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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Thirty-second session

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 734th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 9 August 1985, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ

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under article 9 of the Convention (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION (agenda item 2) (continued)

Eighth periodic report of Mongolia (continued) (CERD/C/118/Add.22)

Mr. YUTZIS expressed satisfaction with the submission of Mongolia's eighth periodic report (CERD/C/118/Add.22). It was most helpful for the Committee to be able to maintain a dialogue with Mongolia on a regular basis. He also welcomed the fact that the report contained answers to questions that had been put in connection with the sixth and seventh periodic reports.

It was clear that the Mongolian People's Republic had done its best to integrate its various peoples into an authentic entity, and to ensure their equitable participation in the benefits of citizenship. The progress which the country had made towards development deserved respect. So, too, did the position it adopted in regard to apartheid, as reflected in paragraphs 9 to 11 of the report.

However, he had some questions connected with the information given on article 5 of the Convention, in particular concerning the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Mongolia's seventh periodic report (CERD/C/91/Add.10) had stated that all citizens were guaranteed freedom of conscience; however, that freedom appeared to be a somewhat theoretical one, since there were limitations on its expression. Paragraph 17 of the present report stated that freedom of anti-religious propaganda was provided for under article 86 of the Mongolian Constitution, but no mention was made of provision for religious propaganda. It was universally accepted that religion was one of the most fundamental aspects of human life, and there were many examples of great leaders, such as Martin Luther King, who had been inspired by it. He would like to know in particular whether persons who professed religion were allowed access to political office; if that were not so, the prevailing concept of religion would seem to be inconsistent with article 5 of the Convention.

In general, however, the report showed that remarkable progress had been achieved.

Mr. CREMONA also welcomed the report and commended the able way in which it had been introduced. Where article 3 of the Convention was concerned, it was gratifying to note Mongolia's commitment to the struggle against apartheid, and the absence of any kind of relations with the racist régime.

In connection with article 7, he was glad to note the statement that matters relating to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination were included in the syllabuses of educational establishments at all levels; it would be interesting to have more details regarding the content of those syllabuses. Concerning article 4, he pointed out that the only provision quoted in annex I to the report which was directly related to racial discrimination was article 53 of the 1961 Mongolian Criminal Code. While the latter covered certain aspects of article 4 of the Convention, it appeared not to provide, for example, for article 4 (b), which required States parties to prohibit organizations and propaganda activities promoting racial discrimination, and to make participation in such organizations or activities an offence punishable by law. He would be grateful for further clarification on that point.

Mr. SHERIFIS also welcomed the excellent report and hoped that the Committee's dialogue with Mongolia would be maintained.

He would appreciate further data regarding the various ethnic groups which made up the Mongolian population. Earlier reports had stated that there were some 29 national minorities in the country. He would like to know whether proper provision was made for the representation of all those minorities in the Mongolian Parliament, and whether there was any requirement that they should be represented in the executive and the judiciary.

He noted, in regard to article 5 of the Convention, that article 73 of the Mongolian Family Code provided that women should enjoy equal rights where family relations were concerned and that no discrimination was permitted. In that context, article 94 of the 1961 Mongolian Criminal Code, as reproduced in annex I to the report, stated that coercing a woman to contract a marriage through the use of force or threats was subject to severe penalties. He would like to know why such emphasis was placed on that point, and why a provision of such a nature was necessary; was legislation still needed to eradicate such practices? Was Mongolia a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

Regarding article 3 of the Convention, he expressed appreciation of Mongolia's excellent record of support for the struggle against apartheid, as reflected in paragraphs 9-11 of the report. Similarly, the information provided on compliance with article 7 was useful, but he too would appreciate further information on the contents of the syllabuses referred to in paragraph 30.

Mr. PARTSCH said a valuable element in the report was that a number of questions raised on previous occasions had now been answered, notably by the inclusion of extracts from the relevant legislation. However, he was somewhat surprised to see from paragraph 14 the emphasis that was laid on article 93 of the Mongolian Criminal Code relating to insulting behaviour; article 53 of the Code, concerning violation of national and racial equality, was much nearer to the concerns of article 4 of the Convention. He pointed out that not all cases of ethnic insult would in fact be covered by article 93 of the Code, since the spreading of information was not a punishable offence if the person concerned could prove that the information corresponded to reality. The Code would seem to cover most of the provisions of article 4 (a) of the Convention, but not the provisions of article 4 (b) or (c).

He was glad to see that there were extensive provisions for safeguarding the rights provided for in article 5 of the Convention, but noted that paragraph 17 stated that "priority advantages and privileges" were awarded to workers who conscientiously fulfilled their obligations. He assumed that such treatment was not of a discriminatory nature, but the use of the word "privileges" in that context was somewhat disturbing. He was concerned to see that article 87 of the Mongolian Constitution guaranteed certain civil rights only in the context of strengthening the socialist state system of the Mongolian People's Republic. Such a limitation went far beyond article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The information given in connection with article 6 in reply to questions put by members of the Committee was useful, but it would be helpful to know more about means of access to the courts in cases of violation of the rights concerned.

Mrs. SADIQ ALI said she wished to place on record her appreciation of the continuing dialogue with Mongolia and of its co-operative response to questions put by the Committee. With reference to paragraph 17 of the report, it would be of interest to know the proportion of workers of other nationalities in the labour force, and under what conditions such workers were recruited to work in the construction industry and in agriculture, sectors which were not suited to the largely pastoral people of Mongolia itself. It appeared that since the 1950s, persons of Chinese origin had been working in well-paid jobs in Mongolia, primarily in the construction industry. She would like to have more details as to their numbers and their status, and whether they had resided long enough to acquire Mongolian citizenship. Were their conditions of work governed by any

agreement with the People's Republic of China, and what conditions governed the termination of their contracts and their return to their homeland? It would also be useful to have further information concerning the rights of other foreign workers and their families.

She congratulated the representative of Mongolia on his country's progressive educational policy. Paragraph 24 of the report stated that there were 585 general educational schools in Mongolia; she would like to know whether those schools were secondary or primary, and what percentage the total of 402,600 children represented in terms of literacy.

In regard to article 5, she would like to know more about what was being done to preserve both the spoken language and the alphabets and numerals of the various cultural minorities in Mongolia. To what extent was the literature of those minorities being encouraged, and were the peoples of the cultures concerned aware of the literature and folklore of other cultures? There were 29 ethnic groups, many of which had their own languages; among them must be some which were weaker and less developed, and which might require special protection under article 2 (2) of the Convention. She would like to know whether any special programmes had been introduced, in particular to provide health care and educational facilities for pastoral groups, who were likely to be leading unsettled lives.

Concerning the freedom to engage in anti-religious propaganda, article 53 of the Mongolian Criminal Code spoke of the punishment of propaganda or agitation aimed at inciting national or racial enmity or discord, and article 93 dealt with insulting behaviour, but it might be concluded that persons with atheistic views might with impunity denigrate others who adhered to a religion. In Mongolia, Islam and Buddhism existed: were those religions affected? If an atheistic group desired the destruction of ancient monasteries which formed part of the national heritage, what would the attitude of the Government be? She asked whether Buddhists might be treated less well than those with atheistic convictions as far as the holding of high positions was concerned. She also wondered whether the encouragement of rationalism and atheism prejudiced the attitude of people towards other countries where religion was important; that would be contrary to the provisions of article 7 of the Convention, which stressed the need to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations. From her country's long-standing relations with Mongolia she did not think that intolerance existed there, but the reference to religion and atheism in paragraph 17 might give a contrary impression.

Mr. OBERG noted that Mongolia was a country with an area as large as that of Western Europe, populated by fewer than 2 million people who had to take care of 25 million animals in harsh weather conditions.

Concerning the reference in paragraph 29 of the report to cases where a local militia authority had refused permission to citizens to visit relatives abroad or to travel abroad for medical treatment, he asked on what grounds such authorization could be refused. It was good to know that citizens could apply in such cases to the central police directorate, but it seemed strange that a local militia could issue such a refusal.

He asked whether article 49 of the Mongolian Criminal Code, which referred to punishment of agitation or propaganda carried out with the aim of undermining or weakening the State power, meant that the right to criticize was limited. How was the aim of criticism judged? If an individual or organization maintained that the State had too much power over individuals and that there should be a better balance between the individual's rights and those of the State, could not that be deemed an attempt to undermine the State power?

He asked for further information on how many pupils there were in the various stages of education and how schooling was organized for a population which was largely nomadic.

His final comment was on a matter of principle. In paragraph 8 of the report it was stated that the very essence of the socialist system precluded any manifestation of racism or racial discrimination. It was not the first time that such a claim had been made in a report submitted to the Committee, and he asked for a reasoned explanation of the statement. Ethnic minorities existed in Mongolia, as Mr. de Piérola y Balta had pointed out; elements for discrimination thus existed, and he wished to know how the fact that a country was socialist precluded all manifestations of ethnic discrimination. Inhabitants of some socialist countries were known to complain of discriminatory treatment, which seemed to indicate that socialist systems were not immune to such manifestations. While he appreciated that racial discrimination was prohibited by law in Mongolia, and was not passing judgement on whether or not de facto discrimination existed, the claim that such discrimination was totally lacking seemed to him somewhat pretentious.

However, his prevailing impression of the report was that Mongolia had made very great progress in various fields.

Mr. V.V. CIGANOVIC commended the Government of Mongolia for submitting a report which took account of the Committee's revised guidelines and the discussions on the previous report.

He expressed interest in receiving the latest data on various ethnic groups and minorities in Mongolia. Such data had not been given since the sixth report four years previously. He would like to know what was the present social, economic and political position regarding such groups.

With respect to article 3, he appreciated Mongolia's well-known and positive stand against apartheid and the fact that it had no relations whatever with the racist régime in South Africa.

In paragraph 17 of the report it was stated that in accordance with the Labour Code of Mongolia, manual and non-manual workers who successfully and conscientiously fulfilled their labour obligations were accorded priority advantages and privileges, but that that did not mean other workers did not enjoy such rights. He asked for details of the incentives offered to those who performed their work obligations and the difference between that category and other workers.

In conclusion, he asked whether the new Public Education Act provided for national minorities and ethnic groups to use their own languages in schools, so that they could nourish their culture and traditions.

Mr. STARUSHENKO, recalled that the criticisms levelled against Mongolia's previous report had essentially concerned not the application of the Convention but the failure of the report to follow the Committee's guidelines; the new report showed improvement in that respect and was clear and concise.

Under article 3 of the Convention, Mongolia was consistently fighting against racial discrimination, and in conformity with article 5 it recognized the rights of all its citizens irrespective of race or nationality, a principle set forth in the new Public Education Act. With regard to article 7, he asked how primary and secondary schools were implementing that provision by giving education in a spirit of internationalism, as mentioned in paragraph 30 of the report.

With regard to the application of article 4 of the Convention, he considered that the obligations under that provision would be covered by the Mongolian Criminal Code, and especially its article 53. In cases of racial discrimination, he felt sure that the relevant clauses of the Code would be interpreted in the broad sense.

With regard to Mr. Yutzis' question on religious freedom, it was his personal view that the freedom of conscience encompassed freedom of religious and anti-religious propaganda. In the past, over a quarter of the adult population of Mongolia had been members of the priesthood and had dealt in religious propaganda. The Mongolian Government had had much work to do in order to separate Church from State, and therefore there was a need to stress anti-religious propaganda. Those who might misuse freedom of anti-religious propaganda would fall into the category of behaviour covered by article 93 of the Criminal Code.

Regarding Mr. Oberg's comments on paragraph 8 of the report, the report stressed that under the system in Mongolia, there was no antagonism between racial groups. If timely measures were taken, no racial friction could arise, although naturally, correct policies had to be pursued.

He wished the Mongolian people further success in developing their legislation in accordance with the Convention.

Mr. SONG welcomed the fact that Mongolia's report was in accordance with the Committee's guidelines and supplied new information in response to the questions put by the Committee in the past.

The report, however, was not as complete as it could be. For instance, it would be interesting to know what changes had taken place in the composition of the population and to have information on the numbers of different nationalities. With regard to article 4 of the Convention, he noted that if Government officials spoke or behaved in a racially discriminatory way, they were criminally liable. What means existed in Mongolia for ensuring compliance with that provision?

He also asked whether the economic development of the different nationalities in Mongolia was balanced and what measures were being taken under the recent Public Education Act to ensure education for the nomadic population in the extensive pastoral areas.

Finally, although the basic freedoms referred to in article 5 of the Convention were all provided for by the laws of Mongolia, he wondered whether they applied equally to aliens, more especially Soviet and Chinese citizens living in Mongolia.

Mr. KARASIMEONOV commended the representative of Mongolia for his interesting introductory statement and his Government's concise periodic report, which had been prepared in accordance with the Committee's guidelines and which had tried to answer all the questions raised during consideration of earlier reports. Mongolia's eighth periodic report marked a great improvement over earlier ones.

He drew the Committee's attention to the principal objective of the Mongolian People's Republic set out in article 2 of its first Constitution, as cited in paragraph 5 of the report, and to the fact that subsequent Constitutions guaranteed de facto as well as de jure equality to all Mongolian citizens, as mentioned in paragraph 7.

In only 60 years, Mongolia had been transformed from a feudal society into a modern socialist State. Consequently the country's development and achievements and its implementation of the Convention must be judged against that historical background and not according to modern European criteria or standards.

He welcomed the further information provided by the report, especially on the new Public Education Act. He agreed with Mr. Song that it would have been helpful to have more details about education in the pastoral areas, as well as information on the current level of education in Mongolia as a whole. He would welcome clarification of what seemed to him to be a **contradiction in the** references to educational progress, especially in relation to the network of general education schools (paragraph 22) and universal complete secondary education (paragraph 23). Furthermore, it would be interesting to know how many grades there were in secondary education and whether nomadic peoples received such education.

Referring to the question of freedom of religion which was the subject of paragraph 17 of the report, he said that article 86 of the Constitution was very clear on that point and fully satisfied all the requirements of the Convention. Every person was free to practise the religion of his choice or none at all. He quite failed to understand how anyone could be denied the right not to have a religion. It was a fact of life in the modern world that there were as many non-believers as believers.

The development of Mongolia during the past 60 years explained the terminology used in Mongolian legislation to implement the Convention; thus, article 53 of the Criminal Code gave full effect to article 4 of the Convention although it was worded in specifically Mongolian terms for historical reasons. Article 94 of the Criminal Code was also a product of the development of Mongolian society and was fully in accord with the Convention in that it banned a form of discrimination against women.

In conclusion, he considered the report to be a good basis for the continuation of a fruitful dialogue between the Mongolian People's Republic and the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN said that during discussion of the seventh periodic report (CERD/C/91/Add.10), many questions had been asked about the implementation of article 4 of the Convention. The last sentence of paragraph 13 of the eighth periodic report enumerated the relevant legislative provisions in force in Mongolia, but it was not clear exactly which provisions applied specifically to the requirements of article 4. For instance, articles 48-50 and 53 of the Criminal Code did not use the same terminology as article 4. Article 53 corresponded to paragraph (a) of article 4 but said nothing about paragraph (b) of that article. He wondered whether the organizations referred to in the latter provision were covered by article 48 of the Criminal Code and whether the activities referred to in articles 48 and 49 of the Code would fall within the scope of article 4. Clarification was necessary on that important point.

On the other hand, information relating to article 6 of the Convention was much more precise than in the previous report. Victims of racial discrimination were entitled to claim protection from the courts of law on the ground that their rights had been violated. However, additional information was necessary in those cases of racial discrimination in order to ascertain which provisions would be applied by a court to determine whether the case before it was one of racial discrimination and how the amount of damages was arrived at, if such a case was proved. Furthermore, he would like to know the procedure which would be followed if the act of racial discrimination had been committed by a private individual and not by an official and how damages would be assessed in such a case.

Mr. SHIRCHINJAVYN YUMJAV (Mongolia) thanked the members of the Committee for their pertinent and interesting questions concerning his country's eighth periodic report.

In response to a point raised by several members of the Committee, he said that all Mongolian citizens had the right to freedom of movement and residence within the country and the right to travel abroad either to work or for personal reasons. Those matters were covered by the Civil Code, especially its articles 4, 5, 14-17 and 20, and by various other legislative provisions and regulations. The movement of citizens within the country was governed by the Decree of the Council of Ministers of 1978. A passport and an exit visa were required for travel abroad. Each application was considered by the competent local authority and a decision taken in strict conformity with the regulations in force, especially the 1974 Rules on Passports and Registration.

Foreigners were also free to travel about in the country and to live where they chose provided that they complied with the 1967 Decree of the Council of Ministers concerning the presence of foreigners. Foreigners required a residence permit to live in the country. They could acquire Mongolian citizenship by applying to the competent local authority of their place of residence. Applications could also be submitted abroad to a consul of the Mongolian People's Republic. The same procedure was followed in the case of renunciation of Mongolian citizenship.

Replying to Mr. Song, he said that foreign residents enjoyed the same rights as Mongolian citizens and could work in any sector of the economy on the same terms and conditions as Mongolian workers. They were entitled to social security benefits, including pensions. Foreigners could also undertake full-time studies. They were free to send their children to the school of their choice. In short, foreign residents enjoyed full equality of treatment.

With reference to a question raised by Mr. de Piérola y Balta, he said that the Mongolian Civil Code recognized the right to private ownership of property and consequently the right of inheritance. Article 72 of the Civil Code stipulated that all goods capable of satisfying the material and cultural needs of a person were susceptible of private ownership. For instance, Mongolian citizens could own their own homes and a plot of land.

Mr. de Piérola y Balta had also asked whether Mongolian citizens enjoyed the right of freedom of association. Under article 82 of the Constitution, Mongolian citizens were free to unite in public organizations, from trade unions to sports clubs and cultural and scientific societies.

Various questions had been raised regarding the right of access. As far as access to public places was concerned, all citizens were free to use all transport facilities, enter any restaurant, hotel, theatre or other such place and attend all sporting events. With regard to access to higher State organs, in addition to courts of law, article 85 of the Constitution gave details of the extent of that right and of the procedure to be followed.

Turning to the ethnic composition of the population, he said that 77.5 per cent of the country's total population of 1,820,000 inhabitants were Khalkhas. There were various minorities, of which the Kazakhs were the largest with 5.3 per cent of the total population. Over 90 per cent of the population spoke Mongolian, which included a number of dialects, whilst the Kazakhs spoke their own language which belonged to the Turkic group.

With regard to the position of the Kazakh minority, he said that most of them, i.e. 70,000, lived in one of the 18 administrative regions of the country. They had been one of the least developed of the ethnic groups in the country before the establishment of the Mongolian People's Republic, but had made tremendous progress in recent years. Educationally they had advanced at such a pace that the adult literacy rate had increased from 24 per cent in 1940 to the current rate of 80 per cent. In 1940, they had had only four primary schools, but now had 15 general education schools with a total enrolment of 18,000 pupils. In some schools the language of instruction was Kazakh and in others, Mongolian. Medical services had progressed at a similar rate and the number of hospital beds had increased 56-fold. Publications in the Kazakh language had also grown by leaps and bounds. There were one daily newspaper and several periodicals, while some 2 million books in the Kazakh language were published every year.

As for the other minorities, they all spoke Mongolian and there were few differences in life-style, although a number of traditional customs were still observed and were protected by law. Those minorities were scattered throughout the People's Republic, but for historical reasons most minority peoples lived in the western part of the country.

Referring to the question of freedom of religion, referred to by Mr. Yutzis and Mrs. Sadiq Ali among others, he said that that freedom was guaranteed by law, in particular by articles 86 and 87 of the Constitution. Additionally, there was a law separating the State and religion. One of the basic measures protecting religious freedom was the principle of equality of all citizens embodied in article 76 of the Constitution. Freedom of religion included the right not to follow any religion at all. There was a Buddhist monastery in the Mongolian People's Republic and the religious services were open to all. The monastery was financed by voluntary contributions from believers and ran a theological seminary.

Questions had also been asked about the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. Those rights were enshrined in the Constitution. All Mongolian citizens could freely express their opinions and exchange views in open discussions about political, economic, cultural, social and other issues without any restrictions. They were also free to hold demonstrations. Workers and their organizations had the right

to use public buildings for their meetings and they could also hold street demonstrations to make their views known. They also had access to the press and television. One of the main occasions on which workers and their organizations could make their influence felt was in connection with the preparation of the national economic plan. They also had a say in the drafting of laws and in the conduct of referendums.

Many interesting questions had been raised, notably by Mr. Čičanovic, about the new Education Act adopted in 1982. He could confirm that that law contained new elements falling under the Convention; inter alia, it recognized the right of Mongolian citizens to use of their mother tongue as the language of instruction.

In reply to questions about the different levels of education, he said that there were currently in Mongolia 597 schools: in 126 of them the period of schooling lasted 10 years while in the others it lasted eight years. Primary schools had an enrolment of 287,000 pupils. There were some 20,000 students in technical institutes and more than 19,000 students in higher educational establishments. The spread of education was reflected in the fact that for every 10,000 inhabitants, 2,723 were undergoing some form of education.

An interesting question had been asked by Mr. Song concerning education in rural areas. Because the territory of Mongolia was extensive and it was difficult to reach many parts of it, importance had been given to facilitating access to educational institutions. There was one school in each administrative subunit, of which 20 to 30 were linked together under an administrative unit. The resulting network of educational institutions thus facilitated the situation in rural areas. Parents of children in such areas were on the whole involved in farming far from the main centres, and general education schools therefore provided boarding facilities where necessary. Secondary and higher educational institutions provided students with knowledge of what was being done in the fight against racial discrimination and special attention was given to instilling in young people in particular and in citizens in general a spirit of internationalism and friendship among all peoples. Sociology and constitutional studies were taught in all secondary schools and political education was provided once a week. In universities and other higher educational institutions such subjects were naturally studied in greater depth.

On the question of cultural heritage, he drew attention to the rich heritage of the Mongolian people and to the measures taken by the State to preserve it in all its expressions - archeological, historical, artistic, etc. Special attention was given to the preservation and study of manuscripts in scripts which preceded the introduction of the Cyrillic alphabet in 1941.

Concerning employment opportunities for ethnic minorities, each citizen had the right to work and to vocational training; no restrictions were placed upon members of ethnic groups, who were to be found in all sectors of the economy. Foreigners resident in the country also had the same access as citizens to employment and employment rights and benefits. In connection with paragraph 17 of the eighth periodic report, he said that there was no distinction in salaries as between front-rank and other workers and that both had the same rights.

Concerning remarks on the development of rural areas, the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had recently adopted a target-oriented programme for agricultural development which was considered very important for the national economy and the improvement of workers' living standards.

Concerning paragraph 8 of the report and the question of principle raised by Mr. Oberg, he agreed with what had been said by Mr. Starushenko.

With regard to the question relating to article 94 of the Criminal Code concerning coercion of a woman to contract a marriage or prevention from contracting a marriage, he pointed out that prior to the People's Revolution there had been many such cases.

In conclusion, he thanked members of the Committee for their comments on the report as well as their expressions of appreciation. Full account would be taken of all such observations in the preparation of the next report. He hoped that those members who had expressed an interest in visiting his country would have the opportunity to do so.

Mr. YUTZIS, expanding on earlier comments which he had made both at the current session in connection with Mongolia and at a previous session in connection with the Ukrainian SSR, said he wished to address himself to the issue of religions and anti-religious ideology as professed by the State and the individual. To take the example of Argentina, his own country, where there was a concordat with the Catholic Church, the Church was attempting to have a monopoly over religious ideology and it was consequently very difficult to

legalize abortion or divorce. He publicly objected to such a situation because he considered that whereas the Catholic Church might reject abortion or divorce on the part of its own members, it should not be allowed to do so for other members of society. Also in Argentina, under the previous, military dictatorship and particularly during the time of General Videla, there had been a move to separate State and religion because the ideological position of many Christians had not suited the dictatorship, which had therefore preferred to divorce politics from religion in order to confine critical expression to the religious sphere. In general, he was opposed in principle to any State religion or ideology, whether atheism or theism.

In the case of Mongolia it would appear from article 86 of the Mongolian Constitution and paragraph 17 of the report that there was on the one hand an atheistic ideology which was officially sanctioned and on the other an ideology in the form of a religious faith which was separate from the State. While he agreed that there should be freedom of anti-religious expression he objected to that freedom being interpreted in such a way that anti-religious propaganda was permitted but no religion could be taught in the schools. In his opinion such a situation was discriminatory and ran counter to article 5 (d) (vii) and (viii) of the Convention.

The CHAIRMAN summarized the points made by the representative of Mongolia when introducing his Government's eighth periodic report, the questions raised and observations made by members of the Committee and the subjects touched upon by the representative of Mongolia in his reply. He noted that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of the eighth periodic report of Mongolia.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.