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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 55th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/40/3, 77, 160, 173, 201, A/40/232 and Add.1-3, A/40/276, 308, 320, 342, 398, 458, 489, 569, 578, A/40/638 and Add.1-3, A/40/647, 818, 843, 865 and 874; A/C.3/40/1, 6, 7 and 9; A/C.3/40/L.32, L.48 and L.54)

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AGENDA ITEM 107: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/40/L.39, L.40, L.46, L.53 and L.60)

1. Mr. VOLIO JIMENEZ (Special Rapporteur), introducing his preliminary report on the situation of human rights in Chile (A/40/647), said that since 1 February 1985, he had met in Geneva, San José and Montevideo with many persons who wished to state their views and provide him with information on the situation of human rights in Chile. In all, he had discussions with more than 60 persons, the great majority of whom were Chileans: some of them belonged to organizations that operated in exile and others to organizations working inside the country. Other individuals also had given testimony in a private capacity. The members of some Chilean organizations had spoken in Geneva with representatives of the United Nations Centre. On two occasions, he had received representatives of a United States-based organization concerned with human rights on the American continent, who had wished to state their views on developments in Chile.

2. Addendum I to appendix III of the preliminary report gave a summary of information received, which had been transmitted to the Government of Chile on 24 July 1985. It contained 71 reports of human rights violations, based on the relevant official documents. Those reports concerned no less than 89 persons, who had suffered from violations of their rights to life, security of person, liberty, freedom from threats or intimidation, leave or return freely to their country, peaceful assembly and freedom of expression and to impart and receive information. They also dealt with cases of detained and disappeared persons.

3. He had also received information from the Government of Chile, especially following the formal recognition of his mandate by that Government in July 1985.

(Mr. Volio Jimenez)

As indicated in the preliminary report, it covered events that had occurred between January and June 1985, but it also took into account subsequent developments and information relating to events that had occurred during that period, the report having been completed on 30 August 1985.

4. Having obtained the agreement of the Government, he would be travelling to Chile in December 1985. Complete information on that visit would be provided in the report that he would be submitting to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-second session. In Montevideo, he had on two occasions received a special mission from the Government of Chile. Official acceptance of the visit had been received in writing on 16 September 1985 and had been drafted in broad terms and without conditions, which was in keeping with the Special Rapporteur's mandate and led him to hope for broad and constructive co-operation from the Chilean authorities, who had affirmed that he could carry out the visit with complete freedom of action.

5. He was grateful for the co-operation received from the Government of Chile, individuals and organizations in carrying out his task. He also expressed his gratitude to the Office of the United Nations Development Programme in Montevideo, which had facilitated the discharge of his duties in that city. In addition, in preparing for his visit to Chile, he had the valuable co-operation of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights and officials of ECLAC.

6. He had studied the situation objectively and independently guided by his broad and deep experience in the struggle for human rights and he hoped that his work would help the common man in Chile to live once again under a representative democratic system, the only way of ensuring the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.

7. Mr. AGUILAR (Special Rapporteur), introducing his report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/40/874), pointed out that it was an interim report which he was required to submit to the Assembly at the current session under resolution 1985/39 of the Commission on Human Rights. The final report would be submitted to that Commission at its forty-second session, to be held from 3 February to 14 May 1986.

8. From the time he had decided to accept the difficult and unrewarding task of investigating the situation of human rights in Iran, he had undertaken to carry out the mandate in the most impartial and objective manner and had intended to do his utmost to win the trust and secure the co-operation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Experience had taught him that it was necessary and advantageous to take a step-by-step approach and not to make categorical pronouncements of censure or condemnation except after having exhausted all the means of persuasion and having arrived at the conviction that the Government of the State whose case was being examined was systematically refusing to co-operate and persisting in behaviour that was clearly contrary to its international obligations in the field of human rights. That was because currently the only sanction which as a general rule could be applied to serious and systematic violation of human rights was to publicize the report and the resolution which described and analysed

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(Mr. Aguilar)

those violations and condemned the Government responsible. Consequently, once that final stage was reached very little or nothing could be done to bring about a change in the situation, except in the rare cases in which it was possible to impose other types of sanctions.

9. Ideally, an in-depth study of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran would require a visit to that country to observe the situation at first hand, with the possibility of not only holding meetings with the competent authorities but also visiting prisons and other detention centres and of receiving testimony and information from all persons and organizations concerned. For that reason, he had repeatedly requested authorization from the Government of Iran to make such a visit, but regrettably there had so far been no reply to his request.

10. He had read and analysed a great deal of written information from various sources. He had also heard statements from individuals who had wished to give testimony on violations of human rights ascribed to the authorities in Iran, of which they themselves or their families had been the victims or of which they had knowledge for one reason or another. The report included references only to specific complaints that had already been transmitted to the Government of Iran for its observations and comments. That explained why annexes I and II included only some of the cases which appeared in the lists that had been submitted for his consideration.

11. The Government of Iran, like that of any other country whose conduct with respect to human rights was being considered by an international intergovernmental body, should be allowed the opportunity of knowing what allegations had been made against it and of duly submitting its observations and comments on them. In other words, it had a right to be heard. Only in that way could evidence be sifted which would at least be sufficient to enable the body studying the subject to arrive at reasonable conclusions, even though, for obvious reasons, that evidence could not be subject to the limitations regarding the admissibility of evidence established by the laws of procedure of almost all countries. For that reason, as was explained in the interim report, the allegations that contained sufficiently precise information on the nature of the violation, the names of the victims and the place and time it had occurred had been transmitted to the Government of Iran, which could provide equally specific and precise replies within a reasonable period of time only if it was given such details.

12. Regrettably, as was mentioned in paragraph 15 of the provisional report, the Government had not replied to any of the specific questions in the aide-mémoire reproduced in annex III to the report, nor to the specific detailed denunciations reproduced in annexes I and II concerning summary and arbitrary executions and deaths resulting from ill-treatment. Moreover, no reply had been received to the letter dated 29 August 1985 addressed to the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva, in which information had been requested on the denunciations received by the Special Rapporteur concerning various aspects of the situation of human rights in Iran.

(Mr. Aguilar)

13. If that silence continued it would justify the presumption that the events denounced had taken place. However, since the information requested might still be received before the preparation of the final report, the Special Rapporteur had merely stated in paragraph 15 of the interim report that he had been obliged to conclude that the allegations could not be dismissed as groundless unless proved to be so on the basis of detailed information which the Government was in the best position to collect and provide.

14. To consider all those events as proven at the current stage would be a facile and easy solution to the delicate and complex problem that was occupying the Commission's attention. However, consistent with the intention of maintaining the barely opened dialogue with the Government of Iran and of encouraging it to co-operate, the report pointed out only the inevitable consequences that would be entailed by a repeated refusal on the part of that Government to co-operate in clarifying those events. The Special Rapporteur appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to increase its co-operation with him and with the Commission and to participate in the dialogue for the normalization of the situation of human rights in that country.

15. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic) said that priority should be given to questions relating to systematic and mass violations of human rights. In 1985, as during the previous year, the first resolution of the Commission on Human Rights (1985/1) referred to the violation of those rights in the occupied Arab territories. He reiterated the unequivocal position of the German Democratic Republic, which called for the unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and was strongly in favour of the Palestinian people exercising its legitimate national rights, including the right to establish an independent State. The convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all States concerned and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), would open the way to the achievement of peace and security in that region. The German Democratic Republic reaffirmed its active solidarity with all the patriotic Arab forces in the Middle East.

16. His country was gratified to note that the Commission on Human Rights would in future analyse the ideologies and practices which endangered peace and international relations. In that context, the call to combat Nazi, Fascist and neo-Fascist activities and to co-operate internationally in punishing war crimes and crimes against humanity acquired special importance. The German Democratic Republic fully shared concern over the fact that there were still groups and organizations propagating totalitarian ideologies and practices that had led mankind into the Second World War, and agreed with the Commission on Human Rights that by subscribing to totalitarian ideologies and practices such as nazism and fascism, régimes based on racist, colonialist and other types of oppression attempted to ensure their own domination and economic and social privileges at the expense of other peoples or other racial or ethnic groups.

17. The correctness of that assessment had recently been proved by events in southern Africa, where the apartheid régime was continuing to implement its bloody

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(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

policy of force with all the means at its disposal and was committing crimes comparable to those of fascism. It was shameful that some countries, for strategic, political, economic and military reasons, were preventing the implementation of effective measures against the illegal racist régime.

18. The German Democratic Republic, aware of its historical and humanist responsibility as an anti-Fascist State, had submitted to the United Nations initiatives directed against Nazi, Fascist and neo-Nazi activities. Through its legislation and legal practice, and through the construction of a truly social and democratic system, it had made sure that totalitarian ideologies and practices could never again gain a foothold in its territory. In the German Democratic Republic the lessons of history determined the life of society. The socialist German State did everything it could to ensure peace and to counter, together with all forces inspired by common sense and realism, the threat to the survival of mankind posed by the most reactionary sectors. In particular, in 1985, which marked the fortieth anniversary of the victory over nazism and fascism, the citizens of the German Democratic Republic, together with foreign former resistance fighters, had recalled at commemorative events the sacrifices and heroic deeds of all those who had helped defeat the Fascist system.

19. There was the historical experience of the victory of the common struggle against a common enemy, Hitlerite fascism. Today, a new struggle against the danger of a nuclear catastrophe and the annihilation of humanity was uniting all the forces of peace. The political experience was the imperative need to fight against war before recourse was had to weapons of unimaginable destructive power. Lastly, there was the economic experience that fruitful and mutually beneficial co-operation could make a substantial contribution to safeguarding peace. The German Democratic Republic, both as a party to international conventions and at the bilateral level, had always sought to promote international co-operation in combating Fascist crimes and preventing a resurgence of the Fascist power structures. As long as fascism was not banished from the lives of peoples, it would be the duty of the States Members of the United Nations to take effective measures against it, pursuant to the principles and purposes of the Charter.

20. For more than a decade the situation of human rights in Chile had been of concern to international public opinion, and the overwhelming majority of Member States that participated in the various United Nations human rights bodies had denounced the existence of a systematic and mass violation of human rights in that country. The latest report of the Special Rapporteur, even though it did not fully live up to expectations and even less to reality, contained ample proof that nothing had changed in that respect during the period under review. On the contrary, the Chilean régime had increased its repressive measures against the democratic movement. The open display of State violence, repressive action by the police against peaceful demonstrations, terror aimed at the poor sectors of the population, unprecedented unemployment rates, the breakdown of health and social services, malnutrition and wretched poverty were distinctive features of the current situation.

(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

21. The situation in Chile confirmed the realistic prognosis that neither a gradual moderation nor a liberalization of the régime should be expected, which explained the growing determination of the Chilean people to overthrow the bloody dictatorship. The precarious social and economic situation in Chile increased the unrest among broad sectors of the population, and its effects had begun to reach the middle class, resulting in its political mobilization. The resistance front had thus broadened as sectors of the bourgeoisie joined forces with the left, which for a long time had constituted the only opposition. Even the Catholic Church, in a pastoral letter of November 1984, had called upon citizens, for the first time since the dictatorship had been established, to oppose the worsening terrorism of the régime.

22. The United Nations should not relax its support of the courageous resistance of the Chilean people against the dictatorship. Accordingly, his country was in favour of recommending to the Commission on Human Rights that it should extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another year, on the understanding that his report should reflect more precisely the real situation in Chile and offer suggestions for effective measures which could be taken against the régime.

23. That was equally true of the reports on the situation of human rights in El Salvador and Guatemala. The situation in those countries, as in Chile, could not be divorced from imperialist policies in Latin America, under which reactionary régimes were installed and kept in power by the supplying of money and weapons in order to safeguard certain economic interests. In El Salvador, the possibility of a democratic transformation was far from being realized. Investigations by that country's Human Rights Commission showed that five years of political violence had claimed more than 50,000 casualties among the civilian population, which supported the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. Numerous walk-outs, protest actions and nation-wide strikes had demonstrated the strength of the opposition.

24. The situation in Guatemala was similar. According to an assessment by the head of the Catholic Church in Guatemala, acts of violence stopped at nothing. As was borne out by the documentation provided by the Human Rights Commission of Guatemala, attacks by paramilitary groups were claiming an increasing number of casualties. Many people had disappeared, among them, typically, persons suspected of sympathizing with democratic ideas.

25. In those circumstances, special attention should be paid to the human rights situation in El Salvador and Guatemala. The least the United Nations could do for both countries was to denounce unequivocally the abuses he had mentioned as State-sponsored terrorism.

26. His country affirmed its solidarity with the Korean people and supported the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to bring about the withdrawal of foreign troops from South Korea as a pre-condition for the peaceful reunification of Korea without external interference. The proposal by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to hold tripartite negotiations, to convert the 1953 cease-fire agreement into a peace treaty and to conclude a non-aggression pact with South Korea could create a favourable climate for the peaceful solution

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(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

of disputes and showed the way towards peace, not only in the Korean peninsula and in the Far East, but also in the world at large.

27. When speaking of mass violations of human rights one could not avoid mentioning the existence of mass unemployment in the industrialized capitalist countries, where according to forecasts of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) some 31.5 million people would be unemployed in 1986. If the families affected by unemployment and people obliged to do part-time work or take early retirement were considered, it would be seen that between 75 to 80 million people were affected by unemployment in the developed capitalist countries. Such factors as permanent unemployment or the so-called "new poverty" made the situation even worse. According to OECD statistics, approximately 50 per cent of the unemployed in 1984 were permanently unemployed, a situation which generally led to social decline and a descent to the "new poverty" level, with consequences which could be compared to those of the world economic crisis between 1929 and 1933.

28. A decisive factor in the worsening of the mass unemployment problem was the imperialist arms build-up, which not only absorbed enormous material and scientific resources in a most unproductive way but, because of its tremendous cost, also aggravated the current financial crisis.

29. The human rights aspect of that problem did not derive exclusively from the fact that the right to work was not guaranteed. What was also compromised was the enjoyment of all the other economic rights and social, cultural and civil and political rights, which was tantamount to deprivation of fundamental freedoms and the loss of human dignity. It was revealing that precisely those representatives of the world of capital who seized every occasion to denigrate the values and achievements of other States did not include the inhumane practices he had mentioned in their catalogue of human rights violations. The unity and interdependence of all human rights, a principle recognized by the overwhelming majority of States, should therefore not be allowed to remain just a theoretical proposition set forth in the human rights instruments of the United Nations.

30. Mr. NETANYAHU (Israel) said that in the Syrian Arab Republic discrimination against Jews continued and that they were denied permission to leave the country. Among the Jews who were victims of discrimination were 700 women who could not marry in that country because as a result of the Government's policies the male Jewish population was numerically insufficient, and they could not leave the Syrian Arab Republic to marry because the authorities would not let them go. The Syrian Arab Republic should fulfil its international human rights obligations and cease its violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

31. Mr. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had said recently that there was no Jewish problem in that country and that nowhere in the world did Jews enjoy such extensive political and other rights, statements which had been greeted with derision around the world. In point of fact the Jewish question was a problem for the conscience of mankind and deserved serious consideration.

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(Mr. Netanyahu, Israel)

32. Life for Jewish people in the Soviet Union was hell. Just to be Jewish was difficult. One could not study Hebrew, publish religious books, obtain religious articles or even pray. Whereas in 1917 there had been 5,000 synagogues in the country, there were currently only 60, with only five rabbis to serve the needs of a Jewish population of 2 to 3 million. The difficulties of Soviet Jews were not limited to religion but also extended to the cultural sphere, since seminars on Jewish culture were disbanded, books on Jewish history were banned and Hebrew teachers were jailed.

33. In the Soviet Union no other people, culture, language or religion had been so persecuted as the Jews, who were the victims of a real cultural and religious lobotomy. If a people could be forced to forget its history and its faith, its soul would be destroyed, and no people could survive long without a soul, for it would lose its vitality and spirit and fade into the prevailing uniform gray.

34. Jews in the Soviet Union, however, resisted, defied the KGB, prayed, published, taught, kept their faith and preserved their traditions. The Soviet Union had therefore fallen back on another tactic: it had resurrected the odious phenomenon of anti-Semitism, modernized and perfected, in the most vicious systematic campaign organized since the times of Hitler. Jews were portrayed as demons, vipers, spies and traitors, in other words, as responsible for all the ills of the Soviet and non-Soviet world, despite the fact that 200,000 Jewish soldiers had lost their lives defending the country, a figure that had not been equalled by any other nationality in the Soviet Union.

35. After the unspeakable anti-Semitic horrors of the Second World War it had become common to clothe anti-Semitism in new garb. In the Soviet Union, the words "zionism", "Zionist" and "anti-zionism" had replaced the words "Judaism", "Jew" and "anti-Semitism". The Soviet régime, repeating the medieval slander that Jews had poisoned wells and had drunk blood, was publishing books with such titles as The Poisons of Zionism and Business Made in Blood.

36. In 1983, the Soviet Government had set up an official organization to disseminate anti-Semitic propaganda in order to present Jews as lepers and pariahs to be shunned at all cost by the rest of society. With the exception of Nazi Germany, official anti-Semitism had never had it so good. It was no surprise then that a large number of Jews wished to flee that torture chamber. They were not interested in changing Soviet society. They only wanted to leave the Soviet Union in order to live in freedom, as Jews, in their own homeland.

37. Four hundred thousand Jews had requested invitations from relatives in Israel, that being the first step in applying for exit permits. Those permits had nothing to do with the visas issued by other countries; requesting an exit permit was tantamount to committing a crime. In the opinion of the authorities, only a criminal or a demented person could wish to leave the Soviet paradise; consequently, the act of requesting an exit permit automatically brought about a series of calamities: persons requesting exit permits were demoted or dismissed from their jobs and could be re-employed only to do menial work. Such persons thus

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(Mr. Netanyahu, Israel)

became liable to criminal prosecution as "parasites". Their children were dismissed from universities or selectively and punitively conscripted into the armed forces, where they were always given the opportunity of learning "State secrets", which was another reason for denying their parents permission to leave.

38. The police harassed them, arrested them, beat them, kept them under close surveillance, confiscated their property and denied them any legal redress. If, in spite of everything, 400,000 people had dared to request exit permits, it could be assumed that under less unfavourable circumstances, the Jews would emigrate en masse, as they had left Egypt under the Pharaohs. The gates of the Soviet Union, however, were not open. With the excuse that those 400,000 dissidents, who were students, housewives, doctors, writers and teachers, knew State secrets, only 100 Jews a month were allowed to leave. At that rate, it would take 400 years for all those who wished to be reunited with their families to leave the Soviet Union.

39. Perhaps the worst fate was reserved for those who had persevered with courage and dignity in the struggle for the freedom of millions of Jews. As a result of trumped-up charges, 20 "Prisoners of Zion" were currently in prison or in exile. Their names were: Moshe Abramov, Yevgeny Aizenberg, Yosif Berenshtein, Vladimir Brodsky, Yuli Edelshtein, Nadezhda Fradkova, Boris Kanevsky, Aleksandr Kholmiansky, Yevgeny Koifman, Yakov Levin, Mark Nepomniashchy, Anatoly Shcharansky, Lev Shefer, Simon Schnirman, Yuri Tarnopolsky, Anatoly Virshubsky, Aleksandr Yakir, Leonid Volvovsky, Roald Zelichenok and Zakhar Zunshain.

40. The name of Leonid Volvovsky had been added to the list in October 1985. His story was typical. He had requested permission to leave the Soviet Union, had been dismissed from the scientific research institute where he had worked and had been exiled from Moscow to Gorki. For the crime of giving someone a book, Exodus, by Leon Uris - which was not even prohibited by the Soviet authorities - he had been accused of slandering the Soviet State and sentenced to three years in prison. The walls of his house had been painted with the words "Death to the Jews", which had been quickly amended to the more timely "Death and Prison to the Jews". The KGB had threatened his wife Ludmila with imprisonment if she did not cease her activities in defence of her husband.

41. Jews were not merely supposed to suffer; they were supposed to suffer in silence and isolation. Unlike the Tartars, the Tadzhiks and a hundred other peoples, Jews had no homeland in the Soviet Union. They had nowhere to go but out: they would not be beaten by the communist system, nor would they be absorbed by it. Forty years earlier it had been thought in the Soviet Union that the Jewish problem would quickly disappear. Jewish theatres had been torn down, Jewish newspapers shut down and Jewish doctors tried and executed. But the Jewish problem had not disappeared, because a people that had given the world a Pasternak, a Mandelshtam and a Scharansky would not be intimidated and men and women of conscience throughout the world would not be silenced. They raised their voices to state that those who did not keep their promises in the field of human rights would not carry out their commitments in other fields. During his visits to London,

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(Mr. Netanyahu, Israel)

Paris, Geneva or any place in the world, Mr. Gorbachev would always be asked about the fate of the Jews in the Soviet Union until he gave a satisfactory answer. The Soviet Union must decide: it could continue to postpone freeing the Jews and see the reputation which it was so eagerly trying to build forever tarnished, or it could free them now and save everyone years of agony and torment.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.12/Rev.1

42. Ms. ILIĆ (Yugoslavia), introducing on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.12/Rev.1 entitled "World social situation", said that it was the result of the patient work of the Group of 77, which had agreed to accept several amendments to the original text in response to various suggestions made and in order to make it possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus. Two changes had been made in the preamble: in the eighth paragraph, after the words "Conscious that each country has the", the word "inalienable" had been replaced by the word "sovereign"; and in the eleventh paragraph, after the words "Reaffirming the existence of the", the phrase "undeniable link" had been replaced by the word "interrelationship".

43. In the operative part, a basic change had been made in paragraph 3 in order to reach the desired consensus. Nevertheless, she pointed out that the current version of that paragraph no longer represented the position of the Group of 77 and reflected substantial concessions; it was precisely for that reason that, if a vote was requested, the Group would reconsider its position and request that the text of paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.12 should be the definitive text. On the other hand, the amendments to paragraph 4 were only editorial in nature and did not affect its contents. In paragraph 6, after the words "Notes also with great concern", the phrase "the lack of progress" had been replaced by "the slow progress". Lastly, in paragraph 10, after the word "substantially", the word "increased" had been replaced by "enhanced". It was the hope of the Group of 77 that, with those amendments, the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.34/Rev.1

44. Mr. OLZVOY (Mongolia), referring to the draft resolution entitled "National experience relating to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas", said that, after thoroughly considering the question, the sponsors had unanimously decided to retain the original text (A/C.3/40/L.34) and withdraw the amended version (A/C.3/40/L.34/Rev.1).

45. The form and content of the draft resolution were based on previous General Assembly resolutions. Most of the women who lived and worked in rural areas should have a decisive influence on the national and international programmes and strategies aimed at improving their situation and ensuring their participation in socio-economic and political activities. During the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, although the situation of women in rural areas had improved in some parts of the world, it had deteriorated drastically in many others as a result of the recent economic crises, which had affected all countries, but particularly developing countries. The United Nations was concerned at the problem

(Mr. Olzvoy, Mongolia)

and was carrying out an important task in which the exchange of valuable experience among the various States and organizations concerned played an essential role. In any case, the sponsors were of the view that, although the United Nations should increase its efforts in that field, the entire international community should adopt in a timely manner economic, social and political measures to complement them.

46. Lastly, he stressed the importance of the draft resolution in general and of paragraph 2 in particular, and expressed the hope that the proposed text would receive the broadest possible support since its implementation would make it possible to overcome the main obstacles to the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47/Rev.1

47. Ms. ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, since paragraphs 19 and 20 of draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.47, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for Advancement of Women", had caused a number of difficulties for the Fifth Committee and for some delegations with respect to the post of Co-ordinator and the percentage of women in Professional and decision-making positions recommended for the next five years, the Group of 77 had decided, in a spirit of compromise, to make some changes in those paragraphs.

48. Paragraph 19 should now read: "Takes note with satisfaction of the appointment of the Co-ordinator for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the United Nations Secretariat in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/245 and, in this context, of the fact that the Secretary-General should continue to plan and implement positive actions and programmes to improve the status of women in the Secretariat and to monitor the progress achieved;". The purpose of the revision was to assign to the Secretary-General the responsibility for planning and implementing programmes to improve the status of women in the Secretariat, while still welcoming the appointment of the Co-ordinator.

49. The last part of paragraph 20, after the words "geographical distribution," had been replaced by the following text: "in order that a definite upward trend in the application of General Assembly resolution 33/143 of 20 December 1978 be registered in the number of Professional and decision-making positions held by women by 1990 and additional targets should be set every five years;". The Group of 77 trusted that there would be consensus on the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.45

50. Mrs. BOCHECIAMPE de CROVATI (Venezuela), introducing on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.45, entitled "Preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances", said that, at the express wish of the sponsors and following extensive consultations, it had been decided to amend the seventh preambular paragraph. The beginning of the paragraph should read: "Taking into account also the paragraphs relating to drug trafficking and drug abuse in the Communiqué ...".

(Mrs. Boccheciampe de Crovati,
Venezuela)

51. The draft resolution was intended to supplement General Assembly resolution 39/141 in which the General Assembly gave the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a mandate to initiate as a matter of priority the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs which considered the various aspects of the problem as a whole and, in particular, those not envisaged in existing international instruments. Account had also been taken of resolution I (XXXI) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which established a mechanism for preparation of such a convention. The reference to those two resolutions reflected the basic purpose of the draft resolution: the scale of the drug problem underlined the urgent need to carry out the instructions of the General Assembly concerning the preparation of a draft convention against drug trafficking.

52. The draft resolution had been born of the deep concern expressed in the General Assembly and the Third Committee about the danger represented by drug trafficking, and it was intended to give a qualitative uplift to the clearly unequal struggle which States were waging against transnational drug traffickers. There was no intention to skirt the need to carry out the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. On the contrary, all the drug conventions must be mutually strengthened because they had been drafted in order to establish a body of complementary instruments. The main objective was to ensure that countries ratified or acceded to all the relevant instruments and applied them. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.49

53. Mr. ZAWAWI (Malaysia), introducing on behalf of the sponsors draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.49, entitled "International conference on drugs, 1987", said that the purpose of the draft resolution was to obtain a mandate from the General Assembly to convene an international conference on drugs in 1987, in accordance with the statement made by the Secretary-General in the Economic and Social Council on 24 May 1985. The draft resolution requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to extend its ninth special session in Vienna in February 1986 by one week in order to act as the preparatory body for the Conference, which would be open to the participation of all States. In order to facilitate the general co-ordination of the preparations, the Secretary-General was requested to appoint a secretary-general for the Conference at the earliest possible time.

54. He noted that, although in the beginning some of the sponsors of the draft resolution had had reservations about holding the Conference in Vienna as there were few resident missions in that city, consensus had been reached on the issue when the Austrian delegation had offered assurances that his Government would provide those delegations that lacked resident missions with the facilities for participating in the Conference. On the subject of financing, the sponsors had agreed to request the Secretary-General to cover as much as possible of the cost of holding the Conference through absorption within the regular budget estimates already proposed for the biennium 1986-1987.

(Mr. Zawawi, Malaysia)

55. Lastly, he expressed the hope that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, as any vote against it would be a vote for drug traffickers and a vote against mankind.

Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.50

56. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.50, entitled "Strategy and policies for drug control", recalled the earlier General Assembly resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 38/98 in which the Assembly had decided to constitute the task force envisaged in its resolution 36/168 to review, monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of the International Drug Abuse Control Strategy and the programme of action.

57. The draft resolution approved the programme of action for 1986 reviewed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-first session and contained in document E/CN.7/1985/17 and reproduced as an annex to document A/40/773. She noted that the draft resolution had no financial implications and she therefore hoped that it would have the unanimous support of the members of the Committee.

58. Mr. DAMM (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he wished to respond to the insults and falsehoods uttered by the representative of the German Democratic Republic. In the first place, Chile was a free and independent country and the representative of the German Democratic Republic should therefore refer to it with greater respect. Furthermore, that representative was not entitled to use the word democracy, for in his country power was held by the Red Army. The German Democratic Republic had built the Berlin Wall and did not hesitate to murder anyone who wanted to leave the supposed paradise. Democracy was looming on the Chilean horizon and would be attained as soon as the people of Chile so decided.

59. Mr. GLAIEL (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had spoken only about the rights of the Jews living in the Soviet Union. He should also have spoken about the rights of the Palestinian people.

60. The young Jews from the Syrian Arab Republic who had left that country under the pretext of getting married had returned to it because they were subjected to very strict control in Israel. He also wondered who had given the Zionist State the right to interfere in the internal affairs of other States and encourage Jewish minorities to rebel against a legally constituted government. It had been stated on other occasions that zionism was racist. In any event, the representative of Israel had no right to speak about anti-Semitism, since the Arabs were also Semites.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.