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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RITTER (Panama)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

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4p.

The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
(A/C.3/42/L.62, L.92 and L.93; A/C.2/42/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the sponsors of the amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62 contained in document A/C.3/42/L.92 had withdrawn their amendment.
2. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru), introducing the amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62 contained in document A/C.3/42/L.93, said that consultations concerning the human rights situation in El Salvador had been held among representatives of the Central American countries and members of the Contadora Group and Support Group. The resulting text reflected new elements in the situation in El Salvador and also the continuing existence of human rights violations there, and the concerns of the sponsors of the amendment contained in document A/C.3/42/L.92, which had just been withdrawn. The resulting amended text of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62 was more concise and better balanced and took account of developments in the situation in El Salvador, particularly in the light of the Esquipulas II Agreement.
3. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) suggested that the French version of the first preambular paragraph proposed in document A/C.3/42/L.93 be amended to read "... un caractère international et dans lequel ..." in order to correct the impression that the parties involved in an armed conflict of a non-international character in El Salvador were not required to respect minimum standards.
4. Miss KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the first preambular paragraph in document A/C.3/42/L.93 should read "the Geneva Conventions of 1949 ...".
5. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru) said that a number of slight errors in the French and English versions of document A/C.3/42/L.93 should be corrected and that the word "aplicación" in the fourth line of paragraph 8 in the Spanish version was incorrect and should be replaced by the word "ampliación".
6. Mr. MEZA (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62, said that in view of the fact that the amendments in document A/C.3/42/L.93 were likely to be adopted by consensus, the sponsors were prepared to withdraw draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62, on the understanding that the first three preambular paragraphs of that document would be read in conjunction with document A/C.3/42/L.93.
7. Mr. ALZAMORA (Peru), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of document A/C.3/42/L.93, invoked rule 122 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and reintroduced the draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62, as amended by document A/C.3/42/L.93.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt by consensus the amended text of draft resolution A/C.3/42/L.62, as contained in document A/C.3/42/L.93.

9. It was so decided.

10. Mr. MEZA (El Salvador) welcomed the position taken by the Committee. El Salvador was making efforts to implement the democratic process and the question of human rights was central to its policies. The Special Representative had indicated that that commitment was gradually achieving results.

11. Mr. LINDHOLM (Sweden) said that the human rights situation in El Salvador was still a matter for great concern. The Special Representative had reported that no significant changes had taken place. The judiciary was not functioning properly and no serious attempts had been made to investigate human rights abuses. There was evidence that cases of torture still occurred and people continued to disappear. His delegation had had some reservations with regard to the amended text in document A/C.3/42/L.93. With regard to the third preambular paragraph and paragraph 3, his delegation did not find the link established with the non-fulfilment of the humanitarian rules of war satisfactory, since other violations of human rights were also occurring. Furthermore, paragraph 2 did not really reflect the findings of the Special Representative's report. Those reservations notwithstanding, his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution and looked forward to continued work on human rights in the Commission on Human Rights and in the General Assembly in 1988.

Draft decision A/C.2/42/L.40

12. Mr. AGUILAR (Guatemala) said that, on behalf of the Group of 77, the Guatemalan delegation had submitted draft decision A/C.2/42/L.40 to the Second Committee for consideration under agenda item 12. A number of Western countries had not wanted it to be considered by that Committee, however. Since the Group of 77 considered it necessary for the General Assembly to take a decision on the matter, he requested that draft decision A/C.2/42/L.40 be considered by the Third Committee.

13. Mr. QUINN (Australia) reiterated his concern that the Third Committee should at least address the question of the study by the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council. Although such matters had traditionally been the province of the Second Committee, the Third Committee also had important responsibilities in that regard.

14. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation did not believe that it was appropriate for the Third Committee to take action on the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/42/L.40, since that document was still the subject of consultations in other bodies.

15. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria), Mr. AGUILAR (Guatemala), Mr. GALAL (Egypt), Mr. MOYA PALENCIA (Mexico), Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India), Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) and Mr. QUINN (Australia) took part, the CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft decision:

"The General Assembly requests the intergovernmental bodies in the social field that have not yet done so to submit their views and proposals to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987."

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to adopt the draft decision.

16. It was so decided.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

17. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Committee had completed its work for the forty-second session.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.