

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 56th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. KRENKEL

(Austria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 97: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

- (b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/47/24 and Add.1, A/47/353, 434, 445, 479, 501, 504, 552, 626, 630, 668 and Add.1, 701 and 702)
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AGENDA ITEM 149: THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ESTONIA AND LATVIA (continued) (A/47/247; A/C.3/47/9)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.72

1. Mr. YOUSIF (Sudan), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.72, entitled "Situation of human rights in the Sudan", under agenda item 97 (c), said that his delegation wished the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77, entitled "Situation in the Sudan", to be postponed for procedural reasons. Outlining the main provisions of the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.72, he recalled that the competent human rights bodies of the United Nations were already seized of the human rights situation in the Sudan. Fact-finding missions had been carried out in the Sudan by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General appointed to study the question of internally displaced persons and by the Independent Expert of the Commission on Human Rights. The Independent Expert and the Special Representative were to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session. He believed that until the Commission on Human Rights had fulfilled its mandate and had formulated its conclusions on the question, draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77 would be an obstacle to the ongoing investigation process. While he did not question the competence of the General Assembly in the area of human rights, he believed that it should not take a decision on a question which was under consideration by another competent body of the Organization. He hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77 would be sympathetic to the arguments put forward by his delegation in draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.72 and would decide to postpone the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.74

2. Ms. STROM (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.74, entitled "Situation in Myanmar", on behalf of the sponsors, said that Albania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Samoa had become sponsors. The sponsors had agreed to amend the text of operative paragraph 4 to read as follows:

(Ms. Strom, Sweden)

"Urges the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary steps towards the restoration of democracy, fully respecting the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990".

3. The draft resolution was motivated essentially by the fact that the human rights situation in Myanmar continued to be very disturbing despite certain measures taken by the Government, that the commitments made by the Government of Myanmar at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly had not been fulfilled, and that democracy had not been restored in that country. She drew particular attention to paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 13 of the draft resolution. Sweden had cooperated closely with many delegations in drafting the resolution and hoped that it would be adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.75

4. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, of which the United Kingdom was currently occupying the Presidency, and as the principal sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.75, entitled "Situation of human rights in Iraq", said that the resolution had been sponsored by 28 countries, who had now been joined by Samoa. The question of human rights in Iraq had been taken up by many delegations at the current session. The Committee had also considered the two-part report submitted by the Special Rapporteur (A/47/367 and Add.1) on the situation of human rights in Iraq. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.75 largely reproduced resolution 1992/71 adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 5 March 1992. He drew particular attention to the provisions of the seventh, ninth, tenth and eleventh preambular paragraphs and to paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9, and invited all Member States to adopt the resolution. He noted, in conclusion, that some stylistic changes had been made by the editors. He assumed that those changes did not affect the substance but reserved the right, in the event that the corrections changed the meaning of the resolution, to come back to them when the draft resolution was put to the vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.76

5. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom), the main author of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.76, entitled "The situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran", speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States and of the 22 co-sponsors of the draft resolution, who had been joined by Samoa, drew attention to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/47/617). He noted that the report contained sections on the right to life, disappearances, political rights, the situation of women, the right to work, the right to education, the right to own property, freedom of religion, including the situation of the Baha'i community, and the events of 5 April 1992. He deplored the excessive imposition of the death penalty, systematic use of torture, and restrictions

(Mr. Raven, United Kingdom)

on freedom of expression, drew attention to the situation of the Baha'i community, which seemed to be subject to systematic harassment and persecution, and asked the international community to continue to keep the situation of human right in Iran under review. He drew particular attention to operative paragraphs 3, 5, 7 and 8, and appealed to Member States to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.76, which represented a significant statement of position by the international community.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77

6. Mr. BLACKWELL (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77 entitled "The situation in Sudan" on behalf of the 30 co-sponsors, who had been joined by Ghana, Iceland and Samoa, said that the draft resolution had been motivated by a wide variety of reports from credible international human rights organizations and the observations made by representatives of his own country. In Juba, hundreds of people had been summarily executed, including a number of Sudanese employees of international relief agencies. The abuses were a result of the intensification of the civil war, the Government's inhumane treatment of displaced persons and its imposition of arbitrary governmental authority. Serious human rights violations had also been reported in the Nuba mountains, where an "ethnic cleansing" operation was being carried out. In southern Sudan, the humanitarian situation was approaching a Somalia-like tragedy and it was essential to apply pressure on the Government to open up all possible relief corridors. Although the lack of access made it difficult to obtain accurate statistics on death rates, the few observers who had been to afflicted areas reported significant numbers of deaths from starvation and disease. Those numbers would certainly increase if the Government carried out its planned military offensive in the south against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. The measures recently imposed by the Sudanese security services, which seemed intended to encourage foreigners to leave the country, were another source of concern. The relief programmes were, moreover, hampered by deliberate bureaucratic obstacles. In Khartoum, the Government continued to raze the shelters of thousands of people displaced by war and famine and to move those people to distant, inhospitable sites which lacked basic services and were far from employment opportunities. On behalf of the sponsors, his delegation urged Member States to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.77.

Proposed amendments contained in document A/C.3/47/L.78

7. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) introduced, on behalf of the sponsors, the proposed amendments (A/C.3/47/L.78) to draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.55, entitled "The plight of street children".

8. He noted that the fate of street children throughout the world was arousing great concern and should therefore be given the greatest attention by all Governments, which could and should guarantee the protection of that particularly vulnerable social group by ensuring, *inter alia*, respect for its fundamental rights. It was a positive development that the question was

(Mr. Bahadian, Brazil)

receiving greater attention, but it must be dealt with in a way that addressed not only the phenomenon but the necessary framework for promoting short- and long-term solutions, taking into account the fact that the plight of street children was aggravated by the persistence of poverty and underdevelopment and that the initiatives intended to ensure their protection were often implemented in circumstances of serious economic constraint.

9. Although draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.55 clearly addressed the need for Governments to continue to seek solutions, it omitted an important element, the international cooperation called for by the 1990 World Summit for Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

10. The concept of the indivisibility of all human rights was one of the basic pillars of United Nations activities and accordingly the efforts in favour of street children would not be complete or successful in the long run if they were not accompanied by the measures required for ensuring their economic, social and cultural rights. International cooperation was therefore particularly important and the proposed amendments submitted to the Committee had been drafted in that spirit. They did not change the main thrust of the draft resolution but were intended to convey the same message on the basis of a stronger commitment which took into account the indispensable framework of international cooperation to address the root causes of the plight of street children. Its sponsors hoped that the proposal would be supported by all Member States.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.73

11. Mrs. DA SILVA (Venezuela), introducing, on behalf of its sponsors, the draft resolution entitled "Human rights in Haiti", noted that the text followed the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Commission after the overthrow on 29 September 1991 of the constitutionally elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. She then read out the main provisions of the draft resolution, emphasizing operative paragraph 5, and expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.79

12. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.79, entitled "The situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia", said that Bulgaria, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Greece, Iceland, Madagascar, Malaysia, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

13. The progression of events made it essential to consider the draft resolution, which concerned a vast human tragedy, in that systematic human rights violations were occurring throughout the territory of the former Yugoslavia, and in particular in the regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina under Serbian control, in the name of "ethnic cleansing", which could not fail to

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(Mr. Kuehl, United States)

remind everyone of harrowing historical events. The Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur had spoken of extermination, torture, arbitrary arrest and enforced expulsion, and while all parties were perpetrating such atrocities there was no doubt that the Serbian forces were largely responsible. The seriousness and extent of the crimes raised the question of genocide. In that regard both the Serbian forces and the civil authorities must understand that they would be held responsible for their acts and that other countries, horrified by the events, would continue to condemn those responsible and to work towards ending the conflict and establishing conditions that would allow the survivors to return home.

14. The sponsors encouraged the London International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia as well as United Nations and European Community negotiators to continue their efforts to find a solution. They paid tribute to the extraordinary work of the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur, who had not only exposed the situation in the former Yugoslavia in detail but had also proposed specific measures such as the institution of monitoring missions in situ. The sponsors were awaiting the conclusions of the Secretary-General's study on the establishment of security zones, it being clearly understood that the international community would never accept territorial changes brought about by "ethnic cleansing". They took note of the heroic efforts made by the monitoring missions (in particular the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Protection Force) as well as by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the international media. They called on the Commission of Experts to examine the reports to be submitted to it under Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992) with the greatest care.

15. At the request of Turkey and the United States, the Commission on Human Rights had just held, at Geneva, its second special session to consider the situation of human rights in the former Yugoslavia. The sponsors of the resolution, formulated at that meeting, had emphasized the responsibility of Governments and individuals as well as the determination of the international community to bring those responsible to justice.

16. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.79 reflected the work and conclusions of the second special session of the Commission on Human Rights. He drew attention to paragraphs 3, 7, 14, 18 and 19 (b) and (c), and said that Turkey had proposed the following amendments.

17. In the first preambular paragraph, after "the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination", the following should be added: "the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". The ninth preambular paragraph would end with the words ", including the proposals made by the Co-Chairmen of its Steering Committee for the Constitution for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Mr. Kuehl, United States)

designed to protect human rights on the basis of fundamental human rights instruments". A new preambular paragraph would be added, to read: "Alarmed that, although the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not a religious conflict, it has been characterized by the systematic destruction and profanation of mosques, churches and other places of worship, as well as other sites of cultural heritage, in particular in areas currently or previously under Serbian control". Operative paragraph 6 would begin: "Demands that all parties involved in the former Yugoslavia, and especially those most responsible, cease these violations immediately". Lastly, in operative paragraph 14, the words "belonging to" should be followed by "ethnic communities or minorities".

18. Stressing that the very principles of the Organization were at stake, he added that on the eve of the forty-fourth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, bold action was needed to defend those principles, and he called for the widest support for the resolution, which was particularly opportune and necessary.

19. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to draft decisions and resolutions A/C.3/47/L.45, L.49, L.52, L.53, L.54, L.56, L.58, L.59, L.60, L.63 and L.64, none of which had programme budget implications.

Draft decision A/C.3/47/L.45 ("Award of Human Rights Prizes in 1993")

20. Draft decision A/C.3/47/L.45 was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.49 ("Right to Development")

21. The CHAIRMAN said that Austria, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Peru and Uruguay had joined the sponsors on the introduction of the draft resolution by Indonesia, in addition to which Niger, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Namibia, Samoa, Australia, Jordan, Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, Uganda, Gambia, Togo and Swaziland had also joined the sponsors.

22. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.49 was adopted without a vote.

23. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation had not participated in the vote on the draft resolution. While it recognized the importance of development and the relationship that existed between human rights, democracy and development, his delegation could not support the adoption of the draft because it considered that development was not so much a fundamental human right as an important social objective. The question of development did not fall within the competence of the Third Committee and should be considered by other United Nations bodies.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.52 ("The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia")

24. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.52 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.53 ("United Nations Year for Tolerance")

25. The CHAIRMAN said that Afghanistan, Indonesia and the Philippines had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

26. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.53 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.54 ("Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights")

27. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, the Gambia, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Samoa and Yemen had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

28. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.54 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.56 ("Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights")

29. The CHAIRMAN recalled that Grenada and Togo had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction by Greece, and announced that Belarus, Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mauritania, Namibia, the Niger, Pakistan, Samoa and Ukraine had also become sponsors.

30. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.56 was adopted.

31. Mr. AIZAWA (Japan) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution that had just been adopted but that it had not become a sponsor because of the unexpected delay in his Government's consideration of the issue. However, Japan reaffirmed its support for the Centre for Human Rights.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.58 ("Development of public information activities in the field of human rights")

32. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a minor correction in paragraph 15: "under the item entitled" should be replaced by "under the paragraph entitled". He recalled that Italy and New Zealand had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction by Australia, and that Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Samoa and Yemen had also become sponsors of the draft.

33. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.58 was adopted.

Draft decision A/C.3/47/L.59 ("United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations")

34. The CHAIRMAN announced that New Zealand had joined the list of sponsors of the draft, which had been introduced by Norway.

35. Draft decision A/C.3/47/L.59 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.60 ("Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance")

36. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire and Cyprus had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction by Ireland. Albania, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Samoa and Sierra Leone had also become sponsors of the draft. He recalled that the representative of Ireland had made an oral revision, which consisted in adding, in the first line of the tenth preambular paragraph of the English text, the word "of" before the word "intolerance".

37. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.60, as orally revised, was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.63 ("Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances")

38. The CHAIRMAN recalled that Nicaragua, Panama and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction by France. He announced that Belarus, the Central African Republic and Samoa had also become sponsors. He drew attention to an error in the list of sponsors in the French text of the draft: Mauritania had been listed instead of Mauritius.

39. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.63 was adopted.

40. Mr. AIZAWA (Japan) said that, while his delegation had joined in the adoption of the draft resolution, the position it had expressed at the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights remained unchanged.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.64 ("Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances")

41. The CHAIRMAN recalled that Cuba, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction by France, and announced that Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Croatia and Samoa had also become sponsors.

42. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.64 was adopted.

43. Mr. AIZAWA (Japan) said that, while his delegation had joined in the adoption of the draft resolution, the position it had expressed at the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights remained unchanged.

44. Mr. SCHUTTE (Germany) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolutions A/C.3/47/L.63 and A/C.3/47/L.64, but that it wished to reaffirm its position regarding certain provisions of the Declaration. It had explained its position in detail when the Commission on Human Rights had adopted its resolution 1992/30 on 28 February 1992.

45. Mrs. KABA (Côte d'Ivoire), speaking on agenda item 97, said that, in its efforts to promote human rights, the United Nations had provided Member States with a whole range of legal human rights instruments, together with mechanisms for their implementation and information systems. The Convention on the Rights of the Child had aroused the keen interest of the international community and all Member States had acceded to it. In particular, 35 African States had become parties to the Convention and 8 African States had signed it. Côte d'Ivoire, which had signed the Convention on 26 January 1990 and ratified it on 2 February 1991, was in the process of integrating the Convention into its national legislation. The commitment of the African countries to give priority to children's issues was also attributable to the adoption, at the summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held at Monrovia in 1979, of a Declaration on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child, as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted by the African Heads of State and Government in July 1990 at Addis Ababa.

46. However, the rights contained in those instruments could be exercised only if certain conditions were created. That was why the World Summit for Children had been held in September 1990. African participation in the Summit had been noteworthy, and 44 African Heads of State and Government had signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the Summit. As part of the follow-up activities, the States members of OAU had convened, pursuant to a resolution adopted at Abuja in June 1991, an International Conference on Assistance to African Children, which had been held from 25 to 27 November 1992 at Dakar. A number of industrialized countries, African and international non-governmental organizations, National Committees of UNICEF, intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions had taken part in the Dakar Conference, which had been jointly organized by UNICEF and OAU. The participants in the Conference had considered two basic documents prepared by UNICEF and OAU, entitled Africa's Children, Africa's Future: Human Investment Priorities for the 1990s, a comprehensive study of the overall situation of children in Africa, and Sectoral studies, a synthesis of plans of action in different sectors (health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, women and small girls, children in especially difficult circumstances). The situation in those sectors had been examined by six specialized committees, which had developed strategies and determined the goals to be reached by 1995 and the year 2000, and had proposed ways of mobilizing resources at the national and international levels. A seventh committee, composed of finance ministers, considered the financing of national programmes of action. At the conclusion of the Conference, a document entitled "Consensus of Dakar" had

(Mrs. Kaba, Côte d'Ivoire)

been adopted. The Consensus defined priorities, outlined the national programmes of action and proposed a strategy for mobilizing and restructuring resources at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, it had been proposed that, by 1995, official development assistance allocations should be increased by 20 per cent for the priority sectors of education, primary health care, nutrition and water supply, and debt should be rescheduled and alleviated in order to support projects that benefited children. Moreover, the African States had pledged to reduce their military security and spending in favour of programmes for children.

47. The determination of African Governments to create the conditions for a new dynamics of development was motivated by the fact that Africa's children lived in extremely precarious conditions, and the chronic crisis that afflicted the continent negated all the efforts made by countries to improve conditions for children. The African infant mortality rate was the highest in the world. An increasing number of children were victims of malnutrition, endemic illnesses (in particular AIDS), illnesses caused by a lack of drinking water and sanitary facilities, and they suffered the effects of drought, poverty and armed conflicts. In order to assist the category of children in especially difficult circumstances, international assistance was essential.

48. Moreover, the Dakar Conference had underscored the need to implement the instruments adopted under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation regarding child labour, as well as the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that dealt with detained minors. The Dakar Conference was the first stage in the fruitful cooperation among African countries, international organizations, donors and governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to changing the fate of millions of African children.

49. Mrs. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan), speaking on agenda items 97 (b) and (c), said that there was no doubt that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and economic and social development were closely linked to the establishment of lasting peace and international security, and that the progress that had been achieved in that area would provide a new impetus for international cooperation in all its aspects: political, economic, social and cultural.

50. After declaring its independence in December 1991, the Republic of Kazakhstan had adopted a constitutional law recognizing in its preamble the primacy of the rights and freedoms of the person as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. Furthermore, its President had said, in his statement to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, that Kazakhstan undertook to respect the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and to participate constructively in all United Nations activities, which had a growing role in the current post-cold war period. Kazakhstan had also become a full member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and would assume all

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(Mrs. Arystanbekova, Kazakhstan)

obligations arising from the instruments of the Helsinki Conference. As a young State taking its first steps towards the establishment of a democratic society, it intended thus to make human rights an indivisible part of its internal and external policy.

51. The draft constitution, which had been studied in depth by independent foreign experts as well, recognized the sovereignty of the people and the primacy of human values and universally recognized norms, and aimed at establishing a civil society where State institutions would be placed under the control of the people. The provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had served as models for the legal status of the citizen. The draft constitution intended in particular to strengthen the right to life and to private property, education, freedom of movement and choice of residence, as well as access to public service. But it was not enough to establish constitutional rights and freedoms; a system of guarantees to put them into practice was also needed. In that regard, Kazakhstan would ensure that its fundamental law was more than declaratory in nature, as had been the case for previous constitutions.

52. Moreover, the Constitutional Commission, aware that Kazakhstan included many nationalities, was attempting to establish a democratic constitution which would respond not only to the norms of international law, but would also contribute to the unity of all its citizens. The internal policy of Kazakhstan was based on the principle of consensus among nationalities. To strengthen those relationships, a "peace and harmony prize" had been established by Presidential decree in order to reward Kazakh or other citizens who had contributed to understanding between peoples. Furthermore, the laws adopted by Parliament, particularly those on citizenship, Presidential and legislative elections, the judicial system and military service, also respected the equal rights of all nationalities.

53. On an international level, her delegation was certain that the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 would represent a major stage in cooperation in humanitarian affairs, and it was pleased that 129 States had already supported draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.17. Furthermore, Kazakhstan, as a newly independent State, was open to broad cooperation in the legal field with United Nations Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It was counting on the constructive assistance of the Centre for Human Rights in providing international expertise regarding its legislation, organizing seminars with jurists and disseminating information on human rights. Like the rest of the international community, it would soon observe Human Rights Day. On that occasion, the delegation of Kazakhstan expressed the hope that the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would become not only a legal standard, but also a moral standard for all countries and regions of an interdependent world.

54. Mrs. FRECHETTE (Canada) said that, despite the amount of progress remaining to be achieved in human rights, the United Nations was moving in the right direction. In his report on the work of the Organization (A/47/1), the Secretary-General stated clearly that the Organization could take advantage of the opportunities before it only to the extent that it was able to respond collectively to democratic aspirations, and Canada shared that viewpoint.

55. Nowhere was the relationship between peace and human rights so graphically or tragically illustrated than in the former Yugoslavia. The international community had clearly recognized where primary responsibility rested for that tragedy: with those seeking to forge a homeland in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina through "ethnic cleansing". However, as the Special Rapporteur had stated in his report, all parties must answer for flagrant violations of human rights. A number of countries, including Canada, were making important efforts to establish an international ad hoc tribunal to prosecute those responsible for war crimes. Canada called on all countries represented at the United Nations actively to support that initiative. Close cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and other concerned institutions was encouraged in order to resolve the conflict.

56. The tragic events in the former Yugoslavia were all the more regrettable in the light of the important and positive changes taking place in Central and Eastern Europe and the States of the former Soviet Union. In order to promote the development of democracy, Canada was committed to providing technical assistance to those countries.

57. Hungary, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Poland had made substantial progress in their reform efforts. Romania, Bulgaria and Albania had taken measures to strengthen democracy and consolidate pluralism. Estonia and Latvia, which were attempting to resolve the question of their Russian minorities, had strengthened their democratic institutions, and Lithuania was making similar progress. Despite tensions, Russia had maintained its commitment to a free society and was moving towards the adoption of a democratic constitution. Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan had strengthened protection for ethnic minorities.

58. However, much remained to be done especially with respect to nationalism. Ethnic conflict had eroded many of the gains of democratization and national independence in Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Civil strife in Tajikistan threatened to bring back the old authoritarian system; the political opposition in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan was being harassed.

59. The establishment of democratic governments in Latin America had considerably improved the human rights situation there. Canada's unreserved support for progress in that area was underlined by its active participation in the Organization of American States. Canada reaffirmed its determination to see the legitimate representatives of the Haitian people return to their positions and agreed with the Special Rapporteur that the United Nations and the Organization of American States must assist them as soon as they had been

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

restored to power. Canada appreciated Peru's concern to eradicate terrorism but remained convinced that terrorism could be effectively combated in full respect for human rights and democratic principles. It hoped that the November 22 elections would mark the return to a greater respect for Peruvians' fundamental rights.

60. Despite its good relations with Cuba, Canada had always expressed its concern about the human rights situation in Cuba. Her country urged Cuba to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Commission on Human Rights and to reflect on the consequences of its refusal to cooperate for its international image. In El Salvador, full implementation of the January 1992 peace accords could nurture a democratic civil society. However, since the cease-fire, a number of cases of murder, assault and intimidation had occurred. Confidence in the legal system and institutions of El Salvador would only be consolidated by the thorough investigation and prosecution of those crimes. The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) in which Canada proudly participated, continued to play an important role in the peace process.

61. In Guatemala, the longest lived civil conflict in Central America remained unsolved despite attempts to settle it. Disappearances, abductions, assassinations and intimidation of human rights and labour activists, as well as of the media continued. Canada congratulated Rigoberta Menchu for winning the Nobel Prize for Peace and encouraged her to continue her struggle.

62. In Africa, the fundamental principles of democracy were establishing themselves. Elections had been held in Ghana and Burkina Faso; Mali had embarked upon an accelerated process of democratization and Canada encouraged Sierra Leone to follow suit. Elections were imminent in Togo and Guinea while in Côte d'Ivoire the dialogue between the Government and the opposition had resumed under conditions more favourable to reconciliation. In Rwanda, human rights were being regarded more favourably as the Arusha negotiations progressed. Presidential elections had recently been held in Cameroon but the electoral process had fallen short of the international community's expectations.

63. There had been positive developments in the human rights situation in a number of African States particularly the United Republic of Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Some initial change had even been noted in Malawi. However, the situation still remained alarming in Liberia where, despite the stabilizing efforts of neighbouring countries, there had been an outbreak of renewed fighting. The end of the civil war in Mozambique was a welcome harbinger of the restoration of basic human rights. However, recent events in Angola demonstrated the need for sustained commitment by all parties to all components of the peace process.

64. Canada was deeply concerned at the violation of basic freedoms in the Sudan. It believed that the Commission on Human Rights should be called upon

(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

to take decisive measures to address that situation. The tragedy in Somalia had resulted in terrible suffering for millions of people. Canada welcomed the use of enforcement measures to ensure the distribution of supplies but an enduring solution to the crisis would require concerted multilateral efforts.

65. The struggle against apartheid had culminated in considerable progress in South Africa over the previous three years. Most South Africans were, however, still deprived of fundamental rights and freedoms and the legacy of apartheid still governed most areas of their lives. Canada hoped that talks would resume in the near future and encouraged all parties in South Africa to establish a transitional Government.

66. The peace process initiated in the Middle East was promoting human rights in the region. However, many facets still needed improvement including the status of women and freedom of religion and expression. Determined to play a constructive role in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Canada would chair the Multilateral Refugee Working Group. Moreover, while it was aware of the violations of human rights in Syria, it had welcomed the release of additional political prisoners over the past year.

67. Canada urged Iraq to provide all available information on missing Kuwaiti prisoners of war and was pleased that Kuwait had undertaken to increase the participation of its citizens in the democratic process by extending the vote to women. In Iraq, widespread abuses, particularly against the Kurdish and Shiite minorities, remained a source of concern. Iraq must accept and implement the Security Council resolutions and cooperate unreservedly with the Special Rapporteur. Canada deplored the decision by Iran to expel members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and insisted that Iran show greater respect for the rights of its citizens.

68. Turning to Asia, Canada welcomed Thailand's return to the democratic process and urged the new Government to take the necessary measures to strengthen freedom of expression. It also welcomed India's announced intention to establish a human rights commission, but remained greatly concerned about ongoing violence in Kashmir and the Punjab. The improvement of human rights in the Philippines was encouraging, but those rights should be fully restored throughout the country. In Viet Nam, political detainees held since 1975 had been freed and amendments to the Constitution provided for greater freedom of expression. Religious leaders and political activists, however, continued to be treated harshly and imprisoned.

69. The peace agreement concluded in 1991 did not appear to have brought any fundamental improvements to human rights in Cambodia, where the lack of cooperation by the Khmer Rouge with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and suspected violations of those rights were seriously threatening the peace process. In Laos, while some political prisoners had been released after many years spent in detention, freedom of expression had

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(Mrs. Frechette, Canada)

yet to be achieved. In China, numerous persons arrested during the events at Tiananmen Square remained in prison and human rights violations were also widespread in Tibet.

70. Concerned about recent acts of violence in Kabul, Canada called upon all sides to the Afghan conflict to seek a negotiated solution and to support international humanitarian assistance. In Pakistan, the recent adoption of legislation against forced labour constituted a step forward, but the risk of discrimination against minorities had been heightened. Canada welcomed the will manifested by the Government of Sri Lanka to cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, although the continuing use of terrorism and repression in that country remained a source of serious concern.

71. Canada reiterated its deep concern about the flagrant abuse of human rights in Myanmar. Despite some recent progress, fundamental changes remained minimal. Canada called for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and of all political prisoners. In that regard, the adoption of an uncompromising resolution would enable the Special Rapporteur to give forceful expression to those concerns during his forthcoming visit to Myanmar.

72. Following the tragic events in 1992 in Dili, Canada had decided to suspend three aid projects to Indonesia. By granting access to East Timor for international human rights organizations and journalists, Indonesia would contribute to the respect for human rights in that region.

73. Although the human rights situation remained a source of concern, efforts undertaken by numerous countries in that area were encouraging. The United Nations should not, however, relax its efforts, since, women, children, indigenous peoples and minorities only too often remained the victims of violence, exploitation and abuses. In that context, international mechanisms for the protection of human rights could and should be considerably improved. The Secretary-General might prepare an objective report on the issue, based on the work of bodies established pursuant to international instruments and those of the Commission on Human Rights. The primary aim of such a report might be to recommend ways in which the international community could assist the populations and countries most in need of support in attaining their objectives of peace, prosperity and freedom.

74. Three major events, which should enable the Organization to strengthen its machinery for ensuring respect for human rights, were going to take place in 1993; they were: the forty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and the second World Conference on Human Rights. Canada pledged its full cooperation with all in the staging of those events.

75. Mr. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) said that the political maturity which his country had attained served to guarantee democracy and respect for fundamental human rights; the rare violations that did occur were invariably punished. Furthermore, Ecuador was party to a large number of regional and international human rights instruments, whose provisions it scrupulously respected. Respect for human rights was systematically instilled into members of the armed forces and the police, with the cooperation of such organizations as ICRC and the Latin American Association of Human Rights, whose head offices were at Quito. The judicial inquiry service of the national police force had been restructured and would, in future, be more strictly subjected to the requirements of the law. All those measures had earned Ecuador a solid reputation as a civilized and mature country.

76. Civil and political rights were, however, only a small part of human rights. They were of little relevance to the destitute, whose fundamental needs remained unmet. Economic, social and cultural rights, which were withheld from the poor by an unjust international economic order, were just as fundamental. The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should result in a balanced definition of human rights and promote the full exercise of those rights. It would, however, be unfortunate if it led to confrontations and was exploited by one group of countries for the purposes of putting the rest of the world on trial.

77. Ecuador hoped on the contrary that, in the same way as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, it would give the international community an opportunity to define a framework within which measures could be taken to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms in the post-cold-war period and in future decades.

78. The ceremony to launch the International Year for the World's Indigenous People was due to take place in a few days' time. His country, which was proud of the sizeable indigenous communities amongst its own population, supported that welcome initiative, which would encourage the introduction of mechanisms to assist indigenous peoples. Ethnic diversity was a source of vast cultural wealth for his own country and its continued existence was guaranteed by the system of intercultural education introduced in 1948, which enabled the various communities to be educated as they saw fit and in their own language. Indeed, aid for indigenous peoples should not only allow them to move up the social scale, but should also and above all protect their way of life and their culture.

79. In view of the importance of land to the various ethnic groups in his country, more than a million hectares had been distributed to various indigenous peoples and a democratic dialogue was continuing between the Government and the organizations representing those peoples. Although the State had been unable to accept and meet all the just aspirations of the indigenous peoples, the democratic institutions had supported a consensus which should ensure the integrity of the nation.

(Mr. Rosenberg, Ecuador)

80. On 10 December 1992, on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Nobel Peace Prize would be formally awarded to Rigoberta Menchú, who had devoted herself to the cause of indigenous peoples. That award was an honour for Latin America as a whole and a sign of hope for all the world's indigenous peoples.

81. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that, unfortunately, during the current period of transition, which was marked by numerous ethnic conflicts and severe economic deprivation, the peace and prosperity aspired to by all seemed further away than ever. The time had come to restructure the United Nations system in order to make optimum use of resources.

82. Monitoring was of great importance in the field of human rights. Although she recognized the useful role played by rapporteurs, particularly the thematic rapporteurs who, by exposing human rights violations, paved the way for corrective measures, she stressed that they should not duplicate the functions of existing mechanisms and that special rapporteurs should be appointed for limited periods, if only for financial reasons. Human rights violations were a permanent problem and could be dealt with only by means of a permanent arrangement capable of focusing on prevention, a requirement which by definition special rapporteurs could not meet, since they were appointed only after human rights violations had occurred. Her delegation therefore supported all initiatives to strengthen existing mechanisms, such as the Centre for Human Rights and regional arrangements. She welcomed the growing emphasis placed on prevention, as reflected in the statement by the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs of Austria, Mr. Schallenberg.

83. The integrity and worth of the rapporteurs was not in question, but the very fact that they had been asked to conduct an inquiry engendered distrust in the country concerned. On occasion they were unable to gain access to the persons they needed to interview or were not even allowed into the country, a situation which resulted in costly delays.

84. The World Conference on Human Rights would be held at precisely the right time to consider the problems and programmes for the next quarter of a century. A consensus had at last been reached on an agenda which, it was to be hoped, would provide ample opportunity to address problems specifically affecting disadvantaged groups such as street children, migrant women workers, the disabled, the ageing, and refugees and displaced persons. Needless to say, women's rights would be on the agenda.

85. Given the importance of the role which non-governmental organizations could play in supporting the United Nations system, she welcomed the fact that the Secretary-General had now strengthened the Non-governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Development, as called for by the Economic and Social Committee in resolution 1992/39, and she looked forward to the proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General for the biennium 1994-1995. She hoped that in the near future rules would be drawn up

(Ms. Limjuco, Philippines)

to govern the participation of non-governmental organizations in United Nations bodies; her Government had offered to host a conference in preparation for the world forum of non-governmental organizations to be held in 1995 in parallel with the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

86. In conclusion, she read out the pledge to be made by the President of the Republic of the Philippines on 10 December to mark the celebration of Human Rights Day, which read:

"We, the Filipino people, inspired by the Divine Providence and guided by the State policy embodied in our Constitution to value the dignity of every person and to guarantee full respect for human rights, do hereby solemnly pledge:

To uphold the rights and dignity of every person, whether rich or poor, adult or child, learned or ignorant, regardless of race, sex or ideology.

We assume full responsibility for upholding the supreme and inalienable rights of every man, woman and child as mandated by the Philippine Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants, as well as the common values of the Filipino people.

In all our efforts in the service of our people, we will give every Filipino all the means to develop as a full human being guided by peace, justice and human rights for all."

87. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the financial implications of the World Summit for Social Development (A/C.3/47/L.80).

88. Mr. RAVEN (United Kingdom) sought clarification from the Acting Controller on paragraph 18 of document A/C.3/47/L.80, which stated that, with reference to the requirements for 1994-1995, proposals would be made to the General Assembly in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. His delegation realized that the Budget Division was not in a position to give a detailed explanation of all the estimated expenditure for 1994-1995 while the 1992-1993 biennium had only reached its halfway point. Nevertheless, since the decision by the General Assembly to convene the Summit would have financial implications beyond the current biennium, it would be useful to have a general idea of the expenditure, so that his delegation could inform its Government of the cost of the preparatory process and of the Summit itself during the 1994-1995 biennium (such as conference services, staff costs for the substantive services, and travel and documentation costs). In so far as funds would be allocated for the preparation of the Summit and for the Summit itself to the detriment of other activities to be undertaken by the Organization, it would be useful to know the amount of those sums.

89. Mr. SCHUTTE (Germany) said that he shared the concerns of the representative of the United Kingdom regarding paragraph 18 of document A/C.3/47/L.80. He sought additional clarification from the Division on paragraphs 4 and 7 of document A/C.3/47/L.80, which mentioned the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/10 C, setting out guidelines for the preparation, organization and servicing of special conferences of the United Nations and of their preparatory meetings. The preparatory process for the World Summit described in draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51 deviated in several respects from those guidelines, entailing possible additional expenditure which would have to be met from the United Nations budget. His delegation would therefore like to know the amount of additional expenditure which would arise as a result of not following the guidelines.

90. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that programme budget implications of draft proposals were submitted to the Committees of the General Assembly to assist them in reaching decisions on the issues under consideration. As the next stage, the Fifth Committee submitted to the plenary Assembly proposals for action on those financial implications. He acknowledged that the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51, contained in document A/C.3/47/L.80, were incomplete, particularly with regard to paragraph 18. The failure by his Office to give information beyond 1993 was primarily due to the restructuring exercise in the Secretariat, and also to the fact that the draft resolution did not identify all the elements necessary for an exact assessment of the cost of the Summit itself.

91. In response to the question raised by Germany, he explained, with reference to the interpretation of resolution 35/10, that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs at Vienna and the Department of Economic and Social Development in New York would participate in preparations for the Summit. The statement of programme budget implications mentioned those two offices and stated that the activities would fall within the new economic and social structures to be established during the second phase of the reorganization of the Secretariat. There was no reason, therefore, to assume that there would be additional costs. The question of the venue of the Summit was for the General Assembly to decide. Since draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.51 contained a proposal on the venue, however, he noted that all additional expenses resulting from a change of the normal venue, namely, Vienna or New York, would be borne by the host country; the proposal therefore did not entail any additional cost for the regular budget of the United Nations.

92. Turning to the question put by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Germany, he said that he could provide, either informally in writing, or, if he had a little more time, as an addendum to the programme budget implications, a cautious but realistic estimate of costs for 1994-1995. That estimate would incorporate three factors: the support to be provided by the Secretariat (namely, the additional cost which that support would involve); the cost of conference services required both for the Preparatory Committee

(Mr. Baudot)

and for the Summit itself; and various costs generally included for information purposes. He stressed that that would be in the nature of further clarification and would not, strictly speaking, be part of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

93. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand) said that he was heartened by the consensus established in the Third Committee on settling the agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. Human rights were the foundation of freedom, justice and peace, and their universal respect was an essential prerequisite for security. Therefore, it was encouraging that the United Nations had been able to meet the challenge of the promotion of human rights by developing a body of international law.

94. Educational and preventive mechanisms were of primary importance. Through its programme of advisory and technical assistance services, the United Nations could offer practical assistance to Governments in elaborating legislation and in establishing a national structure for human rights promotion and protection. The global public information campaign on human rights, for its part, led to greater awareness and, consequently, greater respect for human rights. The bodies established pursuant to international instruments to monitor compliance by States parties also played a vital role. New Zealand fully supported their work and the professionalism and non-political approach which characterized their activities. Through the dialogue they established with States parties and through their general commentary, those bodies developed a better understanding of the rights stipulated in such instruments. Thematic procedures, which were not restricted to a single country or event, were particularly useful. They made it possible to address recurring human rights violations such as torture, summary or arbitrary execution or detention, and forced or involuntary disappearances.

95. Sometimes preventive diplomacy was not enough, and human rights violations persisted despite the efforts of the international community. For that reason, the United Nations had developed a system of working groups, special representatives and rapporteurs to investigate allegations of flagrant human rights violations and to provide the international community with details and information on the prevailing situation in countries under investigation, through the submission of reports.

96. The United Nations should also give priority to the conclusion of its work in standard-setting. In that regard, the Third Committee would extend the body of international law through the adoption of the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances and the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. New Zealand supported the adoption of both declarations. Work on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the draft declaration on violence against women had made good

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

progress. The standard-setting work of the United Nations was essentially complete, but implementation of existing norms through mechanisms already created must be ensured.

97. In its role in protecting and promoting fundamental human rights, the United Nations continued to encounter some resistance, and human rights violations, often massive, still occurred in many regions of the world. Therefore, it must be perfectly clear that Governments were accountable for their treatment of their citizens. If they did not meet their obligations, the international community, and especially the United Nations, must protest and must carry out its human rights responsibilities in a non-political and non-selective manner.

98. New Zealand was appalled at the situation in the former Yugoslavia. It had fully supported the convening of two special sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and had co-sponsored the resolution adopted at each session. The reports of the Special Rapporteur painted a grim picture of a situation that was continuing to deteriorate. "Ethnic cleansing" was the major cause of human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. New Zealand would continue to give active support to the initiatives of the Commission on Human Rights to bring an end to abuses in the former Yugoslavia, and supported the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. It had accepted, under its annual refugee quota, 50 former detainees from camps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and up to 150 of their family members. The first group had recently arrived in New Zealand. The Government was in the process of facilitating immigration procedures for 150 other relatives of New Zealanders of Yugoslav origin who had been affected by the civil war. In addition, it had contributed nine military observers to UNPROFOR. As a member of the Security Council, it was seeking to facilitate a negotiated settlement of the crisis, and to ensure a coordinated and effective response of the international community.

99. The Special Rapporteur on Iraq had submitted a two-part report. The first part (A/47/367) was devoted to the systematic attacks against the civilian population of the southern marsh area by the Iraqi military forces, which was of great concern to New Zealand. The second part (A/47/367/Add.1) concerned the general situation of human rights, and described equally grim circumstances. New Zealand reiterated its appeal to the Government of Iraq to put an end to such brutality.

100. In Iran, human rights violations appeared to be continuing, and it was disappointing that the Iranian Government appeared to have discontinued its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

101. His delegation regretted that the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cuba had been unable to visit the country, and hoped that the Cuban Government would assist the Rapporteur in fulfilling his most important mandate.

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

102. In Haiti, there were reports that since the coup d'état of September 1991, there had been systematic and widespread violations of human rights. New Zealand wanted to see the earliest possible return to democracy in Haiti and therefore supported the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that the United Nations should continue to work with the Organization of American States to promote a solution to the political crisis in that country.

103. Although the repatriation of 1 million refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan over the past few months was an encouraging development, the situation of conflict and lawlessness which prevailed in Afghanistan, especially in Kabul, and the consequent violations of human rights should not be forgotten. New Zealand hoped that conditions would be soon created enabling the remaining 4 million refugees in Pakistan to return to their homes.

104. In Myanmar, the refusal of the State Law and Order Restoration Council to allow the democratically elected Government to take office was deplorable, as was the Council's reluctance to enter into a real dialogue with democratic political leaders. New Zealand welcomed the modest relaxation of the Government's hard-line policy on human rights issues, including the release of some political prisoners, the lifting of the curfew and the rescinding of certain martial law powers. It hoped that the Government would facilitate the Special Rapporteur's scheduled visit to Myanmar later that month and would invite the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) into the country to carry out their purely humanitarian tasks. In his speech to the General Assembly on 5 October, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar had spoken in detail about plans for a national convention to take place in his country to work on a new constitution. New Zealand urged Myanmar to give all groups and individuals every opportunity to participate in that process.

105. New Zealand had welcomed the decision of the Government of South Africa to join in a constitutional process aimed at finally bringing democracy to the majority of South Africans. Apartheid continued, however, and the nature of the Government had so far not changed. The impasse in the political talks among all parties in South Africa and the escalating violence must be ended as soon as possible, because delay was sapping confidence and good will and was also weakening the country's economy. New Zealand urged the earliest possible return to the negotiating table.

106. On the bright side, peace agreements had been reached in El Salvador, and the situation there with regard to civil and political rights had improved. Every effort must be made to prevent the re-emergence of past patterns of human rights violations.

107. The observance of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People was of special interest to New Zealand. His Government was currently coordinating, in consultation with the Maori people, various activities to be

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

undertaken in New Zealand in the context of the Year. The World Conference on Human Rights would also take place in 1993. New Zealand hoped that the Conference would result in a consensus on advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in practical ways.

108. Finally, he stressed that the various human rights mechanisms could function effectively only if they received adequate human, material and financial support. If the international community was serious in its quest to achieve universal respect for human rights, it must be prepared to provide appropriate financial resources.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.