

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FIFTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
9th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 16 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe)
(Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile)
(Chairman)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 88: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 98: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 103: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/45/SR.9
30 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Zindoga (Zimbabwe),
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued) (A/45/552)

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/45/18, A/45/139, A/45/140, A/45/174, A/45/178, A/45/202, A/45/203, A/45/216, A/45/222, A/45/225, A/45/254, A/45/265, A/45/269, A/45/402, A/45/406, A/45/579)

AGENDA ITEM 98: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/45/3, chap. III, sect. A, A/45/174, A/45/443, A/45/525)

AGENDA ITEM 103: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/45/488, A/45/500)

1. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) referring to the statement made by the Ambassador of Italy on 8 October on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Community, said that racism and racial discrimination existed in all countries of the world, since no society was perfect. The United Kingdom was after all a multi-racial society in which freedom of religion and political allegiance and the right of all British people to speak and write freely, to meet and take part in demonstrations were guaranteed regardless of race, language or sex and regardless of whether they were British by birth or choice or whether they had been British for one generation or ten. It was in that spirit that the Race Relations Act, regarded as a model in legislation to eliminate racial discrimination, had been adopted in 1976.
2. The United Kingdom was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and valued highly the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to which it would shortly be submitting its eleventh report as evidence of its determination to implement the provisions of the Convention. Referring to the comments contained in that Committee's report on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/45/18, pp. 81 to 83), his delegation particularly endorsed the suggestion that when the Second Decade came to an end the Committee should continue to play an active role. Although the United Kingdom had supported constructive elements of the Decade, it had expressed concern about some of the proposals contained in the plan of activities on South Africa, such as the references to Chapter VII of the Charter and calls for sanctions and for assistance to national liberation movements. It therefore urged the Centre for Human Rights, when drawing up plans for the follow-up to the Second Decade, to think creatively about involving the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Although the United Kingdom

(Mr. Raven, United Kingdom)

shared the strong desire of the United Nations to see the hateful system of apartheid abolished and replaced with a non-racial democracy, it considered - and there its analysis differed from that of the Special Rapporteur - that there had been significant changes in South Africa in recent months. However, the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its previous session failed to recognize fully the importance of the talks held between the South African Government and the African National Congress (ANC) at Pretoria in August. Bearing in mind the process of change under way in South Africa, the Government of the United Kingdom had maintained some of the existing restrictive measures, but had relaxed others and had taken certain positive steps, such as expanding its aid programme with the object of encouraging further progress.

3. On the question of self-determination, the United Kingdom's decolonization record amply demonstrated its commitment to that principle. In that connection, a blatant example of denial of the right to self-determination should be mentioned, namely, the situation in the Gulf created by the brutal invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, which constituted an intolerable act of aggression. The United Kingdom called once again for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Kuwait and for the restoration of that country's territorial integrity and sovereignty under the authority of its legitimate Government.

4. Mrs. BUTIKU (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it emerged clearly from an examination of the report prepared by the Special Rapporteur designated by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (A/45/552), which included information on partial disinvestment by foreign enterprises operating in South Africa and on various methods used to avoid ending all participation in that country's economy, that the spirit of the Declaration adopted by consensus by the United Nations had not been upheld by all Members. The report described various techniques employed to avoid total withdrawal from the South African economy.

5. With regard to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Committee had before it a report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the subject concerning the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the two United Nations Decades to combat racism. The study called for the preparation of a plan for concerted action to implement the many specific measures that had been recommended, and for increased assistance to the victims of apartheid and to anti-apartheid movements within South Africa.

6. Although the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa prescribed measures to help create the necessary climate for free political discussions, pillars of that system, such as the Group Areas Act, the Native Land Act, the Population Registration Act, the policy of Bantustans and the segregated educational system, remained in place, while the changes that had taken place there recently were insufficient to create an atmosphere conducive to negotiations and were inadequate to make any fundamental impact on the political, economic and social life of the majority of the black population.

(Mrs. Butiku, United Republic of Tanzania)

7. A matter for serious concern was the violence in Natal and in several townships caused by the persistence of apartheid. Her Government accordingly urged the Pretoria régime to delay no further in taking steps to end the violence. It was, furthermore, regrettable that certain countries had chosen to relax sanctions against South Africa in order to "reward" the Prime Minister of that country for the few changes he had introduced, since such action jeopardized efforts to create the necessary climate for negotiations. Those who had relaxed sanctions must reconsider that decision if a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa was to be achieved.

8. Her Government considered that self-determination was an inalienable right of all peoples that must also be enjoyed by the Palestinian people, who were being subjected to increasing brutality by the Israeli authorities in their attempt to quell the intifadah. In that context, her country appealed to Israel to co-operate in the search for a solution. By contrast, it was a source of great satisfaction that Namibia now enjoyed the status of Member of the United Nations; its membership was a victory for the Members of the Organisation and the international community as a whole.

9. The delegation of Tanzania strongly condemned the invasion, occupation and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops from Kuwait and for the restoration of its territorial integrity and sovereignty under the authority of its legitimate Government. With regard to the political situation in Central America, she said the new spirit of reconciliation and sense of unity among the countries of the subregion was encouraging. The outcome of the efforts of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara had also been positive, and the referendum to be held within the framework of the peace plan would enable the people of Western Sahara to determine their own future. With regard to Cambodia, she said Tanzania shared the widespread belief that a comprehensive political settlement would ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia as well as the fundamental right of Cambodians to choose their own destiny. The opening of a dialogue between the leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea was also encouraging.

10. Tanzania welcomed the unification of Germany and believed that one Germany would strengthen the United Nations and serve as an example of unity, helping to promote freedom, justice, the right to self-determination, respect for the principles of the Charter and the maintenance of international peace and security.

11. In spite of the efforts made by the Government of Angola to end the war in its country, the open and covert support given by the United States and some of its allies to UNITA continued and was keeping Angolans from exercising their full rights. In Mozambique the Renamo bandits continued to sow havoc in the economy of the country and to kill innocent people. For the sake of peace, Tanzania appealed for an end to activities aimed at arming, training or giving any kind of assistance to Renamo.

(Mrs. Butiku, United Republic of Tanzania)

12. With regard to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination due to come to a close in 1993, she said there was no doubt that the Committee had played an indispensable role and had contributed significantly to the progress achieved but that since much remained to be done, the efforts being made to eradicate racism and racial discrimination from the face of the earth should be redoubled.

13. Mr. MILANES (Cuba) said another year in the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was ending without the achievement of the results anticipated when the Decade had been proclaimed. The United Nations had made bold efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination; however, at present millions of people were still victims of those evils, and no way of mitigating or eradicating them had been found. On the contrary, certain neo-Nazi tendencies and groups bolstered by the myth of racial superiority and by chauvinism with regard to foreigners, in particular migrant workers, especially those from developing countries, were making themselves felt more forcibly than ever. The delegation of Cuba wished to denounce the display of such feelings, which were being evinced with increasing force in Europe and the United States and could lead to increasingly dangerous situations for the international community. For years Cuba had been denouncing expressions of racism and racial discrimination, which were responsible for growing agitation in the United States, where blacks, Latin Americans and other minorities were humiliated and treated like third class citizens. Such racist practices should not escape the attention of the international community, which should ensure that the most highly industrialized country in the world respected the rights of minorities.

14. The question of apartheid was still one of the basic issues under review in the United Nations since its elimination was one of the major challenges facing the international community. The adoption by consensus of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and the Programme of Action provided for at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly constituted a solemn commitment on the part of all the United Nations Member States to ensure that a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa come into being as soon as possible. It had been observed that recently some encouraging changes had taken place in South Africa, in particular with regard to the liberation of Nelson Mandela, the resumption of the activities of the African National Congress (ANC) and other people's organizations and the initiation of a dialogue between ANC and the authorities in Pretoria. Those changes were still insufficient, however, and the principles laid down in the Declaration had yet to be applied. Apartheid continued as a system, and the far-reaching changes the international community had hoped would be made during 1990 had still not been achieved.

15. The changes brought about so far were due primarily to the selfless and heroic struggle of the African people of South Africa and to the pressure applied by the international community. Some countries felt the time had come to reduce the display of solidarity with the South African national liberation movement and to let up on international pressure against apartheid. Far from furthering the success of internal negotiations in South Africa and creating a climate of dialogue among all sectors of the South African population, such an attitude would in the

(Mr. Milanes, Cuba)

end strengthen the positions of those who clung to the system of white minority domination. The sanctions imposed by the United Nations and by individual Governments should therefore remain in place. The South African authorities must be made to understand that until the repressive legislation which provided the foundations for the system of apartheid was removed, international pressure would not be reduced.

16. In March 1990 the international community had welcomed into its midst the independent and sovereign new State of Namibia, which had also suffered abuse under the apartheid system and foreign occupation. Although the United Nations had played a leading role in the achievement of Namibia's independence, it should not be forgotten that the main reason why Namibia was now a United Nations Member State was the heroic resistance offered by its people in order to achieve independence. The people and Government of Cuba once more hailed independent Namibia.

17. The Palestine question was again occupying the attention of the entire international community owing to an increase in the repressive action taken by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. The Palestinian people, who were being denied their inalienable right to self-determination, were heroically countering the barbaric policy of Israel. Those who were trying to cover up Israeli practices and were standing in the way of the adoption by the United Nations of decisions against those practices shared the responsibility for the repressive measures taken against the Palestinian people.

18. Cuba supported the creation of an independent and sovereign State in Western Sahara, on behalf of which negotiations were being held between the FRENTE POLISARIO and the Government of Morocco under the auspices of the United Nations. Similarly, Cuba reiterated its support of the legitimate right of Cyprus to re-establish its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and therefore endorsed the termination of the military occupation of part of the territory of Cyprus. In that connection he said Cuba favoured a dialogue between the various Cypriot communities, which would lead to a negotiated political solution of the problem and to the restoration of Cyprus as a united, sovereign State. Finally, it reaffirmed its full support of the aspirations of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence.

19. Cuba had never swerved in rejecting and condemning the occupation of Kuwait and its annexation by Iraq. As Mr. Fidel Castro, President of the Republic of Cuba, had recently stated, "in our view, a political solution necessarily requires the termination of the occupation of Kuwait and the re-establishment of its sovereignty. In that regard we have no doubts whatsoever, and our policy is principled, upright and well-defined". Guarantees must be extended to all the countries of the region, on the basis of the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops to their borders and of the troops of the United States from the Arabian/Persian Gulf.

20. Mankind was expectantly awaiting the dawn of a new era in international relations which might establish the bases of lasting world peace. The signing of new disarmament agreements between the Soviet Union and the United States of

(Mr. Milanés, Cuba)

America and the constructive atmosphere prevailing in relations among the major Powers seemed favourable to such a development. Nevertheless, there was profound concern in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America over the repercussions of the new situation on the economies of the countries of those regions and the maintenance of their sovereignty and independence. There had been talk of peace among the major Powers, but the small countries also wished to benefit from that peace in order to be able to devote themselves fully to development. Now, more than ever before, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of those countries and respect for their self-determination must be guaranteed. The developing countries would in no way, accept the building of peace among the major Powers on the ruins of the national sovereignty of third world peoples and of respect for the right of every people of the world to freely determine its own future. The foundations of the United Nations were based on those principles and Cuba would view any attempt to change them with deep concern.

21. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the dignity which was innate in all human beings could not be protected unless the principle of equality was respected. And there could be no equality until everyone enjoyed the right of self-determination, a right which continued to be violated in many parts of the world. The harmony which was beginning to prevail in the northern hemisphere had still not spread to the southern hemisphere. Many individuals still suffered from oppression and persecution and the scourge of racism and racial discrimination. The Zionist and South African régimes were similar in combining racial persecution with denial of the principle of self-determination. Both régimes were based on racism and government by a minority. The two régimes were in close collaboration, including in the dangerous domain of nuclear weapons. In 1975 the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3379 (XXX) in which zionism had been viewed as a form of racism. The realities on which that resolution had been based remained unchanged and its content thus remained valid.

22. The study by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eide, on the achievements made and obstacles encountered during the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/45/525) was a very positive document, although it should have considered in greater depth the origins of racism and racial discrimination. The study made mention of the holocaust suffered by the Jews under the Nazi régime, an undeniable act of genocide. Yet it was equally undeniable that the Jews were engaged in similar genocide against the Palestinian people. The United Nations must send a mission to Palestine to prevent any continuation of that genocide.

23. The immigration of Jews into Palestine was unjustifiable. While Palestinians remained in exile and while those living in Palestine continued to be exploited and persecuted, the immigration of more Jews into Palestine must not be permitted. Such immigration was one obstacle more to the attainment of self-determination by the Palestinians. Those who assisted Jewish immigration must cease doing so because they were participating in the crime of genocide.

24. His delegation welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela. Libya was closely following developments in South Africa and welcomed the measures so far taken to

(Mr. Allafi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

establish a non-racial and democratic society. Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that those measures were limited and must be extended and consolidated if the objective of the total elimination of the shameful régime of apartheid was to be attained. The changed situation in South Africa represented a triumph for the United Nations, which had adopted measures which had been effective in pressuring the South African Government. There were countries which now sought to end sanctions against South Africa, while, nevertheless, willing to adopt similar or more extensive sanctions against other countries. Libya welcomed the report by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa, on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (A/45/552), a document of great value in maintaining pressure on South Africa in order to end the apartheid régime once and for all. Libya called upon the Secretary-General to give Mr. Khalifa the fullest support in the performance of his duties so that he could visit South Africa, given that the Government of that country had denied him a visa.

25. He welcomed Namibia's independence, achieved following a long and valiant struggle by the Namibian people for self-determination. Libya did not co-operate with racist régimes and implemented all the conventions and other instruments of the United Nations against racism and racial discrimination. His delegation fully supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to which Libya made a financial contribution. He called upon the international community to provide financial support for the work of the Committee, which was currently experiencing serious difficulty in discharging its mandate owing to a lack of funds.

26. Miss JUNEJO (Pakistan) said that in a world undergoing a profound transformation in which East-West rivalry was giving way to dialogue, areas of continuing conflict unfortunately remained. Such was the case of the peoples of Jammu and Kashmir. For more than four decades their right of self-determination had been denied. In accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, which were binding on both India and Pakistan, a free and impartial plebiscite should be conducted under the auspices of the Organization to determine the legal status of those territories. She gave examples of attempts by India to convince the international community that the population of Kashmir had exercised its right of self-determination, and noted that to date the word of honour given by the Prime Minister of India in 1952 that his country would achieve a peaceful solution of the question had not been redeemed. She denounced the grave violation of the human rights of the people of Kashmir, the wave of repression unleashed by India's armed and paramilitary forces in quelling the spontaneous uprising of the Kashmiri people, and other acts of repression, as well as the fact that the Government of India had expelled foreign correspondents from the occupied territory of Kashmir and did not allow any international agency to monitor the atrocities and flagrant violations it committed. None the less, news media and international organizations, including human rights organizations and men of conscience in India, had documented the massive violations of human rights. It was time to hold India accountable to the same human rights standards applied to others. Her delegation expressed the hope that India would recognize that it could

(Miss Junejo, Pakistan)

not suppress the aspirations of the people of Kashmir through coercion and repression. The only solution lay in allowing the peoples of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their right of self-determination.

27. Despite the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, peace and tranquillity had still not been restored in that land. The people of Afghanistan continued to be denied their right of self-determination. The Geneva Agreements had addressed only the external aspects of the problem. Pakistan remained firmly committed to a political settlement of the Afghan question and would spare no effort in supporting the establishment of a broadly-based Government to replace the Kabul régime, which was unacceptable to the Afghan people.

28. The denial of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people was a continuing tragedy. The intifadah had clearly exposed the brutality of the Israeli occupation. She denounced the recent killings as yet another manifestation of the excessive and brutal use of force by Israel against innocent people. An urgent effort was required by the international community to promote an equitable and comprehensive solution encompassing withdrawal by Israel from occupied Arab and Palestinian lands and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination and to establish a State of its own.

29. With regard to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, Pakistan supported the Security Council resolution demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the restoration of the legitimate Government of the State of Kuwait.

30. Pakistan welcomed the adoption by consensus of the resolution on Cambodia and hoped that an amicable and durable settlement would be reached which would satisfy the right of the Cambodian people to self-determination. Faithful adherence to that principle was essential to the establishment of a peaceful, just, stable and human world order. Her delegation supported all steps necessary for an early transfer of power to the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and all other territories which had not yet attained independence.

31. Pakistan, along with other delegations, would introduce a draft resolution on the right of peoples to self-determination, which, it hoped, the Committee would adopt by consensus, as it had in previous years.

32. Mr. MANIKFAN (Maldives), referring to certain statements in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/45/488) regarding the treatment of terrorists, said that his country's legal system was based on the Islamic Shariah. The legal treatment received by the prisoners belonging to the terrorist organization which had perpetrated the armed attack on Maldives in November 1988 had been no different from that received by any citizen of the country. His Government reiterated that, because of the country's geographical characteristics, and for security reasons, it had been impossible for the Special Rapporteur to meet more than three prisoners. It also noted with regret that the Special Rapporteur had met certain unnamed individuals, who had made a number of

(Mr. Manikfan, Maldives)

unsubstantiated and unclarified allegations against the Government. The latter categorically denied that any prisoner had died while in custody. Notwithstanding those observations, his delegation was grateful for the time and attention the Special Rapporteur had given to the concerns expressed by the Government, and for his very comprehensive report.

33. Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) said it was highly regrettable that, four decades after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, discrimination based on race continued to prevail in the world because the international community had allowed it to be perpetrated in silence and without protest. The most brutal manifestation of racism was the institutionalized system of apartheid in South Africa. The time had come for the international community to respond to it with concerted action. Apartheid could not be reformed, but must be abolished in its entirety.

34. He reiterated that despite the efforts of the international community, the objectives of the Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had not yet been achieved. It was during the Second Decade, however, that Namibia had attained independence. Nevertheless, the priority objective was the elimination of apartheid. Bangladesh was in favour of launching a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination in 1993.

35. Bangladesh believed that, despite the important events that had taken place in South Africa, the international community must continue to send a clear and unambiguous signal to the Government in Pretoria that it was ready to take collective action in the interest of peace in South Africa. The adoption by consensus of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa was an important step in the struggle against apartheid. However, since the system remained firmly in place, Bangladesh strongly supported the view that sanctions should not be lifted. There must be an end to the immorality of allowing the despicable practice of apartheid.

36. No amount of oppression by the Israeli authorities would be able to stop the Palestinian intifadah. Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people constituted a blatant violation of human rights. Bangladesh remained convinced that a just and lasting solution in the region was possible only through the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. It believed that an international peace conference on the Middle East should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, with the PLO participating on an equal footing with all the parties concerned.

37. On Cambodia, Bangladesh welcomed the agreement to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict under the auspices of the United Nations. The settlement of the Afghan problem called for the establishment of a representative, broad-based government reflecting the popular will. The Afghan people must determine their own destiny without any outside intervention or interference.

(Mr. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh)

38. The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq was a serious violation of the United Nations Charter. Bangladesh called upon Iraq to withdraw from the annexed territories and restore the legitimate Government of Kuwait in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

39. Mr. OMRAN (United Arab Emirates) said that, in the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, when, thanks to the successes achieved in that field, the civilized world could no longer accept any kind of racial discrimination on grounds of colour, religion or ethnic origin, the international community must stand firm against the crimes perpetrated against the black majority in South Africa. Despite the indications of positive developments in that country, his delegation urged that international pressure should be kept up so as to encourage South Africa to abandon the policy of apartheid completely.

40. His country greeted the independence of Namibia and its membership in the United Nations as a result of the Namibian people's struggle under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the work of the United Nations, which upheld the right of peoples to self-determination.

41. The racist régime occupying Palestine and other Arab territories continued to adopt a policy of repression, persecution and displacement of the Palestinian people. The most recent slaughter of Palestinians was not the first, nor would it be the last, for the history of zionism was full of crimes against the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab people in general. It was therefore essential for the international community to apply the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in order to enable the Palestinian people to establish an independent State, thus settling the question of Palestine, the oldest item on the General Assembly's agenda.

42. The United Arab Emirates believed that the détente in international relations that had resulted from the understanding between the two super-Powers meant that the time had come for the United Nations to fulfil its true role: to bring about international peace and security. However, the optimism borne of that development had not lasted long. It had been dispelled by Iraq's invasion, occupation and annexation by force of the State of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, in other words, the invasion of a State Member of the United Nations, the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement by another State Member of those same organizations. However, the international opposition to Iraq's crime showed that policies of aggression had no place in the present-day world.

43. Mr. ABIMANA (Rwanda) said that his Government attached particular importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which had just celebrated its twentieth anniversary and drew its membership from the 130 States which had ratified the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It therefore regretted that the financial difficulties experienced by the Committee, because many States parties - unlike Rwanda - were not paying their contributions, did not allow it to continue its

(Mr. Abimana, Rwanda)

important work and, in particular, had prevented the holding of its spring session. Rwanda believed that a short-term and a long-term solution must be found, and therefore supported the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a reserve fund to which all the States parties would contribute.

44. Rwanda welcomed the recent advances in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, such as Namibia's accession to independence in March and its admission to the United Nations on 26 April 1990, which gave grounds for hope of similar progress in eradicating apartheid in South Africa and ending attempts to destabilize the countries of the region.

45. Rwanda, which had always demonstrated its hatred of apartheid through such measures as breaking off diplomatic relations with South Africa and prohibiting the import of goods from that country, greeted with satisfaction the negotiations between the African National Congress and the Government of South Africa as a milestone on the way towards the dismantling of apartheid. Nevertheless, it continued to believe that imposing sanctions on South Africa and intensifying its international isolation were the most effective means of bringing pressure to bear in order to hasten the dismantling of the system.

46. At a time when the international community was celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, it was deplorable that a Member of the United Nations should have invaded and annexed the territory of another Member. Rwanda condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and supported all the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council in that connection, because it believed that only dialogue could prevent the pointless bloodbath that would result from armed conflict between the forces present in the Persian Gulf. The Gulf crisis was an obstacle to the prospects of peace and détente which had seemed to lie before international relations with the end of the cold war and the diminution of tension and conflict throughout the world. Furthermore, it was provoking grave economic problems for Rwanda and other third-world countries because of the rise in oil prices.

47. Mr. SINGH (India) said it was unfortunate that in the last decade of the current millennium, the world was still facing the problems of racial discrimination, the worst of which was undoubtedly apartheid, although the recent positive measures taken by the Government of South Africa showed that it recognized that apartheid was unjust and immoral and had to be eliminated. However, those measures were inadequate because neither the basic structure of apartheid nor the attitudes on which it fed, fostered by decades of racial hatred, suspicion and injustice, had yet been eradicated. The disturbing increase in violence in Natal and elsewhere in South Africa resulted primarily from the continued existence of apartheid. International pressure must therefore be maintained, through sanctions, to ensure that the process of change was carried to its logical conclusion: the freeing of the South African people from racial tyranny.

48. His delegation welcomed the admirable study by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Asbjorn Eide, on the achievements made and

(Mr. Singh, India)

obstacles encountered during the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and supported the idea expressed in it that the United Nations should start drafting a plan for concerted action to implement the many specific measures which had been recommended in the course of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In his delegation's opinion, it was also necessary to look at other situations where racial discrimination had surfaced. One such case was Fiji, where an illegal régime had imposed a constitution which institutionalized racial discrimination. The United Nations should impress upon that country's régime that its undemocratic and racially discriminatory policies were unacceptable.

49. It was unfortunate that United Nations activities for eliminating racial discrimination were hampered by lack of funds, in particular the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which had had to cancel two sessions.

50. He welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, on the use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/45/488), but regretted that, as pointed out by the representative of Maldives, it contained certain misjudgements on the events of 3 November 1988 in Maldives, which the Special Rapporteur might have avoided if he had been able to obtain a broader view through information from all the parties concerned.

51. Mr. ALI MOHAMMED (Iraq), referring to the questions of racial discrimination and the right of peoples to self-determination, said that it was necessary to analyse existing ideas and attitudes, throughout the world, on those important problems. It was necessary also to study the various stages of the campaign to put an end to the loathsome system of racial segregation, a subject which was linked with self-determination. In that connection, the efforts of the United Nations had been a source of encouragement to the peoples suffering from segregation and foreign domination, in particular the Palestinian people.

52. Two problems were especially important: the racial discrimination practised by the Pretoria Government, and the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories. On the other hand, he welcomed the important victory gained by the people of Namibia, who, after long years of struggle against apartheid, had achieved independence and the right to self-determination. There was no alternative to total elimination of racial discrimination. Consideration of the ideas and attitudes concerning the two problems showed that there were two further factors worth noting: the international efforts to support the struggle of the African and Palestinian peoples, and the efforts of certain interested parties to obstruct international assistance to those peoples. Some of the Western countries, headed by the United States of America, had in various ways violated the international economic embargo imposed against the South African régime, and had given assistance to South Africa on the pretext that sanctions harmed the black majority in that country, thus enabling the régime to pursue its policy of discrimination. In spite of that, the South African people had been able to achieve victories in respect of justice, equality and self-determination.

(Mr. Ali Mohammed, Iraq)

53. Regarding the second factor, there was no need for proof of the United States Government's support for the racist régime in Tel Aviv. The United States was responsible for the crimes perpetrated by Zionist terrorists against the Palestinian people and against the Arab people in general. The international community had quickly become aware of the strategic co-operation existing between the two racist régimes, South Africa and Tel Aviv, which was based particularly on the character of the two régimes and encompassed all spheres of military, political and economic co-operation. The international community had also observed that the two Governments were co-operating in the nuclear field, as well as in ways of wiping out resistance, as shown by the barbaric methods used by Tel Aviv to liquidate the Palestinian intifadah, and by South Africa to repress South Africans. The recent act of genocide by Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people, causing more than 20 martyrs, would certainly not be the last while the occupation and the legitimate national resistance continued.

54. That reflected the devious position of the United States, which gave full backing to the policy of Israel and used the right of veto to prevent adoption of a just resolution condemning Israel, calling for an end to its occupation and imposing the necessary sanctions.

55. The case of Iraq showed yet again the hypocrisy and partiality of the United States when it spoke about the new role of the United Nations and the Security Council, and about international law and the United Nations Charter, while ignoring the role of the Organization and the Council, and the Charter and international law, when it was the United States that committed aggression. It opposed the sending of representatives of the Security Council to the occupied Arab territories, pursuant to Security Council resolution 672 (1990) - to which it deliberately gave a restrictive interpretation - but sent 200,000 soldiers armed with weapons of destruction to occupy Arab territories and seize their wealth.

56. The United States was doing everything possible to impose a stricter blockade on Iraq. That should not surprise anyone, since the United States was well known for its colonialist policy, as shown by its intervention in Viet Nam, Grenada and Panama. It talked about a new era of international understanding, but acted as if it thought it had won the cold war. It was destroying the possibility of achieving real world peace. The campaign against Iraq was the preparation for a new era of colonialism. The imperialist press, with the help of public relations enterprises which had received millions of dollars for their collaboration, had mounted a campaign of defamation against Iraq. But in the end the whole world would see such imperialist and Zionist manoeuvres for what they were: a plot against the Arab world in particular and the developing countries in general.

57. The blockade of Iraq was causing serious suffering to the Iraqi people, especially children, women and the elderly. The United States and its allies were the ones mainly responsible for the appalling effects of the blockade. The United States had sent 200,000 soldiers to the Middle East to occupy Arab territories and violate Islamic Holy Places. The United States generals had themselves admitted that their country had prepared a plan to bombard and destroy Baghdad. They had

(Mr. Ali Mohammed, Iraq)

also planned the destruction of the Palestinian people. Those plans were well known to all. But the call to war involved serious dangers. Everything must be done to avoid war. His delegation hoped that reason would prevail and that a just and peaceful solution would be found to the present situation of tension.

58. The President of Iraq, Mr. Saddam Hussein, had made a statement on 12 August 1990 in which he had declared that Iraq was ready to start negotiations on solving all the problems of the Middle East. Such negotiations would also ensure the solution of the Palestinian problem through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State, with its capital in Al-Quds, and under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

59. His delegation had not exercised its right of reply to statements by certain delegations uttering lies against Iraq, but it reserved the right to do so when it was ready to expose those falsehoods.

60. Mr. Somavia (Chile) resumed the Chair.

61. Mr. QVIR (Israel) said that Israel felt that it must refrain from participating in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination because the concept of racism had been completely distorted and virtually rendered meaningless 15 years earlier in General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which maliciously equated zionism with racism. Zionism was the struggle for the self-emancipation and redemption of a people too long subjected to oppression and racial discrimination and, therefore, was a very antithesis of racism and, in fact, had served as a model for many liberation movements around the world. That resolution had done a grave injustice to his country and people.

62. Israel condemned racism in all its forms and manifestations. His country was a multi-racial and pluralist society, composed of some 100 ethnic groups. The Arab citizens of Israel enjoyed equal civil and political rights. They had full freedom of assembly, speech and movement and practised their religion and culture in absolute freedom. Arabic was one of the two official languages in Israel. Arabs exercised their right to vote in national and local elections and had important positions in the Government, legislature and judiciary.

63. Israel condemned apartheid both as an ideology and a political system in the strongest possible terms and called for an end to that utterly repugnant and intolerable form of racial discrimination. Its opposition to apartheid was not confined to declarative condemnations; Israel had curtailed its relations with South Africa in various fields and had limited its trade with that country. While some Middle Eastern countries continued to sell oil to South Africa in enormous quantities and ship that commodity through tortuous routes to South African ports, Israel was extending special assistance to the South African black community through training and the holding of seminars.

(Mr. Gvir, Israel)

64. He rejected the false comparison drawn between the situation in South Africa and that prevailing in the Israeli-administered areas of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district in order to defame his country. Those territories had come under Israeli administration as a result of the concerted Arab war of aggression against Israel in 1967 and were being held by Israel pending peace negotiations to determine their permanent legal status. The charge that Israel had disenfranchised the Palestinians was a patent absurdity since the Palestinians were not and had never been Israeli citizens and did not claim or desire such citizenship. His country would continue to seek a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute within the framework of a comprehensive, genuine and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In that context, Israel had proposed that the Palestinian inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district should hold free and democratic elections in order to elect, not select, representative leaders able to negotiate freely with Israel. The PLO was vehemently opposed to Israel's peace plan and systematically liquidated all Palestinians who disagreed or stepped forward to negotiate with Israel. One should not, therefore, blindly blame Israel for blocking the peace process between Israel and the Arabs.

65. Mr. RAZZOOKI (Kuwait) said that, after having been a member of the Committee from 1977 to 1988, he had never imagined that he would return to it to explain the barbaric invasion and annexation of his beloved country by another so-called Arab country, Iraq.

66. There had recently been unprecedented progress in the fight against racism and racial discrimination and foreign occupation. The cold war was over; the Berlin Wall had fallen and the two Germanys had been united. All those changes indicated that a new era and a new order of relations were being established between nations and peoples on the basis of brotherhood, reconciliation and respect for international law and the covenants on human rights. His people's dreams and aspirations for a better world had been shattered violently and systematically since 2 August 1990, the day on which Iraqi forces had invaded his country and which would be remembered in the history of Kuwait as the day of infamy. It was unbelievable and unimaginable, but possible because the so-called brotherly neighbour was a ruthless and adventurous dictator, intoxicated with the desire for unlimited power and hegemony.

67. What had happened had been a flagrant and brutal aggression against his country, which had caused an unprecedented crisis in the history of the United Nations. In post-war history, no country had ever overrun a sovereign, independent State and a Member of the United Nations, annexing it by force and working fervently to erase its name and entire identity from the political map of the world. That aggression represented a challenge to the Charter of the United Nations and the international legal order. It had occurred now, in the 1990s, not in the Middle Ages. Iraq had invaded Kuwait with over 150,000 troops and hundreds of tanks, guns and aircraft. The brutal Iraqi occupation forces had deliberately waged an organized campaign of killing and torturing unarmed civilians and had destroyed and plundered industrial installations and warehouses, robbing banks and seizing public and private property. Even hospitals had not been spared the acts

(Mr. Banzooki, Kuwait)

of looting: medical equipment, including kidney dialysis machines and infant incubators, had been shipped to Baghdad, resulting in numerous deaths of premature babies. Clearly, Saddam Hussein's order to his vicious soldiers had been: "Pillage the country". Destruction, torture and summary executions were now the order of the day in Kuwait. Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of nationals of other countries had been made homeless and robbed of their savings; and others had been held hostage against their will.

68. The world now knew that the Iraqi régime represented the forces of evil. No act in history had ever been condemned so unanimously - by the Arab, Islamic, and non-aligned countries, at the international level, and in the Security Council - as the invasion of Kuwaiti territory by Iraqi forces had been.

69. Lastly, his delegation expressed the gratitude of the Kuwaiti people and their Government to all those who had demonstrated in the Committee their determination to preserve the objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and show the Iraqi régime that the peoples of the United Nations had a common destiny: to oppose the forces of tyranny.

70. Mr. MENON (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the attempt by the representative of Pakistan to start a quarrel over the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir was malicious and that the representative had referred to certain United Nations resolutions without mentioning that for some time now Pakistan itself had been violating the resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Pakistan from so-called occupied Kashmir. The process of self-determination recognized by the United Nations was designed to bring about independence from the colonial Powers and could not be applied to integral parts of sovereign States; for that reason, the interpretation of self-determination put forward by the representative of Pakistan might undermine the very basis of the current world order.

71. There was no need to refer to India's record with regard to democracy and human rights. The attempt by Pakistan to call it into question only revealed its ignorance of how constitutional guarantees for human rights functioned in a democracy like India. Furthermore, there was sufficient information on the human rights violations which Pakistan had committed against its own citizens.

72. The arguments put forward by Pakistan constituted interference in the internal affairs of India and an attempt to exploit the situation in another country for short-term goals. Accordingly, he suggested that Pakistan should stop associating with terrorists, obscurantists, fanatics and fundamentalists, renounce hostility and the perverse satisfaction that some people seemed to derive from the difficulties experienced by others, and join India and the rest of the world in order to strengthen mutual trust and friendship.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.