



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Tribute to the memory of the President of Niger

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, extended his deepest condolences to the people and Government of Niger on the death of General Seyni Kountché, President of Niger, and invited the members to observe a minute of silence in tribute to his memory.

AGENDA ITEM 105: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
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Introduction of draft resolutions A/C.3/42/L.35, L.36, L.37 and L.38/Rev.1

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.35

2. Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India), speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors, joined by Norway, of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.35 concerning national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, drew attention to the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs and read out paragraphs 5 and 6. She noted a change of wording in paragraph 7, the end of which should read as follows: "..., for wide distribution as a United Nations handbook on national institutions;". Her delegation hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.37

3. Mr. QUINN (Australia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.37 concerning the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, said that Sweden and Costa Rica had become co-sponsors. The draft resolution, which represented a merger of two consensus resolutions - General Assembly resolution 41/130 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/39, requested the Secretary-General, as did other previous resolutions on the subject, but with a more insistent tone, to take steps to enhance public information activities in the field of human rights. He drew attention, in that regard, to the penultimate preambular paragraph and paragraph 2. He noted that the new head of the Geneva

(Mr. Quinn, Australia)

Centre for Human Rights had indicated a particular interest in raising public awareness about the United Nations human rights programme and that, at his direction, the Centre had established an External Relations Unit which had responsibility, inter alia, for information activities. Moreover, in New York, a major restructuring of the Department of Public Information was under way. He drew attention, in that connection, to paragraph 6.

4. With regard to paragraph 3, he expressed the hope that Member States would offer suggestions, especially at the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, to assist the Secretary-General in preparing his report on the advisability of launching a World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. In view of the Organization's financial difficulties, proposals should be made within the framework of the existing resources of the Geneva Centre and the Department of Public Information, supplemented, if appropriate, by voluntary contributions.

5. Paragraph 15 drew the delegations' attention to the presentations, in New York, of audio-visual materials on Human Rights Day. The importance of teaching human rights was the subject of paragraphs 9 and 10, and the last preambular paragraph referred to the successful regional training course on human rights teaching held at Bangkok in October 1987.

6. The co-sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM 104: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFIC IN DRUGS (continued)**

- (a) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) DRAFT CONVENTION AGAINST ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 41/127: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

Introduction of draft resolutions A/C.3/42/L.41, L.42 and L.43

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.41

7. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) announced that Trinidad and Tobago had become a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.41. The fundamental purpose of the draft resolution was to accelerate the preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The text should be prepared urgently but carefully to ensure that it was widely acceptable and would enter into force at an early date. The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General, using existing resources, to consider convening the intergovernmental expert group for a period of two weeks immediately prior to the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in order to reach agreement, if possible, on the Convention. The draft resolution also requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(Mr. Aguilar, Venezuela)

to approve the draft Convention and to prepare recommendations on the next measures to be taken with a view to concluding the preparation of the convention, including the possibility of convening a Plenipotentiary Conference in 1983 for its adoption. As the draft resolution was essentially procedural in nature, his delegation hoped that, as in previous years, it could be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.42

8. Mr. EMBAS (Malaysia) introduced the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" on behalf of the sponsors, which had been joined by Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Nepal and United Kingdom. The draft resolution, intended as a follow-up to the International Conference, was based on the guidelines proposed in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities. It reaffirmed the political will expressed in the Declaration unanimously adopted at the Conference.

9. He summarized the contents of the preambular part and stressed paragraphs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the operative part, which he read out. The sponsors hoped that the Committee and the General Assembly would adopt the draft resolution unanimously.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.43

10. Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia) introduced the draft resolution entitled "International campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking" whose sponsors included, in addition to those mentioned in document A/C.3/42/L.43, Angola, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Guatemala, Morocco, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The draft resolution recognized in its preamble the collective responsibility of States for providing appropriate resources for the elimination of illicit production, trafficking and abuse of drugs and psychotropic substances, and called upon all States to continue to provide the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control with their political and financial support.

11. She noted a slight change in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. In the second line, after the words "the Declaration and", the words "by consensus" should be added. The beginning of paragraph 4 should therefore read as follows: "Notes with appreciation the unanimous adoption by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of the Declaration and by consensus the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline ...". Paragraph 13 requested the Secretary-General to provide appropriate support for strengthening the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board particularly by making the necessary redeployment, within existing resources. It also asked him to encourage the Department of Public Information to include in its publications information designed to prevent the use of narcotic drugs, especially among young people.

12. Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.43 had been the subject of intensive negotiations and she hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

13. The CHAIRMAN invited the members of the Committee to express their views on the draft resolutions which had been introduced at previous meetings on agenda items 96, 97, 91 and 105.

AGENDA ITEM 96: FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN TO THE YEAR 2000 (continued) (A/C.3/42/L.28/Rev.1, L.29/Rev.1, L.30 and L.32)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN; REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND CO-OPERATION
- (c) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN; REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.28/Rev.1

14. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) noted a change in the fourth preambular paragraph, the first line of which should now read as follows: "Expressing the need for equal opportunity for participation of women in the decision-making process ...".

15. Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.28/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.29/Rev.1

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors had asked for a postponement of the decision on the draft resolution. They wanted to pursue consultations so that the text could eventually be adopted without a vote.

17. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.30

18. Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.30 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.32

19. Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.32 was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 97: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN; REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.3/42/L.31)

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.31

20. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that The Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire and Trinidad and Tobago had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

21. Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.31 was adopted without a vote.

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/C.3/42/L.15/Rev.2)

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.15/Rev.2

22. Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe) proposed two amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.15/Rev.2 on behalf of his country and Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia.
23. The first amendment was to add a new operative paragraph 6 to read as follows: "Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of Namibia and Palestine to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)."
24. The second amendment was to insert in paragraph 9, after the word "apartheid", the following clause: "which constitutes a complete negation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is a crime against humanity, as stated in General Assembly resolution 2922 (XXVII) of 15 November 1972". The purpose of those amendments was to recall the particular responsibility of the United Nations in respect of Namibia and Palestine.
25. Mrs. UMANA (Colombia) regretted that draft resolution L.15 which the Committee had before it had been submitted under agenda item 91, which dealt with the right of peoples to self-determination. Even though the amendments proposed by the representative of Zimbabwe greatly improved the text, one could hardly see how it contributed to the work of the United Nations. The sponsors seemed to ignore the fact that the United Nations was a multilateral organization and that respect for multilateralism was its *raison d'être*. Colombia had supported multilateralism in all international bodies and was convinced of its importance, particularly in the United Nations. Through lack of respect for multilateralism, there was now an unfortunate tendency to disregard the differences between countries in terms of geography, history, culture and development.
26. She was also surprised that the sponsors, instead of giving priority to the legal instruments adopted by the United Nations, referred to general principles which, whatever their merits, were still in the drafting stage. She also recalled that the draft general principles on freedom and non-discrimination in the matter of political rights had not been adopted. One of the reasons the principles were not adopted was the opposition of a Member State that was among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.15/Rev.2.
27. For the reasons just mentioned, her delegation would not participate in the vote on draft resolution L.15/Rev.2.

28. Mr. STIRLING (United States of America) reserved the right to speak later about the amendments put forward by the representative of Zimbabwe. He pointed out that nothing in the draft resolution under consideration should be interpreted as undermining the sovereignty of States.

29. He read out to the Committee some minor amendments to the draft resolution. In the third preambular paragraph, the words "a framework" should be replaced by "an important framework". A new paragraph 2 was to be added to the operative part, to read: "Recalls the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and, in particular, recalls that the general part of that Declaration declares that in their interpretation and application the principles are interrelated and each principle should be construed in the context of the other principles". In paragraph 5, the words "the duty of every State to promote, through joint and separate action," were to be deleted and replaced by "the duty of States to co-operate with one another for". In paragraph 7, the words "internationally established principles" were to be replaced by the phrase "relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and internationally established principles and practices to ensure that such exercise of self-determination is genuine". In paragraph 14, the words "continue to provide" were to be replaced by the word "provide". Paragraph 15 was to be deleted.

30. Those last minute amendments had been made in the hope that the draft resolution would be approved by as many delegations as possible.

31. Mr. ENGO (Cameroon) regretted that there was not enough time to study the draft resolution, which, in his delegation's view, did not relate to agenda item 91. He proposed a number of amendments. In paragraph 10, the wording from and including "conducting themselves" to the end of the paragraph should be deleted, since the text was an erroneous interpretation of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. With regard to paragraph 14, elections were exclusively a matter for the domestic law of States; moreover, the Draft General Principles on Freedom and Non-Discrimination in the Matter of Political Rights had never been the subject of a consensus and could not serve as a criterion for determining the genuine nature of elections. He proposed, therefore, that the words "to provide a sound basis for determining the genuine nature of elections" at the end of the paragraph should be replaced by "to provide a basis for further study of the nature of elections".

32. Miss EL-HAMMAMI (Yemen) supported the amendments put forward by the representative of Zimbabwe and hoped that they would be accepted.

33. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) appealed to delegations to accept the draft resolution as orally amended, in a spirit of compromise, by the representative of the United States, since the text was the outcome of lengthy negotiations.



34. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) regretted that the draft resolution had not achieved the consensus that might have been expected in the Committee. The new paragraph 6 proposed by the representative of Zimbabwe should be changed to read: "Reaffirms the inalienable right of the peoples of Namibia, Palestine, Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan to self-determination and independence ...". The rest of the paragraph would be unchanged. In his view, the situation of the peoples of Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan warranted as much attention as that of the Namibian and Palestinian peoples.

35. Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe) said that Namibia and Palestine were mentioned in the amendment he had proposed because a special relationship existed between those territories and the United Nations. Questions such as those of Afghanistan, Democratic Kampuchea, Puerto Rico or Micronesia, important as they were, did not fall within the purview of the draft resolution under consideration. Therefore, the sponsors of the proposed amendment to paragraph 6 could not accept the sub-amendment suggested by the representative of Belgium.

36. Mr. KHYBERI (Afghanistan) said he rejected the subamendment proposed by the representative of Belgium, which he regarded as null and void since the Afghan people had exercised its right to self-determination. The proposal would deprive of all meaning the highly important amendment proposed by the representative of Zimbabwe.

37. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) reminded the Committee of resolution 42/15, on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted by the General Assembly on 10 November 1987. He upheld his amendment and insisted that it should be put to a vote before the amendment submitted by the representative of Zimbabwe.

38. Mr. GBEHO (Ghana) said that, since Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan were independent States, there was no cause to mention them in a resolution relating to the right of peoples to self-determination and the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

39. Mr. STIRLING (United States of America) regretted that mention had been made of Puerto Rico, which did not feature in the agenda item under discussion. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 748 (VIII), in which the Assembly had recognized that the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico had effectively exercised their right to self-determination.

40. Mr. BIFFOT (Gabon), referring to the French text of the draft resolution, said that paragraph 12 was amphibological and sibylline in nature; he proposed that it should be redrafted.

41. Mr. ONANAIYE (Nigeria) said that the draft resolution dealt with the subject of decolonization and that it was inappropriate to mention non-aligned countries in that context.

42. Mr. PASTOR (Honduras) recalled that, during the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.14, his delegation had, as in previous years, opposed a mention of the Central American region in a text which dealt with decolonization. Despite the protests by his and other delegations, the reference to Central America had been maintained, although the Central American countries were absolutely independent countries. It was curious that certain delegations were currently invoking, in relation to the subamendment proposed by Belgium, the very arguments that the Central American countries had voiced.

43. He reminded the Committee of the need to adopt a uniform criterion on the matter. If it had been decided to include Central America in a text dealing with decolonization, it was hard to see why a Belgian representative could not add countries, including independent countries, to those mentioned in the draft amendment proposed by the representative of Zimbabwe.

44. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark) said that the question of decolonization had several facets and that there were a number of ways in which the right of peoples to self-determination could be violated: colonization was one; invasion and foreign domination were others. The cases of Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan were quite relevant, therefore, and other instances existed of peoples being oppressed by their own Governments.

45. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands), supported by the representatives of other delegations, proposed that consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.15/Rev.2 should be suspended, to enable members of the Committee to continue consultations on the text.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adjourn the debate.

47. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.