



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 87: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(continued) (A/42/3, A/42/492, A/42/493)

AGENDA ITEM 91: 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: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/448 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 92: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
(A/42/18, A/42/449, A/42/468 and Corr. 1 and Add. 1)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (c) QUESTION OF FINANCING THE EXPENSES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. Mrs. FUNDAFUNDA (Zambia) said that apartheid was the most brutal and flagrant violation of human rights and that the South African minority régime was determined to perpetuate it through intensified repression. In the face of increased national resistance, it had imposed a state of emergency and launched a campaign of terror and destabilization against independent neighbouring States. The persistence of apartheid made further violence inevitable and the international community, if it was to avoid a bloodbath, must impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa as the only peaceful solution. Those who opposed sanctions on the grounds that they would hurt the black people of South Africa and also the front-line States were merely defending their own interests and ignoring the fact that sanctions could hardly make the black people of South Africa suffer more than they were already suffering. Those countries should reconsider their position and help exert pressure on South Africa to abandon apartheid in all its manifestations.

2. Turning to Namibia, her delegation supported the immediate and unconditional implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and rejected attempts to link Namibian independence to the irrelevant issue of the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

3. Her delegation also supported the convening of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization and permanent members of the Security Council, in order to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination.

4. Mr. NGO (Democratic Kampuchea), speaking on agenda item 91, said that the right of self-determination was a natural, inalienable and sacrosanct right to which all peoples were entitled without discrimination. Unfortunately, 27 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, that right was still being arrogantly flouted. In southern Africa, the racist Pretoria régime continued its oppression and massacre of the black population, its illegal occupation of Namibia and its denial of the Namibian people's right to self-determination and independence, and its acts of aggression and destabilization against neighbouring States which supported the Namibian people in their courageous struggle. In his statement to the General Assembly on 28 September 1987 Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea, had stressed that only the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) would bring about a peaceful, just and lasting settlement of the problem of Namibia and the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racist Pretoria régime, followed by a plan to assist the front-line States, would lead to the speedy eradication of apartheid, the establishment of a truly democratic, non-racial Government and the restoration of peace, security and stability in the region.

5. In the Middle East, there could be no just and lasting peace, until the Palestinian people was able to exercise its right of self-determination and both the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force and the right of all States in the region to coexist in peace and security were recognized. An international conference held under United Nations auspices with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, would be an appropriate forum for negotiations.

6. A just and lasting solution to the problem of Afghanistan was not to be found in the death and destruction wrought by the Soviet Union in that country, still less in its bombing of Pakistan, but rather in the relevant United Nations resolutions calling for the immediate and total withdrawal of Soviet forces so that the Afghan people could exercise freely their inalienable right of self-determination.

7. On the question of Kampuchea, by its decision 1987/155 of 29 May 1987 the Economic and Social Council had endorsed Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/6 reaffirming the Kampuchean people's right to self-determination and condemning the continuing illegal occupation of Kampuchea by foreign forces. He wished to recall that the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea in December 1978 had followed the failure of Viet Nam's efforts to impose, through acts of subversion, destabilization and aggression against the independence and sovereignty of Democratic Kampuchea, the situation it had imposed on Laos in July 1977 through the so-called Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation. Viet Nam was trying to implement the Indo-China Federation strategy drawn up by Ho Chi Minh at the time of the founding of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party in 1930 and pursued ever since by Hanoi.

(Mr. Ngo, Democratic Kampuchea)

8. For nine years, the Vietnamese aggressors had used the most barbarous means to subjugate the Kampuchean people, hundreds of thousands of whom had died of hunger or been killed by conventional or bacteriological weapons. Hundreds of villages had been razed and crops plundered or destroyed. The Vietnamese occupiers were forcing the Khmer people, men and women, young and old, to work in mined areas and malaria-infested mountain regions, and tens of thousands of them were dying. Over 700,000 Vietnamese had settled in Kampuchea since 1979 and, apart from that physical Vietnamization, a systematic policy of cultural and social Vietnamization, or ethnocide, was being pursued. The subtle combination of those two forms of Vietnamization was a highly sophisticated form of colonialism and posed a mortal threat to the people of Kampuchea who were fighting not only to free their country but also for their own survival and the preservation of their national identity.

9. In response to growing international support for the people of Kampuchea and international pressure for the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, the Hanoi authorities had tried to disguise their war of aggression and occupation as a civil war, proposing a process of "national reconciliation" under the Phnom Penh puppet régime without any prior commitment to withdrawing their troops. The withdrawal of Viet Nam's troops was essential, however, if the people of Kampuchea were to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination without foreign interference or coercion. Viet Nam had no right to interfere in the domestic affairs of Kampuchea; Kampuchea's national independence was not negotiable.

10. In March 1986, in a desire to curtail the suffering of both the people of Kampuchea and the people of Viet Nam, the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea had made an eight-point peace proposal for a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem. It was prepared to make generous concessions to Viet Nam, namely to accept withdrawal in two stages over a clearly defined period. Prior to the total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, the Coalition Government would agree to form a quadripartite government of national reconciliation with the group set up by Viet Nam at Phnom Penh, which would organize free general elections under United Nations supervision, each party having the same political rights. The Coalition Government was offering Viet Nam an independent, united, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea, with no foreign bases and with the guarantee and presence of the United Nations. It hoped sincerely that Viet Nam would see reason and agree to negotiate, in the interests of the peoples of Kampuchea and Viet Nam and of international peace and security. Lastly, his delegation appealed to the international community to continue its support for the just cause of the Kampuchean people and to keep up its pressure on Viet Nam to accept a political settlement for the total withdrawal of its troops and the self-determination of the people of Kampuchea.

11. Mrs. KAUL (India) recalled that at its first session in 1946 the General Assembly had adopted, on India's initiative, a resolution declaring it in the highest interest of humanity to put an immediate end to racial persecution and discrimination. Years later, however, the evils of racism and racial discrimination, as barbarously manifested in the abhorrent and inhuman system of apartheid, continued unabated. The Pretoria régime had violated every norm of

(Mrs. Kaul, India)

civilized conduct and rejected every initiative for a peaceful solution to the problems of the region.

12. Among the oppressed peoples of South Africa, the goal of emancipation had moved millions to risk imprisonment and death in an attempt to wrest their freedom and dignity from the clutches of an oppressive minority. India was proud of its commitment to the struggle against discrimination and oppression in South Africa. It had taken the lead on the issue in the United Nations and had broken lucrative ties with South Africa as early as 1946. It had recently contributed \$10,000 to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was also chairing the Non-Aligned Movement's Action for Resisting Invasion, Colonialism and Apartheid Fund, set up to assist the front-line States and national liberation movements in southern Africa.

13. The fact that South Africa continued to pursue its inhuman policies unabated was attributable mainly to the support it received from certain countries which maintained their links with the Pretoria régime for financial profit and strategic interests. Without such collaboration, South Africa could not have obtained the weapons and sophisticated military technologies which enabled it to maintain its stranglehold over its suffering peoples. Without these trade relations, the régime would have collapsed long ago. Compromising with apartheid would not safeguard narrow commercial or strategic interests, however. It would only result in a conflagration that would tear apart all that such compromise sought to preserve. Comprehensive mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter were the only effective means of bringing international pressure to bear on South Africa. Those who suggested that apartheid could be reformed were motivated by self-interest. The facts spoke for themselves: apartheid must be eliminated.

14. At the mid-point of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, there was reason to be less than satisfied with the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade. The report in document A/42/493 concentrated on part B of the Programme of Action: education, teaching and training, but it was equally important to focus on part A, concerning other action to combat apartheid.

15. Turning to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), her delegation was concerned at the financial crisis facing CERD. It noted from document A/42/468/Add.1 that arrears of contributions from 48 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination amounted to \$151,623, and regretted that little progress had been made in implementing General Assembly resolution 41/105 requesting States parties to pay their dues. She appealed to the States parties concerned to urgently settle all arrears so that the Committee could continue to function.

16. The training course held at United Nations Headquarters for legislative draftsmen from 8 to 18 September 1987 with the aim of focusing on the preparation of national legislation against racism and racial discrimination had been a useful exercise.

(Mrs. Kaul, India)

17. India attached great importance to General Assembly resolution 41/102 on the use of mercenaries. Her delegation welcomed the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the subject and hoped that he would be able to fulfil his mandate as laid down in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/16.
18. As a party to the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of apartheid, India appreciated the work being done by the Group of Three set up under the Convention. In its latest report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Group had appealed to States members of the Commission to strengthen their co-operation at the international level in order to implement fully, decisions taken by the Security Council and other United Nations organs aimed at the prevention, suppression and punishment of apartheid. It had also emphasized the importance of increasing assistance to the national liberation movements in South Africa and had said that transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia must be considered accomplices in the crime of apartheid, in accordance with article III (b) of the Convention. Her delegation welcomed the Group's report and supported its efforts to examine the extent and nature of the responsibility of transnational corporations for the continued existence of apartheid in South Africa.
19. Time was running out for the apartheid régime. In the words of India's Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, freedom, like peace and prosperity, was indivisible. The tide of public opinion world-wide was surging towards freedom and victory could not be far off.
20. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey) said that his Government was deeply committed to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and endorsed the overall orientation of the activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade, including those relating to education, teaching and training and the dissemination of information. It particularly supported the measures designed to improve the human rights situation of migrant workers and welcomed the progress made by the Working Group on the drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.
21. Despite the efforts of the international community, widespread racism and racial discrimination persisted. The situation had not changed in the past year and in some cases national minorities which were recognized and protected by international agreements had continued to be deprived of their national identity and their fundamental cultural and religious rights. The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/42/18) contained reliable and well-documented information about the situation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. His delegation hoped that the ninth periodic report of Bulgaria would show a change in the Bulgarian Government's attitude to that humanitarian problem which was adversely affecting relations between the two countries. As his delegation had stressed on many occasions, Turkey was prepared to consider the matter seriously, in bilateral talks with Bulgaria. His delegation agreed fully with the representative of Hungary that co-operation between States in the protection of the rights of national minorities would help improve relations between those States.

(Mr. Akyol, Turkey)

22. So far, South Africa had not heeded the universal indignation aroused by the odious system of apartheid; the scant reforms introduced from time to time had always led to an escalation of violence and an intensification of repression. Until the South African Government abolished apartheid totally and embarked on a true process of dialogue and change, South Africa would continue to sink further into a deadly civil war. The exacerbation of the situation in South Africa and the persistence of human suffering required a firm response on the part of the United Nations. Turkey subscribed to the main principles of the Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa and was ready to support the adoption of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa. It maintained no diplomatic or consular relations with Pretoria and implemented strictly all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

23. South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia posed a challenge to the international community and, to the United Nations in particular. South Africa was invoking all kinds of pretexts to defend its economic and strategic interests. As a founding member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Turkey would support all efforts to solve the problem and hoped that the Security Council would soon take a position which would encourage the South African Government to co-operate with the United Nations and implement the plan for Namibia without delay.

24. The situation in the Middle East continued to be a source of great concern; no settlement could be just and lasting if it failed to respect the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people. His delegation admired the determination of the Afghan people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and secure the withdrawal of foreign troops and the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their country. A comprehensive political settlement in Kampuchea also required the withdrawal of foreign forces and the exercise by the Kampuchean people of the right to self-determination.

25. Mrs. MATVEYEVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that recent changes in the world arena marked the beginning of a qualitative transformation in the very structure of international relations. Support was growing for the principles of the new political thinking aimed at establishing a comprehensive system of international security and putting into practice the lofty ideals of the United Nations Charter. The Ukrainian SSR believed that one of the main prerequisites for the establishment of a just international order was the guarantee of the right of each people to self-determination. No one dared to deny that right, yet repeated attempts were being made to distort its nature and incorporate into it ideas that were totally irrelevant. Declarations about adherence to the ideals of freedom and democracy were at odds with comprehensive support for apartheid and other repressive régimes, acts of aggression and subversive activities against sovereign States, and the use of mercenaries, hypocritically termed "freedom fighters". Violations of the right of peoples to self-determination were the most flagrant and dangerous violations of human rights, as the situation in southern Africa demonstrated. It was high time to take effective measures against the criminal apartheid régime, including comprehensive mandatory sanctions.

(Mrs. Matveyeva, Ukrainian SSR)

26. In the Middle East, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people were being flagrantly violated. The course taken by events demonstrated clearly the futility of relying on armed force and confrontation. A genuine settlement would be possible only if all Israeli troops were withdrawn from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the Palestinian people achieved its inalienable right of self-determination and the right to establish its own independent State, and the right of all countries of the region to a secure existence was guaranteed. An international conference on the Middle East should be convened under United Nations auspices with the participation of all interested parties on an equal footing, including the Palestine Liberation Organization and the permanent members of the Security Council.

27. The right of self-determination remained an inalienable right of peoples even after they had won political independence, and involved the right to solve developmental and socio-economic problems and form alliances in full sovereignty, without outside interference. One of the most dangerous methods used by some Powers to block the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination was mercenarism, which threatened the supreme human right, the right to life. In recent years, there had been a noticeable growth in the direct participation of certain States in the recruitment, training, financing and use of mercenaries against national liberation movements and sovereign States pursuing a progressive, independent policy. Mercenaries were being used in undeclared wars against Afghanistan and Nicaragua and in aggressive subversive actions against Angola, Mozambique, Kampuchea and other countries. They were being used to crush the just struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and independence and to intimidate front-line States into abandoning their support of the struggle against apartheid. The actions of mercenary gangs had recently created a disturbing situation in Suriname, where an attempt was being made to reverse the process of historical development. In the interests of preserving universal peace and security and guaranteeing the right of self-determination, mercenarism must be prohibited. The question of the use of mercenaries should be given constant attention by the United Nations and her delegation therefore welcomed the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the subject.

28. Peoples' attainment of the right of self-determination required the establishment of a system of equitable economic relations. It was unacceptable to deny the right of peoples to development on the pretext that development was the product of individual rights, interpreted in a very one-sided manner. In reality, poverty resulted from the absence of rights and the harnessing of entire regions and continents as areas of "vital interests", by means of economic pressure and blackmail and even direct acts of aggression. In order to ensure normal socio-economic development and overcome economic backwardness, developing countries must be freed from the burden of debt and given economic security under a new international economic order.

29. Solidarity with the just cause of peoples struggling for self-determination was an important part of efforts to create a reliable system of world security, defuse conflicts and stabilize the situation in flashpoints around the world.

(Mrs. Matveyeva, Ukrainian SSR)

30. It was regrettable that the statement by the representative of Turkey had contained unfounded attacks against socialist Bulgaria which, as was well known, fully ensured equality of rights and the elimination of discrimination. Her delegation was opposed to attempts to use meetings of the Committee for propaganda and defamatory purposes.

31. Mrs. PANDEY (Nepal) said that despite heightened awareness of the problem of racial discrimination and considerable progress in solving it, the evils of racism persisted, particularly in South Africa. Her delegation vigorously supported all United Nations activities under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as outlined in document A/42/493. It welcomed the increasing emphasis on education, training and the dissemination of information and urged the Committee to give due consideration to the relevant proposals.

32. Her own country was firmly opposed to all forms of racism, was a party to the international conventions and was active in the committees set up to monitor their implementation. It had also been active in the struggle against apartheid and advocated stronger action against the South African régime.

33. Her delegation firmly supported the right of self-determination and condemned the South African régime for denying that right to the people of Namibia. Namibian independence must be achieved on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions which provided an internationally acceptable basis for the Territory's peaceful transition from colonial subjugation to independence.

34. Mr. BOLD (Mongolia) said that the international community must step up its action to combat racism, particularly in South Africa where it was practised in its most virulent form, apartheid. The unprecedented oppression of the peoples of southern Africa poisoned the international climate, threatened universal peace and security and violated the basic norms and principles of the United Nations Charter. Apartheid could not be transformed, however. It must be abolished, and that required comprehensive mandatory sanctions and an end to all co-operation by imperialist and racist forces with the Pretoria régime, since such co-operation only aggravated the situation. International instruments against racism must be strictly observed, and the United Nations training course for legislative draftsmen would help strengthen national legislation against racism and racial discrimination.

35. The United Nations had a unique role to play in combating racism and he welcomed its emphasis on education, teaching, training and the dissemination of information. The co-operation of all States was required in order to pursue the struggle, however, and those States parties that had not met their financial obligations to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should do so without delay.

36. Mongolia supported all the efforts of the international community to eliminate racial discrimination, was a party to the international conventions and co-operated closely with the relevant United Nations bodies. It resolutely condemned apartheid

(Mr. Bold, Mongolia)

and maintained no relations with the South African racist régime. The illegal occupation of Namibia, in particular, was a violation of the right of self-determination that could be corrected only by the abolition of the apartheid régime, and his country supported fully the liberation movements in southern Africa and urged the immediate release of all political prisoners.

37. The Palestinian people had also been denied its right to self-determination and his delegation supported the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East to secure the Palestinian people's right to establish its own State.

38. While fully supporting the right of self-determination, his country was nevertheless opposed to attempts to use that right as a pretext for intervening in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

39. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the right of self-determination meant much more than freedom from colonial rule and foreign domination. It also meant the development of a social order, the definition of economic, social and cultural values and the choice of a Government through free elections at regular intervals. Societies must constantly adapt to changing needs and the right of self-determination was therefore inseparable from the right of the individual to participate in the conduct of public affairs through a democratic process that was in turn inseparable from the full exercise of basic civil rights.

40. Unfortunately, the right of self-determination was being undermined, and even abolished, in many parts of the world, in the name of totalitarian ideologies or through military intervention and new forms of colonialism and hegemony which created threats to the peace. His delegation called for the unconditional application of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in order to end the illegal occupation of Namibia; an international conference on the Middle East which recognized Israel's right to exist within secure borders and the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people; the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea in order to correct those violations of the right of self-determination; and free self-determination for the German nation, which was divided against its will.

41. Mrs. NIKOLIC (Yugoslavia) said that although the current age had been one of emancipation of peoples and countries and affirmation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, millions of people throughout the world continued to suffer the indignity of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. The most flagrant violations of basic human rights were racial discrimination, apartheid and the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination. Her country's position regarding those practices was well known. It supported the right of every people and country to self-determination, independence and freedom.

42. Yugoslavia had always been in favour of a peaceful solution to the question of Namibia, based on the United Nations plan for Namibia. The Organization, in particular the Security Council, should take immediate, resolute action to bring about the early implementation of that plan.

(Mrs. Nikolic, Yugoslavia)

43. Nowhere was the violation of human rights more flagrant and agonizing than in South Africa, where the evil policy of apartheid was being insensitively perpetuated and consolidated. In a vain attempt to preserve its domination and racial discrimination, the South African régime had recently stepped up its oppression of the majority black population. However, resistance to the régime was increasing. The United Nations should take resolute action to intensify the struggle against the abhorrent system of apartheid and isolate the South African Government, in order to bring about a change in existing policies and practices.

44. The early convening of an international conference on the Middle East, under United Nations auspices, and with the participation of all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, would enhance the prospects for a comprehensive lasting solution of the Palestinian problem, and an end to the crisis in the Middle East.

45. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination represented a permanent set of norms and provided an institutional framework for activities to combat racism and racial discrimination. The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), responsible for monitoring implementation of the Convention, was of exceptional importance in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Her delegation therefore regretted CERD's financial problems, which had been brought about by the failure of some States parties to pay their assessed contributions. It was sad that the implementation of the most universally accepted human rights instrument was being impaired by the failure of a number of countries to pay relatively small amounts of money. She noted with appreciation the personal efforts made by Mr. Martenson, Director of the Centre for Human Rights, to convene the CERD's March and August 1987 sessions, enabling the Committee to adopt the report on its work in 1986 and 1987.

46. Turning to the provision of the Convention regarding States parties' payment of expenses for CERD members that voluntarily accepted obligation should be implemented faithfully. Since the United Nations was no longer able to advance funds for future CERD sessions and a firm cut-off date would be established for such sessions, States parties to the Convention should seriously consider CERD's financial situation at the regular meeting to be held on 15 January 1988 and take appropriate action. As a temporary measure, States parties should perhaps explore the possibility of holding only one CERD session, of longer duration, per year. With regard to reports by States parties, her delegation welcomed the decision taken by the seventh (emergency meeting) of States parties recommending that, as a general practice, after submitting their initial comprehensive reports to CERD States parties should submit further comprehensive reports on every second occasion thereafter on which reports were due, and brief interim reports on each intervening occasion.

47. The situation of migrant workers and national and ethnic minorities were matters of great concern. The international instruments relating to minorities and migrant workers must be finalized without delay and other steps taken to alleviate

(Mrs. Nikolic, Yugoslavia)

the situation of those groups. Her delegation attached particular importance to the Study on the "effects of racial discrimination in the field of education, training and employment as it affects the children of minorities, in particular those of migrant workers (A/42/492). Her country had not replied to the Secretary-General's note, so that Yugoslavia was only mentioned in the report through the reports of other countries and specialized organizations. The information provided by the International Labour Organisation, for instance, reflected Yugoslavia's efforts and measures to improve the situation of the children of migrant workers.

48. Special efforts should be made to intensify the activities of all United Nations organs in order to achieve meaningful results during the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Regarding the Secretariat's proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade, her delegation noted adjustments made by the Secretariat in response to suggestions and proposals put forward during the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1987. Yugoslavia believed that the conclusions concerning the education of children of minorities and migrant workers should not be interpreted in such a way as to deprive them of rights already achieved bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. Given the financial situation of the United Nations, available resources should be used in the most effective manner in order to give renewed and much needed impetus to the implementation of the objectives for the Decade.

49. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation rejected as totally false the allegations made against Bulgaria by the representative of Turkey. Turkey claimed to be guided not by political or propaganda considerations, but by humanitarian concerns. If Turkey truly adhered to the ideals of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, it could best demonstrate such adherence by implementing those ideals in Turkey and by becoming a party to the two International Covenants on human rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other international human rights instruments. However, if Turkey became a party to those conventions, it would be forced to implement their provisions, which was what Turkish leaders feared the most.

50. If Turkey became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it would be in a position to weigh the reports of other States parties and to explain its long-standing policies of assimilation and physical elimination of "non-Turkish ethnic groups", including groups of Armenians, Greeks, Syrians, Arabs, Bulgarians and others. The 10 million Kurds in Turkey were currently victims of such outrages.

51. The best contribution that Turkey could make to the cause of international co-operation would be to desist from illegal claims against neighbouring countries, including Bulgaria. In a recent speech, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal had threatened the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bulgaria and other neighbouring States. Turkey had refused to release the text of the speech and had

(Mr. Golemanov, Bulgaria)

tried to play down its significance. The serious problems besetting Turkey could not be solved by increasing tensions with neighbouring States. Bulgaria was doing its best to end the impasse in its bilateral relations with Turkey and re-establish a dialogue on all issues of mutual interest, without interference in each other's relations, in keeping with the spirit and letter of the United Nations Charter.

52. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Bulgaria had a mistaken understanding of the concept of adherence to international instruments, which was a prerogative of sovereign States. Not being a party to a particular instrument did not constitute a violation of international law. However, if a State did become a party to an international instrument, it accepted commitments which must be respected in good faith. Bulgaria had violated its contractual obligations with regard to its Turkish minority. In view of the information contained in the CERD report (A/42/18), his delegation believed that its desire to see Bulgaria change its policies with regard to the Turkish minority in Bulgaria was justified. Bulgaria had tried to minimize the findings of that report, but the latter did not bear out the arguments advanced by the Bulgarian representative.

53. The CERD report provided overwhelming proof of the Bulgarian Government's policy of forced assimilation of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Referring to paragraph 201 of the report, he recalled that Bulgaria's initial report had contained specific references to the Turkish minority, but those references had disappeared from the revised version of the report. No Bulgarian official had been able to explain why and he wondered whether the Bulgarian representative could do so now. Citing passages from paragraphs 202 and 203 of the report, he asked the Bulgarian representative whether those passages constituted approval by CERD of the racial policies pursued by the Bulgarian Government.

54. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the CERD report and the relevant summary records were available for each Committee member to read and make up his own mind. He repeated that Bulgaria was awaiting the release of the text of the speech by Turkish Prime Minister Özal and also Turkey's initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, if and when Turkey became a party to that Convention.

55. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Bulgarian representative had attempted to distort the Turkish Prime Minister's speech and use it out of context. The Prime Minister had sought to underline the importance that Turkey attached to Bulgaria's fulfilment of its obligations regarding the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. It was clear that no Government could tolerate the forced assimilation of its kinfolk; Turkey sought a political solution to the problem through bilateral negotiations, and would welcome any member of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria who wished to emigrate to Turkey.