the United Nations. Although less violent forms of racism and racial discrimination in other parts of the world merited attention, southern Africa, the most virulent example of that evil, must be given priority.

52. It was inevitable that the United Nations, however reluctantly, should take firm action against States which grossly violated the commitments they had made when joining the Organization.

53. He expressed the hope that by the end of the Decade no State anywhere in the world would officially and publicly sanction racism in its Constitution and laws. Racism was at the root of many other evils, such as colonialism and imperialism, and its elimination would alleviate untold suffering among the peoples of the world.

54. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council set 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 3 May, as the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions on the item.

55. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that a draft resolution on the item was in the early stages of preparation and urged that the proposed time-limit be extended one day to Tuesday, 4 May, at 5.30 p.m.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*

## 1993rd meeting

Thursday, 29 April 1976, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1993

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/5759 and Add.1, E/5760 and Add.1, E/5763, E/5799, E/5813)**

1. Mr. MALIKYAR (Afghanistan) said that it was largely as a result of the activities of the United Nations that awareness of the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* had continued to grow and that the international community was now involved in the struggle to eliminate those evils. It was currently recognized, more than ever before, that the realization

and exercise of the universal norms of human rights were both inevitable and necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. The international community should strive to achieve full respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, particularly the right to self-determination, which was an essential prerequisite for the observance of other rights, and to promote the complete elimination of foreign domination and colonialism in all its forms. With regard to southern Africa, the progress achieved in the former Portuguese Territories contrasted with the appalling situation which still prevailed in certain territories, including Namibia

and Zimbabwe. His delegation welcomed the recent Security Council resolutions condemning the illegal activities of the racist régimes in southern Africa and supported the decision of the Government of Mozambique to apply sanctions with regard to the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

2. His delegation urged all States to give their full support to the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) and it welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1978 (see E/5763). His country had always taken an active part in efforts to promote the implementation and universal realization of fundamental freedoms, upholding the rights of people who were struggling for self-determination and against alien rule and domination. Racial discrimination was prohibited in his country and Afghanistan had never maintained any kind of relations with the racist minority régimes.

3. Mr. FADHLI (Democratic Yemen) observed that wherever racism and racial discrimination were practised, one would notice the full support and collaboration of one or more imperialist States. They became the main protectors and allies of the racist régimes by providing bilateral military and economic support or by preventing any decision from being taken by the international community to eradicate the despicable phenomena of racism and racial discrimination. The attention of the world must be focused on the elimination of those evils, and the efforts of nations and international organizations to eradicate them must continue. In that connexion, his delegation considered that the International Seminar on the Eradication of *Apartheid* and in Support of the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa to be held at Havana from 24 to 28 May 1976 and the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held in Ghana in 1978 were highly commendable efforts. He urged the support of the Economic and Social Council for those efforts and recommended that the United Nations should share with the Government of Ghana the expenditures involved in holding the Conference in Ghana.

4. The General Assembly had adopted resolution 3057 (XXVIII) in 1973 for the purpose of combating racism and racial discrimination, and resolution 3379 (XXX) in 1975, in which it stated that zionism was a form of racism. The two resolutions could not be separated. The Palestinian people were struggling, like the people of southern Africa, against foreign occupation, confiscation of their land by force, the destruction of their homes and the denial of their inalienable rights to self-determination. Zionism could not be called a national liberation movement. In that connexion he recalled the statement made by the Kuwaiti delegation at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, pointing out that when zionism had started out it had called itself colonialism. In fact, colonialism had been in vogue at that time.

5. Mr. FASLA (Algeria) said that his country attached special importance to the full implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and to the success of the Decade. The situation in southern Africa was daily becoming more dangerous to international peace and security. The white minority régimes continued to defy the international community, which must

not be deceived by their propaganda about wishing to enter into a dialogue and negotiate a peaceful evolution of the situation. Those oppressive régimes were supported by international interest groups, which were the allies of racism and *apartheid*. South African aggression against Angola, supported by international reaction, showed the danger which the racist régimes posed to the security of neighbouring countries and to peace.

6. The international community should express, through action, its determination to eliminate, completely and unconditionally, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The actions of certain countries cast doubt on the sincerity of their statements condemning the minority régimes, which could not continue to defy the international community without the economic, military and diplomatic aid of those countries, which happened to be the countries entrusted under the United Nations Charter with a special responsibility for maintaining peace and international security. The non-aligned, the African, the socialist and other progressive countries of the world had continually denounced the allies and accomplices of the racist régimes. Action on the part of the international community should be strengthened, and should include the severance of all relations with the racist régimes, the denunciation in all international forums of those régimes and their supporters, the immediate implementation of United Nations resolutions, particularly in the field of economic sanctions, the provision of material and moral support to national liberation movements and peoples struggling against oppressive régimes and assistance to Zambia, Mozambique and Angola in their struggle against those régimes. The Security Council should fully shoulder its responsibilities and take all measures required under Chapter VII of the Charter.

7. The Palestinian people were suffering under the same oppression as the blacks in southern Africa, an oppression based on the concept of racial superiority. The General Assembly had shouldered its responsibilities in adopting resolution 3379 (XXX), which equated zionism with racism. The real nature of zionism was revealed, not in the philosophy of its founders but in its practice. It had imposed on Palestinian soil religious discrimination and a form of *apartheid* as deplorable as that practised in South Africa, which the international community rightly sought to eliminate. Vorster's recent visit to Israel strikingly demonstrated the special ties and close collaboration existing between the two régimes, whose common features were oppression, aggression and racial discrimination.

8. Another important form of racial discrimination affected migrant workers of the third world, who were obliged to emigrate and work in foreign countries. Those countries which received migrant workers should adopt laws to protect the human dignity of those workers and grant them identical treatment to that enjoyed by their nationals.

9. He urged States to attach special importance to the activities of cultural and information media in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. The struggle was part of a world-wide effort to establish more just economic and social relations between nations and to promote the harmonious development of the third world. His delegation welcomed the forthcoming World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in Ghana, and urged the Council to support the Ghanaian Government's request concerning the costs of the Conference.

10. Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that his country did not claim to be a perfect society but, thanks to its tradition of freedom of speech, anyone could read in its papers the lively debate occasioned by such difficult issues as racial relations at home and abroad. He observed that in the United Nations a consensus had evolved as to what was meant by racism and racial discrimination and what could be done about it. The evolution of that consensus could be traced to two sources: the force born of the European experience between 1933 and 1945 and the international movement for self-determination and the protection of human rights since 1945. From those two forces a coalition had come into being for removing racism and racial discrimination as components in international relations. In that connexion the United Nations had served the international community well in enabling the process of decolonization to be accomplished without the terrible bloodshed and suffering of previous wars. South Africa was an appalling example of institutionalized racial discrimination, but the struggle against racial discrimination must be seen as more than the struggle against *apartheid*, otherwise the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would lose its universality and something of its moral force. The general consensus on racism and racial discrimination achieved in the United Nations could be strengthened in the years ahead and could strengthen the efforts of all Member States to combat racial discrimination if certain conditions were met. If the General Assembly arbitrarily redefined racism as it had done in resolution 3379 (XXX), there could no longer be any such consensus. Nor could there be any consensus if the General Assembly permitted partisan quarrels to be exploited in order to denigrate the moral integrity of any one party to such a quarrel. The common concern of the United Nations should be to see that the process opened up so promisingly by the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106A (XX)) and by the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be fortified. However, if that did not prove feasible, his country would not be any less committed to promoting racial harmony at home and abroad, and particularly in southern Africa.

11. Mr. SALLAM (Yemen) said that, despite some progress since the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, racism and racial discrimination persisted.

12. His Government welcomed the initiative of the Government of Ghana in offering to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and supported the Ghanaian request that the United Nations should defray half if not all the cost of the Conference.

13. The unholy alliance between the racist systems of Israel and South Africa had been highlighted by the visit of the South African Prime Minister to Israel. The South African Prime Minister had been reported as saying that a joint ministerial committee would be set up to discuss trade expansion, investment, scientific and industrial co-operation and joint utilization of South African raw materials and Israeli manpower. The new relationship existing between Zionism and *apartheid* reflected the determination of both systems to resume their policies of racial discrimination, regardless of the condemnations of world opinion. The two régimes concerned, which were founded on the

colonial assumption that a European people had a moral and historical claim to other people's lands, had established monumental systems of institutionalized racism, had alienated the world community and had strongly opposed the implementation of United Nations resolutions. Consequently, the Council had a responsibility to recommend to the General Assembly that it reaffirm all its resolutions pertaining to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* and enforce certain punitive measures against those Governments which practised racial discrimination.

14. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Bolivia) said that the indigenous origin of the Bolivian nation had been repeatedly confirmed by idealists and revolutionaries, by the governing circles and the governed. The name "Tiahuanaco" conjured up visions of an amazing civilization, long since vanished, when Quechua and Aymara had peopled the Andean region. The strong spirit of the race had lived on. The names of Tupac Amaru, José Gabriel Condorcanqui and Julio Apaza recalled the repeated efforts of the indigenous people to free themselves from Spanish colonial domination. The struggle for independence waged by the *criollo* guerrilla fighters and the peasants, and led by the great liberators, had continued for 15 years, forging an indestructible bond between the ruling class and the peasant population.

15. At no time during the colonial or republican eras had there been a single example of racial discrimination. On the contrary, social democracy had been and continued to be so real that the people of Bolivia had sometimes been referred to slightly as *cholos*, or half-casts. Yet that mixture had given birth to the vitality that today characterized the Bolivian nation.

16. It could not be denied that the *criollo*, as the ruling class of the Republic, had sought to assume the rights of the former colonialists in land ownership and public administration. However, times had changed. Under the Constitution, no kind of servitude was recognized and no one could be obliged to work without his consent and without proper remuneration. The Constitution stipulated that everyone enjoyed the rights, freedoms and guarantees recognized in it without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, political or other beliefs, origin, or economic or social status; the dignity and freedom of the person were inviolable, and it was the primary duty of the State to respect and protect them. The peasant farmer in Bolivia was not required to perform any unpaid services and he owned the land which he tilled. Efforts were being made to obtain sufficient loans and technology to encourage him to produce at a profit, and to improve the educational and cultural levels of the people. It would also be noted there had been many Bolivian ministers, senators, deputies, mayors, writers and artists of pure Indian stock.

17. Bolivia knew no racial discrimination, and the Bolivian Government firmly supported the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The struggle against racial discrimination was closely linked to the process of emancipation of the African peoples. It should not be concealed under the cloak of extraneous interests, for that would merely postpone the liberation of certain African majorities and alienate them from the support of those who could contribute most to the conquest of their freedom. Nor should the issue be made an element of political strategy.

18. In conclusion, he thanked the Government of Ghana for its offer to act as host to the forthcoming

# World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

19. Mr. HERZOG (Observer for Israel), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that, when the Third Committee had recommended the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, his delegation, together with others, had supported it firmly and unequivocally, owing to his country's abhorrence of discrimination based on race, colour or religion but more so owing to the fact that for centuries the Jewish people had been the classical victim of racism in different parts of the world. The month of April was of special significance in that respect, for on the twenty-seventh day of the Hebrew month of Nissan the Jewish people honoured the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and the fallen heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. It had been to prevent a recurrence of such tragic events and to work for the protection of human rights the world over that the General Assembly had originally launched the Decade.

20. In its reply to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General under paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme (see E/5759, annex), the Government of Israel had stated that in Israel racism and racial discrimination in the sense used in international discussion did not exist. As a democracy made up of diverse ethnic, religious and linguistic groupings, Israel had from its very inception been guided by the principles of freedom, justice and peace, ensuring as nearly as possible equal social and political rights for all its inhabitants. In view of the sad course of Jewish history, the maintenance of the dignity of man was axiomatic in the life of Israel, which had striven to eliminate all distinctions, exclusions, restrictions and preferences founded on race, colour or national or ethnic origin which had the aim or effect of nullifying the equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Despite numerous internal and external obstacles, his country's record was good on that score.

21. Israel had been eager to participate in the Decade since it was clear that those most discriminated against in history should share their experiences and join in efforts to spread understanding and harmony. However, Arab extremists and racists had decided that they, and only they, were qualified to combat racism and that the participation of the Western countries and Israel was of no consequence for the success of the Decade. They, who had launched a war of genocide against the Kurdish people, who had massacred over half a million blacks in Africa, who held a tiny Jewish community hostage to their politics of hatred and who stated that from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, which they called the Arabian Gulf, only Arab presence was allowed—they, and only they, were the world authority on how to rid the globe of racism.

22. 10 November 1975 would be remembered by his people, and by free and civilized nations throughout the world, as a day of infamy. The Arab States, by forcing the United Nations to equate zionism with racism, had brought discredit on the Organization and caused world-wide revulsion. While his country had supported all moves to eliminate racism in the world—and there were no better witnesses to that fact than the African countries, with many of which Israel was continuing its development co-operation—it regretfully had had to speak against a resolution on the subject.

The introduction of an irrelevant partisan political issue into that resolution obliged his delegation, regretfully, to speak out against the Programme for the Decade as long as that obscene notion was in any way associated with it. He therefore called upon the Council to reject the Programme until it had been cleansed of an element inspired by racists and anti-Semites and trusted that no support would be given to the Programme until that had been achieved.

23. He rejected out of hand the remarks made by certain representatives concerning visits to Israel by South African leaders. His country's position on *apartheid*, which had been stated time and again, remained unchanged. Israel had invariably refrained from commenting on visitors received by other countries. The only difference between his country and those which pursued the path of hypocrisy was that in Israel's case everything was open for all to see; Israel had nothing to hide. Prime Minister Vorster's visit had begun as a pilgrimage to the Holy Places on the occasion of Easter. He could well imagine what would have been the reaction of his Arab colleagues if freedom of access to the Holy Places had been denied to a pilgrim merely because of his political views. In fact, millions of visitors from abroad and hundreds of thousands from the Arab countries had visited the Holy Places in Israel. The leaders of all countries, including those which had expressed hostile views towards Israel, were welcome to visit the Holy Places. That did not mean, however, that his country would be influenced in any way by their views about Israel or the political future of the Middle East. If members of the Council or Members of the United Nations wished to discuss the whole question of visits by leaders of various countries, that could be done, but there should be no selectivity about it. If any member of the Council suggested that the visit of a national leader automatically implied the acquiescence of the host State in the political, social or economic policies of the visitor, all without exception might find themselves in a rather awkward, embarrassing and untenable situation. If it was being suggested that the visit of Mr. Vorster and his ministers had to be interpreted as an endorsement of the South African Government's policies, then that conclusion surely applied to all countries where such visits had taken place.

24. Which was better: the process of dialogue and of endeavouring to influence and convince, such as had been adopted in most cases of conflict around the world; or the politically immature and obstinate attitude of the Arab countries which were unwilling to meet his country's representatives, were unwilling to try to influence by dialogue and were, he believed, fearful of being influenced by dialogue? Which system was better: an open man-to-man system, based upon mutual dignity, or the ostrich-like system of running away from problems? That was basically the issue. In a world of dialogue, there could be understanding. Without dialogue, there could be no understanding. And without courage, there could be no dialogue. There was no point in discussing only one small aspect of a problem. Selective accusations should be abandoned, and all the facts should be presented to all the Members of the United Nations for their consideration.

25. His country's position on racial discrimination had been clarified time and again. It was the Jewish people who had brought to the world the concept that God had created man—all men—in his own image, who had brought to the world the ideal "thou shalt love thy



neighbour as thyself." It was the Jewish people whose leader, Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, had written in his book *Altneuland* in 1902:

"There is still one problem of racial misfortune unsolved. The depths of that problem only a Jew can comprehend. I refer to the problem of the Africans. Just call to mind all those terrible episodes of the slave trade, of human beings who merely because they were black were stolen like cattle, taken prisoners, captured and sold. Their children grew up in strange lands, the objects of contempt and hostility because their complexions were different. I am not ashamed to say . . . that once I have witnessed the redemption of Israel, my people, I wish to assist in the redemption of the black people."

26. The Jews were a multiracial people of all colours and backgrounds, whose religion could be freely adopted by all, regardless of their race, colour or sex. They were a people who, despite bitter hatred and intransigence surrounding them, had created an administration in the territories controlled by them since 1967—and which would continue to be administered by them in anticipation of peace negotiations—in which the Arab inhabitants had been able to conduct free elections—the only place in the whole Arab world—including for the first time the enfranchisement of women, all that despite the fact that it had been clear that not all the results would be politically convenient for the Jewish people. The racist régimes and despotisms which engaged in interminable diatribes against Israel in the United Nations had no right even to mention the word "freedom". It was beyond them; they would not understand its meaning.

27. Mr. ARAIM (Observer for Iraq), speaking at the invitation of the President, said his Government attached great importance to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The continuing struggle of the peoples of Azania, Namibia, Palestine and Zimbabwe represented the determination of the peoples of Africa and Asia to eliminate all remnants of colonialism and racism from their continents. The triumph of the national liberation movements in southern Africa would enhance the struggle of the Palestinians to regain their rights. The military and political collaboration between South Africa and the Zionist régime in Palestine was well known, and demonstrated the persistence of both régimes in suppressing the peoples under their domination.

28. General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) had been a vital and long awaited resolution. The people of Palestine had long suffered from the atrocities of the Zionist authorities, and the United Nations had thus helped to bring to the attention of the world the racist behaviour of the Zionist movement, which had not only usurped the territory of the Palestinian people but continued to deny the very existence of the Palestinian people. General Assembly resolutions 1904 (XVIII) and 2106 A (XX) gave precise definitions of racial discrimination, and the behaviour of the Zionist movement in Palestine, when examined in the light of those resolutions, could be seen to be a form of racial discrimination. As far back as 1919, Chaim Weizmann, one of the founders of the Zionist movement, had stated that Palestine should be "as Jewish as England is English", at a time when 90 per cent of the population of Palestine had been Palestinian.

29. He wondered whether the United Kingdom delegation could justify the suggestion that the definition

of racism and racial discrimination could be based only on European experience. Africa and Asia had suffered the effects of racism and the colonial rule of countries such as the United Kingdom, and it was imperialist and colonialist collusion that had helped the Zionist movement to oust the Palestinians from their homeland. His delegation refuted the insulting claim by the United States that Zionism was a liberation movement. Fortunately, the successes of liberation movements and the solidarity of newly independent countries with the Palestinian struggle were helping to uncover Zionism's true intentions.

30. Recent developments in Israel provided further proof of the Zionist authorities' discriminatory action. Palestinian Arabs in the territories occupied in 1948 had always been denied their basic rights, while priority in all fields had been given to Jews emigrating from other countries. Since then further Jewish immigrants had been settled on the West Bank of the River Jordan. Not only had the Zionists taken Arab land but they had interfered with the Arabs' religious freedom and other basic rights. The events of recent months had demonstrated once again that the Arab countries' rejection of the claims of the Zionist authorities was based on full knowledge of the latter's designs, and it was time that the United Nations again condemned Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination. The behaviour of Israel should also be condemned because it was practising racial discrimination against Palestinians.

31. His Government categorically rejected allegations by the Israeli representative that the Kurdish community in Iraq was discriminated against. It was universally known that the Kurdish community enjoyed full freedom and equality with the rest of the population under the laws of the country. He also rejected the claim that Jews in Arab countries were mistreated. Zionists had committed criminal acts to force Jews to leave the Arab world, and even Zionist historians had acknowledged that, before going to Israel, Jews in the Arab countries had enjoyed full and equal opportunities with all segments of the population of those countries.

32. The PRESIDENT addressed a general appeal to all delegations to exercise moderation in their interventions.

33. The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization who, in accordance with the Council's decision 129 (LIX) had been invited to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that organization, had asked to be allowed to make a statement.

34. In accordance with the provisions of rule 73 of the rules of procedure of the Council, he invited the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to take the floor.

35. Mr. TERZI (Palestine Liberation Organization) said that his organization, which was the representative of the Palestinian people, unreservedly supported all activities for eliminating racism and racial discrimination, particularly in Africa, and the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The struggle against racism was inseparable from the struggle against racial discrimination and the Palestinian people regarded any victory over racist ideology anywhere as a contribution to their struggle against racist domination.

36. The contention of some countries that the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) undermined the implementation of the Programme for the Decade was unacceptable, since no concrete activities for implementing the Programme had been undertaken during the period between the adoption of those two resolutions—a fact that showed that those countries were in fact opposed to action to combat racism and racial discrimination, which in some parts of the world took the form of *apartheid* and in his region and country took the form of *zionism*. Furthermore, those countries still maintained relations with South Africa. He wondered what was the attitude of the United States, a dedicated defender of the racist régime in Tel Aviv, to the Pretoria-Tel Aviv axis, particularly in the light of the destruction of world peace by another axis in the 1930s. Instead of engaging in open criticism of South Africa until all forms of racial discrimination were eradicated throughout the African continent, the United States had contributed billions of dollars to Israel, a supporter of South Africa. In an election year, it would be unrealistic to hope that the United States would urge the Tel Aviv régime to participate in the elimination of the most deplorable system of racial discrimination in the world. However, despite United States contempt for the decisions of the United Nations, the victory of the Angolan people over the racist régime which had long dominated them demonstrated that the mounting international struggle would lead to the complete emancipation of the African continent, in spite of the vast sums of money contributed by the United States to the racist régime in Israel.

37. As a Palestinian, born in Jerusalem, he deplored the description of the visit of Vorster to Israel as “a pilgrimage to the Holy Places on the occasion of Easter”. A Hebrew-language Israeli newspaper had reported on 23 April that the South African Premier Vorster had denied before Parliament that he had signed a treaty, during his visit, or “pilgrimage”, providing for Israeli aid for South Africa if the latter was attacked and South African help for Israel in the event of a war with the Arabs in the Middle East. *The Jerusalem Post*, a quasi-official publication, had also commented on the Vorster visit. It had commented that supporters of increased rapprochement between the two States felt that the practical military, political and economic benefits outweighed other considerations; that, in the light of the unproductive results of Israel’s policy in black Africa, a strengthening of its relations with South Africa was a natural reaction to the African countries’ severance of relations with Israel, and that the military links between the two countries were even more important than their relations in other fields.

38. After referring to various historical events which showed that Israel had supported the South African régime since its inception and that Pretoria regarded Israeli military successes as a victory for whites over non-whites in the Middle East, he said that he would not refer to the Zionist reply to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General in pursuance of paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, except to draw the attention of the Council to the phrase “generally recognized minimum distinctions” mentioned in paragraph 14 of document E/5759. At its meeting on 19 June 1974, the Palestine National Council had clearly demonstrated its commitment to the establishment of a democratic Palestinian State, as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the

Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Yasser Arafat, had stated in his address to the General Assembly on 13 November 1974.<sup>1</sup>

39. He expressed his organization’s appreciation to the Government of Ghana for its offer to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which would be an important contribution to the achievement of the aims of the Decade and which would mobilize world public opinion in support of the implementation of United Nations decisions directed at the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

40. Mr. ALLAF (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that at the end of the visit of the South African Premier Vorster to Israel a joint economic committee had been established to encourage investment, trade and scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries, utilizing South African raw materials and Israeli know-how. During that visit, which had been described by the Zionist representative as a pilgrimage to the Holy Places, the leader of the world’s ugliest racist régime had visited aircraft factories and Israeli air force bases. The Israeli authorities had forbidden press coverage of those visits. He shared the feeling of the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization that the use of the word “pilgrimage”, in reference to the visit of the greatest living symbol of racism, was an insult to the Christian, Moslem and Jewish religions.

41. The close relations between Israel and South Africa were not the result of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3379 (XXX). United Nations documents contained ample evidence of ever-increasing co-operation between the two racist régimes.

42. The ideals of Judaism expounded by the Zionist representative were admirable. Unfortunately, the racist Zionist régime did not give practical effect to those ideals. On the contrary, inhuman measures, such as the racist Law of Return, enabled Jews who had not been born there, or whose ancestors had never even seen the country, to settle in Palestine, while the Palestinian people who had lived in those lands for centuries were treated as third-class citizens.

43. He rejected the Zionist representative’s assertions that Israel was eager to participate in the Decade and that Arab extremists, racists and anti-Semites were jeopardizing its success. He deplored the double standards of Israel and other States which condemned racism in certain parts of the world and justified and protected it in others. The Zionist representative had made no reference to Israel’s stand against racial discrimination other than to state that its position was well known. What was well known was Israel’s collaboration, co-operation and unholy alliance with the Pretoria régime.

44. A 1972 issue of the publication *Témoignage Chrétien* reported the results of an extensive study which showed that there were numerous similarities between the South African and Israeli régimes: they exercised repressive control over the South African and Palestinian people respectively; both were part of the Western neo-colonialist strategy in Africa and both shared the common heritage of colonizers implanted by force.

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 2282nd meeting.

45. Claims that zionism was a national liberation movement were totally unacceptable since Zionist leaders co-operated with South Africa, the greatest enemy of legitimate national liberation movements in southern Africa and elsewhere. Furthermore, the international community was aware of the treatment of young and elderly people, women and children, by the soldiers of zionism in the territories under illegal Zionist occupation.

46. In conclusion, he recalled the decisions taken at the International Conference on Namibia and Human Rights, held at Dakar in January 1976, which demonstrated the determination of all anti-racist forces in Africa, Asia and Latin America to remain united in the struggle to eradicate all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including zionism, *apartheid* and neo-colonialism, from the face of the earth.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*

## 1994th meeting

Wednesday, 5 May 1976, at 11.05 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1994

### AGENDA ITEM 10

**Review of the situation in Guatemala in consequence of the earthquake of 4 February 1976 (E/5796 and Corr.1 and 2, E/L.1708, E/L.1711)**

### AGENDA ITEM 11

**Measures to be taken following the cyclones in Madagascar (E/5788, E/L.1712)**

### AGENDA ITEM 2

**Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia (E/5762 and Corr.1, E/L.1715)**

1. Mr. BERKOL (United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the situation in Guatemala (E/5796 and Corr.1 and 2), reviewed the magnitude of the disaster, but said that he had been greatly encouraged not only by the massive response of the international community, but most of all by the brave spirit and determination of the Guatemalan people to cope with their overwhelming problems. Well before the end of the critical phase of the emergency, estimated by the Guatemalan Government at 28 February, the consolidation and reconstruction phases had begun. However, as Chairman of the Guatemalan emergency committee had said, the emergency would not end until the last of the demolished houses had been rebuilt. Since much of the assistance given during the emergency had been of a type which could also be used in the reconstruction phase, it was difficult to distinguish between contributions relating to relief only and those which were also used for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The lists of contributions made available to delegations were therefore the most accurate that could be established to date and did not include donations of which his Office had not been informed.

2. It had been difficult to arrange regular local co-ordination meetings with donors working in the field because of the wide geographical area covered by the disaster, the danger that roads might be blocked by further landslides and the urgency of immediate attention to tasks in the rural areas.

3. The measures now to be taken to enable the Government and people of Guatemala to complete the work of rehabilitation and reconstruction would depend on

two major factors: the effect of the rainy season, which had just begun, and the relative priority to be given to shelter and agriculture. The makeshift buildings which had been erected, particularly in the *colonias* on the outskirts of the cities, offered no security against bad weather and water-borne diseases. Through the generosity of donor sources, he had been able to arrange for the purchase of 10 water-tank trucks to provide a more regular supply of purified water to those new communities; 37 static tanks had also been bought with funds given to UNDRRO. In some of the rural areas, the emphasis had been on providing semi-permanent housing. In that connexion, he wished to make special mention of the Canadian Government's contribution of a production unit that would eventually provide 2,500 houses. In areas where in-depth development work had been carried on for years, the people had given priority to agriculture in a desire to protect their next harvest and had deferred their housing needs until the next dry season in November. Meanwhile, groups were being formed to build community houses out of local materials, using earthquake-resistant designs in an initial effort which might serve as a model for large-scale reconstruction at a later stage.

4. The success of all programmes, however, depended on the maintenance of passable roads to bring in building materials or bring out local produce. In mountainous terrain where many landslides had occurred, there was an obvious need for a much greater stock of earth-moving equipment. Water was another element on which progress in rehabilitation depended: because of changes in the natural drainage systems, many communities had lost their water supply and much work had to be done to drill new wells or provide piping to tap new sources of water. In addition, new health posts, schools and community buildings had to be provided. The proposals of UNICEF alone, designed to meet the needs of mothers and children, would cost almost \$3.5 million and the Executive Director of UNICEF was appealing for over \$2.2 million towards the cost of that programme.

5. Over 20 potential emergency situations could arise during 1976 as a result of heavy rains, a major volcanic eruption or another earthquake. While the national emergency committee felt they could be handled with local resources, they might produce a situation in which further international assistance would be