



THIRD COMMITTEE
64th meeting
held on
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at 6 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HAMER (Netherlands)

later: Mr. ZADOR (Hungary)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 6 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/40/320, 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 and Corr.1, 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/L.32, L.48/Rev.1, L.54, L.59, L.64, L.66, L.67, L.72 and Corr.1, L.75, L.76, L.77, L.78, L.79, L.80 and L.81)

1. Mr. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism, 40 years earlier, had put an end to the darkest episode in the history of mankind, namely, to a "conventional" war - not even a nuclear war - that had claimed the lives of 50 million people and brought about tremendous destruction. As a result of the efforts of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, the resistance and, in particular, the unquestionable role played by the Soviet Union, civilization, progress and democracy had been saved from the scourge of fascism.

2. The lesson to be drawn from history was that war must be combated before it broke out and that peace must be safeguarded through unity, mutual understanding and active efforts on the part of all peace-loving forces to counter the aggressive and adventurist policies of imperialism.

3. At a time when a reawakening of fascism could be noted in the world, his delegation wished to draw attention to the price that had had to be paid as a result of the negligent and tolerant attitude towards nazism that the bourgeois Governments had been guilty of. The tragic situation of the peoples of Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala, the horror of the situation in South Africa and Kampuchea, the brutal crimes committed by Israel, and the counter-revolution in Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and Nicaragua bore witness to the resurgence of fascism. Further evidence of that resurgence was provided by the many neo-Fascist organizations, from neo-Nazi terrorist groups and ultra-conservative parties to the racist apartheid régime, that were flourishing in the capitalist world, often maintained close relations with each other and that, over and above their specific characteristics, were all fanatically anti-communist and strongly opposed to democracy in general.

4. Those reactionary forces were often given complete freedom to carry out their activities by the countries where they were becoming established, and they were receiving increasing support from capitalist circles.

5. His delegation wished to raise once again the question of the impunity of Nazi war criminals, since, in addition to the legal aspects of the question, there were political aspects that were directly linked to the struggle for peace, social progress, democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. In October 1943 - at Moscow, then at Yalta, Potsdam and London in 1945, the Allies had resolutely proclaimed their intention to prosecute the war criminals in question. The United Nations, for its part, had adopted the Convention on the Non-Applicability of

(Mr. Komissarov, Byelorussian SSR)

Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. However, some of the criminals in question had escaped prosecution and found safety in the West, oddly enough, in the very countries that liked to make hypocritical claims regarding their human-rights records. He wondered exactly how many war criminals had reached the United States after the war and how many had not only been in hiding there since then but were indeed living there in all tranquillity, had acquired United States citizenship and were even working for public enterprises. Departments of radio stations financed by the United States, such as Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, that made a speciality of misrepresentation of the Soviet Union and socialism, had taken advantage of the anonymity and the talents as propagandists of the criminals in question. The ruthless dictatorships of Central and South America had made use of such criminals in order to crush their opponents.

6. Over 300 Nazi criminals who had committed murderous acts in the Byelorussian SSR were believed to be living in the United States. The Byelorussian SSR had not been spared the large-scale atrocities committed under Nazi occupation, the "scientific" system designed to exterminate whole peoples and the monstrous schemes of Hitler's Ostplan, which had been based on the doctrine of lebensraum. The commemorative monument of Katyn, which had been inaugurated 16 years earlier not far from Minsk, was a symbol of the terrible fate of hundreds of thousands of people (one quarter of the Byelorussian population) who had met a hideous death in the 260 extermination camps set up in the Byelorussian SSR.

7. With a view to preventing a recurrence of the tragedy of fascism and the accompanying genocide, to strengthening peace and safeguarding international security, it was therefore both appropriate and necessary for the international community to raise the question of the reawakening of Nazi ideologies and practices. The United Nations had a key role to play in that connection, particularly by revealing to enlightened people and the younger generation the reactionary nature of the movements and theories in question. All States Members of the United Nations should reaffirm their determination to combat international crimes by taking both preventive and punitive measures; moreover, they should, above all, ratify both the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and observe the relevant principles adopted by the United Nations.

8. Mr. RADA (Czechoslovakia) said that the moribund Pinochet régime was holding onto power only by using military force and applying methods of violence and terror. The situation in Chile provided telling evidence of the impact of the policy of exploitation pursued by imperialism and of the parasitic character of foreign capital. The economic policy formulated for Chile by the International Monetary Fund and by creditor banks allowed the imperialist circles in that country to plunder its natural resources and appropriate immense profits with impunity, thanks to the complicity of the dictatorial régime. Chile's external debt had risen to \$US 20 billion and become the main means of foreign exploitation. The entire Chilean economy was thus held hostage by foreign financial structures, which only strengthened the bonds between the Chilean dictator and his protégés, bonds

(Mr. Rada, Czechoslovakia)

which, as in racist régimes, left no place for human rights and freedoms. The consequences of that policy for the Chilean population were disastrous. Even according to official sources, unemployment was affecting a quarter of the active population and a third of all Chileans lived in poverty. The population were trying to respond to that catastrophic situation and to political oppression by expressing, under the most difficult conditions, their determination to struggle for the elimination of the dictatorship.

9. Unfortunately, the Special Rapporteur's report on the protection of human rights in Chile provided a very watered-down description of the many human-rights violations committed in that country.

10. With regard to the so-called human-rights situation in Afghanistan, which had been raised by certain Western countries members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, his delegation rejected the report of the Special Rapporteur as merely an attempt to minimize the significance of the consideration of the situation in those States where flagrant mass violations of human rights were being committed and to discredit the reforms being carried out in those States that had embarked upon an endeavour to bring about independent democratic development accompanied by far-reaching social change. As the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Treaty member States had indicated in its Sofia Declaration of October 1985, slanderous campaigns giving a distorted account of the situation in certain countries were inadmissible and no one had the right to encroach on the sovereign right of every nation to live under the socio-political system that it had itself freely chosen. For that reason, the Czechoslovak delegation regarded draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.48 as a gross misuse, for political purposes, of an organ dealing with humanitarian affairs.

11. Mr. Zador (Hungary) took the Chair.

12. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that he wished to emphasize the irresistible emergence among both individuals and peoples of new aspirations that could no longer be satisfied by merely formal democracy or classical civil and political rights because the struggle for human rights was a dynamic historical and evolutionary process. Yugoslavia therefore fully supported the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights to achieve universal recognition of the right to development and the right to popular participation, including participation by workers in management and self-management. His delegation could not understand how it was possible, from a political and human-rights point of view to refuse, as some developed countries did, to recognize those rights, especially the right to development, without which freedom of thought and expression, freedom of association and other civil and political rights were of little use to the non-aligned and other developing countries.

13. Sight should not be lost of the fact that human rights, although universal in character, were not accorded the same values and priorities in the differing environments where they were implemented; ignoring that fact might lead to serious misunderstandings and unnecessary confrontations. Nor should it be forgotten that

(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

the realization of all human rights required the existence of certain conditions at the national and international levels, which Member States should strive to improve by sincerely seeking solutions to major international problems, as well as the strengthening of peace and the democratization of international relations, including the establishment of a new international economic order, while refraining from using human rights for ideological or narrowly national purposes.

14. It went without saying that the United Nations was an irreplaceable forum for dealing with those questions and had notable results to its credit. Particularly noteworthy were the steps taken by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to combat racism and racial discrimination and, in particular, to eliminate the abhorrent and dangerous policy of apartheid. In that connection, it was very important that the resolutions on the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been adopted both in the Commission on Human Rights and in the Committee by consensus.

15. The steps taken to combat the illicit production of, trafficking in and abuse of drugs were made all the more necessary by the worsening of the drugs problem. It was necessary to intensify international co-operation in that field and, in particular, to grant developing countries that produced narcotic drugs increased assistance to enable them to carry out their crop-substitution programmes and reduce areas under illicit-drug cultivation. It was also necessary to improve customs controls and encourage more widespread and systematic implementation of existing international instruments. Yugoslavia, being both a producer and a transit country, was taking an active part in the efforts made by the United Nations in that field and firmly supported the proposal to hold a United Nations conference on drug abuse control as well as the initiative concerning the preparation of a convention on drug abuse and the proposals set forth in documents currently before the Committee.

16. The human-rights situation in certain countries was continuing to cause concern. In Chile, since the overthrow of the democratically-elected Socialist Government, the people had been deprived of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and subjected to all manner of violence and privations. The United Nations therefore had no alternative but to continue to put pressure on the military junta and must, at the very least, renew the Special Rapporteur's mandate for another year. It was to be hoped that the final version of the Special Rapporteur's report on the protection of human rights in Chile would be much more comprehensive than his preliminary one and more in line with earlier reports.

17. In El Salvador, the hope of a solution created by the beginning of dialogue had not been realized and the civil war, exacerbated by increased arms supplies, continued to rage and to be accompanied by the same human-rights violations. The bombing raids carried out in areas under the control of the opposition, where the victims were mostly civilians, especially women and children, were a particular concern. The Salvadorian people alone had the right to re-establish democracy, and the United Nations should encourage the process. To that end, the Salvadorian Government should check more effectively the activities of those who were violating

(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

human rights and should resume serious and substantive negotiations with the FDR-FMLN.

18. In Guatemala, where there were violations of human rights every day, there was little hope of any early improvement. His delegation therefore supported draft resolution A/C.3/40/L.59.

19. He also regretted the slow progress in preparing new instruments, particularly the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic and other minorities and the draft convention on the rights of the child. The former instrument would not only make it possible to protect the rights of minorities but would also facilitate understanding among States and to a certain extent prevent the question of minorities from being used as a pretext in the pursuit of certain political or other objectives. The work on the draft Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families could be speeded up if the representatives of certain host developed countries showed more good will.

20. Lastly, his delegation would like the open-ended working group on the programme and methods of work of the Commission on Human Rights to be more active.

21. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) replying to the representative of the United States, said that the United States tirades against the Soviet Union were well known and he would not engage in fruitless polemic with him. The views of the Soviet Union and of the United States on human rights were undoubtedly very different. However, the Soviet Union was not moved by a desire to destroy the United States, which had been the first to launch the idea of Star Wars. Neither could impose its views on the other; only history would decide which had been the better way.

22. The United States representative had claimed that the Soviet Union was interested only in economic and social rights and neglected all the rest. That was untrue: it was a historical fact that socialism had arisen out of the revolt against tyranny in order to bring about observance of all rights, starting with civil and political rights. There was a second point over which the United States and the Soviet Union were at odds with each other. The United States constantly claimed to be the champion of human rights, incidentally vaunting its own system. The Soviet Union engaged in a little less propaganda and tried to put into effect specific measures so that the rights that the United States prided itself on observing did not remain a dead letter. Thirdly, the Soviet Union had a global and world-wide vision of human rights, which should apply without distinction to all peoples and all populations.

23. The United States delegation had painted a gloomy picture of the Soviet Union, attacking among other things its standard of living. Of course, if the income of an American billionaire was added to that of the tens of thousands of homeless people in New York, the average standard of living seemed ideal. Certainly, when seen on a walk down Park Avenue or Madison Avenue, the ostentatious luxury of the shops was fascinating. However, he wondered what the poor and the hungry thought

(Mr. Yakovlev, USSR)

when walking past those shop-windows. The United States delegation was perhaps unfamiliar with the poverty statistics for the United States. Perhaps it was unaware that there were 30 million illiterates in the country. He wondered what their economic and social rights were.

24. Speaking of civil and political rights in the United States, he wondered how was it possible to talk about democracy when in order to be elected to the United States Congress it was necessary to wage an electoral campaign that might cost up to \$5 million. He wondered how the unemployed and the illiterate could be elected to Congress, who represented them and in those circumstances, who would dare to speak of observance of political rights in the United States.

25. The United States showed a partisan attitude in regard to human-rights violations all over the world. Its customary vituperations were systematically directed at the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Cuba and Nicaragua. However, during the discussions in the Commission on Human Rights, the United States representative had taken care not to attack the Fascist régimes and dictatorships still remaining in the world. His attitude was not in keeping with the Commission's aims.

26. The United Nations had been born out of the victory over fascism and nazism whose fortieth anniversary was currently being celebrated. It was heartbreaking to note, therefore, that 40 years later, fascism, nazism and neo-nazism were still claiming victims. That was the case with the State racism practised by the Pretoria régime, which called for urgent measures on the part of the whole international community.

27. In Israel, the very people who had survived the death camps were now pursuing a policy directed against their neighbours that was strikingly similar to Hitlerite doctrine (racial purity, national superiority and expansion of lebensraum). The acts of genocide being committed in Lebanon, in particular the frightful Sabra and Shatila massacres, were a direct consequence of that policy. Zionist aggression against civilian targets (schools and hospitals) was similar to the ill-treatment inflicted on the Jews during the Second World War. As everyone knew, Israel could never carry out such a policy without the complicity of its well-known partner, which, under cover of "strategic co-operation in the Middle East", took the liberty of intervening in the region.

28. In the Soviet Union, there was much anxiety about the increasing racial violence in the United States. According to the Boston Globe, there had been 200 racist crimes and attacks in the country during the first six months of 1984. In Philadelphia, black neighbourhoods had been bombed. Nazi organizations were multiplying: there was not only the Ku Klux Klan, but also the American Nazi Party, the National-Socialist Party of America, the John Birch Society and so on.

29. In 1984, more than 715 anti-Semitic attacks had been perpetrated in the United States with the complicity of the authorities. Many organizations of legionnaires, ex-servicemen and others, fiercely opposed pacifist demonstrations, amid general unconcern. It was time for the authorities to react by taking vigorous

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administrative and judicial measures to end the activities of those organized groups. Furthermore, many Nazi criminals had found asylum in the United States and were now being used by the United States secret services. On the orders of those services, radio stations were disseminating anti-Soviet and anti-socialist propaganda in foreign countries. The protection of Nazi criminals did not sit well with United States preaching morality.

30. The United Nations was the appropriate forum for reminding Member States that they must take effective action to prevent the resurgence of fascism.

31. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway) stressed that the Commission on Human Rights had become one of the central organs of the United Nations. The reporting system had proved to be an effective instrument for more effectively monitoring implementation of human rights norms. Violations of those rights wherever they occurred, were of concern to the international community. The principle of non-intervention did not constitute a legal hindrance, preventing the United Nations from taking up such cases for consideration. Action should be taken on purely humanitarian grounds, excluding all selectivity. The performance of the Commission could be improved in that regard.

32. The problem of human rights violations in South Africa and Namibia was a case apart. The "reforms" recently introduced by South Africa had made no basic change in apartheid which must be abolished. In recent months, many countries had introduced measures to exert pressure on South Africa. The Nordic countries, for instance, had adopted a new programme of action against South Africa on 18 October 1985 in Oslo. His Government continued to advocate mandatory sanctions against South Africa, which, although they might not achieve it by themselves, would contribute to the elimination of apartheid.

33. The international community had been concerned with the human rights situation in Chile for more than 10 years. Changes had taken place, both for the better and for the worse. Chile must solve its social and economic problems in order to re-establish real democracy. It was, however, a positive sign that the Chilean Government had recognized the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and had agreed to meet with him.

34. His Government welcomed the positive attitude of the Salvadorian Government. Human rights violations were widespread in El Salvador, but it should be recognized that the Government was making serious efforts to improve the situation; it could, however, further improve it by ensuring scrupulous observance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 and by punishing the guilty parties. It should also introduce social reforms and enter into a dialogue with all the parties concerned in order to overcome internal dissension.

35. Human rights violations in Guatemala, particularly disappearances, were of special concern. The miserable circumstances of the majority of the population appeared to be one of the fundamental causes of the situation. His Government hoped that the necessary reforms could be undertaken after the elections. The new

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

Constitution of Guatemala would certainly be a step in the right direction. One of the urgent tasks of the new Government would be to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

36. It was essential to enable the people of Central America to solve their problems free of outside interference. A durable peace in the region could be achieved only if all parties involved agreed to a compromise. His Government supported the efforts of the Contadora Group.

37. The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet troops was a violation of the principles underlying relations between States and had such serious implications for international peace that it had often been discussed by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. The mass exodus of Afghan refugees bore witness to the human rights violations in that country: arbitrary executions, torture, and denial of economic and social rights. His delegation, which had supported the decision to send a Special Rapporteur to investigate the situation in Afghanistan, welcomed the fact that the General Assembly had, for the first time, been presented with a detailed report. He appealed to the Commission to give the fullest possible support to the Rapporteur and hoped that the results of his inquiries would lead to the adoption of a resolution which would receive wide support.

38. Various reliable organizations had reported serious human rights violations in Iran. Summary judgements and arbitrary executions, especially of members of religious minorities such as the Baha'is, were of particular concern. The information received was, unfortunately, confirmed by the investigations of the Special Rapporteur. It would be most helpful if the Special Rapporteur could be allowed into Iran to pursue his investigations on the spot.

39. Referring to investigation methods, he welcomed the confidential procedure which allowed dialogue to be engaged in with the Governments involved and thus made it possible to bring information from non-governmental sources to their attention and avoid the politicization of violations. The human rights situation was being investigated increasingly category by category, an extremely sound method because it allowed comparison of similar phenomena in different countries and therefore provided a clearer overview of the situation. The Commission should continue to use that method and give priority to particularly serious violations such as executions, torture and disappearances. His delegation welcomed the results obtained by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and urged the Governments concerned to allow the Group to carry out its inquiries in the countries where disappearances had been reported so as to assist it in carrying out its mandate.

40. The work of the Special Rapporteur on summary or arbitrary executions indicated that the practice was still widespread. Priority should be given to the preventive aspect of the problem; the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur indicated that he had incomplete information. He should be informed on all cases and have access to all possible information.

(Mr. Vraalsen, Norway)

41. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture and supported the ongoing work on the development of new human rights standards.

42. The Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child was a happy initiative. Norway considered the draft Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families of importance and had always actively participated in the drafting work thereon. It also participated in the work of the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Populations and supported the draft resolution of the Economic and Social Council on establishing a voluntary fund. Norway pledged a contribution of \$20,000 to that fund with a view to securing participation by the indigenous populations in the drafting work.

43. His country had consistently advocated widening the mandate of the competent bodies in order to make the United Nations more effective in protecting human rights. Unfortunately little progress had been made in that direction. Norway supported the establishment of a post of high commissioner for human rights and advocated strengthening the United Nations information programme for human rights. In addition, Member States themselves should give more publicity to the work of the United Nations in that area. Non-governmental organizations had for a long time played an active role, which was to be commended. Human rights problems should be included in educational curricula at all levels, including professional training. His country was considering the establishment of a national institution for human rights which would engage in research and documentation.

44. Mr. ZARIF (Afghanistan) said that, as a result of the revolution carried out by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the population enjoyed all fundamental human rights. Before the revolution, Afghanistan had been one of the world's least developed countries, and its per capita income had ranked it 108th among the 129 developing countries. Successive despotic régimes had earlier deprived the population of its fundamental rights and freedoms.

45. In 1978, Prince Daoud, the King's cousin, had overthrown the monarchy and proclaimed a republic. That reformist trend had been short-lived, since the Prince had stepped in to save his class from inevitable destruction. At that point, the country had been ripe to move from the Middle Ages into the twentieth century. For PDPA, which had brought about the triumph of the anti-feudal and anti-imperialist revolution on 27 April 1978, social progress was possible only through basic revolutionary transformations reflecting the vital interests of all sectors of the population.

46. Unfortunately, immediately after the victory of the revolution, the forces of imperialism, led by the United States and their hegemonist and reactionary accomplices, had launched an undeclared war against the young democratic republic in an attempt to prevent the people from enjoying the fruits of their historic victory. The imperialist forces had set up, financed, trained and armed bands of counter-revolutionaries to carry out subversive operations in Afghanistan, with the result that a number of innocent citizens had been made to leave the country either by coercion or through false promises.

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

47. The legislation adopted after the triumph of the revolution guaranteed the promotion and protection of all the fundamental rights and freedoms of Afghan citizens and respect for the dignity and honour of individuals. More than 380 democratic decrees, rules and regulations had been adopted and promulgated, laying a firm foundation for a democratic society. The Revolutionary Council had adopted the fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on 21 April 1980, which served provisionally as the country's Constitution. Those principles guaranteed every citizen all internationally accepted fundamental rights and freedoms.

48. Contrary to the slanderous accusations levelled against the legal system of Afghanistan, criminals had the right to fair and open trial. They were afforded adequate time and facilities to prepare their defence, which was undeniable proof of the democratic nature of Afghanistan's judicial procedure.

49. Moreover, under the law, no one was allowed to abuse his legal or official authority or to violate the legislation in force. Penalties were provided for and had been applied in some cases. In addition, since the triumph of the revolution, and in particular during its new phase, apart from the time when Amin and his gang had usurped power, no one had been arrested arbitrarily and no citizen had been found guilty in cases other than as provided for by law.

50. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan had acceded to the largest number of international instruments on human rights. Its Government took pains to achieve the aims of those instruments by incorporating their relevant provisions into national legislation.

51. Unfortunately, the adversaries of Afghanistan would continue arrogantly to claim that all the human rights provisions adopted by the Government were mere words on paper, whereas the highest authorities of the country constantly monitored strict enforcement of the law, in accordance with the important resolution entitled "Consolidation of revolutionary legality", adopted on 25 November 1980 by the Political Bureau of PDPA and the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council. That resolution reaffirmed the obligation of all State and Party officials to act strictly according to law; in the five years since its adoption, 421 persons - members of PDPA and State employees - had been found guilty of criminal conduct and abuse of authority and had been punished according to the law.

52. The principles of democratic centralism, democratic legality and self-criticism had always guided the activities of Party and State organs, and the Government had always been the first to recognize its shortcomings and take appropriate steps to correct them. For example, on 21 September 1984, the Revolutionary Council, on the recommendation of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of PDPA and President of the Revolutionary Council, had adopted a detailed resolution on the consolidation of revolutionary legality and legal order, which recognized that cases of arbitrary arrest, irregular judgements and inconsistency between crime and punishment continued to occur. For that reason, the Revolutionary Council, in that resolution, had requested all organs of

(Mr. Zarif, Afghanistan)

public administration, ministries, departments and institutions, including the armed forces, to respect the law scrupulously in all their activities. The judicial authorities and organs responsible for information and education had also been urged to redouble efforts in that regard. Democratic legality was one of the pillars of the April revolution and should help it to fulfil its noble objectives based on the establishment of a new society of peaceful work, freedom and justice, fraternity and equality, democracy and progress. All the country's national and progressive forces had rallied around PDPA, which explained why the attempts of the counter-revolutionaries, inspired, financed and armed by the imperialist and reactionary forces, to reverse the revolutionary process had always failed and why the economic sanctions imposed by the imperialists had no chance of succeeding.

53. In April 1985, the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly), the country's highest body, composed of 1,796 democratically elected representatives of the people, had fully approved the internal and external policies of the Party and the Government and had expressed its gratitude to the Soviet Union for all the assistance that it was extending to Afghanistan at one of the most difficult stages in its history.

54. In addition, the Council of Nationalities and Tribes of the Frontier Areas, made up 3,700 representatives, had been convened during the past year and had in particular adopted resolutions whereby it undertook to prevent any use of its territories by the counter-revolutionaries to launch attacks against the people and Government.

55. The economic achievements of the Government were particularly encouraging. Compared with 1978, for example, the gross national product had increased by 11 per cent and the gross domestic product by 4 per cent. In addition, over the past five years, workers' wages had doubled and the salaries of low-level State employees had risen by 20 per cent. Those successes were due in part to the selfless co-operation of friendly countries, in particular that of the Soviet Union. Enormous progress had also been made in the agricultural, health and social sectors and in the campaign against illiteracy.

56. The Afghan revolution had proved its irreversibility and the fact that the enemies of the people, the homeland and the revolution were not capable of depriving the people of the right to build a bright future.

57. Mrs. BELLORINI de PARRALES (Nicaragua), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said she was pleased that the representative of the Netherlands had expressed anxiety over the recent proclamation of the state of emergency in Nicaragua, since that anxiety demonstrated a sincere interest in the human rights situation in that country. Her delegation hoped that such concern would extend to the fate of the thousands of Nicaraguan victims of the brutal war the United States had been waging against Nicaragua for more than four years and that the representative of the Netherlands would not lose sight of a right so fundamental as the right to life of an entire people. It was her strong wish that such concern should also be translated into concrete measures of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

(Mrs. Bellorini de Parrales, Nicaragua)

58. Her Government was the first to deplore the state of emergency and was determined that it should be lifted, as soon as the causes which had given rise to that measure, namely the war of aggression conducted by the United States, had disappeared.
59. Miss NGUYEN THI KIM XUAN (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United States had presented a distorted picture of the human rights situation in some countries, including Viet Nam, but had neglected to mention the serious violations of human rights which occurred in his own country, such as the denial of the right to housing, mass unemployment and racial discrimination. Neither should the representative of the United States have remained silent with regard to the inhuman crimes carried out by his country against Viet Nam during the Viet Nam war, its collaboration with the apartheid régime in South Africa and its use of force in the context of the undeclared war against Nicaragua. In Viet Nam's opinion, the time had come for the United States to adhere to the International Covenants on Human Rights and to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to support the imposition of sanctions against South Africa.
60. With regard to the statement by the representative of the Netherlands, who had referred to the alleged problem of political prisoners in Viet Nam, her delegation categorically rejected those accusations, which were without any basis, and reaffirmed that the offenders in question had in fact managed to escape more severe penalties as a result of the humanitarian policy of the Vietnamese Government. She also drew the attention of the representative of the Netherlands to the report of the Special Rapporteur on assistance given to the régime of South Africa containing the list of transnational corporations currently operating in South Africa, some of which had their headquarters in the Netherlands.
61. Mr. TANASA (Romania), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said he was extremely surprised by the misleading and unfounded allegations of the representative of the Netherlands, who seemed to be more concerned about the human rights situation in other countries than about that in his own country. Romania, which favoured dialogue in a number of fields, particularly that of human rights, had refrained from mentioning the flagrant violations of human rights recorded in the Netherlands, which manifested themselves in particular in the form of infringement of the right to work, education and social security, as well as the spread of prostitution, pornography and the narcotics trade. The representative of the Netherlands was therefore on very unsure ground when he referred to the human rights situation in other countries and appeared to be unaware of the real situation in his own country, as well as in Romania. Not only was religious freedom guaranteed in Romania: there were also no instances in that country of effigies of the Pope and other religious symbols being burnt in the streets, as had happened in the Netherlands.
62. His delegation deplored that use of the Third Committee for the purposes of a political campaign which had been conducted for some time by reactionary forces against those who endeavoured to contribute to the improvement of the international

(Mr. Tanasa, Romania)

situation and to the relaunching of the policy of dialogue and détente. If the slanderous statement by the representative of the Netherlands had been made on behalf of the Netherlands Government, it constituted a shameless act of interference in the internal affairs of a country whose commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to other legal instruments adopted by the United Nations needed no further demonstration. If the representative of the Netherlands had spoken in his own personal capacity, then his statement constituted an unjust, untruthful and unfriendly attack.

63. Mr. CHANG (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement by the representative of the Netherlands concerning religious and political rights in his country did not correspond to the real situation. He cited in that context articles 52, 53 and 54 of his country's Constitution, which guaranteed to all citizens the right to participate and to stand in elections, the right to freedom of expression, meeting, association and demonstration, the right to carry out activities freely within the framework of democratic political parties and social organizations and the right to religious freedom. All citizens of the country fully enjoyed their political, social and cultural rights in all fields. He emphasized that there had been no violation of human rights in his country since the liberation of Korea in 1945 and called upon the representative of the Netherlands to study the facts with care before making any remarks.

64. Mr. DAMM (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it would serve no purpose to reply to the representative of the Netherlands. With regard to the statements by the representatives of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia, he asked members of the Committee who were acting in good faith if it seemed to them really necessary to respond to those puppets of Soviet imperialism whose economy, policy and culture were held in fief by the Soviet Union. For the same reason, he would not reply to the Cuban delegation; however, that those who had escaped from Cuba had been able to give evidence of the tragic situation in that country, which had been subjected for the past 25 years to a totalitarian régime and to Castro's bloody dictatorship. Under the circumstances it was paradoxical that the Cuban delegation should make accusations against Chile.

65. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), speaking in the exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation's comments on the human rights situation in various countries had been prepared on the basis of an in-depth examination and its conviction that the Third Committee had a duty to concern itself directly with the fate of the victims of flagrant violations of human rights. In that connection he reminded members of the statement made at the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly in which the President of one country had deplored the silence of the United Nations during a period when the population of his country had been virtually the victims of genocide.

66. His delegation welcomed the attention received by its statement, which had evoked many reactions. Some of those reactions had dealt with the basis of the problems which had arisen, and that was a very encouraging development. He

(Mr. Hamer, Netherlands)

referred in that connection to the statement made by the representative of Nicaragua and stressed that the Netherlands Government was aware of the tensions existing in Central America, but considered that the measures taken by the Nicaraguan Government were not likely to contribute to the development of a constructive dialogue and to the national reconciliation recommended by the countries of the Contadora Group. In that connection he reaffirmed his country's attachment to the process initiated by the Group.

67. On the other hand, other delegations had avoided tackling the basic issues involved. One delegation in particular had seen fit to criticize the situation of human rights in the Netherlands and had concluded that that country's shortcomings did not give the Netherlands delegation the right to make an issue of flagrant violations of those rights in other countries. That would be tantamount to saying that the United Nations itself was not qualified to consider the question of human rights.

68. Concerning the statement by the representative of Romania on the issue of religious intolerance, he noted that, pursuant to the terms of article 3 of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, discrimination between human beings on the grounds of religion or belief constituted an affront to human dignity and an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations between States. In his view, violations of human rights in that field could not therefore be regarded as being within the exclusive jurisdiction of a State.

69. The delegations of several countries had criticized the situation of human rights in the Netherlands. Some of those countries, however, categorically refused their citizens any form of recourse at the international level. He therefore urged the Governments of those countries to make the declaration stipulated in article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to adhere to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

70. Mrs. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that her delegation would have hoped that the representative of the Netherlands, among his various concerns, would also interest himself in the situation of the citizens of the South Moluccas living in his country who, according to many sources, were the victims of discrimination and repression. In her view, the Commission on Human Rights or the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities should look into that question.

71. In his comments on Cuba, the representative of the Netherlands should exercise discretion in the choice of his information which seemed to have been derived essentially from the United States Department of State, in so far as it reflected the well-known attacks of that country on Cuba. The problems specified by the Netherlands delegation did not exist, and the Cuban population enjoyed their political, economic, social and cultural rights to the full.

72. In regard to the statement made - undoubtedly on instructions - by the representative of Chile, she pointed out that the traditional democratic process on

(Mrs. Florez Prida, Cuba)

which Chile prided itself had been interrupted in 1973 and had given way to a system marked by serious violations of human rights. Since that time, the General Assembly and a number of international organs and agencies had not ceased to condemn torture, assassinations, forced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and all forms of human rights violations committed by the Pinochet régime. By comparison, the criticisms levelled by Chile against Cuba appeared to be somewhat frivolous and irresponsible.

73. Mr. ZIADA (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, welcomed the Netherlands' representative's zeal in the cause of human rights and expressed the view that a country's violations of those rights could hardly prevent that country from having a say in the matter. He reminded the representative of the Netherlands however that one could not be selective without running the risk of being charged with hypocrisy. In his statement on human rights, the representative of the Netherlands should also have referred to the cases of arbitrary detention of Palestinians by the Israeli authorities and to the repressive measures taken by those authorities against the trade union activities of Arab workers in the occupied territories. In that connection he referred to paragraphs 21 and 25 of the report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/40/35) and stressed the high priority of the Palestinian question.

74. Mr. CHANG (Observer for the Peoples Republic of Korea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, rejected the allegations of the Netherlands delegation and pointed out that, during the Korean War, the Netherlands had participated in the massacre of the Korean population and in the destruction of the country's infrastructure. The Korean people could not forget such crimes and the Netherlands should therefore make amends before referring to the human rights situation in the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

75. Mr. TANASA (Romania), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, once again rejected the slanderous attacks of the representative of the Netherlands on his country and stressed that the latter would do better to weigh his words and attempt to understand the exact meaning of the pertinent provisions of existing international legal instruments.

76. Mr. DAMM (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, stressed that he took instructions from his Government and not, like the representative of Cuba, from another Government.

The meeting rose at 9.15 p.m.