



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. AL-KAWARI (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS; REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS (continued) (A/SPC/42/L.17, L.19 and L.30)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he had withdrawn the draft resolution which he had submitted on agenda item 77 (A/SPC/42/L.19) and drew the attention of the Committee to a draft resolution submitted by Nigeria on that agenda item (A/SPC/42/L.30). The Committee would conclude its consideration of agenda item 77 by taking a decision on draft resolutions A/SPC/42/L.17 and L.30.

AGENDA ITEM 116: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (A/SPC/42/L.22)

2. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to document A/SPC/42/L.22, which contained a letter from him addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee transmitting the communications received from members of the Special Political Committee in connection with agenda item 116.

AGENDA ITEM 75: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/454, 455, 459-463, 650; A/SPC/42/L.23-L.29)

3. Mr. NASUTION (Indonesia) said that after 20 years of occupation, the tragic situation of the Palestinian people had deteriorated. Since the occupation of the Palestinian lands, Israel had not only consistently violated the basic norms of international law, but had also committed grave breaches of the fourth Geneva Convention.

4. In pursuit of its elusive goal of annexation, Israel promoted the unrestrained settlement of the occupied territories and the dispossession of the indigenous Arab population of their ancestral lands. More than 50 per cent of the land had come directly under Israeli control through direct seizure or administrative restrictions. The highly discriminatory economic policy of the occupying Power had led to a further deterioration of the economic situation, thereby widening the gap between the indigenous and settler populations.

5. The hardships in the occupied territories were further compounded by a number of draconian measures drastically curtailing basic freedoms, such as arbitrary arrest, the demolition of homes and villages, indefinite detention of demonstrators and restrictions on freedom of association and of the press. A particular effort had been made to restrict freedom of education, the institutions of higher learning having traditionally served as a focal point for Palestinian patriotism.

6. The Israeli practices had led to increased confrontation and repression, had brought about untold suffering and had undermined the search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. But such practices would neither break the

(Mr. Nasution, Indonesia)

determination of the Palestinian people to attain its rights nor the will of the Arab nation to regain freedom for the Palestinians.

7. The occupied territories were at the core of a solution to the Middle East conflict. His delegation reiterated its long-standing commitment to collective action by the international community to secure the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The work of the Special Committee had been instrumental in demonstrating that Israel's portrayal of itself as the victim was a fiction.

8. Mr. TRONG TRIEU DUONG (Viet Nam) said that 20 years had elapsed since Israel had launched its war of aggression against the Arab States and had illegally occupied Arab territories. The situation in that unfortunate part of the world seemed to remain unchanged. The report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) indicated that Israel had committed numerous crimes against the Arab population in pursuing its policy of aggression and oppression in the occupied Arab territories. Over the past year, the Zionist occupation forces had launched massive campaigns of terror, arresting and detaining without trial hundreds of civilians suspected of opposing their illegal occupation. Demonstrators had been shot, schools and universities had been closed and curfews had been imposed in a number of areas.

9. His Government was very concerned at the increased efforts to establish new Israeli settlements in order to alter the political, cultural, religious and demographic features of the occupied Arab territories. Those activities directed against the Arab population reflected Israel's barbarous policy, which was based on racial discrimination, expansionism and genocide. Its objective was to expel the entire Arab population from its homeland and establish a more powerful Israeli State.

10. His delegation once again condemned in the strongest terms Israel's systematic policy of expansion and aggression. That country would have been unable to persist in such policies in defiance of international law without the support of its strategic ally. Viet Nam demanded that all the assistance which enabled Israel to continue its aggression against the Arab world should be stopped immediately. Israeli occupation of the Arab territories must be ended. Practical steps must be taken to implement the United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East, to reject the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and to halt the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

11. Viet Nam supported all efforts to find a comprehensive, just and durable solution to the situation in the Middle East. Such a solution, however, could not be achieved without the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 and the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return to its homeland and its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent State in Palestine. Lastly, he reiterated his delegation's support for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned on an equal footing, including the Palestine

(Mr. Trong Trieu Duong, Viet Nam)

Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In view of the widespread agreement to convene such a conference, Viet Nam called for the adoption of urgent measures to achieve that objective.

12. Mr. JABBAR AL HADDAWI (Iraq) said that, despite the countless resolutions adopted concerning the question of Palestine, the Palestinian people continued to languish in the tight grip of the Zionist iron fist. In fact, the very existence of the Palestinian people was threatened; it was losing its rights to a homeland and to a free, dignified life.

13. The plight of the Palestinian people stemmed from the Zionist concept that the Israelis were God's chosen people and Palestine was their promised land. Moreover, the Torah stated that non-Jewish inhabitants were to be expelled from Israel. Early Zionist leaders had elaborated a detailed plan to withhold majority rule from the Arabs and to suppress any rebellion by them until sufficient Jews could come and establish a Jewish State. In due time, however, the Arabs were to be cleared out of Palestine, according to author Erskine Childers in his article "Palestine: The Broken Triangle". Some Jews, dissatisfied with the Balfour Declaration, issued in 1917, in which the British Government had pledged to establish a national home in Palestine for the Jews, formed armed gangs to conduct terror campaigns against the Palestinians, forcing them to leave Palestine. Indeed, Menachem Begin, once the leader of the terrorist gang Irgun, had wanted the Jewish national State to comprise all of Palestine, Jordan and southern Lebanon. Other evidence, including statements by notable Israeli leaders, confirmed that Zionism necessitated the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands. Moshe Dyan, for example, had hoped for a new war with the Arab countries which would permit Israel to acquire additional living space and rid itself of its trouble..

14. Such were the fundamental premises that had guided Zionism in its early days. Many of those same ideas, however, were currently advocated by men such as Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Kach movement. In fact, his campaign slogan had been: "Expel the Arabs from Palestine". Such men did little to disguise their hatred for the Palestinians and supported policies encouraging increased Jewish immigration to replace evicted Arabs. A recent article in The Washington Post had stated that Josef Shapira, a leader of the National Religious Party and minister in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, had called for measures to encourage the Palestinians to leave Israel by paying \$20,000 to each one who left. The same article had estimated that between 25 to 30 per cent of the Israelis supported expulsion of the Arabs.

15. The report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/42/650) covered the essential aspects of the programme established by the Israeli authorities to address the question of Palestinian nationality, and particularly the socio-economic and cultural status of the Palestinians. That programme deprived the Palestinian individual of his possessions and accorded him the status of a second-class citizen. The Zionist authorities denied such facts and stated that

(Mr. Jabbar Al Haddawi, Iraq)

everyone in Israel, regardless of race or creed, was equal under the law and was thus able to acquire Israeli citizenship. Although it was true that Arabs could acquire Israeli citizenship, they could not achieve the same degree of equality in rights. The Law of Return, adopted in 1950, stipulated that all Jews possessed the inalienable right to immigrate to Israel.

16. The Citizenship Law of 1952 accorded the right to acquire citizenship to those covered by the Law of Return. Jews wishing to obtain citizenship had only to come to Israel, whereas non-Jews, even those born in Israel, had to undergo a number of formalities. A third fundamental law affecting the issue of citizenship had established the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency to promote economic development and aid immigration. They were charged with the responsibility of attracting Jewish immigrants and ensuring their return from the Diaspora. The rules governing Jewish nationality could thus be described as a form of institutionalized racism, since the primary duty of the State was to serve a group of its citizens on the basis of their religious creed while depriving a second group of such services on the same basis. According to General Assembly resolution 2106 (XX), racial discrimination was defined as distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin. One hundred and twenty-three States had accepted that definition, including Israel.

17. Israeli practices in occupied Arab territories were aimed at usurping all of Palestine and displacing its legitimate inhabitants. Israel rejected the proposal for an international peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Instead, it launched attacks, instigated civil strife, escalated acts of terrorism and doubled Zionist influence through money and the media with a view to obliterating the facts and deceiving world public opinion. The ultimate goal was to achieve the dream of establishing Greater Israel in the Arab homeland. Israel's persistence in such a policy constituted a danger to mankind because it threatened international peace and security and seriously jeopardized the interest of its neighbours.

18. Mr. ABDULLAH (Malaysia) reiterated his delegation's condemnation of the inhuman actions taken by the Israeli authorities in all areas of life in the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights. Through its continuing occupation of those territories, Israel had violated the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. His delegation called upon the Israeli authorities to halt its practice of violating human rights in the occupied territories.

19. Malaysia was very concerned at the deterioration of the conditions endured by the Palestinian people as a result of atrocities committed by the Israeli authorities and rejected the policy of annexation and settlement carried out through the arbitrary seizure of land and the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories. If unchecked, that policy would change the demographic structure of those territories and impede confidence-building measures to bring

(Mr. Abdullah, Malaysia)

about a political solution to the Palestinian problem. His Government condemned that policy as an instrument of aggression and colonization. Malaysia placed great emphasis on the need to develop human resources so as to ensure the survival of the Palestinian people and, in that connection, expressed grave concern at the policy of the Israeli authorities aimed at curbing the freedom of education of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories. The United Nations and the international community must compel the Israeli authorities to halt that policy and restore to the Palestinian people their fundamental right to the full development of their human resources and potential.

20. Malaysia was also alarmed at the actions taken by the Israeli authorities to continue the economic subjugation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The unfair water-rationing policy had a negative impact on agriculture in the Gaza Strip, and the livelihood of the Palestinian fishermen along the coast of the Gaza Strip had been seriously affected through the introduction of various restrictions by the local military authorities.

21. His delegation was very concerned at the Israeli policy of impeding the economic development of the Palestinian people and the occupied territories. The international community should take steps to ensure that that economic colonialism was halted. In that connection, Malaysia noted with satisfaction the initiative by the European Community giving tariff concessions to agricultural and manufactured exports from the occupied territories. He urged other countries, particularly developed countries, to follow that example.

22. Malaysia strongly supported the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in order to find a comprehensive solution to the problem. Lastly, he reiterated his country's continued support for the struggle of the PLO and joined other delegations in condemning the human rights violations by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. Malaysia would once again sponsor the draft resolution on the agenda item under consideration.

23. Mr. GAXHOLLI (Albania) said that for many years the Zionists had been endeavouring to perpetuate their occupation of the occupied Arab territories. Israel's policies in those territories, which were reminiscent of the Nazi practices in the Second World War, were aimed at the physical elimination of the Palestinian people. Since 1967, Israel had confiscated 60 per cent of the land and 80 per cent of the water resources in the occupied territories. Thousands of Israelis were living in colonies set up by Tel Aviv in the most fertile areas, while the Arab population was subjected to various types of pressure and violence.

24. Zionist gangs and other terrorist groups composed of Jewish settlers carried out acts of vandalism and cruel reprisals against the Arab population. The Israeli police had opened fire on Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories and had used tanks in order to crush student uprisings. There had been an increase in Israeli acts of terrorism in southern Lebanon. The Zionists often organized air,

(Mr. Gaxholli, Albania)

land and sea operations against Lebanon in order to crush the struggle of the Lebanese people against the Israeli invaders. In carrying out its expansionist policy, Israel had taken a number of steps to assimilate southern Lebanon economically, politically and socially in order to expand its borders up to the Litani River and thus usurp the most fertile lands in that country.

25. In spite of their rivalry and selfish interests, the two super-Powers, the United States imperialists and the Soviet socialist imperialists sought to exploit the situation in that region in order to use the struggle of the Arab peoples as a card 'n their imperialist game to achieve hegemony. To that end, the United States furnished Israel with weapons in order to continue aggression against the Arab countries and the Soviet Union provided Israel with human resources, who were utilized as settlers or cannon-fodder. It was clear that the two super-Powers were interested in strengthening their position in the region, not in helping the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

26. The criminal practices of the Israeli aggressors in the occupied Arab territories must be halted immediately. The Zionists must be forced to withdraw from the occupied territories in order to enable the Palestinian people to regain its land. His Government and people strongly condemned Israel's policy of expansion and genocide directed against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples and their inhuman practices in the occupied territories. Albania was confident that the Arab people would ultimately force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and that the Palestinian people would win back its homeland.

27. Mr. AL-AYADHI (Bahrain) said that, since 1967, Israel had pursued a policy of domination and annexation in all of the Arab territories that it had occupied. It had thereby acted in defiance of numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council calling upon it to desist from inhumane policies and practices which were incompatible with the most basic human rights. The establishment of settlements was an illegal act and in contravention of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Israel nevertheless persisted in those policies and practices, which were an integral part of the Zionist design to achieve domination over all parts of occupied Palestine.

28. Israel had continued to withhold its co-operation from the Special Committee and to refuse it entry to the occupied Arab territories so that it might carry out the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

29. The occupation authorities persisted in a policy that considered the territories they had occupied as forming part of the Zionist entity and of Greater Israel. Illustrative of that policy was the statement made by the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir, that he supported the idea of settling "in all parts of the Land of Israel".

(Mr. Al-Ayadhi, Bahrain)

30. In implementation of its colonialist, racist policy, Israel had continued to establish new settlements, to expand existing settlements, to expropriate land on which the local inhabitants depended for their major source of income, to demolish homes and to expel Arab inhabitants and deny them the right to return. That had been done in order to perpetuate a systematic occupation policy of establishing colonies to be settled by foreign Zionist immigrants coming into Palestine from all parts of the world.

31. Just as the occupation authorities had imposed restrictions on freedom of expression, association, education, and movement, they had also interfered with the freedom of worship. The sanctity of the Holy Places had been violated, and there had been continual interference with the performance of religious rites in mosques and other places of worship throughout the past year. The occupation authorities had recently permitted an extremist Zionist group to intrude into the precinct of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and desecrate places held sacred by the Muslims, thereby inflaming religious sentiment and leading to clashes between Muslim worshippers and occupation forces.

32. Israel had continued to enforce its "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories in an attempt to suppress the increasing support of the people for resistance to the occupation. The Palestinian people had not surrendered to that policy, and throughout 1986 and 1987 the occupied territories had witnessed popular uprisings, general strikes and demonstrations against the occupation and the harsh, repressive measures that it used. Palestinians had been detained on the pretext that they had participated in actions against the occupation or had belonged to the PLO, with the aim of suppressing the growing resistance movement. Participation in demonstrations, protests or strikes against the Israeli occupation was considered a serious crime by the occupation authorities, to be punished by execution, the demolition of homes, and the expulsion of families.

33. The Israeli press had recently revealed that the internal security apparatus known as the Shin Beth had been falsifying evidence in cases against Palestinian suspects and that it had made constant use of coercion, pressure and torture against Palestinian detainees in order to force them to confess to the crimes of which they were accused. The findings of the Israeli commission of inquiry were that such methods had been used against Palestinian suspects for the past 16 years. It was most surprising that the report of that commission considered such brutal methods as acceptable and as a justifiable means of ensuring security. Although the Israeli press had reported that information, it had published no details of the methods used by the Shin Beth, which remained secret in view of the flagrant violations of basic human rights that they involved. As a result of the recent case, the legality of all the judgements issued by the courts of the occupation authorities against Palestinian freedom-fighters over the past 16 years was impugned, since all of the confessions that had been obtained might have involved the use of coercion and torture.

34. Despite the fact that the General Assembly and the Security Council had affirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Arab

(Mr. Al-Ayadhi, Bahrain)

territories, Israel continued to refuse to apply its provisions to those territories for the reason that the Convention stipulated that military occupation was to be considered as a temporary, de facto situation, giving no right whatsoever to the occupying Power over the territorial integrity of the occupied territories. That stipulation was in conflict with Israel's designs and aspirations to Judaize the entire country, to change its physical character and demographic composition and to destroy its economic, social and cultural structure.

35. It could be no exaggeration to say that the report of the Special Committee had clearly demonstrated the serious and repeated violations committed by Israel against the human rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territories and its continued denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to a life of human dignity and to self-determination.

36. His delegation identified itself with the conclusion arrived at by the Special Committee that the situation in the occupied territories denoted a continuing deterioration in the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the civilian population. An explosive situation had been created that seemed bound to provoke yet more dramatic events in the future. The international community must therefore take the necessary measures to prevent the further deterioration of the situation and must provide effective guarantees for the protection of the basic human rights of civilians in the occupied territories.

37. Mr. HANJAN (Bangladesh) said that the report of the Special Committee had presented an objective picture of the grim reality in the occupied territories. The indignities, deprivation and sufferings of the Palestinian and Arab populations begged description. Bangladesh noted with indignation the extent and magnitude of the repressive policies of the occupation authorities, which had trampled with impunity on the Charter and United Nations resolutions, as well as on relevant international conventions. The authorities' unwillingness to co-operate, despite the Committee's repeated requests, was deplorable, and exposed their vain attempt to hide their heinous acts of injustice, torture and oppression. The Israeli régime had not shown any sign of remorse for its State policy and practice of human rights abuse. Those acts firmly established Israel as an entity engaged in State terrorism.

38. Bangladesh expressed its unequivocal condemnation of such inhumane practices, as well as the continued violation by Israel of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other relevant international instruments. It strongly condemned Israeli attempts to change the demographic and geographic character of the occupied Palestinian territories. It reiterated that the imposition of Israeli laws in occupied areas had no legal validity and that Israel had no right to plunder their natural resources and to pillage their archaeological and cultural resources.

39. The occupation itself constituted a grave violation of the civilian population's human rights. The criminal conduct of the Israeli régime was a serious impediment to all efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

(Mr. Hannan, Bangladesh:)

40. Each new report of the Special Committee was grimmer than the previous one. The time had come for United Nations deliberations to be translated into concrete deeds. The first step would be to bring about some measure of control over the conduct of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. Bangladesh strongly believed that no effort should be spared to arouse universal condemnation of Israeli brutalities. The international community could no longer remain a silent spectator to Israeli outrages against humanity. It must demand that Israel should put an end to its atrocities and its occupation, allow the Palestinians to return to their homeland and have a State of their own. The tragedy of the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories cried out for immediate remedy. Bangladesh was concerned about their individual security, social welfare, economic well-being, education and, particularly, their rights as free human beings.

41. Mr. TSYMBALOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that for two decades Israel had been stubbornly continuing its "iron fist" policy aimed at suppressing the civil liberties of the Arab population in the occupied territories and annexing those territories. That policy, which was part of a long-term strategy aimed at expanding Israel's Lebensraum at the expense of its Arab neighbours, had led to massive and flagrant violations of the human rights and individual freedoms of the population in the occupied territories, which were in blatant contravention of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Convention of 1907 respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land. The Israeli leaders must understand that they would not be able to implement that strategy since such policies would bring neither peace nor well-being to the peoples of the region.

42. Although the Israeli Government sought to conceal from the world its illegal, inhuman actions against the Arab population in the occupied territories, the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) provided numerous concrete examples exposing the cruel practices carried out by the Israeli authorities. Over the past year, dozens of Arabs had been killed and hundreds had been thrown into jails and subjected to torture. Palestinians had been banished from their land, and their homes demolished. The illegal practice of collective punishment had been continuing for several years.

43. The representatives of Israel had repeatedly attempted to dismiss the world community's accusations concerning that country's human rights violations in the occupied territories as an international "conspiracy" against Israel. There was in fact no such conspiracy. The assessment of the situation in the occupied territories had been based on facts and the concrete analysis carried out by the Special Committee. His delegation supported the conclusion of the Special Committee that the persistent policy of annexation of the occupied territories had led to an explosive situation that seemed bound to provoke yet more dramatic events in the future.

44. The world community must make Israel put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories and establish stable peace in the Middle East guaranteeing security for all nations in the region. Such a settlement could be achieved through an

(Mr. Tsymbalov, Byelorussian SSR)

international conference with the participation of all parties concerned including the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the five permanent members of the Security Council. His delegation strongly supported the legitimate struggle of the population of the occupied Arab territories for their freedom and demanded an immediate halt to the massive and flagrant violations of human rights in those territories.

45. Mr. EL KHATIB (Morocco) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) was once again an overwhelming indictment of Israeli practices affecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. Israel continued to occupy vast areas of Arab territories with a view to annexing them, thus infringing the fundamental principle of international law regarding the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. The policy of implanting settlements, based on the expropriation and confiscation of lands, resulted in considerable changes in the demographic composition of the territories. Such practices had reached alarming proportions and could transform the local population into second-class citizens and even make them aliens in their own country. Israel had established more than 40 settlements in the Golan Heights to date, confiscating Arab land there pursuant to arbitrary Israeli laws.

46. It was interesting to note that Israel had not succeeded in breaking the will or undermining the resistance of Palestinian youth born under Israeli occupation. On the contrary, Israeli repressive measures had only reinforced their resistance and determination. Morocco reaffirmed its total support for the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people. It was convinced that a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the problems in the Middle East would only be possible through the total withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the Holy City, Al-Quds (Jerusalem), and the recovery by the Palestinian people of all its inalienable national rights, in particular the right to establish its own independent State on its national soil, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative.

47. Mr. SADATIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) reflected a part of its findings on the usurpers' crimes against the oppressed Muslim people of Palestine. From the outset of the occupation, they had resorted to deceit, conspiracy, blackmail and terror. They had forced people out of the Palestinian homeland and had expanded their illegal footholds by threats and tyranny. Their expansionist policy had been complemented by acts of genocide and savage armed aggression. The Zionists had indiscriminately killed, terrorized, tortured and imprisoned those who dared to resist and those whose only crime was their wish to remain on the land belonging to them.

48. As long as the terrorists ruled, the number of documents in the United Nations and other international bodies regarding systematic violation of the rights of innocent people in the occupied territories would continue to increase. There would be no end to the miseries of those who had become prey to the terrorists' crimes. Although the shameless representatives of the occupied territories availed themselves of every opportunity to divert international public opinion from their countless crimes, no one was deceived by their tactics.

(Mr. Sadatian, Islamic Republic of Iran)

49. The only true, practical solution to the problem was the elimination of its root cause and the establishment of an independent State by the true owners of the entire land of Palestine. Should the international organizations not contribute to that end, the people themselves would have no option but to struggle by all means to abolish Zionism. The day was near when divine vengeance would be wrought by the people, who would put an end to the lives of the aggressors and their collaborators.

50. Mr. MANSOUR (Yemen), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and that of Democratic Yemen, said that, although the United Nations and other international organizations and forums had adopted numerous resolutions condemning the Israeli authorities for their aggressive and inhumane practices, Israel responded with increased intransigence and arrogance, as if the condemnation of the international community was a medal pinned on its chest.

51. Israeli intransigence and disdain for the resolutions of the international community was paralleled only by the actions of the racist régime in Pretoria. Existing Israeli policies and practices would not change until the relevant resolutions were fully implemented in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

52. The report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) provided clear evidence of the chronic tension, oppression and aggression to which Palestinians in the occupied territories were subjected as a result of Israeli practices. He expressed appreciation to the Special Committee for the efforts it had made to expose the situation in the occupied territories. However, because the report was drafted in summary style, he hoped that it could be revised in such a way as to provide a clearer and more detailed account of the extent of illegal Israeli practices.

53. Israeli practices, since they aimed at completely eliminating the Palestinian people and replacing it with foreigners, constituted the most flagrant violation of its human rights. Moreover, they constituted the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, since the question of Palestine could not be permanently and justly resolved without an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and full recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. His delegation reaffirmed its belief that a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement could be achieved only by the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of all parties concerned.

54. In conclusion, his delegation saluted the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and its steadfastness in the face of Israeli occupation forces. The day would come when its just cause would prevail.

55. Mr. BARRIOS (Cuba) said that the just cause of the Palestinian people, in particular, and of the Arab peoples, in general, had enjoyed the support of realist

(Mr. Barrios, Cuba)

and progressive world opinion for more than two decades. The report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) once again eloquently detailed one of the most prominent cases of expulsion, persecution and genocide in contemporary history. The defiance and aggressive conduct of Israel, in blatant violation of the Charter and decisions of the United Nations, was possible only because of the support of its strategic ally, the United States of America. That was the real obstacle to finding a solution to the conflict.

56. The political situation in the Middle East was one of the most complex and urgent responsibilities confronting the United Nations. Everyone was convinced of the paramount importance of that question for the political, economic and military stability of the region and of the entire international community.

57. The heroic Palestinian people, which had been robbed of its lands, expelled from its own homeland, persecuted and abused everywhere, was an impressive example of self-sacrifice and patriotism. A just and lasting peace in the region could be achieved only if it was based on the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration to the Palestinian people of its inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent State. The forty-first session of the General Assembly had been overwhelmingly in favour of convening an international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, recognized as such by the United Nations.

58. Mr. MAKSOUD (Observer, League of Arab States) said that Israeli practices in the occupied territories could not be dissociated from the ultimate Israeli objective of annexation. Those practices had been expanded, and the instruments of coercion had grown more sophisticated. The Arab inhabitants were human obstacles to the Zionist expansionist plans. Israel had treated with contempt reports exposing its illegal practices in the occupied territories; when criticism was so well-documented that it was impossible to refute, Israel refused to respond, but instead sought to blackmail the critics.

59. The Israeli representatives had made the claim that Arab rejectionists were trying to use the occupied territories as forward bases. In actual fact, the Palestinian people simply wanted to recover its homeland. It was Israel itself that was serving as a forward base for repeated attacks against Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Israeli representative had claimed that the occupying authorities were under an obligation to ensure the welfare of the local population, but in reality they were ensuring Israeli hegemony there, despite a legitimate peaceful resistance which only turned violent as a last resort in response to the military occupation. No other country supported the Israeli claim that the fourth Geneva Convention was not applicable to areas administered by Israel. Patronizing references to development and to privileges granted to the Arab population were indicative of a colonialist and racist mentality, but were no substitute for human rights. It was unacceptable to refer to any movement in the occupied territories that resisted Israeli military operations as "terrorist".

(Mr. Maksoud)

Israel attempted to equate the Palestine Liberation Organization with terrorism in order to disqualify the PLO, although even the occupying authorities knew that it was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In actual fact, it was Israel that was committing terrorist acts in the occupied territories.

60. Israeli references to the constructive development of the occupied territories served to disguise the increase in Israeli settlements there, the attempts to destroy the demographic composition of the Arab population, the unilateral annexation of the Golan Heights and Jerusalem, the intensification of creeping annexation and the effort to subvert any cultural or national entity in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights which would enable the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination.

61. The CHAIRMAN said that he would like to inform members that the draft resolutions in documents A/SPC/42/L.23 to L.29 would be reissued for technical reasons, because the asterisk had inadvertently been put at the end of the title. The asterisk should be placed after Yemen to indicate that Yemen had sponsored the draft resolutions on behalf of the Arab Group.

62. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, as the discussion of the agenda item was drawing to a close, it would be better to refrain from any recriminations. Perhaps at the next session of the General Assembly Israel's real enemies from among the Arabs, and they were in the minority in the Arab world, might want to look to the future and not to the past. He invoked God's blessings on Arabs and Israelis alike.

63. Mr. MAKSOUD (Observer, League of Arab States), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Arab States did not want to perpetuate enmity but were struggling for their rights. There was no majority and minority in the Arab world, but rather a unanimous commitment to redeeming the Palestinians' rights and recovering all occupied territories. With regard to the need to look to the future, Israel considered 2,000 years to be a matter of contemporary politics, whereas 40 years of usurpation of Palestinian rights and 20 years of occupation were ancient history. If Israel really wanted to look to the future, it must commit itself to a United Nations international conference to resolve the issues arising from the Israeli Arab conflict.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.