

10. Mr. YORK (Federal Republic of Germany) said he was not proposing that any special task should be entrusted to the Committee. He merely desired that restrictions that were not laid down in its terms of reference should not be imposed on it.

11. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objection, he would take it that the Council took note of the fact that the provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee on Natural Resources would include an item entitled "United Nations Water Conference" and that, under that item, the Secretary-General of the Conference would inform the Committee of the results of the Conference.

*It was so decided (decision 214 (LXII)).*

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

12. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, with deep concern over the danger represented by racism and racial discrimination and with faith in the role which the United Nations could play in eliminating all ideologies and practices based on racism, his delegation had always striven to participate actively in the elaboration and implementation of international instruments to combat those evils, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General

Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)), the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII)) and the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex). It had likewise supported the General Assembly resolutions aimed at identifying all manifestations of racism and providing for adequate means for the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. That was the spirit that should inspire preparations for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which should be one of the most meaningful events of the Decade.

13. For all those reasons, he commended the work done by the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the Conference and reaffirmed his delegation's decision to co-operate in all activities designed to ensure the success of the Conference. Nevertheless, since the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee (E/5922) included the reservations made by some of its members, his delegation felt obliged to point out to the Council the danger of an attitude aimed at preventing the Conference from considering what must be its main topic, as was expressed clearly in paragraph 13 of the Programme for the Decade. It should be borne in mind that all the instruments and resolutions adopted by the United Nations on racism and racial discrimination were interrelated and expressed the sentiment of the international community.

*The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.*

## 2049th meeting

Thursday, 21 April 1977, at 3.40 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2049

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

1. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, in participating in the discussion of the question of racism and racial discrimination, her delegation was fully aware of the importance of the topic and of the implications for States of the decisions to be adopted at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The fact that the General Assembly had considered it necessary to convene a world conference indicated that the measures adopted so far, although they had been valuable measures in the right direction, had not been sufficient to meet expectations and attain the goals set.

2. Proof of that was provided by the fact that the General Assembly and the Security Council were obliged time and time again to consider the situation in southern Africa,

which had given rise to situations of exceptional political gravity that went beyond the strictly humanitarian framework in which the problem had been analysed. The point was not to assign responsibilities but to co-operate closely in the search for solutions. It should be noted that the gravity of the existing situation was not caused by any indifference on the part of the United Nations to the emergence of a trend which currently appeared to be irresistible; on the contrary, the General Assembly and the Security Council had, particularly following the adoption of the historic resolution 1514 (XV), adopted decisions in which they had acknowledged that the situation in southern Africa was endangering international peace and security, and had recommended specific measures.

3. Most States had succeeded in modelling their international behaviour on the principles advocated by the United Nations. It was encouraging to note that groups of countries with a definite influence on world events shared the concern about the maintenance of colonial situations and of the policies of *apartheid*, to which the United

Nations had for some time been drawing the attention of the international community.

4. Argentina had from the outset participated in that publicizing activity. There were no problems of racism and racial discrimination in Argentina, despite the diversity of racial groups which enriched its human assets. That was no coincidence, but was due to an attitude inspired by humanitarian philosophies, which were particularly relevant at the current time. For those reasons, Argentina was particularly concerned that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should culminate in positive changes. Far from wishing to judge other people's behaviour or to set itself up as an example, Argentina humbly and without pride offered its own experience, which had been most satisfactory, particularly with regard to its immigrants.

5. With regard to the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5922), her delegation considered that detailed consultations should be held on some aspects of the report, with a view to the adoption of the best arrangements for the Conference. It was to be hoped that, in view of the importance of the subject, the necessary financial backing would be provided. With reference to the participation of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, the Argentine delegation agreed with the Sub-Committee that an extremely selective criterion should be adopted when extending invitations.

6. In conclusion, she announced her delegation's willingness to co-operate in the preparatory work for the Conference, in the same constructive spirit and in accordance with the same principles which had guided it throughout the process of decolonization.

7. Mr. MAKEYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, when in 1973 it had proclaimed the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the General Assembly had placed on the agenda of the international community the important and urgent task of totally and unconditionally eliminating racism and racial discrimination. In accordance with the principles and purposes of its Charter, the United Nations had made praiseworthy efforts to that end, adopting in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had so far been ratified by 93 States, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, to which more than 30 States were parties, and a large number of resolutions of the General Assembly and other organs. It was obvious, however, that the international community would have to adopt more forceful measures to eliminate all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, the most repulsive form of which was the policy and practice of *apartheid* of the Pretoria and Salisbury régimes, which were trampling on the rights of the indigenous populations and maintaining them in subjection by terror.

8. The Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, approved by the General Assembly in resolution 3057 (XXVIII), called for the international isolation of the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa as a first step towards their elimination.

The Programme stressed in particular that success would ultimately depend on the determination of Governments to implement the decisions of the United Nations. The racist practices of the illegal régimes had rightly been condemned, but now they should be eliminated. Those régimes would have ceased to exist long ago without the aid given to them by some imperialist States which were maintaining ties with Pretoria and Salisbury in defiance of the decisions of the United Nations and were still helping to sustain those régimes, thus becoming voluntary or involuntary accomplices in their acts.

9. The Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 7 (XXXIII), as well as other international organs, had recognized the gravity of the situation in southern Africa, expressed concern at it and reaffirmed their support for the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence. The situation in southern Africa had quite rightly moved to the forefront of world attention, since in addition to representing a human tragedy it had become a source of international tension.

10. It should not be forgotten that the evil of racism and racial discrimination was not confined to southern Africa. It also existed in other forms and manifestations in many other countries in which the citizens themselves and immigrant workers were victimized because of their race or the colour of their skin. Such discrimination, which was rooted in the social situation, was practised in a more covert and concealed manner.

11. The sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Soviet State was being celebrated in 1977. Over so short a period of time, Soviet society had achieved noteworthy success, as a result of the brotherly friendship which existed between all the peoples in the Soviet Union. That country was an example of a felicitous solution to a problem which was afflicting all mankind. The Constitution of the Soviet Union guaranteed the equality of all Soviet citizens with no distinction of any kind. The struggle for the equality of all peoples was the official policy of the Soviet Union, which enjoyed the support of the people. The Soviet Union had been one of the first States to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, whose provisions it strictly observed. The Soviet Union did not recognize the illegal white minority régime in Rhodesia and had no relations of any kind with the régime in South Africa. One of the basic principles of the Soviet Union's foreign policy was support for the national liberation movements, in accordance with the decisions of the United Nations. The Soviet Union supported the adoption of the most forceful measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and advocated the just cause of the oppressed peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

12. The Soviet delegation believed that the resolution which the Council was to draft on the subject of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be a logical sequel to all the earlier resolutions on the question and should provide for effective measures for the rapid attainment of the goals of the Decade. For its part, the Soviet Union was prepared to assist in the preparation of such a draft resolution.

13. The Council had before it the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/5922). The Soviet delegation considered that the work done by the Preparatory Sub-Committee, as reflected in its report, constituted a good basis for the holding of such an important international meeting before 1978, as specified in the Programme for the Decade. There was no doubt that the Conference would provide an incentive for the implementation of the United Nations resolutions calling for the isolation and boycott of the colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa.

14. The Conference should be fully representative and he was therefore glad that the Sub-Committee had agreed that all States should be invited to participate, together with all the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, and that the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations should be invited to send observers. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Sub-Committee had satisfactorily fulfilled the tasks entrusted to it by the Council and felt that the Council should approve the Sub-Committee's recommendations and adopt the measures necessary for their submission to the General Assembly. Convinced that the Council would satisfactorily fulfil its obligations with regard to the Decade, his delegation would spare no effort to contribute to the success and implementation of the noble objectives of the Decade.

15. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said she was glad that preparations had started for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which, as laid down in General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), was to be one of the major features of the Decade.

16. In view of the reservations made at the previous meeting concerning the report of the Preparatory Sub-Committee, she recalled that all the delegations which had taken an active part in the preparation of the report were aware that the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee had noted that the document would be presented in a somewhat different form, without the substance being affected. Although, in her delegation's opinion, it would have been preferable to include the agenda outlined in annex I in the body of the report, it must be pointed out that the reservations made in the Sub-Committee appeared in the report and that it was for the Council to take a definite stand on that document. For that reason, her delegation, recalling the spirit that had prevailed during the discussions, hoped that those delegations which had expressed reservations on the report as a whole would withdraw them, so as to facilitate the work of the Council and the preparations for the Conference.

17. Mr. LAMB (Observer for Australia), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that it was appropriate for his country to place before the Council some of its views on the Decade because the Council had the important responsibility of functioning as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference. Since the Conference would be able to provide a useful focus for the Decade and would also give the international community a new impetus in the continuing struggle against the evil of racism, the Australian Government wanted it to be a success.

18. Australia regretted but understood the decision of the Government of Ghana which now required the Council to review the question of the site of the Conference. In view of the probability that the Conference would now be held at Geneva or New York, his delegation wished to point out that, since Africa was afflicted with the disease of institutionalized racism in its most virulent form, the holding of the Conference in Africa would have additional positive impact on the struggle for human rights in the southern part of that continent. Nevertheless, Australia looked forward to being able to participate in the Conference, wherever it was to be held, in order to make its contribution to the success of the common goals.

19. He would not describe in detail the Australian experience with the struggle against racism because Australia had already reported fully to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its fifteenth session at Vienna (28 March–15 April 1977) on recent developments in Australian law and practice. The Australian Government believed that discrimination was an evil which affronted the dignity of mankind and which in many respects continued to exist in different forms in many parts of the world, although it was most obvious in southern Africa. There were few countries which could honestly assert that racially discriminatory habits were totally unknown to them; if racism were confined only to those countries where it was now most evident, there would be no need for an International Convention and the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would have another name. Racism was a perversion which legislation alone could not eradicate; there must be, in tandem with legislation, vigorous educational programmes, publicity and a reiteration of the commitment to eradicate the evil.

20. On 21 March, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Australian Prime Minister had said that the practice of *apartheid* and of racial bigotry continued to offend human dignity and that in the pursuit of equality of man with man there could be no compromise.

21. Australia was an active member of the United Nations Council for Namibia and of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It would also be represented at the forthcoming International Conference in Support of the Peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia to be held at Maputo from 16 to 21 May 1977. As a practical expression of its confidence in the usefulness of the Maputo Conference, the Australian Government had just announced a substantial financial contribution to the costs of the Conference.

22. Mr. VELESKO (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the Byelorussian SSR had always favoured the final elimination of racism and racial discrimination and had supported the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions adopted on the subject. Accordingly, it fully agreed with the Secretary-General's statement, made during the celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to the effect that racial discrimination was an affront to human

dignity and that the cruellest form of that deeply seated evil was *apartheid*.

23. The Byelorussian SSR had voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) and at subsequent sessions had consistently supported the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, with the conviction that those evils were vestiges of colonialism which not only impeded the exercise of the self-determination of peoples but also constituted a constant threat to international peace and security.

24. It was essential to implement General Assembly resolution 31/77, of 13 December 1976, in which the Assembly had condemned the intolerable conditions which continued to prevail in southern Africa and elsewhere, including the denial of the right to self-determination, and had urged all States to co-operate loyally and fully in achieving the goals of the Decade.

25. There were thousands of prisoners in South African gaols and mass detentions continued to be carried out under the existing repressive legislation. The South African régime, the instigator of the bloody killings at Sharpeville and Soweto, had reached the extreme of accusing children of 4 to 10 years old under the Sabotage Act, according to the statements of Mr. Makatini,<sup>1</sup> leader of the African National Congress. Furthermore, South Africa was persisting in its illegal occupation of Namibia in open violation of General Assembly resolution 31/146.

<sup>1</sup> See A/AC.115/SR.339, para. 27.

26. In Southern Rhodesia, the Smith régime was spreading humiliation and terror and its increasing aggressiveness had induced the Security Council to adopt, at the request of Botswana, resolution 403 (1977) in which it demanded the immediate and total cessation forthwith of all hostile acts committed against Botswana by the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

27. The blame should be placed not only on the racist régimes themselves but also on those States which collaborated with them by supplying them with economic and other aid; indeed, the imperialist circles were impeding in that manner the struggle of peoples for liberation and self-determination, an attitude which had been condemned in General Assembly resolutions 2955 (XXVII), 3117 (XXVIII), 3246 (XXIX), 3382 (XXX) and 31/34.

28. Finally, the Byelorussian SSR unreservedly supported the holding of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination since it felt that it would be an effective means of achieving the implementation of the United Nations resolutions in that field.

29. The PRESIDENT said that, at the suggestion of the delegation of Hungary, the members of the Council would be shown the emblem which had been chosen from 42 submissions in the international competition organized by the United Nations to publicize the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The winner of the competition had been the Bulgarian artist, Peter Slanov Petrov.

*The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.*

## 2050th meeting

Friday, 22 April 1977, at 3.35 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

E/SR.2050

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/5920, E/5921, E/5922)

1. Mr. ZACHMANN (Observer for the German Democratic Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, said that his delegation, which was a member of the Preparatory Sub-Committee for the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, agreed with the proposals concerning the agenda and the organizational aspects of the Conference which were contained in the relevant report (E/5922).

2. No one would deny that the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* was necessary in the interests of peace and international co-operation. Despite the numerous appeals and resolutions aimed at ending those abominable practices, racist régimes continued to suppress the legitimate rights of the African peoples by terror and force.

3. It was well known that the racist régimes were able to persist in their attitude because of the political, economic and military support they received from other States, whose conduct had been condemned in various resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. While the representatives of those States condemned *apartheid* and racism in word, they advanced all kinds of reservations when the time came to take concrete measures.

4. A number of States, including the German Democratic Republic, had repeatedly emphasized that racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* were not only violations of individual human rights, or manifestations of psychopathic excesses of certain individuals, but were systematic crimes against humanity aimed at securing profits for capitalism, maintaining colonial exploitation and oppression and setting peoples against each other.

5. The time had come for words to be followed by deeds. The relevant resolutions of the United Nations must be fully applied and the objectives of the Decade for Action to