



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. KEKEH (Togo)

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AGENDA ITEM 57: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 57: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued) (A/35/425, A/35/586; A/SPC/35/L.14)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Pakistan had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/SPC/35/L.14, the only draft resolution at present before the Committee.
2. Mr. JOARDER (Bangladesh) said that the excellent report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/35/425) gave a correct picture of the situation in those territories. The sources of information were absolutely authentic, and the findings of the report fully corresponded with those of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories (A/35/533) and also with those of research scholars working in that field.
3. It was clear that Israel was following a systematic policy of annexation and settlement of the occupied territories, a policy that was also reflected in the statements of various Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Begin himself. That policy was being implemented with ruthless efficiency. In order to make room for the large number of new Israeli settlements - 133 since 1967 - Palestinian Arab lands were being expropriated according to a master plan. The aim seemed to be to drive out as many Palestinians as possible, to destroy the Arab rural economy which was based on agriculture, to turn Arab towns into isolated ghettos encircled by Jewish settlements, and to destroy the social cohesion and sense of ethnic identity of the Palestinian Arabs by creating physical barriers between them. The report of the Secretary-General (A/35/533) on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories revealed these intentions clearly, indicating that the establishment of Jewish settlements in the middle of Arab-populated areas tended "to weaken and disrupt traditional ties" among them, as in East Jerusalem, by "cutting them off from direct contact" with each other (para. 83).
4. Arab lands were expropriated largely through the use of deceit and immoral procedures. Lands expropriated, allegedly for "military purposes", were frequently handed over to Jewish settlers, as had been reported, inter alia, by the Israeli daily Al-Hamishmar of 30 April 1980. There were also instances in which the crops of Palestinian Arab farmers had been deliberately destroyed not only with a view to expropriating land allegedly lying "fallow" but also to force the farmers, who had thus been deprived of their livelihood, to leave the occupied territories. The Israeli Government could then apply the Absentee Property Law of 1950 or the Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1948 in order to confiscate and alienate their land for the benefit of Jewish settlers (see A/35/533, para. 86 (c)).
5. There was also the question of water. The Israeli authorities, who were seeking to change the topography and ecology of the area, had established control

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(Mr. Joarder, Bangladesh)

over its water resources so as better to strangle the Palestinian Arabs economically and force them to leave. The drilling of deep wells by Israeli settlers had caused the shallow wells and springs in nearby Arab villages to dry up, thus seriously affecting Arab crops. That "water policy" of the occupying authority had spelt disaster for the Palestinian Arab farmers. Not only had their wells deliberately been made inoperative. They had also been refused permission to dig new ones and were thus forced to buy their water from Israeli settlers. Various independent studies provided countless examples to substantiate those aspects of Israeli policy.

6. Israel's colonizing activities had recently been accelerated, and had compelled the Palestinian Arabs to resist such attempts to obliterate them. The Israeli authorities were reacting by taking classic colonialist measures: arrests, beatings, evictions, deportations, destruction of houses and prolonged curfews. The well-known Israeli lawyer, Felicia Langer, in her book entitled With My Own Eyes, had described the anti-human activities of the Israeli authorities, who did not spare even women. Women were subjected to extreme forms of police brutality, or to various forms of humiliation, insults and imprisonment - as had been the case with the freelance correspondent Raymonda Tawil - or they were deported - as Mrs. Abdel-Hadi, President of the West Bank Women's Union, had been. One particularly odious aspect of that policy of colonization and suppression was the almost complete freedom of action given to Israeli settlers and to certain fanatics, for example, the Gush Emunim group, which enjoyed the open support of the Government. Such persons were terrorizing not only Palestinian Arabs but also Israelis who criticized the policy of colonization. The article by Elfi Pallis, published in the Middle East International of 4 July 1980, was very revealing in that connexion.

7. It was known from sources of impeccable authenticity that Palestinian Arab prisoners lived in subhuman conditions. An editorial in the September-October 1980 issue of the Israeli journal New Outlook indicated that the system was based on the principle of "degrading and humiliating the prisoner" in order to break his spirit.

8. Educational institutions had now become the main target of Israeli suppressive activities. Teachers and students in the occupied territories lived in terror and were haunted by feelings of insecurity.

9. However, the full significance of such activities could be understood only when they were put in the proper perspective. The root of the trouble was Zionism which was racist, expansionist and anti-human. Zionism had a grand and diabolical design: the liquidation of the Palestinian Arab population and the establishment of a state of Zionist colonizers. That fanatical colonizing policy, in open defiance of the international community, was dragging the region and the world towards Armageddon. That trend must be stopped, if necessary by imposing sanctions against the occupying Power. His delegation was firmly convinced that peace could be restored in that troubled area only by a scrupulous implementation of United Nations resolutions. As the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh had said in addressing the General Assembly earlier in the current session, an imperative

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for defusing the highly volatile situation and establishing enduring peace in the region was the immediate withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the restoration to the Palestinians of their inalienable national rights, including their right to a State of their own in their homeland.

10. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that the situation of the rights of the population of the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 was one of the gravest problems before the Special Political Committee. The report of the Special Committee (A/35/425) gave rise to very serious concern, even though much of it was based on secondary evidence and thus could not be regarded as conclusive.

11. Austria had always felt that the August 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was applicable in full to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, as defined by Security Council resolution 242 (1967), and that that Convention should govern the actions taken by the Israeli Government and military authorities in the West Bank. It was true that under that Convention, and also under customary international law, an occupying Power was entitled to alter the domestic laws of the occupied country to the extent necessary for the security of its forces. However, judging from the report, it was clear that the Israeli administration had gone far beyond measures necessitated by security considerations, and had undertaken far-reaching changes in the legal and demographic status of the occupied territories. Those changes were completely unacceptable since they had not only increased tension in the region and complicated the search for a peaceful, negotiated settlement but could also be viewed as an indication that Israel intended to perpetuate its domination over the Arab territories.

12. One of the most harmful and serious aspects of that policy was the continuous construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. That was a well-established programme of expansion, which was part of a deliberate plan. The amount of time and money involved seemed to indicate that the Israeli Government had no intention of abandoning that policy. Her Government felt that the building of settlements in Arab-occupied territories was illegal and contrary to international law. In that regard, it was regrettable that Israel had decided not to co-operate with the Security Council Commission established under resolution 446 (1979).

13. The forcible expulsion of local officials, in contravention of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibited forcible transfers and the deportation of protected persons, was yet another violation of international law, and had as such been forcefully rejected by Austria.

14. With regard to the recent law on the status of Jerusalem, which had further increased tension, Austria would not accept any unilateral change in the status of that city. Her Government's position in that regard was well known: the question of Jerusalem would have to be resolved in the framework of negotiations for an over-all settlement.

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(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

15. Furthermore, the treatment of Palestinian Arab civilians was deeply disquieting; in addition, the hostile activities of Israeli settlers directed against the Arab population and its officials had led to a dangerous increase in the level of violence and had generated a strong spirit of resistance among the civilian population, followed by a harsh reaction on the part of the military authorities and then by further incidents of violence.

16. Her Government had consistently upheld the view that the only possible solution lay in the achievement of a negotiated settlement of the Middle East conflict in all its aspects, a solution that respected the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people and met Israel's security demands. Austria's views on the manner in which such a settlement could be achieved were well known. In the meantime, Israel would have to desist from a policy which ran counter to peace efforts and only served to make the situation more dangerous and more difficult to resolve.

17. Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus) said that the position of his Government on the question of the territories occupied by Israel was based on the following principles: the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by military force; the need to implement the decisions of the competent organs of the United Nations, and the inadmissibility of the creation of faits accomplis in occupied territories. The report of the Special Committee (A/35/425) showed that those fundamental principles were being flouted by Israel, which persistently pursued a policy of annexation and colonization designed to change the geographic nature and demographic structure of the occupied territories. That policy was in direct contravention of international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention, article 49 of which expressly prohibited "individual or mass forcible transfers of protected persons from the occupied area" and also provided that the occupying Power could not undertake "transfers of part of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies". Furthermore, the acts of reprisal and the activities of Israeli settlers against the inhabitants of the occupied territories were also in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

18. His delegation reiterated its opposition to the settlement policy pursued by Israel, and to the policy of faits accomplis, especially with regard to the status of Jerusalem. It wished to point out that all States were obliged to co-operate with organs and bodies duly established by the United Nations; and it regretted that the Special Committee had been unable to obtain the co-operation of the occupying Power within the terms of its mandate. His delegation fully supported the conclusion of the Special Committee, as stated in paragraph 304 of the report, to the effect that concerted action by the international community was necessary to put an end to the occupation since that occupation in all its facets was at the core of the violation of fundamental human rights. His delegation also agreed with the Special Committee that Israeli practices constituted a systematic effort to change the status of the occupied territories in pursuit of the "homeland" policy of the Israeli Government and of its avowed intention to perpetuate its domination of the occupied territories and deny their population the right to self-determination.

19. Accordingly, his delegation wished to reiterate that Cyprus recognized PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; it supported the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, independence and statehood;

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(Mr. Sherifis, Cyprus)

and it believed that belligerency should come to an end and that all States in the area should be able to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

20. Mr. BENCHEKROUN (Morocco) said that the report under consideration by the Committee had been written by three eminent persons who could not be considered enemies of Israel since they represented three continents - Asia, Africa and Europe - which until recently Israel had considered as benevolently neutral. Those eminent persons, in undertaking the investigation, had simply been carrying out their duty, which was especially difficult in view of the negative attitude of Israel. His delegation commended their moderation in presenting without animosity or anger facts which could only be described as monstrous.

21. The value of the report lay in the fact that the information it contained was taken from reliable sources which could not be contested. The report was valuable also because of its objectivity and impartiality, and because it shed light on the nature of Israeli policy with respect to the occupied territories - a policy which affected not only the Arab population, but also its wealth, culture and traditions since in Israel's view everything - absolutely everything - must be Zionist. It was essential to realize that in order to understand the extortions, the harassment and the pettiness to which the Arab population of the occupied Arab territories was being subjected.

22. The report also revealed the different elements in the machinery used by the Government of Israel to carry out its definitive policy of annexing the occupied territories. Those elements were force - the police and the army; money, which came from everywhere through the Jewish National Fund; and fraud, because Arab peasants, who did not know the Hebrew language and were therefore unable to understand the contracts they were given, were often deprived of their land by deceit. That list could be lengthened to include swindling, meanness and the use of threats. Every means, including even the legal system and religion, was used to banish the Palestinian people from their ancestral lands for ever. The report indicated clearly the depths of moral degradation to which the leaders of the Israeli people had descended. That people, which had undergone much suffering, deserved different leaders - leaders worthy of its famous scholars, prophets and humanists, not leaders who would inevitably lead the Israeli's to further suffering.

23. The report of the Special Committee should in all justice be circulated in Israel in order to inform the younger generation of the crimes which the older generation had committed. It was said that the Israeli population did not approve of those crimes. The fact was that the population was simply unaware of them. It should, therefore, be made aware of them, as the German population had been after the Second World War. Unfortunately, that could not be done, at least not yet; but the General Assembly should urgently request the Secretary-General to arrange for the report to be widely circulated in United Nations information centres and offices, and in information agencies, schools, colleges, universities and libraries: it was not enough merely to circulate the report to information centres and field offices "according to local needs", as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/35/586, para. 7).

24. The representative of Israel, faced with a multitude of overwhelming facts, might have been expected to utter a word of regret or compassion for the sufferings of the Arab population. However, as usual, he had limited himself to reversing the

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roles; pretending that the aggressor was the victim of aggression; berating those who refused to draw a veil of silence over the fait accompli; invoking considerations of public order - which was ironical when one remembered what references to the maintenance of order had meant in Warsaw or in Mandated Palestine; questioning the honesty and credibility of the authors of the report; claiming that the Committee had been used to disseminate Arab hatred of Israel; describing Israel as a virtual "paradise on earth" and, of course, denying all the facts. It was awkward for Israel that those facts had come from Israeli sources or had been confirmed by leading Israeli personalities. In a highly critical book entitled Israeli Racism, Israel Shahak, President of the Israeli League for Human Rights and Professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who could hardly be accused of anti-Semitism, had condemned the sadistic crimes which the terrorist Meir Har-Zion, who was presented to Israeli youth as a national hero, had committed against innocent Arabs. It would be interesting to know whether the representative of Israel was familiar with that book and with the latest book by Vincent Monteil published in France under the title Dossier secret sur Israël: le terrorisme, and whether those books were openly sold in Israel. The last-mentioned book showed that Israeli terrorism was directed against Palestinians not only in the occupied territories, but everywhere, especially in Lebanon, where Israeli "destroying angels" attacked individuals, civilians, women and children, bombed refugee camps, and opened fire on the civilian population at random, as had been reported by two French doctors who had visited the camps, Father Larivière and Dr. Morin. According to critics, the value of Vincent Monteil's book lay in the fact that it demonstrated the relentless machinery which had made Israeli authorities commit crimes in the name of law, persecute Palestinians everywhere and implement a policy which was reminiscent of totalitarian or fascist countries.

25. It was sad to see the survivors of the holocaust using the methods of their erstwhile torturers against the Palestinians. However, the terrorism practised by Israel was doomed to failure because the Palestinian people were strong in a cause which they would resolutely defend, whatever the circumstances. Moreover, it could not but lead to the moral decadence of the ruling oligarchy, and to the creation of a mafia which the French journalist, Jacques Derogy, had already denounced in his book Israël connection: la Mafia en Israël. In that book, the author of which could no more be suspected of anti-Semitism than could Vincent Monteil, Jacques Derogy had courageously attempted a true "demystification process" by denouncing the corruption of a country which had fallen prey to unscrupulous businessmen and careerists, and of a mafia as ramified, structured and influential in political circles ... and every bit as deadly, as the American crime syndicate. Such a statement was all the more convincing in that it came from a Jew, saddened by the behaviour of a category of his co-religionists. In the face of the decadence of a people to which he belonged, he was striking a real note of alarm.

26. The Israelis never missed an opportunity of accusing members of the Committee of anti-Semitism; that was not without irony in the case of the representatives of the Arab countries, who were themselves Semites. At that rate, the Israelis would doubtless also condemn as a traitor to the Jewish nation, as an anti-Zionist

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and an anti-Semite, the former President of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Nahum Goldman, who, in an article which had appeared on 19 July 1980 in a French weekly, had written, inter alia, that in Israel crime, corruption and the organized mafia were the order of the day. He had added that Herzl had over-simplified the problem when he had said that it had been a case of bringing a people without a land to a land without people ... because at the end of the nineteenth century the Jews of Western Europe and America had not been a people without a land, and Palestine had not been a land without people; hundreds of thousands of Arabs had been living there. Again according to Mr. Goldman, Israeli foreign policy, founded on Utopian illusions and pretensions, had become increasingly arrogant and provocative and if Israel persisted in focusing attention primarily on military power it would continue to slide down the slippery slope towards the precipice. He wished to pay a tribute to the patriarch of world zionism who, while not renouncing his beliefs, remained aloof from those in power in Israel, and went so far as to wonder whether the State of Israel in its current form was viable and could survive in the long run, denouncing Begin's obstinacy, his refusal to make concessions, and his defiant stance vis-à-vis the world at large.

27. The members of the Committee were well aware that whatever they said and whatever resolutions they adopted, the ruling oligarchy in Israel would continue to flaunt its haughty disdain of United Nations resolutions and world public opinion, as it had done in the past and, most recently, by the annexation of Jerusalem. That most recent act of defiance was the last straw which would surely break the camel's back.

28. Such an action by Israel had been described by His Majesty King Hassan II at a recent press conference as a grave error. He had stated that Israel, which had been oppressed and had built its very identity on being the victim of oppression, thereby winning the sympathy which was to guarantee it its current position of power, had in turn become an oppressor State which despised the human race, trampled on human values, transgressed against religion, and turned its back on thousands of years of history. King Hassan had had no hesitation in stating that Israel was digging its own grave if it imagined that its technological superiority vis-à-vis the Moslem States was irreversible ... the evolution of history would reduce that disparity as the days went by. With every dawning day, a new generation of Arabs and Moslems arose to take their place in science and research. That was a warning the Israelis would do well to heed.

29. Mr. MI Guojun (China) said that his delegation had carefully studied the report of the Special Committee (A/35/425), which presented irrefutable proof of Israeli crimes in the occupied territories.

30. The question of the Israeli-occupied territories was an integral part of the Middle East question which had remained unresolved for several decades because of the Israeli policy of aggression and expansion and because of super-Power rivalry in the region. Despite the adoption of numerous resolutions by the

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Security Council and the General Assembly, most recently at the emergency special session on the question of Palestine, Israel continued to turn a deaf ear to the condemnations and appeals of the international community. The Israeli authorities were still occupying large tracts of Arab territory, forcing the Palestinians in their millions to lead a wretched life in various parts of the world, and subjecting a million Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied areas to all kinds of discrimination and persecution, without any guarantee for their personal safety.

31. The Israeli authorities had even gone so far as to enforce their "zionization schemes". On trumped-up security grounds, they had established settlements and military installations, and had intensified their control of almost all water resources, thereby attempting to perpetuate their occupation of Arab lands. Over the past year they had intensified their policies of aggression and annexation by mass expropriation of privately-owned Arab land, and by deciding to allow Israelis to purchase Arab land in the occupied territories. They further planned to establish 85 new settlements in the occupied territories by 1985. The previous spring the Israeli authorities, in an attempt to chase the Palestinians off their land, had gone so far as to spray it with defoliants. Recently, the Begin Government had officially endorsed an electric-power project the aim of which was to perpetuate occupation of the Gaza Strip and undermine the interests of Jordan. Water was to be piped from the Mediterranean into the Dead Sea causing the water level to rise high enough to flood the Jordanian industrial installations situated at the southern tip of the Dead Sea.

32. What was more, the Begin Government had unilaterally decided to annex the Holy City of Jerusalem in complete defiance of the norms of international law and despite strong opposition from Arab countries and all justice-loving countries. At the same time, Israel had been making repeated incursions into Lebanon, undermining its sovereignty and territorial integrity and causing enormous losses of human lives and property damage to the Lebanese and Palestinians. Only recently, the Israeli authorities had bombed the area south of Beirut, killing innocent civilians. The commission of these fresh crimes by the Israeli authorities had been strongly condemned by public opinion the world over.

33. The reason why the Israeli occupying authorities were so intransigent and arrogant towards the international community was because they had the backing of one of the super-Powers and were aware that the other super-Power, in its hypocrisy, would not give any genuine support to the Arab countries. The Israeli expansionists were taking advantage of the current international tension created by hegemonists, who were stepping up their armed aggression to provoke the Palestinian and Arab peoples further. However, the attempts of the Israeli authorities to alter the legal status, geographical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, and their manoeuvres to legalize and perpetuate their military occupation so as to prevent the Palestinian people from regaining their national rights, were doomed to failure. Like all hegemonists the world over, the Israeli aggressors would ultimately be driven from the occupied territories by the local people fighting for justice.

34. The Government and people of his country strongly condemned the Israeli

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authorities for their crimes against the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in the occupied territories, and for their flagrant violations of the 1949 Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations. The people of his country had always resolutely supported the just struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, which would finally triumph. Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people must regain its national rights.

35. Mr. MUBAREZ (Yemen) congratulated the Special Committee on fulfilling its task despite the difficulties resulting, inter alia, from the Israeli refusal to co-operate. Once again the Committee had before it the question of Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. His delegation was deeply concerned at the fact that the situation in the occupied Arab territories remained unchanged and that the occupation authorities were behaving even more arbitrarily and entering a new phase of actual annexation, beginning with the annexation of Jerusalem in contravention of the principles of international law and in defiance of the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council. The protection of human rights in the occupied territories, including the right to self-determination, was an international responsibility.

36. Since its creation in 1948, the actions of Israel had been entirely directed to forcing the inhabitants off the land so that new settlements could be built on it. The abolition of freedoms, expropriation, suppression of the right to free expression, demolition of homes, torture of detainees, expulsion of local leaders and assassination attempts against others, Israel stopped at nothing to create a situation of fait accompli to justify the annexation of the territories recently occupied by it.

37. Originally, Israel had attempted to give the impression that it was a model State, urging respect for the sovereignty and frontiers of other States. Subsequently, having become aware of its military strength, Israel had launched a series of wars of aggression against neighbouring States for purposes of expansion. After occupying further territories in 1967, the Israeli leaders had endeavoured to maintain the image of a State which respected international law. They had stressed that the occupation was only a temporary measure dictated by security considerations. They had subsequently revealed their true expansionist intentions by describing those territories as "liberated territories" which "historically" formed part of Israel and by referring to the West Bank as Judea and Samaria. Some of the declarations made by Israeli leaders on that subject appeared in the report of the Special Committee. The Government of Tel Aviv had then decreed the annexation of Jerusalem and made plans to annex the Golan Heights. Those arbitrary measures formed an integral part of a planned policy aimed purely and simply at the annexation of those territories. Hence the reference made by the Special Committee in paragraph 298 of its report to individual and collective measures taken with a view to demoralizing the civilian population and inducing it to leave the occupied territories.

38. Many lessons could be learned from history. Only 40 years ago, Hitler had declared the superiority of the Aryan race and used his military machine in order to seize neighbouring territories by force in the name of the policy of "Lebensraum".

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(Mr. Mubarez, Yemen)

International zionism was currently resorting to force for the acquisition and annexation of land in keeping with the concept of the "national homeland", in total disregard of the Palestinian people's right to exist and in defiance of international conventions and practices.

39. The attempt to impose solutions by armed force - rather than through United Nations resolutions expressing the will of the international community - was doomed to failure. The Israeli representatives had frequently urged their Arab neighbours to come to an understanding with them but without ever mentioning the Arab people of Palestine, whose future was a fundamental factor for peace in the region. It was obvious that Israel was not serious in its desire for peace and that the Camp David formula, which had been denounced by most States, including certain States friendly to Israel, could not solve the problem. Any lasting solution of the Palestinian question must respect the aspirations and interests of the Arab people of Palestine under the leadership of their legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel was deceiving no one when it invoked the Camp David formula while, at the same time, annexing Jerusalem and declaring its intention to annex the Golan Heights and to continue with the establishment of new settlements.

40. It might well be asked whether there was any point in renewing the same discussions on Israeli practices in the occupied territories and whether any benefit could be derived from new resolutions on that subject as long as Israel continued to defy those resolutions and while the United Nations was incapable of ensuring their implementation. However, the application of the principles of the Charter and of United Nations decisions was the only alternative to war and destruction. Nevertheless, there was no reason why the Palestinian people should not carry on a struggle to liberate their territory under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their legitimate representative, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter and other international instruments.

41. The international community must go beyond the mere adoption of resolutions and take urgent and positive action to implement United Nations decisions on the question of the Palestinian problem and the Middle East.

42. Mr. AL-BOAINAIN (Qatar) congratulated the Special Committee on the detailed and objective report which it had prepared in spite of the refusal of the occupation authorities to co-operate in the fulfilment of its task. The Israeli authorities had persisted in their refusal to allow the members of the Special Committee to visit the occupied territories in order to conceal the odious crimes that they were committing against the population of the region. Nevertheless, the Committee had been able to carry out its mandate by hearing witnesses and resorting to Israeli sources of information.

43. The information contained in the report provided unquestionable proof that violations of human rights constituted the basis of Israeli policy in the region and that that policy was aimed at the annexation of the occupied territories and the establishment of racist settlements in contravention of the rules of international law relating to human rights. The report referred in particular to

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the establishment of settlements, the seizure of land, the expropriation of water resources, the repressive treatment of the population, collective punishment, the demolition of residential and business premises and expulsions.

44. The current year had been characterized by an intensification of the violations of human rights by the occupation authorities in conformity with the plans drawn up following the Camp David accords and the so-called autonomy talks. Other arbitrary measures had also been taken in 1980, such as the promulgation of the status of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel. Mention should also be made of the attempted assassination of the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and El-Bireh and the deportation of the mayors of Al Khalil and Halhul and other personalities.

45. The implementation of the so-called "iron fist" policy found expression in the brutal repression of student demonstrations and the seizure of lands by the occupying forces for the establishment of Jewish settlements.

46. In addition to the settlements already established, the report indicated the existence of plans to set up a considerable number of new settlements in the occupied territories. The occupation authorities were obviously seeking to modify the demographic characteristics of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights with a view to exercising permanent control over those territories. The whole world was witness to the fact that the Israeli authorities were pursuing their policy of settlement of the occupied territories to the detriment of their legitimate inhabitants and in violation of the principles of article 49 of the Geneva Convention of 1949. The Chief of the Settlement Section of the Jewish Agency had stated that the number of Israelis in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be increased to 150,000 by 1985. On 7 February 1980, the Christian Science Monitor had published a statement by that official in which he affirmed that he shared the opinion of Mr. Begin that the West Bank must form part of Israel.

47. In order to implement their settlement plan, the occupation authorities had expropriated the property of the Palestinian inhabitants, compelling them by force and repression to leave their lands and take refuge on the East Bank. The implementation of the Zionist settlement plan in the occupied territories had been a priority task for the Israeli Government since 1967 but recent years had shown that it had been intensified since Mr. Begin had come to power. In accordance with the Sharon Plan aimed at securing permanent control over those lands, the settlements established in the occupied territories were not agricultural colonies but strategic posts designed to encircle Arab agglomerations and maintain tight control over lands and villages. Under that plan, the settlements were to be established not along the lines fixed on 4 June 1967 but in the very heart of the West Bank. The occupation authorities were also attempting to divide the area into sectors in order to isolate the Palestinian inhabitants and compel them to leave, with the same objective of modifying the demographic balance for the benefit of Zionist expansionism.

48. Those practices were common knowledge and had been reported in the international press for several months. Zionist propaganda was endeavouring to

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give the impression that the Israeli entity was based on democratic and humanitarian principles. Those attempts had been foiled when world public opinion had begun to become aware of the torture inflicted on Palestinian detainees. Last September, Amnesty International had published a special report illustrating the arbitrary practices of Zionism in the occupied territories and the treatment inflicted on Palestinian detainees. That report showed that the Zionist authorities had been unable to refute the allegations made against them. It also denounced the illegal arrests and detentions ordered by the occupation authorities, together with the cruel treatment inflicted on detainees with a view to the extraction of confessions. Finally, it presented a number of detailed recommendations designed to put an end to the problem of the maltreatment of political detainees, as a result of which it had been violently attacked by the Israeli authorities.

49. The occupation forces were continuing to violate the Holy Places in Al Khalil, Jerusalem and elsewhere in defiance of human rights and international law. If the Israeli occupier were allowed to continue those policies, a grave precedent would be established for the international community.

50. The problem of Israeli practices in the occupied territories would end only with the termination of the occupation. The resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its last emergency special session devoted to the question of Palestine demanded that Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories should begin before 15 November. The Palestinian people had demonstrated that they would resist Zionist terror and would continue to struggle for the recovery of their liberty, independence and right of self-determination. The General Assembly must take additional measures to ensure the implementation of previous resolutions requiring an assurance of the right of the Palestinians to an independent State.

51. He wished to draw attention to the grave situation which might result from the attempts of the Zionist authorities to promulgate a new law annexing the Golan Heights and to continue their operations aimed at modifying the demographic situation in the region. He called upon the international community to take effective measures to put an end to the crimes of the Israeli occupiers and to their serious violations of human rights.

52. Mr. KUTSCHAN (German Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/35/425) gave ample proof that Israel was continuing its acts in contravention of international law. What was more, taking advantage of the general aggravation of the international situation caused by imperialist and hegemonistic forces and the conflict between Iran and Iraq, Israel was escalating its policy of occupation of foreign territories in pursuit of its long-term goal of establishing a so-called Pan-Israeli State. The annexation of Jerusalem by governmental decree and the illegal seizure of territories in the Golan Heights constituted further links in the chain. At the same time, the geographic and demographic structures of the annexed areas were being changed by terrorist methods: pillaging of land and property, forced expulsions and expropriations and destruction of the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people. The Special

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(Mr. Kutschan, German Democratic Republic)

Committee noted (para. 292) that the report published by the Israeli Ministry of Defence in November 1979 indicated that 16 per cent of the land area of the West Bank had been taken over for what was termed "military training purposes". In all, over 27 per cent of the land in the occupied territories had been taken over by the Government of Israel under various pretexts. Those facts showed that, far from giving up its practices in the occupied territories, since Camp David Israel had escalated its policy of annexation and colonization, which flouted the rights of the Arab peoples and particularly the Palestinian people and constituted a continual threat to peace and security and had necessitated, in 1980 alone, 34 meetings of the Security Council and an emergency special session of the General Assembly.

53. The terrorist practices of Israel's occupation forces, designed to suppress any resistance put up by Palestinians, were well known and it was common knowledge that all prominent persons who supported the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people were persistently persecuted. The expulsion of Palestinian mayors and other public figures, the attacks on the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and El-Bireh, the arbitrary closure of Palestinian schools and universities were eloquent testimony of the intensification of the policy of oppression. It should be stressed that those actions were sanctioned and actively supported by the ruling circles in Israel. Pursued at a time when so-called autonomy talks were being held, they indicated that the aim was to perpetuate Israeli occupation. The German Democratic Republic reaffirmed its solidarity with the struggle waged by the Arab peoples for the protection of their legitimate interests and the rights of the Palestinian people and against the evil policy of separate deals.

54. Israel could not continue its aggressive expansionist policy, in disregard of the decisions of the Security Council and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, without the political, economic and military aid of United States imperialism. The ruling circles in Israel were confident that, with the veto of their imperialist protector, the sanctions of the Security Council designed to put a stop to their policy would always fail to materialize. Under that shelter, Israel was intensifying its policy of faits accomplis in the occupied territories and its attempts to carry out the annexation of Arab territories furtively and imperceptibly.

55. Such a policy was resolutely rejected all over the world and even Israel's allies dissociated themselves from it in public. That emphasized Israel's total isolation and brought out the contradiction between word and deed in the policy pursued by some imperialist Powers.

56. The population of the occupied territories resolutely resisted the repressive measures of the occupation authorities, as evidenced by the general strikes of the Palestinian population against the Israeli policy of deportation and annexation which had taken place at the end of 1979 and early in 1980. The struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of its legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, had the full support and sympathy of the German Democratic Republic, which would continue to champion the just cause of the Palestinian people and advocate recognition of their legitimate

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(Mr. Kutschan, German Democratic Republic)

rights. That objective could be achieved only as part of a comprehensive solution which would bring lasting peace to the Middle East. That would require the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the inalienable right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination, including the right to create its own State in the context of recognition of the right of existence of all States in that region.

57. Mr. KAZI (Pakistan) commended the Special Committee, which had endeavoured to perform its task despite the lack of co-operation on the part of the occupying Power. He noted with concern that during the past year there had been no improvement in the situation of the people under Israeli occupation, who remained victims of an alien domination against which they had no protection. The Government of Israel, in complete violation of United Nations resolutions and international law, pursued its policy of annexation through expropriation of property, establishment of new Jewish settlements and expansion of existing ones. The report pointed out that more than 27 per cent of the land in the occupied territories had been taken over by the Government of Israel and at least 127 settlements had been established in those territories. The Israeli Government's determination to pursue that policy was also reflected in the manner in which it had sought to circumvent the judicial process in the Eilon Moreh case. All those measures were in violation of articles 47 and 49 of the fourth Geneva Convention.

58. The report of the Special Committee stated that there had been no change in the basic character of the occupation observed in previous years. In fact, the level of violence and terrorism by the Israeli authorities had greatly increased, generating a strong spirit of resistance among the civilian population. In consequence, there had been a high incidence of demonstrations, strikes and other spontaneous manifestations against the occupation. As part of the continuing reign of repression, the Israeli authorities were provoking the civilian population with a view to imposing harsh reprisals on them. The rampages in the towns of Halhul, Ramallah and Hebron, the arbitrary expulsions from the occupied territories, especially of the mayors of Hebron and Halhul and the Chief Religious Judge of Hebron, and the assassination attempts on the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and El-Bireh were appalling manifestations of the mounting severity of the reprisals. Those measures constituted flagrant violations of articles 33 and 53 of the fourth Geneva Convention.

59. The account of the situation of detainees in the occupied territories was testimony that prison conditions did not comply with the provisions of article 76 of the fourth Geneva Convention and constituted persistent and massive violations of human rights. The ill-treatment of detainees, arbitrary imprisonment and the general discriminatory practices of the occupation authorities were part of the grand Zionist design to break the Palestinian will to survive as a nation and to legitimize through attrition the Israeli annexation of the homeland of the Palestinian people. The occupying authority had the power to invade and demolish the homes of Palestinians and to arrest, detain without trial, deport and impose collective punishment on the Palestinians. Their schools and universities were subjected to arbitrary interference and their lands were confiscated under the pretext of "military security", only to be handed over to Jewish settlers as part

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(Mr. Kazi, Pakistan)

of the colonization programme, which had been repeatedly condemned as illegal by the international community. The claim that the fourth Geneva Convention was not applicable to the situation in the occupied Arab territories was totally unacceptable.

60. Israel continued to pursue a policy of changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the Holy City of Jerusalem. The international community had rejected those measures as illegal and the resolutions adopted during the present year by the Security Council and at the emergency special session of the General Assembly had emphasized the seriousness of the situation.

61. The question of Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories was only one aspect of the larger issue of the continuing Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The Special Committee had rightly emphasized that the military occupation was at the core of the violations of the fundamental human rights. The international community must therefore pursue the goal of ending Israeli occupation of those territories as a matter of priority, a goal which could be achieved only on the basis of a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Palestine question. Such a solution involved total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the Holy City of Jerusalem, and recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish an independent and sovereign State in Palestine. Meanwhile, the international community must ensure that the fundamental human rights of the population of the occupied territories were respected and safeguarded. To that end, it was essential to continue the mechanism established by the United Nations to monitor and give the widest possible publicity to the situation in the occupied territories. The Special Committee had been playing an important role in that respect, by exposing the criminal policies of the Israeli authorities in those territories and highlighting the plight of their inhabitants.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.