



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZEHENTNER (Federal Republic of Germany)

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AGENDA ITEM 112: MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 112: MEASURES TO PREVENT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WHICH ENDANGERS OR TAKES INNOCENT HUMAN LIVES OR JEOPARDIZES FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, AND STUDY OF THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF THOSE FORMS OF TERRORISM AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH LIE IN MISERY, FRUSTRATION, GRIEVANCE AND DESPAIR AND WHICH CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO SACRIFICE HUMAN LIVES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN, IN AN ATTEMPT TO EFFECT RADICAL CHANGES: REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (A/34/37, 387, 403, 429, 435, 498) (continued)

1. Mr. ASTHANIA (India) said it was gratifying to note that for the first time the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism was making recommendations to the General Assembly. Several non-aligned countries and other members of the Ad Hoc Committee had submitted a very useful and constructive working paper (A/AC.160/WG/R.1; A/34/37, para. 69) identifying in concrete terms the underlying causes of international terrorism, to which recommendations 2 and 3 of the Ad Hoc Committee referred. The list was not meant to be exhaustive, but was intended to be a contribution to the further study of such causes as requested by General Assembly resolution 32/147, paragraph 7.

2. It would not be possible to eliminate international terrorism without first studying its causes, because the elimination of underlying causes and the elimination of international terrorism were two aspects of the same problem. The imposition of severe penalties on the perpetrators of acts of international terrorism might act as a deterrent but, unless the underlying causes, which had their roots in political, economic and sociological situations, were eliminated, perpetrators of acts of international terrorism would be prepared to take the risk of sacrificing their own lives and bearing severe punishment. Where there was curtailment of political, economic and social freedoms, or exploitation, subjugation or injustice due to oppression, occupation, racism, apartheid or other factors, terrorism was more likely to occur because, when all legitimate avenues of redress were denied, the victims of such situations would resort to all means at their disposal.

3. In defining terrorism, a distinction had to be made between international terrorism, which affected more than one State, and domestic terrorism, which could be dealt with by the State concerned. The Sixth Committee should deal only with international terrorism. The definition of terrorism should include acts of international terrorism by a State. If State terrorism was excluded, the Committee would be dealing with only half of the problem. Furthermore, any definition should not affect the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all peoples under colonial and racist régimes. That right, and the legitimacy of the struggle of those peoples, particularly the struggle of national liberation movements were recognized rules of international law. However, the relationship between that right and international terrorism had been the subject of a great

(Mr. Asthana, India)

deal of controversy. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Taking of Hostages had reached a satisfactory solution of that difficult problem in article 12, paragraph 1, of the draft Convention which it had prepared (A/34/39, para. 89). A similar solution could be found in the context of international terrorism.

4. His delegation agreed with the speakers who had suggested that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee should be renewed. In that connexion, he drew attention to the working paper submitted by India in the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.160/WG/R.6; A/34/37, para. 116), paragraph 5 of which stated that the question of an additional International Convention to prohibit acts of international terrorism deserved further study.

5. Lastly, his delegation had no rigid views on whether a declaration or a convention should be adopted to give effect to recommendation 1 of the Ad Hoc Committee, and it would go along with the consensus in the Committee in that regard.

6. Mr. ROSENNE (Israel) said other speakers had recalled that the initiative for the inclusion of the present item in the agenda had been taken by the Secretary-General, but they had stopped short of stating that what had led to that initiative had been the virtually universal shock produced by the wanton murder of innocent Israeli civilians representing their country in the Olympic games of 1972 by members of a well-known gang of terrorists, the presence of whose representatives added no lustre to the escutcheon of the United Nations.

7. It was a travesty of the Charter that, under the impulse of those same terrorists and their foreign advisers, the terms of reference of the agenda item had been distorted beyond all recognition. His delegation had therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in that form and had not been able to support the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee because of the incorrect terms of reference given to it. The reports of the Ad Hoc Committee confirmed the initial impression that the change in the terms of reference had been tendentious and completely misconceived.

8. Consequently, he would have nothing to say about the substance of the report before the Committee (A/34/37). In the voluminous documentation of the United Nations, the reports submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism - a curious name, as though the idea was to encourage international terrorism - would rank among the more amazing, more sterile and more peculiar of the intellectual efforts made in the United Nations. Much of the material contained in the report appertained more to the field of academic or pseudo-academic studies and, were it to be published as a book with the author's name displayed, any unbiased reviewer would have little difficulty in giving it short shrift.

9. As to the meagre practical recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee in paragraph 118 of its report, he doubted whether it would be possible to go beyond them if the Sixth Committee wanted to conclude its work on the topic with a reasonably acceptable consensus. Subject to a few reservations, the general ideas could be recommended to the General Assembly for adoption as part of a

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(Dr. Rosenne, Israel)

resolution along the lines of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 116 of the report, probably without paragraph 5, the usefulness of which was doubtful.

10. His delegation had no objections to recommendations 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. However, it had some reservation regarding recommendations 2 and 3, which it saw as a consequence of the distortions introduced into the title of the agenda item. In particular, it would not wish to be associated in any way with the so-called study of the underlying causes of international terrorism contained in the report, since that study reflected the distortions in question and misconceived the nature of the problem. His delegation also doubted the necessity for recommendation 10. It would be absolutely contrary to international law and to all basic concepts of humanism and human rights to give any encouragement to the idea that any act of terrorism could be justified in any way by reference to the political or ideological context in which the act was placed by its perpetrators or by those seeking to justify it.

11. His delegation had similar reservations about recommendation 11, and the further reservation that the duties and powers of the Security Council were defined in the Charter and there was no justification whatsoever for the General Assembly to arrogate to itself the right to lay down rules for the performance of those functions.

12. The report was inadequate, but not for the reasons given by other delegations. For instance, considering the large number of deliberate terrorist attacks on schools and on school buses filled with innocent children, or on children at play wherever they might be, it would not be amiss if, in the International Year of the Child, the Sixth Committee proclaimed that any deliberate and premeditated terrorist threat or attack on children and on schools and playgrounds under any circumstances constituted an international crime. It was not asking too much to include innocent children in the same category of internationally protected persons as now included diplomats and those who travelled by air.

13. In paragraph 119 of its report, the Ad Hoc Committee asked for statistics concerning the victims of terrorist attacks. Israel could provide the following statistics: since January 1965, following the establishment of PLO, approximately 700 innocent civilians - men, women, schoolchildren and infants - had been murdered and 4,000 others had been wounded in Israel by PLO. That group had also terrorized and intimidated Arabs prepared to negotiate with Israel. More than 2,000 Arabs - Christians and Moslems - had been among its victims.

14. Anyone who wished to study the problem of international terrorism would do well to ponder those figures and to study carefully the kind of incidents which Israel had brought to the notice of the General Assembly in various letters to the Secretary-General, such as those to be found in documents A/34/387, A/34/403, A/34/429, A/34/435 and A/34/498.

(Mr. Rosenne, Israel)

15. Certain representatives had referred directly or by innuendo to various actions taken by his Government to protect the country from PLO terrorism. Others had made disparaging references to the Jewish national liberation movement - Zionism - which he had the honour to represent. If national liberation movements were to be given a free hand, as some had suggested, then Zionism, the Jewish national liberation movement, would also enjoy that privilege. But, as other speakers had pointed out, there was not a single Government represented in the Committee which would be willing to surrender its right and its duty to take all measures which it considered necessary in exercise of its inherent right of self-defence. It should be remembered that each statistic in the dry figures he had given represented one human being. If that wanton and indiscriminate terrorism stopped, Israel's need to use armed force in its own self-defence would stop with it.
16. He reserved the right of his delegation, which represented one of the major victims of international terrorism, to speak again in the debate if it found it necessary.
17. Mr. HERNDL (Austria) noted that the issue of terrorism had been before the Sixth Committee, other United Nations organs and other international forums for a long time. The establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism seven years previously had been an attempt to deal with the issue on a global basis.
18. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria, in his statement to the General Assembly on 26 September 1979, had stated that Austria firmly condemned every manifestation of terrorism, whether politically motivated or purely criminal, and any act of terrorism, by private individuals, by organized groups or by States. There could be no justification for terrorism whatsoever.
19. Acts of terrorism not only affected the lives, the health, the property and the safety of innocent people and disrupted normal economic and social activities; they also tended to provoke a violent response, which in turn created tension between individuals, groups and States; thus, terrorism had a detrimental influence on international relations.
20. Acts of terrorism were, by their very nature, contrary to the principal aims of the United Nations. The United Nations Charter, which reaffirmed the world community's faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity of the human person, also spoke of the need to practise tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbours. Accordingly, in the system of world order created by the coming into existence of the United Nations, there should be no room for acts which endangered the lives of innocent people.
21. He also recalled that the preamble of a draft resolution submitted in 1977 by the representative of Saudi Arabia had stated that the right to life of the individual was a primordial right enshrined in the United Nations Charter, that freedom and security of the person were adjuncts to the life of the individual, and that the life of the individual, his freedom and security were endangered not

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(Mr. Herndl, Austria)

only in war but in peace-time, owing to certain forces in society which were driving many people to take the law into their own hands, thus endangering the safety of individuals.

22. With regard to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism, he noted with satisfaction the progress achieved through the active co-operation of delegations of all the regional groups. The recommendations contained in paragraph 118 of the report related to various aspects of the issue, though not all of them; they also constituted a good basis for the adoption of new measures. Recommendation 11 seemed somewhat self-evident, since the General Assembly and the Security Council dealt ex officio with all the situations referred to therein.

23. In his opinion, the Sixth Committee should carefully reflect on the results achieved by the Ad Hoc Committee. The possibility of elaborating a draft convention would have to be considered, but additional material must first be collected and the views and comments of Governments obtained. That would provide a basis for the adoption of a decision which took into account all aspects of the issue. Meanwhile, the Sixth Committee should endorse the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, which were based on a consensus and therefore reflected the opinions of the different groups that had participated.

24. Mr. GRÖNWALL (Sweden) said that the Ad Hoc Committee had produced a useful report, containing important recommendations which seemed to have received a wide degree of support. In view of the enormous complexity of the problem, the report was as balanced and as positive as could have been expected.

25. It was a cause of particular satisfaction to his delegation that the first of the 11 recommendations contained in the report concerned an outright condemnation of all acts of international terrorism which endangered or took human lives. The absence of a firm condemnation in resolution 32/145 had been one of the reasons why Sweden had been unable to vote for it. His delegation also welcomed the appeal to all States that had not yet done so to become parties to the four international conventions enumerated in recommendation 5.

26. The Sixth Committee must now decide what should be done to develop international co-operation with the aim of combating international terrorism. The suggestions put forward by delegations ranged from giving a new ad hoc committee a mandate to draft a convention on international terrorism to recommending that the General Assembly should confirm the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. Sweden would prefer the latter alternative, which would, inter alia, reconfirm the positive outcome of the Ad Hoc Committee's work and allow the Sixth Committee to maintain a degree of flexibility for the future. The drafting of a general convention on international terrorism was too ambitious a goal, and the chances of attaining it in the near future would be slim. It was better to deal with the problem on a step-by-step or rather an area-by-area basis, a method that had proved successful in the past. In any event Sweden was prepared to study any additional proposals that would enhance the joint efforts to combat acts of international terrorism.

27. Mr. NIZIGAMA (Burundi) said that the slow progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism over the past seven years was an indication of the complexity of the problem and the continued existence of obstacles to the drafting of an international convention. The lack of unanimity even on the definition of an act of terrorism revealed the ambiguity surrounding the scope of any legal instrument of that kind.
28. His delegation strongly and unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism committed for reasons that were condemned by universal morality - in other words, those which, for selfish and illegitimate reasons, endangered the lives and property of innocent people. However, it would be foolish and rash to apply the same criterion to those fighting in national liberation movements. Many of the leaders of newly independent countries had been called terrorists two decades ago by the then colonial Powers. The same epithet was now being applied to the national liberation movements of Namibia and Zimbabwe. More than 30 years ago, resistance movements opposing Nazi occupation had also been called terrorist groups. That showed how loosely the term "terrorist" was used and how easy it was for some parties to use it in order to conceal their own terrorism.
29. The goals of the liberation movements were no different from those that had inspired the writing of the United Nations Charter, namely, to reaffirm fundamental human rights, human dignity and the equal rights of individuals and of nations, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. One could not defend human rights and the same time condemn acts the ultimate purpose of which was precisely to restore those rights. The brutality and inhumanity of the racist Governments in southern Africa had triggered the violence which flowed from the struggle of the national liberation movements, whose legitimacy was evidenced by the fact that many of them had been granted observer status by the United Nations.
30. Through the Ad-Hoc Committee on International Terrorism, the United Nations was seeking the right way to combat the scourge of terrorism. In his opinion, the first step should be a study of the causes referred to in paragraph 69 of the Ad Hoc Committee's report, of which terrorism was merely the result. Otherwise, whatever legal instrument was elaborated would have no genuine foundation, and perhaps no future.
31. Mr. DROUSHIOTIS (Cyprus) said that many acts of terrorism and other forms of violence were the direct result of an unacceptable state of affairs created by the dangerous prolongation of an unjust situation. If any legal instrument designed to combat acts of international terrorism was to be effective and convincing it must take into account the underlying causes of such acts. His delegation wished to stress the need to distinguish between acts of international terrorism that constituted international crimes, and thus were reprehensible, and the just struggle of recognized liberation movements against colonialism, racism and foreign occupation, which the international community should support and not condemn.

(Mr. Broushiotis, Cyprus)

32. While the international community was seeking ways of eliminating terrorism certain States continued to violate with impunity the United Nations Charter and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Such State terrorism threatened the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of other States, especially small and defenceless ones. That situation must be brought to an end through the full application of the Charter provisions.

33. The Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism had achieved some positive results at its last session as could be seen from its report to the General Assembly (A/34/37). The report contained interesting proposals, especially the working paper on the underlying causes of international terrorism (A/AC.160/WG/R.1) submitted by several non-aligned countries, and the General Assembly should find an appropriate expression for the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee in chapter IV of its report, perhaps in the form of a declaration.

34. Mr. SAMBA BA (Mauritania) reiterated his country's condemnation of acts of international terrorism, which endangered innocent lives, threatened international peace and security and were incompatible with the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter. They also threatened bilateral and multilateral relations and hindered the peaceful settlement of disputes.

35. Every country must participate, within the sphere of its own jurisdiction, in the struggle against terrorism. At the same time, at international level, co-operation among Governments must be strengthened and due attention given to the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

36. In his delegation's opinion the Ad Hoc Committee should examine the position of individual States in order to arrive at a definition of international terrorism which reflected their different points of view. In that connexion, a clear distinction must be made between purely terrorist acts and the struggle waged by national liberation movements. The latter struggle was actually a negation of terrorism and violence in that it was designed to guarantee respect for human rights and establish a just legal order. Liberation movements could not be regarded as criminal; they acted in self-defence and their situation could not be likened to that of terrorists whose acts were punishable under common law.

37. His delegation could accept the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee and therefore supported the renewal of its mandate.

38. Mr. AL-KHIASAWNEH (Jordan) drew attention to the need to establish a link between acts of terrorism and their underlying causes. An approach based on the elaboration of successive conventions which dealt with particular aspects of international terrorism but neglected their underlying causes did not take account of world realities, was unfair, would give international law a vindictive aspect, would in the end work to the detriment of all and could give rise to duplication.



(Mr. Al-Khasawneh, Jordan)

39. That was why his delegation found it especially difficult to accept recommendation 10 of the Ad Hoc Committee. To call for a convention based on the principle of "extradition" or "prosecution" prejudged the structure of any such future convention. His delegation also had difficulties with recommendation 5 and regarded as more appropriate the criterion contained in paragraph 5 of resolution 32/147, which left it to States to decide whether or not to become parties to the existing international conventions which related to various aspects of international terrorism, recognizing that such a decision was influenced by legal and political considerations inter alia. One might reasonably ask whether the Ad Hoc had not overstepped its mandate in appealing to States to become parties to those conventions.

40. As to the idea put forward at the current meeting that, in celebration of the International Year of the Child, the Sixth Committee should adopt a resolution condemning acts against children as acts of terrorism, his delegation would welcome such an idea provided that it was understood that the protection envisaged in such a resolution should extend to the innocent children who had been the victims of Israeli State terrorism practised since before 1948 and increasingly indiscriminately over the past few years in Southern Lebanon.

41. Finally, in view of the consensus by which the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations had been adopted and in the hope that that would be the start of a constructive debate on the subject, his delegation would support a renewal of the Ad Hoc Committee's mandate.

42. Mr. ALMODWANI (Yemen) said that it was not sufficient to adopt a purely legal approach to the question of terrorism. There were other aspects of terrorism which had to be taken into account and given the same importance. The world bore daily witness to atrocities such as the genocide perpetrated in Southern Lebanon, where napalm and fragmentation bombs were being used. The effects of such atrocities far exceeded those of international terrorism, as the inhuman situation of the refugees in the Middle East demonstrated. The racist régimes in Palestine and South Africa which disregarded United Nations resolutions, were even more dangerous and terrible than terrorism. His delegation condemned the violation of human rights whatever its cause, but believed that it was particularly criminal when committed by a Member of the United Nations.

43. While insisting on the need to implement the resolutions supporting the struggle against colonialism and racism, his delegation also wished to point out that the United Nations must recognize the right of self-defence and the right of peoples to fight to recover their land, as in the case of the Palestinian people. In his view, Israel was perpetrating acts of terrorism which bore comparison with no other form of terrorism, and the Committee should ask itself what measures must be taken to put an end to such acts.

44. Mr. SAFIEH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that he was not going to respond to the letters circulated by the Secretariat which Mr. Blum, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, had sent to the Secretary General of the United Nations. Mr. Blum was in favour of the legal vacuum in West Jordan, and had moreover been appointed by Mr. Begin who had engineered the population vacuum in Southern Lebanon.

45. Mr. ROSENE (Israel), speaking on a point of order, requested the Chairman to suggest to the Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization that he should keep to the item under consideration.

46. Mr. SAFIEH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said he believed that it was perfectly in order, to put to the Sixth Committee a theory relating to a legal vacuum imposed on an occupied territory. The PLO fully endorsed the analysis made in working paper A/AC.160/WG/R.1, which explained clearly the underlying causes for the existence of national liberation struggles. The Palestinian people had suffered from political as well as economic and social causes.

47. Despite attempts to misrepresent the struggle of the Palestinian people and to present the PLO as a terrorist organization, the international community had recognized it as a representative, responsible and trustworthy national liberation movement.

48. Terrorism existed when violence was used to suppress the rights of others, and resistance existed when no other choice was left but to resort to violence to enforce those rights. The State of Israel had established itself by violence, uprooting the Palestinian people from their homeland. Its insatiable desire for territory led it to adopt an elastic concept of what constituted its borders. Faced with that State, and having exhausted all political means of struggle, the Palestinian people now had no other option but to resort to armed struggle to recover what was theirs by right.

49. The Jews themselves denounced Zionism for the atrocities which it had made them commit and for having perverted Judaism.

50. Mr. ROSENE (Israel) referred to the point of order he had raised earlier and asked the Chairman to request the observer for the PLO - who he said, had made an eloquent defence of terrorism - not to raise questions that were in no way related to the report submitted to the Committee.

51. Mr. HANMAD (United Arab Emirates), speaking on a point of order, said that the representative of the PLO was entitled to explain the reasons that had prompted the Palestinian people to resort to armed struggle. The title of item 112 itself mentioned study of the underlying causes that prompted some people to attempt to effect radical changes. The representative of Israel must not be permitted to continue interrupting the speaker.

52. Mr. SIRCAR (Bangladesh), speaking on a point of order, said that the Chairman had already settled, in accordance with rule 113 of the rules of procedure, the point of order to which the representative of Israel had risen by permitting the observer for the PLO to continue. If the representative of Israel disagreed with the Chairman's ruling he could appeal against it and the appeal would be put to the vote.

53. Mr. SAFIEH (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said he thought that the representative of Israel had made interruptions because he did not like to hear it said that there were Jews who denounced Zionism. Ilan Halevy, who was both an Israeli Jew and a Palestinian Jew, had just published in Paris a book entitled "Sous l'Israel, la Palestine: comment un pays peut en cacher un autre". Halevy demonstrated the process of plundering Palestine and concluded that Israel had always used force, hoping to legitimize its claim subsequently. Israel counted on the inertia of the international community - which would eventually become accustomed to the de facto situation - and took advantage of the permanent powerlessness of the United Nations. The theory that identified Jews with Zionism was erroneous. There were dissidents in Israel, a fact that was to be welcomed for moral and ethical reasons. Those dissidents freed the Jews from collective guilt and safeguarded further relations between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East. When the Palestinian people had embarked on their struggle, they had been regarded as Utopians and dreamers. The international community had, however, come to share their dream of regaining self-determination, national independence and State sovereignty.

54. Mrs. SILVERA NUÑEZ (Cuba) recalled that in 1962 her country had enacted Law 1226 on the seizure of aircraft and sea-going vessels and other crimes, which endeavoured to define and take action against the phenomenon of terrorism on a reciprocal basis. Moreover, her country had signed bilateral conventions with a number of countries, which entailed reciprocal implementation of preventive, condemnatory and judicial measures. Her country's new Penal Code provided for the punishment of those who committed acts of terrorism.

55. She stressed that the people of her country had suffered as a result of acts of piracy, violence and crimes of every description, among which were acts of terrorism directed against aircraft, fishing vessels, and the offices of her country's embassy in Portugal and of its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, as well as assassinations and kidnappings of Cuban representatives on official missions. Those facts explained why a climate of confidence did not exist with regard to the implementation of multilateral measures proposed by the relevant international organizations.

56. She recalled that in 1937 a convention for the prevention and punishment of terrorism had been drafted but had not gained the support of the States members of the League of Nations. In 1972 concern with regard to the question of terrorism had re-emerged, with a marked tendency to identify it with violence on the part of oppressed peoples in their endeavour to gain freedom and respect for their national sovereignty. Currently, there was a tendency to refrain from

(Mrs. Silvera Nuñez, Cuba)

giving a separate definition to "State terrorism", which was committed against peoples for the purpose of domination. It was necessary to avoid encouraging the adoption of norms that implied setting limits to the struggle of the national liberation movements and, at the same time, legitimized the policy of terror unleashed against oppressed peoples. The solution to the problem lay not only in painstaking and detailed analysis of the consequences of the phenomenon of terrorism, but also in the need to eradicate its causes.

57. In her delegation's view, the report of the Ad Hoc Committee was an appropriate basis for study of the substantive question referred to in it, always bearing in mind the distinctions that must be drawn with regard to the right of peoples to fight for their freedom and independence and against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and other forms of domination and oppression.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

58. Mr. EL-BANHAWI (Egypt) suggested that the Working Group on the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages should begin its work as of Friday, 5 October, simultaneously with the conduct of the general debate on item 113.

59. Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mr. FERRARI-BRAVO (Italy) and Mr. KATEKA (United Republic of Tanzania), said that, although the Working Group was open-ended not all delegations could participate in its work in practice. It was therefore desirable that the Working Group should not start to meet until a number of views had been heard in the general debate on item 113, so that the Working Group could be given some guidance.

60. The CHAIRMAN noted that there appeared to be a consensus to that effect.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.