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**THIRD COMMITTEE**  
**8th meeting**  
**held on**  
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**at 3 p.m.**  
**New York**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)**

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.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. Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA (Brazil) expressed satisfaction at the timely publication of the report prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/94 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/2 (A/42/493), which permitted a more objective assessment of the impact of the activities carried out and planned under the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

2. As the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Asbjørn Eide, had indicated in his report to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the continued existence of the apartheid régime in South Africa and Namibia was the most blatant and tragic evidence that the major aim of the Decade had not been achieved. It was deplorable that, despite the efforts of almost every organ of the United Nations system, many members of the black majority population of South Africa, including numerous innocent children, continued to be sacrificed. The original responsibility for the present internal conflicts in that country lay in the intrinsically violent nature of its racial policies. As General Obasanjo, former Head of State of Nigeria and Co-Chairman of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons on Southern Africa, had stressed recently in a lecture series, it was a tribute to the tolerance, forbearance and resilience characteristic of African culture that for 50 years violence never entered into the tactics of those seeking political participation and justice in South Africa.

3. Although more decisive measures by the international community were needed, many countries had already taken some positive steps to promote the dismantling of the apartheid system. Even countries that maintained links with the South African Government in the civilian and military spheres had started to impose sanctions. Although voluntary and limited, those sanctions at least served as an additional indication of the unflinching resolve of the international community to put an end

(Mr. Nogueira-Batista, Brazil)

to the apartheid régime. Several private corporations operating on the South African market had also reduced or eliminated their presence on that market. The meeting held at Dakar in July 1987 between representatives of the South African white establishment and leaders of the African National Congress to discuss the future of their common land had been a positive development. His delegation hoped that that kind of dialogue would be pursued.

4. His delegation reiterated its profound concern for the cause of all peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation, particularly the people of Namibia.

5. The fact that the Head of Cabinet of the Brazilian Ministry of Justice had attended the recent training course for legislative draftsmen, which had afforded an interesting exchange of experiences, demonstrated the importance that the Brazilian Government attached to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In future, however, participants should also be invited from developed countries, Western and Eastern European alike, in order to further enrich the exchange of views and avoid any misperception that racism and racial discrimination were more prevalent in the third world than elsewhere.

6. Brazil's internal legislation had already condemned and punished acts of racial discrimination long before the launching of the First United Nations Decade. Brazil attached great importance to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and both its reports and its financial contributions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) were up-to-date. It was regrettable that, despite all the pledges and appeals made at the eleventh meeting of States parties to the Convention in April 1987, the second regular session of CERD in 1987 had had to be curtailed.

7. The decision to extend the periodicity of States parties' reports was an important rationalization measure. His delegation had referred repeatedly to the need to avoid duplication in requests for information imposed by many resolutions. Since periodic reports to CERD were systematic and comprehensive, their wider dissemination and better use could save precious time for Governments that were seriously dedicated to the cause. That opinion had been shared by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Eide, in his report submitted to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its thirty-ninth session.

8. His delegation hoped that the final assessment of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would show that the efforts made under the Programme of Action for the Decade had borne fruit in perfecting human relations at national, regional and international levels.

9. Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso) said that violations of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence continued to be endemic. Peoples still remained under the yoke of domination and colonization even though the principle of self-determination had been proclaimed more than 60 years previously and reaffirmed repeatedly by both the League of Nations and the United Nations.

(Mr. Kabore, Burkina Faso)

The tragic example of Namibia led one to wonder how it was that, if Prime Minister Jan Smuts had been one of the founding fathers of the League of Nations, his successors were now keeping Namibia enslaved. Perhaps the reason was that principles too were colour conscious and that, because the population of Namibia was black, everything that country contained was being shamelessly exploited with the complicity of the same great Powers which at the end of the First World War had proclaimed the right of self-determination.

10. The world now knew that the right of self-determination was universal. That was why, after the Second World War, the States of the third world, most of whose populations were coloured, had demanded the effective implementation of the principle of self-determination without discrimination. If, in the case of Namibia, Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was not implemented, the right to independence would have to be seized by mobilizing and heightening the awareness of all peoples and, if necessary, by engaging in armed struggle. Burkina Faso therefore supported the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) both morally and materially in its heroic struggle against the barbarian hordes of the racist Pretoria régime and reaffirmed its active solidarity with the Front-Line States which endured daily the acts of destabilization launched by that régime from Namibian territory.

11. South Africa's intrinsic racist régime had reversed the democratic principle of the majority so that the white minority was laying down the law for the black majority, a form of government to which they had given the name apartheid. Apartheid was an insult to human intelligence which could be combatted only by neutralizing its defenders. The people of Burkina Faso, led by the National Revolution Council, were doing everything possible to combat apartheid. They had even established an anti-apartheid fund maintained by voluntary contributions, and had organized an anti-apartheid forum from 8 to 11 October 1987, in connection with the Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners. That international meeting would make it possible to further heighten the awareness of the peoples of the world who, together with the African National Congress (ANC) and other African liberation movements, were endeavouring to put an end to the odious system of apartheid.

12. Burkina Faso, which reaffirmed that the law must be universal and above all considerations of colour, was striving to help the international community achieve the eradication of apartheid so that a genuine, multiracial democracy could be established in South Africa. To that end, comprehensive mandatory sanctions must be imposed without the usual hypocritical leniency towards the race in power.

13. After 40 years of talk about apartheid and Namibia, it was time to move on to deeds rather than words in order to defeat the colonialist and, racist Pretoria régime. His delegation, which had approached from that standpoint the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/42/493), noted with interest from paragraph 27 of the report that recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination were starting to be finalized further to General Assembly

(Mr. Kabore, Burkina Faso)

resolutions 40/22 of 29 November 1985 and 41/94 of 4 December 1986. It also noted with interest the measures taken in the area of international co-operation (paras. 33 and 34) and hoped that they would yield satisfactory results.

14. Burkina Faso attached importance to the effective implementation of outstanding activities for the period 1985-1989 and the proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade (1990-1993). Despite some imperfections, they were a practical expression of the efforts of the United Nations system to combat all forms of racial discrimination, particularly apartheid, the most degrading form of all.

15. His Government had decided to pay very shortly its outstanding contributions to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which totalled \$6,370.

16. Mrs. KUMI (Ghana), referring to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination said that the mere fact that it had been necessary to launch a Second Decade showed how deeply rooted racism was and how efforts must be intensified to combat it on all fronts. Conscious that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, adopted by the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, remained the basic guide for action, her delegation accepted the proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade (1990-1993) set forth in part IV of document A/42/493. However, it believed that more extensive and concrete proposals for combating apartheid could be incorporated in the outstanding activities for the rest of the first half of the Second Decade. It welcomed the emphasis placed on educational methods as a means of combating racial discrimination and suggested that the study of racism and racial discrimination in the contemporary social context should be included in the list of subjects for regional and interregional seminars enumerated in paragraph 39 (a) to (e), since peoples of colour, minority groups within States and, in particular, migrant workers were being subjected to the worst forms of both subtle and open racism and racial discrimination.

17. Apartheid, the worst form of institutionalized racism and racial discrimination, had assumed unprecedented dimensions, with violence and terrorism as its key words. One of the major factors in that escalation was political and social fear. The structures of race, built by man himself in his urge to dominate others and in his fear of being dominated, had alienated people from their common humanity and created in its stead systems which promoted depersonalized relations leading to fear, in particular, fear of the reaction of oppressed races and minorities if their dignity was restored.

18. The victory of oppressed peoples was inevitable, no matter how long it took. Unfortunately, in the meantime, humanity continued to pay a high price for the maintenance of an unjust relationship. In the particular case of South Africa, the horrors of apartheid persisted in utter disregard of universal efforts to rid the country of that evil system. In that connection, her Government continued to support the application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions in order to cripple the apartheid economy and eventually bring it down.

(Mrs. Kumi, Ghana)

19. The measures of divestment from South Africa taken by a few transnational corporations, although mild, indicated a sensitivity to the struggle against apartheid and were a prelude to greater action in the future, when mankind came to terms with the fact that apartheid, by its very nature, was doomed to fail. Ghana viewed with concern the activities of transnational corporations which were the lifeline of the South African régime, and considered them accomplices in the crime of apartheid.

20. Her Government supported the appeal of the Commission on Human Rights to all States Parties to the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid to fulfil their reporting obligations. It also noted with satisfaction that some States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had complied with their financial obligations and hoped that the arrears would be settled once the administrative obstacles in the respective countries had been cleared.

21. Although the United Nations had done commendable work in the area of decolonization, the questions of Namibia and Palestine continued to be major exceptions. The situation in New Caludonia was also preoccupying. It was most regrettable that obstacles were being erected to the implementation of United Nations resolutions which could pave the way for the self-determination of the Palestinian and Namibian peoples. The most formidable of those obstacles was of course the involvement of mercenaries in violent and subversive activities in southern Africa and the Middle East. In that connection, the activities of mercenaries against dependent territories and their national liberation movements and also against newly independent developing countries merited special attention.

22. Certain delegations had complained repeatedly about the activities of mercenaries in their countries. That had been the case particularly of many African countries, especially the Front-Line States, which bore the brunt of South Africa's armed invasions. Many other African, Asian and Latin American delegations had also complained about subversive mercenary activities in their respective countries which threatened their acquired right to self-determination by undermining their political stability. Certain other delegations, however, had dismissed those complaints as imagined or exaggerated. That was why the General Assembly had adopted at its forty-first session resolution 41/102 calling for the appointment of a special rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and preventing the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. The resolution had given rise to an animated debate and her delegation was happy that it had now become clear that it would not be the special rapporteur's job to enter into the legalities of mercenarism but only to determine whether or not mercenaries were actually operating in the areas mentioned. Ghana was confident that the Commission on Human Rights would define the special rapporteur's mandate clearly so as to enable him to produce a report that would dissipate all doubts existing in that respect.

23. It was an opportune time to state categorically that, contrary to the notion held by certain delegations that there were lawful and unlawful mercenary

(Mrs. Kumi, Ghana)

activities, Ghana considered all such activities to be unlawful. Mercenary activities were violent and abominable acts that should be condemned by all, regardless of where they occurred and what motivated them.

24. Mr. MINET (International Labour Organisation (ILC)) said that the situation prevailing in southern Africa was a clear example of the impossibility of achieving lasting security or sustained economic and social progress if human rights were not respected. That idea had been voiced frequently at the International Labour Conference held in June 1987 which had issued conclusions and recommendations aimed at Governments, employers' associations and trade unions, all of which could and should in one way or another take part in the struggle against the South African system of racial discrimination.

25. In proposing that the Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid in South Africa, adopted in 1981, be brought up to date, the Conference had wished to underscore the fact that ILO would not falter in its struggle against apartheid as long as that policy persisted. As he did each year, the Director-General of ILO had submitted to the Conference his special report on the application of the Declaration, which reviewed the social and labour situation over the past year, in particular, labour relations and the trade union situation, employment and vocational training possibilities, wages, health and safety in the workplace, unemployment, problems relating to migration in the region, and the social situation in Namibia.

26. The Conference had urged Governments to take the necessary steps to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and other relevant bodies and, above all, to adopt comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa and promote the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia. It had called on Governments to break off political, military, cultural, sports and diplomatic relations with South Africa, put an end to economic and trade relations and prohibit new investments, loans, commercial credits and bank transactions in South African gold. It had also requested Governments to adopt strict divestment measures and withdraw all public funds from banks which maintained trade relations with South Africa and to deny recognition to the bantustans and prohibit investments there and instead give greater assistance to the development of countries bordering South Africa or completely surrounded by it, which, because of their geographical and economic situation, were forced to maintain relations with that country.

27. The International Labour Conference had requested employers' organizations to persuade their members to divest from South Africa and the bantustans and transfer their investments to other African countries, especially the Front-Line States and States belonging to the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference; to refuse to co-operate with the South African authorities in applying apartheid laws; and to provide technical and financial assistance to programmes for developing small businesses and providing management training for victims of apartheid exiled in the Front-Line States and other neighbouring States. It had urged trade unions

(Mr. Minet, ILO)

to bring the greatest possible pressure to bear on their Governments for the adoption and application of comprehensive mandatory sanctions and had also asked them to put pressure on corporations which did not recognize the independent black trade union movement and therefore violated internationally accepted labour laws.

28. The Conference had requested ILO to expand its vocational training and management and business management training activities for victims of apartheid exiled in neighbouring countries so that they could find independent employment and have the necessary training to assume their responsibilities in a democratic and equalitarian South Africa and a democratic Namibia. The Conference had called for a tripartite meeting to be held in a Front-Line State prior to the 1989 Conference to review all aspects of the measures that must be taken against apartheid and the illegal occupation of Namibia, including assistance to Front-Line and neighbouring States.

29. The Conference had adopted its conclusions following a lively debate among representatives of member Governments, employers and workers, which had taken place in its committee on apartheid which each year reviewed South Africa's practices and policies. Statements had been made to that committee by the General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the Assistant Secretary of the South African Council of Trade Unions.

30. Concerning the protection of migrant workers, the fourth ILO European Regional Conference held recently at Geneva had adopted a resolution recalling that the 4.5 million young people who formed part of the second generation of immigrants to Europe needed special programmes that offered them broad opportunities. It had requested European States to recognize the equality of opportunity and treatment to which all migrant workers legally admitted to their territories were entitled, to facilitate the reunion of families and to integrate the children of such workers in their educational and training systems. The aim of that resolution was to achieve closer co-operation between European States members of ILO and the countries of origin of the parents of those young people.

31. Lastly, the Conference had requested ILO to co-operate with other international and regional organizations in preparing, putting into effect and disseminating an information programme for schools and the mass media, the purpose of which would be to foster greater knowledge and understanding of the culture, values and traditions of migrant workers, countries of origin and their undeniable contribution to the development, well-being and cultural life of the countries where they worked.

32. Mr. SON (Democratic Kampuchea) said that the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea supported firmly all appropriate measures which the international community might see fit to take in its struggle against apartheid, racism and racial discrimination. In particular, it supported unreservedly the implementation of Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978).

33. Like the South African and Namibian peoples, the Afghan people were being denied the possibility of exercising their right of self-determination. Other peoples too continued to be the victims of various forms of racism and racial



(Mr. Son, Democratic Kampuchea)

discrimination, in the face of international indifference. His delegation noted with appreciation the compassionate statements made with regard to the Kampuchean and Afghan peoples, who continued to suffer the foreign occupation of their respective countries.

34. He compared the institutionalization of the apartheid régime in South Africa with the oppression of the Khmer people by the colonialist and imperialist Hanoi régime, which had occupied Kampuchea in 1979 with troops heavily backed by the Soviet Union. That particular instance of oppression had three basic aspects: from the ethnic and cultural point of view, the oppressed Khmer people was treated as a minority despite its being the majority in its own territory; from the social and political angle, the Kampuchean people had been relegated to subordinate tasks and forced labour and had been confined to ghettos; it was prevented from exercising its civil and political rights and its function was limited to that of puppets worked by the colonial Power. From the economic standpoint, the inhabitants belonging to the Khmer race were oppressed and divested of their power to improve their social standing and economic independence; their participation in the economic system was limited to eking out a bare living, as they were powerless and mere tools of the economy, virtually slave labourers. In the same way, Hanoi leaders oppressed the ethnic Khmer people in South Viet Nam; their fate was largely forgotten. There were millions of Khmer currently living in South Viet Nam who were being deprived of their roots and vietnamized.

35. He referred to the various studies and reports on Viet Nam's crimes against the Cambodian people, which had been denounced by his country's representatives at the United Nations. In particular, he mentioned an article published by the Khmer Buddhist Centre for Investigations, which was based on a joint inquiry conducted by a group of Khmer refugees. The article described deteriorating education standards, the persecution of Buddhism, exploitation of the Khmer economy and the appropriation by Vietnamese settlers of the land belonging to Kampuchean farmers - in short, the vietnamization of Kampuchea.

36. Prime Minister Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, had recently made a statement before the International Diplomatic Academy in Paris, in which he had stated that the return of increasing numbers of young people who had studied in Hanoi and in Soviet bloc countries was increasing the danger of vietnamization and sovietization of the Kampuchean people, which was being subjected, day after day, to intensive indoctrination.

37. Numerous solutions had been proposed to free the Khmer people from the war and shortages from which it had been suffering since 1970. Resolutions on the subject adopted by the United Nations since 1979 provided guidelines for a political solution of the problem and at the forty-first session, 115 countries had voted for the resolution on the subject. The Ad Hoc Committee set up at the International Conference on Kampuchea, held in 1981, had been working toward the same goal ever since.

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38. Viet Nam had managed to remain unmoved by international political, diplomatic and economic pressure, owing to its Soviet back-up. He thanked the countries which had sought a peaceful solution to the Khmer problem. Viet Nam had rejected out of hand the peace proposal submitted by his Government and had used the reconciliation formula which it had propounded as a propaganda ploy in its own favour in order to impose the puppet régime of Phnom Penh. That ploy had already been denounced by the three leaders of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea.

39. Regarding implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, he endorsed the words of the member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination who, at its thirty-fourth session, had stated that when a State party to the Convention was occupied by foreign forces, the authorities of that State could not fulfil the obligations incumbent on them under the Convention, and the demographic changes occurring in such cases constituted a serious violation of that instrument.

40. It was clear that, despite Kampuchea's goodwill, Viet Nam had no interest in solving the problem. Pressure had to be exerted at the international level until the occupying troops withdrew. It was not only the Khmer people who were oppressed. The Vietnamese themselves were, too; they lived in extremely precarious economic conditions and in some cases preferred to flee their country, at the risk of their lives. He hoped that, with the help of the international community, the two peoples could win back their sovereignty and dignity.

41. Mr. AL HAKEEM (Oman) said that his country traditionally maintained friendly relations with the African continent and shared its aspirations and hopes for the future. The crisis in southern Africa needed an urgent solution. Oman condemned apartheid as being incompatible with human and religious principles, and urged the South African Government to observe United Nations resolutions, co-operate with the neighbouring African States with a view to bringing racial discrimination to an end, and grant independence to Namibia. The United Nations should endeavour to help the African Governments to achieve those objectives.

42. Oman called on the international community to deal with the problem of Kampuchea. The Vietnamese troops should withdraw immediately so that the people could exercise its right to self-determination. He congratulated the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the results of his efforts.

43. As to Afghanistan, he endorsed the words of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Oman, who, in addressing the General Assembly on the subject, had indicated his support for the Afghan people and for the efforts to find a peaceful solution under United Nations auspices.

44. On the subject of Palestine, he recalled that it was still suffering under the yoke of Israeli occupation. The solution of that problem should take into account the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. If it were not for the intransigence of Israel, which had rejected all the peace initiatives, it would already have been possible to reach a just solution in the Middle East.

45. Mrs. ABDUL-RAHMAN (Democratic Yemen) recalled that her country's position on the items under consideration was based on its Constitution and legislation and on the right of peoples to self-determination. Democratic Yemen supported the struggle of oppressed peoples and was confident that the resistance against the oppressor could not be crushed by the racist war machine.
46. The co-operation between Israel and South Africa must be combated, support given to the front-line States, and an end put to apartheid. The practices of the racist régimes of Pretoria and Tel Aviv were damaging to the African and Arab peoples and threatened international peace and security. The policies and practices of racial oppression in both States were incompatible with the purposes of the Charter.
47. She condemned the occupation of Namibia and the policy of "constructive engagement". Mandatory sanctions should be applied to South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter.
48. Regarding implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, she supported the educational, teaching and training activities planned for the period 1985-1989 (A/42/493, para. 36) and praised the efforts made to improve teaching methods and other measures relating to the teaching of human rights. In view of the importance of training methods, it was necessary to use them in combating racism.
49. Democratic Yemen condemned mercenaries, who constituted an obstacle to the liberation of oppressed peoples. They should be repudiated, as should those who recruited and supported them, since they were the ones truly responsible for the existence of the mercenaries.
50. Mr. VALDERRAMA (Philippines) said that racism and racial discrimination violated the dignity of man, and that his delegation endorsed the introductory statement made by Mr. Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, and his call for continued efforts by the international community to eradicate the scourge of racial discrimination, which persisted 40 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
51. With regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, while there had been some progress, much remained to be done. If Member States abided by the principles of the Universal Declaration and conducted education and information campaigns on human rights and respect for human dignity, it would be possible to do away with racism. Mass communication and human invention had shown that genius and talent were not unique to any one race. All men and women were capable of the greatest accomplishments if they were given equal opportunity. That was why it was necessary to teach the young about the worth of the individual. Any references to the supposed inferiority of other peoples or to a hierarchy of race, colour or religion must be removed from school textbooks. Strongly committed to the promotion of the human rights of all peoples, the Philippine Government had started incorporating the study of human rights in the school curriculum.

(Mr. Valderrama, Philippines)

52. The serious financial situation of the United Nations should not be allowed to hamper the implementation of the proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Decade. It was necessary to hold seminars, consultative meetings, regional workshops and meetings of experts in a rational manner, mindful of the value of time, resources and efforts. Support must be continued for the non-governmental organizations that promoted United Nations programmes and activities. Needless to say, the Member States and the Secretariat should continue to co-operate closely.

53. South Africa persisted in maintaining its abhorrent policy of apartheid. That racism should continue to exist in southern Africa was a reflection on the ineffectiveness of the cosmetic changes made by the Pretoria régime and the lack of political will on the part of some Member States. In fact, Pretoria's reply to the call for justice and equality was increased repression of the black majority, the detention of children, the holding of all-white elections, attacks against neighbouring independent States and the continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

54. The Philippines had been a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid since its birth. The apartheid system was a crime against humanity and a threat to international security. The United Nations had exhausted all means of persuading the Government of South Africa to dismantle the apartheid system, and it was time for the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against Pretoria as the only peaceful means available to bring change to South Africa and Namibia.

55. The importance of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports must be stressed. As a State party to both conventions, the Philippines urged Member States that had not already done so to ratify them.

56. With regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it was a matter of concern that many States parties had not yet paid their assessed contribution under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention. As a result, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had had to cancel its August 1986 session and had been unable to report on its annual activities to the General Assembly at its forty-first session. Although an emergency meeting of States parties had been convened on 29 April 1987 and an appeal had been made to States parties to fulfil their financial obligations without delay, the August 1987 session had been convened for one week instead of the usual three. The Philippines appealed once again to all States parties to pay their contributions and hoped that the sessions to be held in 1988-1989 would be convened as scheduled. It also welcomed the decisions reached at the eleventh Meeting of States parties with regard to reporting obligations and the decision of CERD to continue to be flexible in its procedures and practice concerning the preparation of periodic reports.

57. With regard to the importance of the universal realization of the rights of peoples to self-determination, he quoted article 1 of the International Covenant on Human Rights. The right to self-determination was a prerequisite for the exercise

(Mr. Valderrama, Philippines)

of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was regrettable that that basic right had been denied to the Kampuchean, Afghan, Namibian and Palestinian peoples. The Philippines supported all the relevant United Nations resolutions upholding that basic right.

58. The full enjoyment of the right to self-determination necessarily required the holding of fair and general elections. The Philippine people, which had ratified its 1987 Constitution in a plebiscite held in February and had elected representatives to the country's legislative body on 11 May, now had a congress that had been mandated to enact measures to protect and enhance human dignity and to reduce, if not eradicate, social, cultural, economic and political inequalities by distributing wealth and political power more widely among the people.

59. Mr. NAVON (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Democratic Yemen had debased history by accusing the Government of Israel of racism. It was unfortunate that the Israeli delegation's call to set aside sterile discussions and concentrate on working towards peace had fallen on deaf ears. With regard to the allegations of the representative of Democratic Yemen, an international document on the human rights situation in that country had condemned numerous cases of torture in detention centres since the beginning of 1987 and the use of such abominable methods as immersion in tanks filled with boiling tar, electric shocks, etc. The report had also denounced the death of five reporters following torture, eight extrajudicial executions and mass executions. A government that systematically violated the most basic human rights lacked the moral authority to criticize the Government of Israel.

60. Mrs. ABDUL-RAHMAN (Democratic Yemen), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that she did not intend to engage in polemics with the representative of Israel. Her delegation condemned the diabolical actions of the Government of that country.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.