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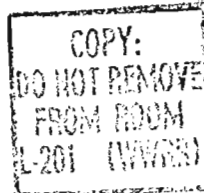
FORTIETH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
66th meeting
held on
Thursday, 5 December 1985
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 66th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/40/3 and Corr.1, A/40/77, A/40/160, A/40/173, A/40/201, A/40/232 and Add.1-3, A/40/276, A/40/308, A/40/342, A/40/398, A/40/458, A/40/489, A/40/569, A/40/578, A/40/638 and Add.1-3, A/40/647, A/40/818, A/40/843, A/40/865, A/40/874, A/40/938; A/C.3/40/1, A/C.3/40/6, A/C.3/40/7, A/C.3/40/9, A/C.3/40/12, A/C.3/40/13, A/C.3/40/L.32, L.48/Rev.1, L.54, L.59/Rev.1, L.64, L.66, L.67, L.72 and Corr.1, L.75, L.76, L.77, L.78, L.79, L.80, L.81, L.82, L.83, L.84, L.85, L.86 and L.87)

1. Mr. MATSUKA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that 40 years after the defeat of Hitlerian fascism, there was a danger of a renaissance of that ideology. The domestic and foreign policy of a number of countries had certain features that recalled nazism and fascism. Basing itself on the theory of white supremacy, the apartheid régime of Pretoria had turned the territory of South Africa and Namibia into a virtual prison for 26 million indigenous Africans, who were deprived of all rights. Fortified by the support of its Western protectors, that régime launched criminal attacks on neighbouring African States, engaging in scorched earth tactics which recalled the behaviour of the Fascists in the territories they had occupied during the Second World War. The régime of Israel, where official policy was increasingly based on the idea of Jewish supremacy over other peoples, the Arabs in particular, was equally totalitarian. Israel was applying a policy of genocide against the Palestinian people, whose right to self-determination it rejected. The Zionists sought to justify their acts by invoking Israel's so-called "civilizing mission" and the fact that it needed "living space".

2. Neo-Fascist, neo-Nazi and revanchist organizations were operating quite freely in a number of Western countries, including the United States. Some of them were purely racist in character while others preached anti-communism and anti-semitism as well. Their common feature was incitement to hatred and racial violence. The rise of those organizations had been encouraged by the increase in international tension, the threat of war and the intensified arms race. It was sometimes said that those groups were very small and presented no special danger. Was it necessary to recall that in the 1920s Hitler's National Socialist Party had not been taken very seriously?

3. Fascist ideology poisoned minds, particularly those of young people. Mass unemployment, the loss of trust in the organs and the laws of the bourgeois State, the decline in morality, the upsurge of crime, all left some young people open to the influence of Fascist propaganda. It was not by chance that, currently, 70 per cent of the members of those organizations were young people under 30.

4. Far from being an isolated occurrence on the international scene, fascism was a political instrument used by the most reactionary and aggressive circles of international monopoly capital. Bourgeois democracy plumed itself on respectability and claimed to avoid all "anti-democratic" behaviour. Nevertheless, when it was a question of stifling dissent, it depended on neo-fascism to which it entrusted the anti-democratic and anti-communist dirty work, particularly in cases

(Mr. Matsuka, Ukrainian SSR)

of moral and political crisis. Fascism grew out of the basically reactionary nature of the bourgeois régime and the totalitarian character of capitalism. One of the clearest demonstrations of capitalist totalitarianism was the military-industrial complex which in the West was an independent force, a genuine State within a State.

5. Some representatives of the Western States claimed to contrast the so-called totalitarianism of the socialist countries with the pluralism of bourgeois society. A society owed its democratic or totalitarian nature not to the presence or absence of a parliamentary opposition but to the degree to which the various strata of the population participated in the conduct of public affairs and the extent to which the interests of the various social groups within the political system were represented. The soviets, which consisted of representatives of all classes and all social groups, all nations and nationalities and all generations of workers, were the most perfect expression of the democratic nature of socialist society. The political pluralism of capitalist society in fact merely permitted a choice among various bourgeois parties which represented the interests of various capitalist groups, which took back with one hand the power they conceded with the other. A large part of bourgeois society was in fact deprived of any access to the conduct of public affairs. The election of a candidate depended in essence on the support he received from industrial and financial circles. Furthermore, the people of the Western countries were aware of that fact for, in recent years particularly, participation in the electoral process had been very low.

6. It was essential for the General Assembly to invite the Members of the United Nations to take effective steps to combat the rebirth of nazism and fascism. That was the purpose of the draft resolution on the question, of which the Ukrainian SSR was a sponsor.

7. Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico) said that his country's attitude in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms had always been one of respect for those rights. In that area, the country's domestic policy and its foreign policy were governed by the same principles. Since human rights were indivisible and interdependent, efforts must be made to protect not only the basic rights of the individual such as freedom of speech and political participation but also social rights such as the right to work, education, health and information.

8. Mexico had always supported the United Nations bodies responsible for promoting those fundamental rights and ensuring respect for them and had acceded to the various international instruments in that field. It continued to give active support to the efforts of the international community to adopt further instruments, as was demonstrated by its participation in the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, its accession to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its support for the resolution whereby the Commission on Human Rights had extended the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

(Mr. Moya Palencia, Mexico)

9. His delegation was outraged by the development of the human rights situation in South Africa. Mexico condemned the system of apartheid, supported the national liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia and rejected the attempts of the South African Government to impose an internal solution on the Namibian problem by installing a so-called "Interim Government" and thus preventing the Namibian people from fully exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

10. Mexico had reiterated its unflagging support for United Nations activities for the protection of human rights. It was disturbing to note, however, that the East-West conflict had a tendency to monopolize the debates on that question in the international organizations concerned. Human rights and fundamental freedoms were by their very nature universal and could not therefore be considered from a partisan viewpoint.

11. The changing political situation in Latin America showed that only by a show of firmness and perseverance could the international community come to the assistance of peoples subject to régimes which violated human rights in a flagrant, consistent and systematic manner. In a constructive spirit, Mexico was closely following events throughout the world which had to do with human rights. Thus, his delegation wished to reaffirm its concern over the steps taken by Chile, which considerably restricted the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and over the persistence in that country of systematic human rights violations, at a time when other Latin American countries had taken the road towards greater democracy.

12. The international community must clearly denounce that situation and demand that the Chilean authorities put an end to a repressive and degrading system. That was the intention behind draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.81 on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile. Fully conscious of the moral weight of the judgements expressed in that draft resolution, Mexico appealed to all delegations to support it.

13. His delegation was convinced that taking steps to ensure genuine and immediate respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms was one of the most effective ways of helping to establish peace in the Central American region. Draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.54 on the situation of human rights in El Salvador acknowledged the results already achieved in that direction by that country's authorities. On behalf of the sponsors, his delegation asked the Committee to support the draft resolution, which had been drafted with a concern for balance and moderation.

14. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the main objective of the report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/40/843) and the draft resolution submitted by some Western delegations endorsing that report (A/C.3/40/L.48/Rev.1) was to slander the legitimate Government of Afghanistan and its friends, distort the facts and conceal the flagrant and massive human rights violations perpetrated in Afghanistan by an army of bandits and terrorists in the

(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

pay of the United States. Some had expressed surprise that the author of the report, Mr. Ermacora, had not been invited to go to Afghanistan. What was surprising was that the Commission on Human Rights should have chosen as Special Rapporteur a man who had not only been an officer in the Nazi army 40 years earlier but who was also still a prominent figure in revanchist and neo-Nazi milieux. In Munich, in the spring of 1985, during the course of the forty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Ermacora actively participated in a neo-Nazi gathering, which he had addressed. It did not bear stating that the gentleman in question was hardly interested in human rights. As evidenced by his "report" and the statement he had made to the Committee, Mr. Ermacora, in keeping with his past history, was serving the interests of aggression and terrorism against democratic and progressive Afghanistan. The only cause for surprise was the zeal with which he had trumped up facts and presented a distorted version of what was happening in Afghanistan.

15. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) speaking on a point of order and supported by Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), said that she felt that the Committee was not the proper forum for giving vent to inadmissible personal attacks against a special rapporteur mandated by the Commission on Human Rights, or for casting aspersions on him as an individual.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that delegations were free to express their views. However, if they had objections to make to the statements of other delegations, they should make them known through the exercise of their right of reply.

17. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), continuing his statement, said that the Special Rapporteur had assembled in his report all the slanderous inventions of Western propaganda. The "information" he drew upon came from conversations he had had with terrorist mercenaries in foreign camps where they were hired and being trained. The misdeeds of those terrorists were, moreover, condoned and justified in the report. Yet what spurred those terrorists to act was not their convictions nor their religious faith but the lure of money. Mr. Ermacora must know that those bandits were killing Afghan women, children, old people, teachers and members of religious orders for pay. There was, indeed, a specific pay scale for their services: 5,000 to 7,000 afghanis for the murder of an Afghan army soldier, 10,000 to 15,000 for that of a party militant, and so on. Why did not Mr. Ermacora and the sponsors of the Western draft resolution condemn the crimes of those terrorist mercenaries?

18. The representative of Afghanistan had described the true situation in the country and the policy his Government was pursuing in defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the social transformations and the economic and cultural development currently taking place in the country. Despite considerable difficulties - before the April revolution, Afghanistan had been one of the poorest and economically most backward States - despite attacks by an imperialist army of terrorists, the democratic Afghan Government was building schools and kindergartens, organizing an agrarian reform, eliminating discrimination towards women and instituting other important reforms. The Afghan

(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

Government respected human rights: had it not ratified the existing international human rights instruments? A literacy campaign was currently under way. The Afghan Government respected the Islamic religion as well as the traditions and customs of the Afghan people. Each year, considerable sums were devoted to the construction of mosques and to the restoration of objects of worship, particularly those destroyed by the counter-revolutionaries. The country was developing along democratic lines. In 1985, councils composed of representatives of all levels of Afghan society had been convened. Preparations were being made for elections to local representative bodies. That was the truth as far as respect for human rights in democratic Afghanistan was concerned. His delegation had not heard any argument that contradicted those facts.

19. Mr. Ermacora and the sponsors of the Western draft resolution pretended not to know that the United States and some of its allies were the ones financing, arming and directing the army of terrorist mercenaries operating in Afghanistan. It was a veritable war, which had already swallowed up more than a billion dollars. The United States delegation and some of its allies were actually trying, through Mr. Ermacora's report, to tarnish the reputation of the Soviet Union and the nature of the fraternal assistance it was giving to democratic Afghanistan and its legitimate Government. The Soviet Union did not abandon newly independent States to their fate when they came up against the imperialist policy of exporting counter-revolution. The Soviet Union was taking a stand against that policy, to which the United States was resorting with increasing frequency.

20. It was possible to find a solution to the situation centring around Afghanistan. The Soviet Union wanted Afghanistan, a neighbour and ally, to be an independent and non-aligned State free from all outside interference. Once that aim was realized, the question of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country would also be settled. The main obstacle was the attitude of the United States, which was supporting the counter-revolutionary bands and undermining all efforts to normalize the situation.

21. Mr. ZURITA (Spain) said that the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights constituted an ideal that the international community had not yet translated into reality. Far from becoming discouraged, however, the community should redouble its efforts to build a world based on recognition of the dignity of mankind. Since the right to life and safety was the most basic right of the individual, the General Assembly condemned summary and arbitrary executions. The Special Rapporteur whose mandate had just been renewed by the Economic and Social Council, should act immediately whenever he learned that a summary execution was going to take place or had just taken place. In addition, in his next report he should deal with the measures to be taken when a person died in detention.

22. Spain was concerned about the flows of refugees, not only those resulting from the economic crisis, adverse climatic conditions or natural disasters, but also and above all those due to massive violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The establishment of more equitable international relations and strict observance by all countries of the Universal Declaration and the Covenants on Human Rights should make it possible to reduce the outflows of refugees.

(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

23. Spain was following the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances with interest and hoped that Governments would allow the Group to visit their respective countries in order to discharge its mandate better. Spain welcomed the fact that the drafting of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families had advanced and that the drafting of the declaration on the human rights of individuals who are not nationals of the country in which they live had been completed. His country hoped that the Third Committee would adopt the declaration at an early date.

24. Spain was deeply concerned about the extent and seriousness of human rights violations in Afghanistan and appealed to the Government of Afghanistan to co-operate with the Special Rapporteur and the Commission on Human Rights in future, so that they might have access to full and reliable information. The Special Rapporteur was to be commended for his work, considering that he had not been able to go to Afghanistan. In his report, he referred to torture, disappearances, arbitrary executions of victims who opposed the régime, the bombing of civilian targets and the fact that one third of the Afghan population had fled the country. Spain supported the recommendations and conclusions in the report and believed that the situation could only be improved if the occupying troops withdrew unconditionally from Afghanistan. It was only by exercising their right to self-determination that the Afghan people could regain the status of neutrality and non-alignment for their country. The Afghan Government should fulfil its obligations under the international instruments to which it was a party, as well as the rules of international humanitarian law. These rules also applied to the opposition forces. The Afghan Government should also remedy the economic chaos in the country, which was exacerbated by the plundering of natural resources and the deliberate destruction of villages and crops and thus simply increased the number of Afghan refugees in the neighbouring countries. Torture and arbitrary executions must cease and refugees must be allowed to return to their homes.

25. Spain was very concerned about the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Government of Iran should co-operate with the relevant United Nations bodies on the subject, and, in particular, admit the Special Representative to Iran and give him complete freedom to fulfil his mandate. In view of the seriousness of the accusations of summary and arbitrary executions, torture, illegal and prolonged detention and rigorous imprisonment, all of which were practices that were a matter of concern and censure by the international community, the Iranian Government should give specific responses to the Special Representative, explain the machinery for implementing the laws and clearly state its intention to respect them, in particular those concerning appeals and guarantees available to the individual in judicial matters. His delegation joined the appeal made by the International Committee of the Red Cross on 23 November 1984 for the authorization of visits to prisoner-of-war camps once again.

26. Spain welcomed the restoration of pluralist democracy in three countries in Latin America and hoped that the other countries in the region would soon follow that suit. In that context, the situation in Chile, Guatemala and El Salvador seemed all the more regrettable.

(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

27. Generally speaking, his delegation supported the Special Rapporteur's recommendations on Chile, although some of them could have been more balanced. It understood that the Rapporteur hoped to be accepted by the Chilean authorities so that he could visit Chile and investigate the human rights situation in that country in situ. It welcomed the co-operation of the Chilean Government and was convinced that if the Rapporteur visited Chile at an early date, he would be able to include full information on the actual situation in Chile in his final report. However, observance of human rights would only be possible when the will of the people could be expressed through free elections. Moreover, the exiles should be able to return and freely take part in the political life of their country. The fact that the Chilean authorities described any expression of legitimate aspirations which could only be expressed in the street, as an act that disturbed public order showed that there was conflict between the Government and the people. It was disturbing that a state of emergency had been proclaimed immediately after the state of siege had been lifted. Lastly, the authorities must eliminate all forms of torture and cruel and inhuman punishment, which degraded not only defenceless victims but also those who inflicted them on the victims and the institutions that tolerated them. The legal system, which was the State's main guarantee of the reign of law, should continue to prosecute people guilty of those heinous acts.

28. Forced exile had the paradoxical result of vesting the dissidents living abroad with the status of representatives of "the other Chile". Spain called for a resumption of national dialogue, which was the only way to silence the weapons and end the violence. Moreover, it was confident that immediate termination of police and administrative practices, the return of Chileans in foreign exile and restoration of political power to its true holders were possible. The law must prevail, not through force but as a result of the conviction of all that it represented the common interest.

29. His delegation supported the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Guatemala on the whole and commended the Guatemalan Government for co-operating with the Rapporteur and embarking on a democratic process that Spain hoped would soon lead to the transfer of power to a civilian Government that was anxious to guarantee observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, while the Special Rapporteur had taken greater account of the mandate that he had been given in Human Rights Commission resolution 1985/36 and of the information provided by a number of completely trustworthy non-governmental organizations, his report could have been even more balanced.

30. Although the democratic process was about to begin, individual fundamental freedoms were still restricted in Guatemala and serious human rights violations - murders, abductions, disappearances and acts of torture - attributable to the Government or to the armed opposition continued to take place. The final conclusions and recommendations of the Tripartite Commission and the information that the Commission had been able to obtain on people who had disappeared should be published forthwith. In addition, the Guatemalan authorities should strive to clarify the other disappearances not investigated by the Tripartite Commission and

(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

to punish the guilty. In order to do that, the independence and effectiveness of the judicial authorities had to be guaranteed.

31. His delegation was concerned that the population was still compelled to participate in civil-defence patrols, that the indigenous population had been forcibly resettled in development areas and that trade-union freedoms were still being seriously curtailed. His delegation hoped that the Guatemala authorities would invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to carry out its activities in the country at an early date.

32. His delegation welcomed both the balanced reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in El Salvador and the co-operation that had been extended to the Rapporteur by the Salvadorian Government. The legislative election held in March 1985 had admittedly strengthened the democratic process, but that process could not truly be ensured without a return to civil peace. Spain urged the Government and the FDR/FMLN to resume the dialogue that they had broken off and bring the conflict to an end. The dialogues should be inspired by the desire to establish peaceful, stable, democratic and pluralistic coexistence in El Salvador and not by mere tactical considerations.

33. It was encouraging to learn that the armed forces and security forces were required to follow certain rules on the observance of human rights, but the continuing occurrence of arbitrary executions for which paramilitary organizations and death squads were responsible should prompt the Government to step up its surveillance of and control over those organizations. The bombings were continuing, even although the Salvadorian Army was making greater efforts to avoid civilian casualties. The number of disappearances had decreased, but the number of political prisoners had increased. The practice of torture during detention, particularly prior to court appearances, was continuing, even if it was not the result of a deliberate and systematic policy. The Government should be more vigilant in that area. The Salvadorian judicial system not only worked too slowly and irregularly, it also handed down a negligible number of sentences in relation to the many human rights violations in respect of which complaints had been lodged. The Salvadorian authorities were trying to remedy the situation by reforming the criminal justice system, but that would not have any immediate effect.

34. His Government was concerned about the increasing number of human rights violations attributable to the guerrilla forces, and particularly about the fact that the guerrillas were increasingly choosing the staff and members of foreign embassies as targets. It condemned the murders committed and the abductions carried out by the guerrillas, their infringements on the freedom of movement of individuals and their acts of sabotage against the country's economic infrastructure. There had been positive elements in the past year in the evolution of the hostilities. The Government was trying to observe the applicable humanitarian rules, and the guerrillas had released government soldiers. Nevertheless, it was regrettable that the armed forces had attacked hospitals run by the guerrillas and that the guerrillas had laid mines, which often claimed children as victims.

(Mr. Zurita, Spain)

35. Spain supported the Special Rapporteur's recommendations and felt that their implementation would be the best way to end the conflict and create in El Salvador a climate favourable to the establishment of a democratic system, under which human rights and fundamental freedoms would be observed.

36. Mr. MARTINEZ GUTIERREZ (El Salvador) outlined the main stages of the democratization process in El Salvador since the accession to power of the Revolutionary Junta Government in 1979. That process had gone forward despite the systematic opposition of the extremist forces forming part of the FDR/FMLN, as evidenced in particular by the election in March 1982, which had enabled the Salvadorian people freely to elect their first constituent assembly. The national-unity Government that had been installed after the election had paved the way for the restoration of democratic institutions, the high point of which had been the election of President José Napoleón Duarte.

37. The Duarte administration had made a commitment to the Salvadorian people to pursue a policy based on the following five major goals: humanization, pacification, democratization, participation and economic rehabilitation.

38. Humanization meant a series of measures designed to ensure observance of international rules on the treatment of the civilian population and prisoners in time of war. Since it was concerned about the suffering of displaced persons and refugees, the Salvadorian Government had established a National Commission for Aid to Displaced Persons (CONADES), whose specific purpose was to ensure that such people received assistance in every area. In addition, the function of the Communal Development Office (DIDECO) was to start construction and housing projects for the displaced population. The Government of the Republic was also co-operating closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

39. Pacification was a process designed to establish a lasting peace in El Salvador through social justice and participation by all political forces. It had been in that spirit that on 8 October 1984 President Duarte had proposed, at the United Nations itself, a meeting between the Government and the opposition forces. That meeting had taken place, as everyone knew, on 15 October 1984 in the small town of La Palma. That had been the start of a dialogue that had led to another meeting on 30 November of that same year between the representatives of the Government and of the FDR/FMLN. Although the opposition forces had not responded to the peace offer made to them on that occasion, thereby giving rise to feelings of frustration in the Salvadorian people, the current Government was continuing to pursue that goal of peace, in accordance with the deeply-felt aspirations of the Salvadorian people.

40. Democratization, the Government's major goal, affected all sectors of the country's life and was reflected at the economic level in agrarian, banking and foreign-trade reforms. The agrarian reform, which had been started in 1980, was, among all the measures taken, the one that had resulted in the most thorough transformations. In addition to the land that had been distributed to farmers,

(Mr. Martinez Gutierrez, El Salvador)

which represented nearly 10.4 per cent of the total area of El Salvador, easy financing terms had been granted to planters of coffee, cotton and sugar-cane.

41. The democratic climate that the Government of the Republic was trying to create was reflected at the social and political levels in observance of freedom of expression, association and assembly. The Government had also taken a series of measures to ensure that Salvadorians might exercise in practice the civil and political rights embodied in the country's Constitution and in the International Covenants. One of those measures consisted in the reform of the administration of justice. A commission had been established specifically to review Salvadorian legislation and propose reforms in the judicial system.

42. Another government objective was participation by the population through professional associations, trade unions, public organizations and political parties, within the limits stipulated by the Constitution.

43. Lastly, the purpose of economic rehabilitation was to create a climate conducive to investment and to increase productivity in the various economic sectors. The Government was also trying to reduce unemployment and ensure a fair distribution of national income.

44. Unfortunately, in its efforts to strengthen the country's democratic structures, the Government had to contend with the strategy of the FDR/FML, which was determined to win absolute power in El Salvador, and was waging a Marxist-Leninist and totalitarian struggle and did not shrink from terrorism and to the systematic sabotage of the country's infrastructure. Having failed in its efforts to rally the people to its totalitarian ideas, the opposition had adopted destructive tactics, the consequences of which were the disintegration of families, social insecurity, unemployment and hunger. Even worse, the FMLN terrorists were resorting increasingly to abductions, which they had turned into a veritable weapon of war. Not only were the mayors of villages being abducted but recently the eldest daughter of the President of the Republic had suffered that fate. Finally, not content with boycotting the popular election and attacking villages, the FMLN terrorists had recently gone so far as to gun down civilians, as had been the case in the Zona Rosa in San Salvador on 19 June 1985. In such a climate, it was hard for social life to take place normally, but, true to its policy focused primarily on the human being, the Salvadorian Government was pursuing the country's democratization on the basis of the observance of all the rights of the Salvadorian people.

45. Mr. FLEMMING (Santa Lucia) said that his country was outraged by violations of human rights anywhere in the world, particularly when they were mass and flagrant violations as in Iran. His delegation was disappointed, in that connection, to note that the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation in Iran had ignored much reliable information that had been submitted to it on the cruel treatment to which the régime in power was subjecting its opponents.

(Mr. Flemming, Santa Lucia)

46. He wondered how anyone could fail to be moved by the fact that in the past five years more than 50,000 people had been executed in Iran and that there were over 140,000 political prisoners in the country, many of whom were subjected to torture. He also wondered how anyone could remain indifferent to the fate of the young woman, Mojgan Homayounfar, who had had one of her legs cut off and the other crushed by a car, just to cite one case out of thousands. The documents made available to the Special Representative by the members of the Iranian resistance showed that the religious dictatorship in Iran was trying to justify its reign of terror through the continuation of the war with Iraq. The war was also being used as an argument to justify the persecution of religious and national minorities, such as the Baha'is, as well as various forms of discrimination, the closing of schools and universities and the mass exodus of 1.5 million people. Reliable reports, particularly that of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, showed that the number of kidnappings and secret executions of people for their opinions was increasing in Iran. In a country where it sufficed to distribute a single leaflet in order to have one's hand cut off, or where a single word was enough to have one's tongue cut out, there was an opposition movement that was striving for democracy, freedom and the defence of human rights. That opposition, which had joined forces in the National Council of Resistance, had compiled and published, with unprecedented effort, voluminous documentation to which reference must be made because it constituted irrefutable evidence.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.