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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. KORHONEN (Finland)

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AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS  
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/40/470, 541, 542, 575, 583, 649 and Add.1, 686 and 702)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the relevant documentation for agenda item 75, including a letter dated 9 July 1985 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/40/470).
2. Mr. WIJewardane (Sri Lanka), speaking as Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, introduced the seventeenth report of the Special Committee (A/40/702). The same methodology used in previous years had been followed in presenting oral and written testimony and the views of the Governments concerned and in assessing the human rights situation in the occupied territories. As in the past, the Special Committee had addressed written requests to the Governments concerned for information which they wished to provide and for their general co-operation. In that connection, it was unfortunate that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power in the territories under consideration, had continued to refrain from co-operating with the Special Committee. Since it had been unable to visit the occupied territories in pursuance of its mandate, the Special Committee had made use of the best evidence available under the circumstances, continuing to base its work on international norms of human rights and humanitarian law.
3. Evidence had been examined in the light of a number of fundamental human rights issues. As stated in paragraph 29 of the report, the Special Committee had taken particular care to rely on information that had not been contradicted by the Government of Israel or that had been commonly considered as reliable by the Governments.
4. The Special Committee's conclusions were contained in section V of the report. It had once again felt that the Government of Israel had continued to follow the same policy in the occupied territories as in the previous years, a policy based on the concept held by that Government that the territories occupied in 1967 constituted a part of the State of Israel. The Special Committee had also observed a continuing deterioration in the level of respect for the human rights of the civilian population. Since the situation in the occupied territories at the time of the adoption of the report had been grave, the Special Committee felt that the cycle of violence was bound to continue and that the situation would remain explosive.
5. The Special Committee therefore urged the international community to assume its responsibility and adopt measures to reverse that deterioration. The parties concerned must change their attitude with regard to the overall political aspects of the problem and give priority to safeguarding the fundamental rights of the

(Mr. Wijewardane, Sri Lanka)

civilians in the occupied territories. Lastly, he expressed the hope that the situation in the occupied territories would be rectified, at least in order to ensure a minimum guarantee of basic human rights for the civilian population in those territories.

6. Mr. SALAH (Jordan) said that, in its report, the Special Committee had concluded that the Government of Israel had continued to follow the same policy in the occupied territories as in previous years, a policy based on the concept held by that Government that the territories occupied in 1967 constituted a part of the State of Israel (para. 321). Only in the light of that concept was it possible to understand the abusive and illegal measures taken by Israel against Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and against Syrians in the Golan Heights.

7. As the report had shown, measures continued to be taken to establish settlements and to expropriate property. Statements made by Israeli leaders left no doubt as to the nature of Israel's policy. All of its economic, military and administrative measures were designed to lead to the same result; to make life impossible for the inhabitants of the occupied territories and to induce them to leave.

8. The human rights situation in the Arab territories under Israeli control was unacceptable. All fundamental freedoms were restricted, and the normal enjoyment of any one of them might cause an Arab inhabitant to contravene Israeli regulations involving freedom of movement, education, association, worship or expression. Matters had reached such a pass that even the wearing of an Arab head-dress was considered an offence punishable by arrest, as indicated in paragraph 197 of the report.

9. The only reason advanced by Israel for imposing restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians was the existence of a so-called "security risk". That was a mere fabrication and was used as a pretext to harass the Arab inhabitants. Restrictions had been placed on the movement of persons who could not possibly pose a threat to security within the meaning of the provisions of international law relating to belligerent occupation. Among them were pilgrims, teachers, lawyers, members of municipal councils and doctors, and they had wished to travel for urgent medical treatment or to participate in purely social occasions. In restricting their freedom of movement, Israel's intention was to prevent social intercourse and that social cohesion among Palestinians that depended on contact among persons from different towns and villages.

10. As for freedom of education, Military Order 854, concerning universities and institutions of higher education in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, essentially meant that Palestinians, before joining universities as teachers or enrolling as students, were required to recognize the Israeli occupation and renounce their legitimate and natural right to resist that occupation. Israel considered the holding of lectures or poetry readings to be a security risk and therefore opposed them. Any reference to Arab history or to Palestinian identity was considered a crime, and even the attempt to study military occupation in a scientific and academic manner was not allowed. The closing of universities and schools, the removal and arrest of students and the expulsion of teachers were routine practices.

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(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

11. Lest it be thought that Israel had any real justification for adopting such measures, reference should be made to paragraph 137 of the report, where it was stated that the Ibn Sina Nursing College in Ramallah had been closed when students complained of inadequate health conditions and facilities for learning. Israel's objective in restricting academic freedom and freedom of education was therefore not to preclude a possible danger but to disrupt the educational system in the occupied territories in order to strike a blow at the Palestinian people.

12. It was the Israeli army that provoked students and not vice versa. Israeli policemen and border guards came to schools and universities and set about interrogating students, detaining some of them and thereby leading to stoning on one side and shooting on the other. That would then lead to the closing of the institution, the arrest and imprisonment of the students and the consequent paralysis of educational life in the occupied territories.

13. There was also interference with freedom of expression and freedom of worship. Israel prohibited all expressions of Palestinian identity or of the Palestinian heritage. It had imposed general restrictions on worship. The Friday congregational prayer, a religious duty laid down in the Koran, was banned in prisons. For the first time since the 1967 occupation, Muslims had been prevented from praying in a large part of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in order to allow Jews to pray there. Israel did not hesitate to desecrate Muslim Holy Places or to attack worshippers at prayer.

14. The Israeli authorities provoked the inhabitants of the refugee camps in order to create a pretext for breaking into them, and they gave free rein to extremist settlers to terrorize them and to engage in all forms of provocation and aggression against them. It was frequently said that the Israeli authorities brought such Jewish extremists to justice. However, they used extreme measures in response to minor violations when the accused was an Arab, while they were very lenient in the case of much more serious crimes committed by Israelis against Arabs. The object of bringing Jewish extremists before the courts was to try to improve Israel's image, to make it appear as a law-abiding State in its dealings with the Palestinian people and to create the illusion that there was a rule of law to which both Israelis and Arabs were subject. In order to see the truth of the matter, it was necessary to look not at the fact that Israel had brought to trial Jewish settlers and extremists who had attacked and killed defenceless Palestinians, but rather at the fact that it had been Israel that had originated and that still encouraged the practices that those terrorists engaged in. Israel's position with regard to Jewish terrorism was a moral affront.

15. The latest example of the alteration of the Arab character of Jerusalem had been the closing of the Austrian Hospice where the Arab inhabitants of occupied Jerusalem had received medical treatment. In the meantime, the policies of demolishing houses, collective punishment, economic strangulation and settlement likewise continued to be applied there.

16. Despite an apparent change in Israeli settlement policy, the pace at which settlements were being established having slackened somewhat and some Israelis having called for a halt to settlement in the occupied territories, the truth was

(Mr. Salah, Jordan)

quite the opposite. One indication was that the President of Israel and other Israeli leaders had recently affirmed that Jews had the right to settle anywhere in Eretz Yisrael. It must be borne in mind that the basic reason for an apparent falling off in settlement was the economic crisis affecting Israel and the lack of potential settlers from the socialist bloc and investors from the United States and Canada, and not any change in Israel's political stance on the occupied territories.

17. The settlers already in place had created a climate of extremism and violence by provoking and attacking the Arab inhabitants. If Israel had any intention of changing its settlement policy it would abolish the legislation it had enacted to encourage settlement and protect settlers who had attacked Arabs from being tried before West Bank courts and it would rescind other measures aimed at altering the legal and demographic character of the occupied territories.

18. Israel had thus far failed to face up to the true reasons for the resistance of the Palestinian people to the occupation authorities. It continued to believe that it could solve the problem of its occupation through the use of force, repression and illegal and inhuman practices rather than by bringing it to an end, which was the only solution to violence, conflict and extremism in the region.

19. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that the report of the Special Committee provided a clear and objective picture of the real situation in the occupied territories. The repeated refusal by Israel to allow the Special Committee to visit the occupied territories was further proof of the inhuman living conditions under which Palestinians were living. In that connection, the co-operation of the PLO with the Special Committee to facilitate its work should be noted.

20. Since the autumn of 1984, Israel had intensified its "iron fist" policy against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The report of the Special Committee provided abundant proof of that situation. Thousands of Palestinians, many of whom were children, had been detained or imprisoned. In the notorious Fara'a prison, children were housed with adult prisoners in violation of Israeli law. In its report for the year 1985, Amnesty International stated that it continued to be concerned about the widespread practice of arbitrary arrest and short-term detention without charge or trial. It had received a number of reports that school children and students had been kept in detention for up to 18 days without being interrogated or informed of the reasons for their arrest. In 1984, Amnesty International had received an increasing number of reports of ill-treatment and torture of detainees in the custody of the police or security forces in Israel, the occupied territories and southern Lebanon.

21. There had also been reports of delays in providing medical treatment and refusals to provide such treatment. Fara'a prison, where most of the inmates were young people, had been frequently cited in that regard.

22. Amnesty International continued to be concerned that arrest and detention procedures in the occupied territories still failed to provide the safeguards necessary to prevent the ill-treatment of prisoners. Many Palestinian prisoners

(Mr. Mansour, PLQ)

had died as a result of torture, brutality and medical neglect by their Israeli gaolers. Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners suffered from chronic medical problems aggravated by neglect and inhuman treatment. As a result of that situation, Palestinian prisoners had conducted a number of hunger strikes throughout 1985 in prisons in the occupied territories.

23. Collective punishment by imposing extensive curfews throughout the occupied territories and sealing off Palestinian refugee camps and schools was turning the occupied territories into a massive Israeli prison for Palestinians. The Israeli occupation authorities had been waging a massive campaign to destroy the political, economic and social infrastructure and the will to resist of the Palestinian people living under occupation. That campaign included disruption of activities in Palestinian schools and colleges, closing medical institutions, placing Palestinian political, intellectual and union leaders under house arrest, censorship and the denial of freedom of expression. A number of schools and universities had been closed down for varying periods of time in 1985. In March 1985 a large unit of the Israeli army had attacked Bir Zeit University. Many students had been injured and both students and faculty had been arrested and imprisoned. On 5 April 1985, 400 border police had stormed Ibrahimiyyeh College in Jerusalem and had arrested 132 students.

24. The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), in a recent report, had found Israel guilty of serious violations of academic freedom and behaviour contrary to the 1949 fourth Geneva Convention and the 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education. In May 1985, the Executive Board of UNESCO had adopted two resolutions condemning Israel for disrupting the activities of educational and cultural institutions in the occupied territories.

25. The number of medical institutions in the occupied territories had decreased and public health services had deteriorated as a result of measures imposed by the occupation authorities. The Austrian Hospice, which was the only hospital in the Old City of Jerusalem and which treated 60,000 Palestinians annually, had been shut down despite massive protests by the Palestinian people and the international community. The closure of the hospital was a serious setback to the already limited health-care services provided to Palestinians and was another step aimed at the Judaization of Jerusalem and the expulsion of Palestinians.

26. The report of the Special Committee provided ample information on restrictions on freedom of movement. Such measures affected mayors, trade unionists, students, teachers, journalists, lawyers and women activists. The expropriation of Palestinian land, the building of new settlements and the enlargement of old ones would lead to an intensification of settler terrorism against the Palestinian people living under Israeli military occupation. Zionist racist indoctrination provided the basis for further settler terrorism in the occupied territories, as was clear from paragraphs 75 to 89 and 170 to 185 of the report of the Special Committee.

(Mr. Mansour, PLO)

27. Rabbi Meir Kahane was considered the "godfather" of the settler terrorist movement in the occupied territories, which aimed at the expulsion, in any way possible, of about two million Palestinians from Palestine. People such as Kahane were no longer considered as isolated racist lunatics in Israel. Many pollsters were forecasting that the terrorist organization Kach, under the leadership of Kahane, would win about 15 seats in the Knesset if elections were to be held now. Therefore Kahane's prediction that he would be Prime Minister by the late 1980s should not be taken lightly. The Movement for Coexistence and Anti-Nazism - a Jewish organization - had published a comparison of draft laws proposed by Kahane with laws passed by Nazi Germany. That comparison showed what the future Prime Minister stood for: he would treat non-Jews in Israel and the occupied territories in the same way as the Nazis had treated Jews in Germany.

28. The aims of Kahanism were the total annihilation of Palestinian society and the total annexation of all Palestinian land under Israeli military occupation. The West Bank Data Base Project, compiled by Meron Bunvenisti, noted that Israel had seized 52 per cent of the total area of the West Bank and that, at the present growth rate, the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank would increase from 42,500 to 100,000 in five years. The expulsion of about one million Palestinians from the West Bank would be the only way to confiscate the remaining 48 per cent of the land. Israel had established some 250 settlements in the occupied territories since 1967, and that number was rising. Hundreds of millions of dollars were allocated annually for the building and development of such settlements.

29. There had been a marked intensification of the "iron fist" policy with the adoption by the Israeli Government on 4 August 1985 of a set of repressive laws and procedures. It had revived emergency regulations originally introduced in 1945 under the British Mandate in Palestine, which accorded the occupation authorities absolute power with respect to arrest, detention and deportation. Expulsion or deportation had been established as war crimes at the 1945 Nuremberg trials and were defined as such in the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The new laws had already resulted in the deportation of 30 Palestinians and the detention of 186 others; Palestinian newspapers had been closed indefinitely or suspended, and collective punishment in the form of curfews had been imposed in many cities and camps.

30. Furthermore, regular army units had been deployed throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. The occupation authorities had encouraged provocative demonstrations by Zionist settlers in Palestinian towns and villages, and armed patrols of Zionist settlers had intensified their aggression against Palestinians, destroying their homes and property. On 1 October 1985, the Israeli Air Force had carried out a criminal air attack against PLO offices in Tunis, killing or injuring more than 150 Palestinians and Tunisians. That action had been condemned on all sides, notably in Security Council resolution 573 (1985).

31. The repressive measures of 4 August 1985 were the result of the growing influence of the far right and Fascist sector in Israel. But the measures would not succeed, as had been acknowledged by ruling Zionists, some of whom had described the situation as a swelling popular revolution which Israel could not contain.

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(Mr. Mansour, PLO)

32. During the past week alone, the occupation authorities had deported four Palestinians, including two national leaders, detained six West Bank leaders and demolished scores of homes in Hebron and in the Gaza Strip. Israel's repressive practices called not only for condemnation by the United Nations but for the adoption of punitive measures. The Security Council had determined that Israel was an "occupying Power" and that the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention were applicable to all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.

33. Israel enjoyed full military, economic and political support from the United States Government, which gave proof every day of hostility towards the Palestinian people and its national rights and aspirations. The United States still rejected General Assembly resolution 38/58 C which endorsed the call for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as well as the USSR and the United States, on an equal footing with equal rights. The United States was about to increase its aid to Israel from \$2.6 billion in 1985 to \$4.5 billion in 1986. That aid and the hostility it implied towards the people of Palestine would not stop the Palestinians' struggle to achieve their goals.

34. The Zionists could continue all their repressive measures against the Palestinian people and they could condemn it to the living hell of Israeli military occupation, but the Palestinians would resist and their determination would never be broken. The Palestinian people would continue the struggle until it attained its inalienable national rights to return to Palestine, to exercise self-determination and to establish its own independent Palestinian State on its national soil.

35. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation fully supported the views of the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, as expressed in the letter of transmittal introducing that Committee's report. It was prepared to co-operate with the Special Committee in order to enable that Committee to carry out its mandate and vigorously condemned Israel's refusal to co-operate in like manner. Israel's refusal to allow members of the Committee to enter the occupied territories in order to interview members of the population showed that Israel was a closed and racist society and that the residents of the occupied territories were subject to persecution despite Israel's assertions to the contrary.

36. The report of the Special Committee provided clear evidence that the Israeli occupation authorities had expanded their policy of repression and terrorism, and their violations of human rights by the Israeli régime. It also showed that colonialism, which had almost ceased to exist in the rest of the world, continued to be practised by Israel in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. Resistance to Israeli colonialism was therefore not only legitimate but a sacred duty and deserved every form of international support. The report showed that the Zionist leaders were not affected by any moral or humanitarian inhibitions and also indicated the vicious nature of the occupation authorities.



(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

37. The report demonstrated further that the occupied Arab territories had been converted by the Zionists into a massive concentration camp similar to those seen in Europe under the rule of nazism. Israel was exploiting the painful memory of those who had died at the hands of the Nazis in order to justify the crimes it perpetrated against Arabs living under the Zionist occupation. There was also a similarity between Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and the acts of repression carried out by the racist régime of South Africa against the people of that country and the people of Namibia, since both régimes were equally harsh in dealing with the populations under their control. In the case of Israel, the defence laws enacted by the British mandate authorities in 1945, and which had been declared inhumane by the Zionists before the creation of the state of Israel, had simply been reapplied in the shape of Military Law No. 378.

38. The report of the Special Committee showed that the policy of the Israeli occupation authorities was characterized by increasing terrorism, organized violence and acts of mass repression against the Arab population. Resistance was met with force as new Israeli settlements were established. The occupation authorities had imposed a dual legal system, whereby Arabs were subjected to arbitrary actions by armed Jewish terrorist groups. Radical changes had also been introduced in laws which affected almost all aspects of life in the occupied territories, including legislation permitting the occupation authorities to expropriate land by force, to control water resources and to control the marketing of agricultural products. Such actions caused the occupied territories to become economically dependent upon Israel. Although Israel was legally obliged to comply with the Geneva Conventions and other international instruments, it had chosen to ignore such commitments with regard to the occupied territories. It was also clear from the Special Committee's report that the occupation authorities were endeavouring to eradicate all links between the Palestinian and Syrian Arab populations of the Golan Heights and their natural homelands. Annex II to the report, which was submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, contained further details of Israeli practices in the Golan Heights.

39. He expressed his full support for the important conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 321 to 327 of its report.

40. It was also useful to draw attention to conclusions reached by the Committee in its earlier reports relating to violations of human rights by the Israeli occupation authorities, which could only be halted by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable right to establish an independent State in its own national territory. It was clear to all that Israel would not dare to pursue such an arrogant policy were it not for the political protection afforded to it by the United States. Zionist expansionism in the occupied territories was a direct result of the Camp David accords, the agreement on "strategic co-operation" between the United States and Israel and the so-called "Reagan Plan". Military and economic assistance provided to Israel by the United States was used to finance Israeli expansionism in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. It was distressing to see that Washington ignored resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly in that connection and therefore shared responsibility for the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

41. Israel's criminal policy of racial discrimination against the Arab population, based on the concept of the "chosen people", gave rise to heroic resistance on the part of that population. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international groups had reaffirmed many times that armed resistance against foreign occupation forces was legitimate. The actions of the Arab population in the occupied territories against the Israeli occupiers constituted both a right and a duty, and the attempts of Zionist leaders to describe such resistance as acts of terrorism constituted a deception. Just as those Europeans who sacrificed their lives for the struggle against nazism were considered to be heroes, those who joined in the Arab resistance struggle were also heroes. It could not be forgotten that the Herut Party, which had given birth to Israel's current Likud Party, had been the first to introduce terrorism to Palestine, and that terrorism had become an acknowledged component of the Zionist entity's policy.

42. The desperate living conditions of the Arab population of the occupied territories made it necessary to appeal to the conscience of the world as a whole to help put an end to Zionist terrorist operations. Violations of human rights in the occupied territories could be halted only by ending the Israeli occupation, by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its inalienable rights and by returning the occupied Golan Heights to the Syrian Arab Republic.

43. His delegation believed that the Special Committee should continue to monitor Israeli practices and policies affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories until all occupation forces had been withdrawn from those territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people had been enabled to exercise its inalienable rights. It was the responsibility of the international community and of the permanent members of the Security Council in particular, to ensure that the Tel Aviv régime complied with United Nations resolutions and the principles of international law, obeyed the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and respected the human rights of the population of the occupied territories.

44. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was interesting to note, in connection with the representative of Syria's compassion for Jews victimized by the Nazis, that The New York Times of 29 October 1985 contained a report that Alois Brunner, a former top aide to Adolf Eichmann, had been discovered living in Damascus. Brunner had played a leading role in the mass killing of European Jews and for the past 10 years he had been a special adviser to the Syrian Government. No doubt he could give the Syrians good advice on the extermination of the Jews.

45. On the subject of the allegations made by the representative of Syria about torture and imprisonment in Israel, he drew attention to the latest report of Amnesty International on the situation in Syria, which referred to a persistent pattern of gross violations of human rights. It was thus difficult to have confidence in the veracity of the Syrian statement.

(Mr. Barromi, Israel)

46. Turning to the statement made by the representative of Jordan, he said that many people had expected a statesmanlike message, instead of the usual catalogue of incrimination. The representative of Jordan had referred to the paralysis of the education system, but he had apparently not consulted the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories (A/40/373), which said that the establishment of a higher education system in the territories with six universities serving more than 10,000 students was "a singular achievement in a society under occupation".

47. The representative of Jordan had denied the existence of the security threat which motivated the measures taken by the Israeli authorities. Yet during the 19 years of Jordanian occupation of the territories Jordan had been acutely aware of security threats. A law adopted by Jordan in 1959 cancelled the Jordanian citizenship of any person endangering the security of the country. The adoption of that law had been followed by mass arrests, expulsions and death sentences. In 1963, after rioting in Jerusalem, 120 politicians and public figures had been arrested. In 1966, after further rioting, 500 persons had been arrested. Jordan's rule had been harsh, and the West Bank had been kept under colonial conditions. The same report of the Secretary-General indicated that economic and industrial development in the West Bank had been a very low priority in the Jordanian epoch.

48. The Middle East was today facing new menaces of terrorism and a new kind of radicalism. The Special Political Committee should be guided in its work by the ideals which had inspired the establishment of the United Nations. A new approach and a new style were required. The representative of Jordan should give serious thought to such matters.

49. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Special Political Committee should not be distracted by groundless reports in The New York Times. The truth of the story about Alois Brunner had already been communicated to the Governments concerned through the diplomatic channel. Such stories were part of a media campaign to discredit his country and divert attention from Israeli practices in the occupied territories. In an attempt at political blackmail, the Israeli delegation attacked any delegation which offered criticism of Israel. He was sure that the report in The New York Times would be proved false; Brunner was not in Damascus, and, indeed, no Nazi had ever set foot in Syria.

50. He wished to reaffirm his Government's commitment to oppose nazism, fascism, neo-fascism and all oppression based on intolerance and racial prejudice. His Government applied the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the two International Covenants on human rights. He noted that zionism had been declared a form of racism.

51. As to the report of Amnesty International, that was yet another attempt to divert attention from the question before the Committee, which did not include the question of human rights in other parts of the world. Furthermore, his delegation had evidence that the report was groundless.

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

52. Israel's most powerful weapon was emotional blackmail. It used the holocaust to generate feelings of guilt, and any criticism of Israel was branded as anti-Semitism. There was no difference between Hitler's theory of racial superiority and the theory of the chosen people of Israel, and the illusions of zionism were doomed to extinction.

53. Mr. BURAYZAT (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the report of the Special Committee on Israeli practices provided much evidence in support of the comments he had made about the alleged security threat to Israel. Israel used that supposed threat as a pretext for legalization of its unrestrained harassment of the Arab population.

54. He noted that it was not the Special Political Committee's purpose to engage in a comparison of the respective Israeli and Jordanian presences in the West Bank. As to the new threat of terrorism in the Middle East to which the representative of Israel had referred, the reason for it was Israel's continued occupation of the Arab territories. The item before the Committee did not concern current efforts to find a settlement in the Middle East but rather the intolerable situation caused by Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.