



UN/DA COLLECTIVE

THIRD COMMITTEE  
14th meeting  
held on  
Tuesday, 7 October 1980  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

later: Mrs. de ARANA (Peru)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 67: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/35/371; A/C.3/35/L.3)

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AGENDA ITEM 66: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/425 and Corr.1-3 and Add.1-7; A/35/419)

AGENDA ITEM 75: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/35/146, A/35/65, A/35/419)

1. Mr. KHALIFA (Sudan) said that the United Nations had been discussing the elimination of racial discrimination since the General Assembly's very first session. Since then, 34 years had elapsed; and the Third Committee was still engaged in what appeared to be a futile exercise. Every year, the Committee reiterated its total condemnation of the policies of the South African régime, but that régime perpetuated its policy of apartheid and denial of basic rights to the population of the country. The South African white racists had not yet drawn any lessons from the example of Zimbabwe, as was clear from their continued aggressive acts against the people of Azania, Namibia and neighbouring States.

2. The United Nations could not however be blamed for that failure which was due to the attitude of certain Member States which did not respect the resolutions adopted by the Organization. The United Nations could not achieve its goal unless every Government undertook to make its policy conform to the provisions of the Charter; and a just solution to the problem could be reached only through the complete isolation of the South African régime and implementation of the sanctions

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(Mr. Khalifa, Sudan)

imposed against it by the Security Council. In that connexion, his delegation wished to thank Mr. Ahmed Khalifa, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, for the detailed and updated report in which he analysed the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist régime in South Africa. His call for an immediate military and economic embargo against the racist régime should be taken seriously.

3. The Sudan's position on racial questions had always been well-defined. The Democratic Republic of the Sudan highly respected the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and gave its full support to the elimination of all forms of racial policies practised by South Africa and Israel. At the Eleventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in May 1980 at Islamabad, the Sudan and other Islamic countries had condemned any collaboration with the régimes of South Africa and Israel that could enable them to develop nuclear weapons and frustrate the objectives of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa, the Middle East and the Indian Ocean.

4. His delegation wished to repeat that there remained no option but to resort to a strict seige of the racist régime and armed confrontation with it. He reminded the Committee of Security Council resolution 418 (1977), and recommended strict implementation of its provisions by imposing a complete embargo on arms for South Africa and severance of all forms of military and economic co-operation with it.

5. His country supported the legitimate and heroic struggle of the peoples of Azania, Namibia and Palestine through their internationally recognized liberation movements - the progressive forces in Azania, SWAPO in Namibia and the PLO in Palestine - in order to achieve their self-determination and independence.

6. The Sudan was party to the International Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It had welcomed the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the Assembly, calling for the convening in 1983 of a second world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination; and it wished to pledge its full co-operation, with all delegations which shares its views, in drafting resolutions on the items under consideration at the present session.

7. Mr. SCHLEGEL (German Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda item 66, observed that the responsibility of certain States for the continued existence of the criminal régime of apartheid was becoming ever more evident. In spite of General Assembly resolution 34/24, international concerns and banks were still expanding their business relations with South Africa. So-called reforms were designed merely to conceal that collaboration and delude public opinion. The policy of apartheid was still embodied in more than 200 laws and decrees, and it was

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(Mr. Schlegel, German Democratic Republic)

relaxed only where it impeded the hiring of black work slaves for the international monopolies. The monopolies and their racist allies were also hatching a plot against the free and independent development of neighbouring sovereign States. Their repeated acts of aggression were designed to destabilize the political and economic situation in those States and force them to discontinue the solidarity and support they were giving to the liberation struggle of peoples still under colonial and racist oppression. That strategy formed an integral part of the expansionist plans pursued by Botha. It envisaged the formation of a so-called assembly of States of southern Africa or, in other words, the establishment of a South African neo-colonial empire.

8. The barbarous attacks which the racists had recently launched against the People's Republic of Angola illustrated clearly that the activities of certain imperialist forces directed against détente, peace and security merely encouraged the Botha clique to intensify its policy of aggression. Without the support of imperialism, the racists could not undertake their repeated aggressions, which constituted a serious and increasing danger to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries against which they were perpetrated, and also to international peace and security.

9. Discontinuation of collaboration in any form with the racists in South Africa was the most important prerequisite for the liquidation of the inhuman apartheid system. Manoeuvres launched by certain imperialist forces, for the purpose of substituting negotiations with the racist régime for sanctions against it, were designed to save the apartheid system and the exploitation that went with it. Besides profits, the matters at issue were also raw materials and strategic positions. Those were the real reasons why certain NATO member countries, in defiance of the explicit will of the peoples, had for years been boycotting the adoption by the Security Council of sanctions against South Africa.

10. The German Democratic Republic believed that effective coercive measures by the Security Council were urgently needed to dispel the threats to peace and international security that emanated from South Africa. Consequently, it attached great importance to the speedy convening of an international conference for the adoption of sanctions against South Africa.

11. The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be an occasion also for adopting effective decisions against political, military, economic and other forms of assistance to the apartheid régime, which still had so many adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights in southern Africa.

12. Mr. RAKOTOZAFY (Madagascar) observed that the United Nations had always been concerned with the problem of racial discrimination, since a more just and equitable international society based on friendly relations among peoples could not be established without the prior eradication of all forms and all manifestations of racial discrimination which constituted an intolerable violation

(Mr. Rakotozafy, Madagascar)

of fundamental human rights, an obstacle to harmonious co-operation among nations and a threat to international peace and security.

13. In that respect he noted that the situation in southern Africa was still disquieting. In spite of the victory of the people of Zimbabwe, South Africa with the complicity of certain Western Powers continued to defy the international community; and the racist régime of Pretoria persisted in applying its odious system of apartheid. In spite of the numerous resolutions which the United Nations had adopted on the subject, the racist clique in power was resorting to violence and repression in its attempts to stifle the legitimate aspirations of the South African population; it was subjecting political prisoners to brutal and inhuman treatment in an effort to break the spirit of the ANC fighters; it was pursuing a policy of Bantustanization which impeded the genuine implementation of the principle of self-determination; it was repeatedly committing acts of aggression against neighbouring countries and was still illegally occupying Namibia and denying the Namibian people its fundamental human rights, including its inalienable right to self-determination.

14. The situation was all the more serious in that certain Western Powers and Israel were providing economic, military and nuclear assistance to the puppet régime in Pretoria. That assistance had enabled South Africa to acquire nuclear weapons and thus dangerously threaten peace and stability in the region. In his Government's view, collaboration with the racist South African régime was the main obstacle to the liberation of South Africa and Namibia and to the elimination of the apartheid system. Accordingly, his Government would continue to support the heroic struggle waged by the peoples of South Africa and Namibia under the leadership of their authentic representatives, ANC and SWAPO.

15. There had been no change in the situation in the Middle East, either. Israel persisted in disregarding the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to recover its homeland, which had been usurped by the Zionist State, and to establish an independent State. Relying on support provided by the United States of America, it had annexed the city of Jerusalem in spite of the protests of the international community; it had repeatedly committed aggressive acts against Lebanon and was still establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories. In that connexion he reaffirmed that no just and lasting peace could be established in the Middle East until the problem of Palestine had been equitably settled.

16. His Government was also concerned at the resurgence of neo-nazism and neo-fascism in certain countries, and believed that measures should be taken at the national and international levels to combat that phenomenon. Furthermore, consideration must be given to suitable measures for eliminating all forms of discrimination against migrant workers and racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. In that connexion, his delegation would participate actively in the work of the working group to elaborate an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families.

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(Mr. Rakotozafy, Madagascar)

17. Madagascar had acceded in 1967 to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in 1977 to the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. His Government had taken the necessary legislative, judicial and administrative measures to guarantee the equality of all before the law without distinction as to race, sex or religion.

18. His delegation had noted with satisfaction that there were plans to hold a second world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination in 1983, and it would vote for the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/35/L.3.

19. With respect to future meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, his delegation felt that the Committee should meet at least once in a developing country, preferably in Africa. With regard to the financing of such a meeting, it favoured the solution proposed in paragraph 7 (c) of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

20. He hoped that the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples would further strengthen the United Nations' struggle for the final triumph of the right of peoples to self-determination and for the elimination once and for all of every form of racial discrimination.

21. Mr. SANON (Upper Volta), after reviewing the international instruments on the elimination of racism which had been adopted since the proclamation of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 20 November 1963, said that in view of the existence of all those instruments he wondered what the Committee still needed in order to crown its work. What was lacking, in fact, was the political will to implement and give effect to the provisions of those instruments.

22. The time for statements on the observance of human rights had passed. Too many Governments still believed that an evil which was deeply rooted in man could be eradicated simply by adopting legislative texts or administrative measures. In that connexion, his delegation unreservedly supported the study of article 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was to undertake in close collaboration with UNESCO.

23. He denounced the complicity existing between certain Powers and oppressive régimes, both in southern Africa and in other regions of the world. Zimbabwe's accession to independence had demonstrated that a multi-racial State was a possibility and that the interests of those who sided with the oppressors did not always lie where they thought.

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(Mr. Sanon, Upper Volta)

24. His delegation had noted with satisfaction resolution A/AC.131/80 which the United Nations Council for Namibia had adopted on 31 May 1980, and in which the Council condemned all countries engaged in illegal fishing in the territorial waters of Namibia. It commended the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and requested that his report (A/CN.4/Sub.2/425) should be disseminated as widely as possible.

25. In spite of the assertions made in certain quarters, his delegation had difficulty in believing that the assistance provided to South Africa was designed to bring about majority rule in that country. It believed, on the contrary, that any assistance given to the South African régime strengthened its hold on Namibia and helped it to develop its military arsenal.

26. With regard to the draft resolution which the Economic and Social Council had recommended to the General Assembly for adoption (A/C.3/35/L.3), his delegation was in favour of convening a second world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination and thought that the Conference should, if possible, be held in Africa. It wondered also why more Member States were not acceding to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. With regard to future meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, his delegation felt that the meeting of States parties to be held at United Nations Headquarters in January 1982 would be the most appropriate occasion for deciding whether to establish a special trust fund and what measures should be taken to facilitate the organization of sessions of the Committee in different regions.

27. Once again, Upper Volta appealed to all countries that were still maintaining relations with South Africa to realize that independence for Namibia was inevitable and that the liberation of the South African people and the advent of majority rule in southern Africa were part of an irreversible process.

28. Mrs. LITVINOVA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that racial discrimination was still one of the most scandalous, flagrant and systematic violations of human rights. The Ukrainian SSR had welcomed the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and was participating actively in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade and the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade; and it was reporting regularly to the Secretary-General on the measures it had taken (see, in particular, document A/35/371).

29. However, the Ukrainian SSR noted with concern that certain countries, particularly some Western Powers, were refusing to participate in the implementation of the Programme - a circumstance which demonstrated the hypocrisy of their statements on their commitment to human rights. Although racism had been condemned by the international community, those countries were still

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(Mrs. Litvinova, Ukrainian SSR)

practising various forms of racial discrimination and supporting the racist régime in South Africa. Racism was always an instrument of exploitation, domination and repression of the struggle for national liberation; and its most abhorrent and cruel manifestation was the apartheid practised in South Africa - which the United Nations had described as a crime against humanity. The victory of the heroic people of Zimbabwe, whose representative the Ukrainian SSR was happy to welcome, had been a new step on the way to the elimination of that abhorrent practice. It was the duty of the United Nations to hasten the elimination of apartheid, which had become an established state policy in South Africa and occupied Namibia and constituted an increasingly serious threat to international peace and security.

30. Responsibility for the continued existence of apartheid in South Africa and occupied Namibia lay with certain Western Powers and Israel which, despite United Nations resolutions, continued to provide the racist régime with economic, political and military assistance. They were thus accomplices of the racists and were causing infinite suffering to millions of Africans. It was not surprising, moreover, that some Western countries refused to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It was precisely apartheid and racial repression which enabled the United States, United Kingdom and other monopolies mercilessly to exploit the Africans, to plunder the natural resources of their countries and to make vast profits; and that explained the manoeuvres of the Western Powers, the propaganda in favour of a "dialogue" with the racists and the fiction of the "liberalization" of apartheid. However, as stated in the Declaration of the International Seminar on Youth Solidarity with the People's Struggle in Southern Africa, "the criminal apartheid system could not be reformed" (A/AC.115/L.529). By all those ruses, the accomplices of the racists were trying to justify their co-operation with Pretoria and prevent the adoption of economic and other sanctions against their apartheid régime. It was not only a question of profits and strategy. Racism was the most reactionary expression of imperialist policies.

31. In view of the deterioration of the situation in southern Africa, the prevarications of the accomplices of the apartheid régime must be stopped and decisive measures adopted. The Ukrainian SSR believed that the South African racists must be isolated and boycotted; and it associated itself with delegations which had demanded that sanctions should be adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter.

32. As had already been noted during the discussion, racism was not restricted to southern Africa. The rulers of Israel - who maintained close relations with the Pretoria régime - practised racism towards the Arab population. The General Assembly had repeatedly condemned the annexation of the Arab territories, the establishment of new settlements, the change in the status of Jerusalem, the eviction of Palestinian Arabs and the repression of the local population - all measures which it had declared to be forms of racism and racial discrimination.

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(Mrs. Litvinova, Ukrainian SSR)

However, as was clear from the reports of many United Nations bodies, Israel was still intensifying its terror and repression, and the explosive situation in the Middle East was constantly worsening. Various forms of racism and racial discrimination were also current in many other countries where conflicts were caused by racial discrimination practised against the indigenous population and persons of Asian, African and Latin American origin, and where various racist and neo-Nazi organizations had resumed their activities. Racial discrimination still existed in the capitalist countries, where it was both the consequence and the manifestation of capitalism.

33. For all those reasons, further concrete measures must be taken to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, especially legislative measures to prohibit the dissemination of racist ideas and the formation of organizations based on racial prejudice and hatred. The Ukrainian SSR had always attached great importance to co-operation in that respect. It had been one of the first States to ratify the important international instruments on the question. It was also particularly interested in the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, especially with respect to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade and the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade. It agreed with members of the Committee who believed that, when the reports of Member States were considered, special attention should be given to the measures adopted to eliminate racist, neo-Nazi and Fascist organizations, to combat the ideologies that they disseminated and to put an end to the activities of monopolies in South Africa.

34. The Ukrainian SSR also attached great importance to the activities of the Group of Three of the Commission on Human Rights, established under article IX of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (A/35/197, annex II).

35. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had studied the sixth periodic report of the Ukrainian SSR during the past year. Racial discrimination had been eliminated once and for all from the life of the socialist community. The information media and the whole educational system were contributing to the international education of the population in a spirit of equality, mutual understanding and friendship with the peoples of other countries; and comprehensive information on the just struggle of the people of South Africa and Namibia and on the crimes of the racists was regularly disseminated.

36. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the days of solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa and other events organized in that connexion were extensively celebrated every year in the Ukrainian SSR. Her country's position with regard to racism was part of the very essence of

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(Mrs. Litvinova, Ukrainian SSR)

socialism. In the programme for the continuation of the struggle for peace, international co-operation, freedom and independence of peoples, adopted by the Twenty-Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the final elimination of all vestiges of colonialism and racism was one of the principal tasks of the international community.

37. She hoped that, during the current session, it would be possible to elaborate new measures which would contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade; in that connexion, the Ukrainian SSR supported the draft resolution submitted by the Economic and Social Council (A/C.3/35/L.3).

38. Racism had been condemned, and there was no place for it in the world. Efforts must be intensified to attain the objectives of the Decade and implement the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

39. Mr. MALUKI (Kenya) reminded the Committee that there were only three years left for the international community to attain the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Yet the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted for that purpose left much to be desired, since Member States had either not shown the necessary political will or had been content with half-hearted measures. Racism and racial discrimination, whatever form they took and whatever the motive inspiring them, were the negation of human dignity; and it was the moral duty of all States to take every possible step to combat and eliminate them.

40. Since Kenya had acceded to independence, it had unceasingly contributed to that struggle, in particular by adopting legal and administrative measures to build a multiracial society based on the principles of law, equality, and social justice, respect for which was essential for peace in the world.

41. Failure to respect those principles was the basic cause of tension and conflict, as was clear from the situation in southern Africa where, 30 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, racism and racial discrimination were being intensified through the apartheid policy of the South African Government.

42. The United Nations must now take resolute and concrete action to end, once and for all, the apartheid system and all its manifestations. The international corporations and consortia of the Western industrialized countries which maintained huge investments in South Africa and Namibia, and whose economic support helped to keep the régime in being, must be made to understand that they should, in their own interest, use their economic power to force the Pretoria régime to abandon its policy of racism and oppression. Further delay on their part would devastate the very interests they were at present determined to preserve. In that connexion, his delegation congratulated those Governments which had taken steps to ensure that international corporations registered in their States engaged in policies aimed at ending discrimination and social exploitation in South Africa.

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(Mr. Maluki, Kenya)

43. At the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, his delegation had supported the decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to hold meetings in various regions and in various countries Members of the United Nations, and it hoped that the Committee would fully discuss the two alternative proposals suggested by the Secretary-General (A/35/414).

44. Convinced that freedom was indivisible and that the right of all peoples to self-determination and political independence was inalienable, the Government of Kenya had vowed to fight against all forms of colonialism and foreign domination and to assist the legitimate liberation movements until the entire African continent was totally free and took its proper place within the international community.

45. Mrs. SUTHERLAND (Canada), referring to the country reports submitted under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, said it was unfortunate that some countries were still not willing to place their national record in that field before the critical scrutiny of the international community.

46. Canada attached great importance to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It had already submitted four reports on the measures it had taken at the national level to combat discrimination and would soon be submitting a fifth report. In Canada, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms had long been ensured by legislation at the federal and provincial levels. The Human Rights Commissions established at the national level and in the 10 provinces had a mandate not only to implement anti-discrimination provisions, but also to promote progress and understanding through education and through affirmative action programmes.

47. While recognizing the important practical work undertaken by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, her delegation wished to register a cautionary note, both to the Committee and to States parties submitting their reports to it, against a tendency to inject, either explicitly or implicitly, political considerations which were beyond the mandate of the Committee.

48. For instance, despite its apparent objectivity, the actual purpose of the report contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/425 was to condemn all economic or commercial contacts with South Africa as an impediment to the liberation of the peoples of southern Africa and a reinforcement of the abusive social system which now existed. Her Government firmly rejected that implication.

49. Canada's position with regard to the system of apartheid and the denial of human rights which it entailed had not been a rhetorical one. It had acted upon its convictions, particularly by imposing an arms embargo on South Africa many years prior to the Security Council action. In December 1977, the Secretary of State for External Affairs had announced a series of measures, including the withdrawal of Canadian Trade Commissioners from South Africa, the closure of the Canadian Consulate-General in Johannesburg and the withdrawal of all government *guarantees of Canadian private investment* in South Africa. In 1978, those

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(Mrs. Sutherland, Canada)

measures had been amplified by the elaboration of a Code of Conduct for private Canadian firms with operations in South Africa. Under the Code, which covered, inter alia, working conditions, collective bargaining, wages and training, Canadian firms were required to make annual reports concerning the employment practices of their South African affiliates.

50. Turning to agenda item 75, she pointed out that, ever since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), Canada had been a consistent supporter of the principle of self-determination. Since that time, more than half of the present membership of the United Nations had achieved independence and was now participating in the work of the Third Committee, which had assisted in the achievement of their independence. Her delegation warmly welcomed the representatives of the newest Members, from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in particular from Zimbabwe, whose presence offered concrete evidence that national self-determination might yet be won in circumstances which appeared intractable.

51. If Zimbabwe was a symbol of hope that the colonial era was drawing definitively to an end, recent events in other parts of the world, particularly in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, would deny that symbol. The events in both those countries betrayed civilization's hope for the future of the world and created unacceptable suffering. Canada called on the States which had used their military superiority to occupy weaker neighbours to restore to the peoples of Afghanistan and Kampuchea their sovereign right to self-determination.

52. Mr. ALMOSLECHNER (Austria) said his Government regretted that, after so many years of struggle for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the United Nations and its Member States had not yet been able to achieve goals inspired by the most basic ideas of human dignity and human rights, despite the efforts exerted during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. His Government particularly regretted the set-backs to the United Nations plan for Namibia and the fact that the South African Government still adhered to its apartheid policy.

53. His Government hoped that the international community would finally succeed in the realization of the fundamental principles set forth in resolution 3057 (XXVIII). The outcome of the struggle by the people of Zimbabwe to gain their sovereignty and independence was encouraging. The increasing number of ratifications of and accessions to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was of basic importance to the elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world, was also gratifying.

54. Mr. URIARTE (Chile) said that the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/35/18) should be studied carefully, since the comments made in the Third Committee provided a means of maintaining a dialogue between the General Assembly and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and thus gaining a better picture of the latter's work.

(Mr. Uriarte, Chile)

55. Chile appreciated the value of holding sessions of the Committee away from United Nations Headquarters, particularly in developing countries, and was prepared to give favourable consideration to the proposals presented in document A/35/414, which had been prepared by the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 34/28 of 15 November 1979. However, it was concerned about the additional costs which such sessions might entail for the States parties.

56. With regard to the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Chile noted with satisfaction that 107 States had ratified the Convention or acceded or succeeded to it. His Government categorically condemned the practice of racism and racial discrimination, anywhere and in any form, particularly apartheid, and therefore supported any action aimed at ensuring the widest possible dissemination of the principles set forth in the Convention and encouraging their implementation.

57. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 1514 (XV), which was regarded as the Magna Charta of decolonization, it was appropriate to stress the significant accomplishments of the Organization in that field. In keeping with its own long-standing traditions, Chile had collaborated and would continue to collaborate whole-heartedly in the task of decolonization. It had participated actively in the work of the Committee of 24 and the Council for Namibia ever since their establishment. It was therefore self-evident that Chile attached particular importance to the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, which was one of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter. Recognition of that right implied a return to absolute respect for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States. In that connexion, Chile welcomed the accession of Zimbabwe to independence and its admission to the United Nations. With regard to a settlement of the situation in another part of southern Africa, Chile hoped, as its Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated, that the Security Council's proposals for Namibia could be accepted by the parties and that the Namibian people would be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

58. Chile was also concerned about the crisis in the Middle East and hoped that the international community would encourage all initiatives for peace in the region. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile had stated recently, a realistic solution would have to be based on the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territories, taking into account the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to live within secure and recognized boundaries and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, including their right to a sovereign and independent State, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly those of the Security Council.

59. In accordance with the provisions of resolution 34/44 of 23 November 1979, his Government had submitted to the Secretary-General detailed information on legislation declaring the recruitment of mercenaries to be a punishable offence (A/35/146).

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(Mr. Uriarte, Chile)

60. The Government of Chile had always denounced colonialism in all its forms and staunchly defended the principle of self-determination of peoples. It was just as firmly opposed to all foreign intervention, anywhere and on any grounds, which infringed the exercise of that inalienable right, and to the violation of the other purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. For that reason, it categorically condemned the flagrant cases of foreign intervention which were preventing certain peoples from freely exercising their right to independence and sovereignty. It was the duty of the international community to ensure respect for the fundamental freedoms and rights of all peoples, particularly the right to self-determination.

61. Mr. SAIF (Democratic Yemen) noted that exactly 20 years had passed since the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Since the adoption of that historic Declaration many peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America had been able, by means of heroic struggle and as a result of international solidarity, to free themselves from the foreign colonial yoke. Those countries, one of which Democratic Yemen, were continuing to struggle to preserve their political and economic independence and to advance along the path of social progress they had chosen.

62. Each year, the United Nations welcomed new States which joined the struggle against colonialism and for the establishment of a new international order based on justice and equality for all peoples. In that connexion, Democratic Yemen wished to pay tribute to the victory of Zimbabwe over the forces of imperialism and was pleased to see it take its place in the international community. Racism, racial discrimination and zionism were, unfortunately, still rampant in the world. The racist régime of South Africa continued to occupy Namibia, pillaging the resources of the Namibian people and practising the cruellest repression against them and their liberation movement. That régime also continued to oppress the indigenous people of South Africa, who were subjected to the most inhuman forms of racial discrimination and segregation.

63. In the same way as that régime, the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine continued to oppress the Arab people of Palestine and the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories, violating human rights and engaging in repression, violence, arrests, torture and expulsions. One had only to consult the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/35/18) to see the contempt shown by the Zionist entity for the international community and to ascertain that zionism was a form of racial discrimination, as stated in General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX).

64. Racism and zionism were evils which continued to jeopardize all the values of peace, justice and equality and all the noble principles for which all peoples were struggling side by side. The collaboration between the racist régime of South Africa and the Zionist régime of occupied Palestine, which continued to defy in the most arrogant fashion the decisions of the international community, was common knowledge. Confronted with that defiance, the international community could no longer simply condemn; it must act.

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(Mr. Saif, Democratic Yemen)

65. It was even more urgent to take concrete measures in view of the fact that those two régimes continued to receive military and economic support from some States Members of the United Nations. Everything must be done to prevent such co-operation, which might enable those régimes to acquire nuclear weapons and thus continue their policies of racial discrimination and colonization in southern Africa and in Palestine. The international community must render aid and assistance to the recognized national liberation movements of Namibia, Azania and Palestine.

66. Democratic Yemen had participated in all international conferences to combat racism and racial discrimination and, since gaining its independence, had spared no effort to combat all forms of racial discrimination and colonialism, whether in Namibia, in Azania, in Palestine or in Puerto Rico. Democratic Yemen had also been one of the first countries to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and had done all it could to bring about their implementation.

67. Democratic Yemen wished to pay tribute to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the efforts it had exerted to carry out its task, and categorically condemned the attempts of the Zionist entity to impede its work.

68. Democratic Yemen would continue to support resolutions adopted by the Third Committee, which it considered should include the following: (a) clear and unambiguous condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination and segregation; (b) total support for national liberation movements and confirmation of the moral and political role of General Assembly resolutions; (c) condemnation of all forms of assistance to racist régimes and to the Zionist entity, and censuring of all States which offered such assistance or impeded the implementation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

69. Mr. CALERO RODRIGUEZ (Brazil) said that, in its report (A/35/18), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should have concentrated on the most urgent cases and on problems of racial discrimination, not human rights in general, which fell within the competence of other United Nations bodies. The discussions concerning the sixth periodic report of Brazil had revolved around the Government's policy for the indigenous population and the legislative and practical measures designed to ensure their protection; doubts had been expressed about the concept of "tutelage" and "ownership" of Indian lands, and information had been requested on "Indian reservations".

70. Since 1910, when a Service for the Protection of the Indians had been created under the direction of Candido Mariano da Silva Rondon, himself partly Indian, the philosophy of that outstanding personality had continued to form the basis of the Brazilian Government's policy. It could be summarized as follows: not to displace the Indians from their habitat; not to force them to work, but to encourage them to do so in order to be able to acquire any new goods they might need; to teach them, through adequate and freely accepted education, new ways of life and to educate the more gifted among them to become the leaders of their own people; and not to lose sight of the collective nature of the production and distribution of goods in Indian communities.

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(Mr. Calero Rodriguez, Brazil)

71. One of the sources of the Statute of the Indian, promulgated in 1973, was Convention No. 107 of the International Labour Organisation, under which Governments were obliged to protect indigenous populations and integrate them into national life by enabling them to benefit on an equal footing from the rights and opportunities which national laws granted to the other inhabitants of the country, promoting their social, economic and cultural development, and creating possibilities of national integration without artificial assimilation. The purpose of the Statute was the preservation of the culture of the Indian populations and their progressive and harmonious integration in the national community. They were entirely free to choose their way of life and to keep their own habitat, and they had a constitutional right to the permanent use of their land and their natural resources.

72. According to article 3 of the Statute, an Indian was a person of pre-Colombian origin who identified himself - and was so identified - as belonging to an ethnic group with cultural characteristics that distinguished it from the national society, whether that group lived in complete isolation or maintained contact, permanent or otherwise, with that society without being integrated in it. There were three categories of Indians: those living in isolated communities; communities in process of integration which, in spite of their contacts and exchanges with other groups, kept up their traditional way of life, at least partially; and integrated Indians who, though faithful to their customs and traditions, enjoyed full civil rights. All Indians were Brazilian citizens. Brazilian law applied to them only in so far as it did not infringe on their customs and traditions (family relationships, succession, property and transactions between Indians) unless they themselves preferred having the national laws applied to them. National laws applied to transactions between Indians and non-Indians save where they might be less favourable to Indians than the latter's own customary laws. The labour and social security legislation applied to Indians and expressly prohibited any form of discrimination. Special working conditions might be established to take account of the customs of the Indian communities.

73. Non-integrated Indians were under the guardianship of the federal Government for their own protection. All transactions between Indians and non-Indians were subject to supervision by the federal authority, failing which they were held null and void, except where the Indian was sufficiently familiar with legal matters and their interests were not harmed. Labour contracts had likewise to be concluded with the assistance of the authorities who had the duty of supervising the application of such contracts. At the age of 21 any Indian might request that the tutelage be lifted provided he spoke Portuguese and was capable of participating normally in the activities of the national community. The courts decided on the request, following which the Indian was entitled to exercise his full civil rights. Should an entire Indian community request the lifting of the tutelage, administrative procedure was followed and termination of the tutelage was determined by government decree.

74. Indian lands fell into three categories: first, areas traditionally inhabited by the Indians, which were defined in the Constitution; second, areas reserved

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(Mr. Calero Rodriguez, Brazil)

for Indians, which included "reservations" set aside for independent Indian communities; protected national parks, where Indians were allowed to live; "Indian agricultural settlements" administered by government agents; "Indian federal territories", federal administrative units in which at least one third of the population was Indian; and third, areas over which individual Indians or Indian communities had acquired rights or in which they had acquired property under the provisions of the national legislation. Lands in the first category, the most important of the three, formed part of the national domain and could not be alienated. The Indian inhabitants enjoyed permanent guaranteed possession and use of those lands and exclusive rights to their natural resources (hunting, fishing, farming, cattle breeding and forestry), and were free of any form of taxation. All Indian lands were under the protection of the federal Government, which might employ the armed forces to protect the rights of the Indians, and the federal Government was obliged to intervene in any legal proceedings involving Indians (who were themselves entitled to initiate such proceedings). The Statute recognized the rights of Indians to education, social assistance, health services and social security on the same basis as other citizens. The courts were encouraged to be lenient and to take into account the degree of integration of the accused. Indian groups, on the other hand, were entitled to apply their own sanctions excluding the death penalty, so long as the sanctions were neither cruel nor degrading. New categories of offences had been defined in penal law, such as ridiculing Indian ceremonies, rites, customs or traditions, exploiting Indians as a tourist attraction and inducing them to use alcoholic beverages.

75. In view of the difficulty of drawing up an adequate legal instrument capable for dealing with the complex Indian problem, it was not surprising that there had been problems of implementation. Responsibility for its implementation lay with the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), established in 1967. Its problems were immense: estimates of the Indian population ranged from 100,000 to 300,000 spread throughout the country but with the largest numbers to be found in the Amazon basin. Most of them had no contacts, or scarcely any, with the rest of the national society. FUNAI endeavoured to discharge its obligations without raising new problems and to treat the Indians as human beings and as an integral part of the Brazilian community. Reproached by some for doing too much and by others for doing too little, FUNAI did not seek to restrict the liberty of the Indians to live as they saw fit, and attempted to aid those who were in contact with the style of other Brazilians. The Brazilian Government was fully aware of the immensity of the problem and was doing its best to resolve it while urging everyone, both in Brazil and abroad, to recognize the complex nature of the situation and the efforts it was making to improve it. Brazil was proud of being a multiracial society, with populations of various origins, European, African and Asian, living under conditions of harmony where racial discrimination was unknown. The Indian problem had no connexion with racial discrimination: it was a cultural and social problem which, like so many others, Brazil was seeking to solve conscientiously and confidently.

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76. Mrs. NGUYEN BINH THANH (Viet Nam), after paying a tribute to the heroic struggle of the peoples who were victims of racist régimes and hailing the victory of the patriotic forces of Zimbabwe, recalled that hundreds of millions of persons were still suffering under racial discrimination, particularly in South Africa and in Namibia, where the Pretoria régime still resorted to the same methods of repression: massacres, arrests, detention and torture, opening fire on defenceless school children and indiscriminate bombing of lines of communication, hospitals and populated regions in Zambia and Angola. In the Near East it was the Palestinian people who, driven from their lands, were victims of that other form of racism: zionism. The illegal régime in Israel, despite condemnation by almost all mankind and supported by the United States and the forces of international reaction, continued to deny the inalienable rights of the Arab peoples of Palestine and other countries. In so-called "civilized" countries, coloured people, Indians, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans were still subject to discriminatory measures and extortion and deprived of their most basic political rights.

77. Elsewhere a chauvinist Asian Power impudently claimed the territory of a number of neighbouring countries, while substantially increasing its arsenal to serve its policy of hegemony and was responsible for a holocaust where 3 million Kampucheans had lost their lives, massacred in cold blood by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary gang which it had trained and equipped. To intimidate its neighbours, that chauvinist Power had unleashed a murderous war against Viet Nam which had lasted three and a half years and been waged by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary mercenaries and had sent an army of aggression 600,000 strong into the six frontier provinces in the north of the country. In Laos that hegemonistic Power had indulged in coercion, intimidation and subversion, which seriously threatened that country's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Recalling the Nürnberg trials which condemned the Nazi torturers to death, Viet Nam considered that it was the duty of the United Nations to identify and condemn the executioners who were guilty of exterminating almost half of the Kampuchean nation and their masters with them, who claimed to be above the standards of international law. While Governments every year issued declarations on respect for the right to self-determination, the acts which some of them perpetrated proved that they continued to ignore the existence, the interests and the national rights of smaller nations.

78. After 30 years of struggle and making immense sacrifices to obtain its freedom and independence, Viet Nam should have been enjoying peace and able to reconstruct its devastated country. Yet, like Laos and Kampuchea, it was still the victim of new threats of war, calumny and an unjust economic blockade, all aimed at bringing to nought its efforts at reconstruction and its socialist experience in violation of its right of self-determination. However, thanks to their solidarity, Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea would be able to thwart the manoeuvres and intrigues of their enemies.

79. As to domestic policy, the 1946 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam established complete equality among the 60 nationalities constituting the social community of Viet Nam. Sixty-four of the 455 deputies to the National Assembly now came from national minorities. The latter were given special advantages to help them rise to the same economic, social and cultural level as the

(Mrs. Nguyen Binh Thanh, Viet Nam)

majority population, and their national cultures were the pride of Viet Nam's heritage. They had fought for the freedom and independence of the Vietnamese nation side-by-side with the majority population, whose sacrifices they had shared, and they were now playing their part in building socialism and defending the country.

80. Having learned the lesson of its own history, the people of Viet Nam endorsed the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy, well-being and social progress. Viet Nam supported the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people under the aegis of its sole authentic representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, to recover its fundamental national rights and establish an independent and sovereign State. It also supported the struggle of the peoples of the Arab countries to recover all the territories illegally occupied by Israel, including Jerusalem. Viet Nam supported the fight of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the leadership of SWAPO and the ANC for self-determination, the struggle by the fraternal peoples of Afghanistan, Angola and Mozambique to protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity against the manoeuvres and intervention of the imperialist forces and the struggle by the people and Government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic for their fundamental national rights under the leadership of the Polisario Front. The Vietnamese people stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the fraternal people of Cuba in their struggle against the economic blockade and military threat of the American imperialists and for the return of the Guantanamo base. It saluted the valiant combat of the peoples of Nicaragua, Grenada, Panama, Jamaica, Chile, Puerto Rico and Belize and gave them its full support. Viet Nam proclaimed its solidarity with the people and the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador in the struggle against the fascist régime in power and the manoeuvres of the imperialists.

81. Since the adoption, 20 years before, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the peoples' struggle for their right to self-determination has been marked by great victories and the birth of many sovereign and independent States. With the support of millions of lovers of peace and justice, the Declaration had become a substantial force capable of restraining the imperialists' desire for reprisals and a source of inspiration for the progressive forces in the world struggling to eradicate colonialism and racial discrimination and to achieve self-determination. The Vietnamese people pledged itself to co-operate, to the best of its modest ability, in the implementation of that historic Declaration and in the rapid and total emancipation of all countries and peoples still under colonial domination.

82. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland), referring to agenda item 75, said that his delegation had always attached considerable importance to the principle of self-determination, as Ireland had been the first country to win independence in the twentieth century. It now seemed appropriate, exactly 20 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, to assess the results obtained and see what still remained to be done to ensure general implementation of the right to self-determination.

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(Mr. O'Donovan, Ireland)

83. His delegation warmly welcomed the delegations of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and of Zimbabwe as new Members of the United Nations and of the Third Committee. He expressed the hope that the example of Zimbabwe, which had won its independence at the cost of great suffering, would encourage and help all the peoples of Africa to achieve independence and self-determination. The victory of Zimbabwe was the victory of the international community, and especially of the United Nations. The principle of self-determination had only become a right in 1950 and it had been necessary to wait until 1966 for that right to be written into such important legal instruments as the International Covenants on Human Rights.

84. Since 1960, more than 50 countries had achieved self-determination and independence and had become Members of the United Nations. The role played by the United Nations in that respect should not be underestimated, both by reason of the specific responsibilities it had assumed for certain territories and because of the help it had given to many countries in achieving their independence by peaceful means, thanks to its general policies and the positions it had taken. There was still a great deal to be done to ensure implementation of the right to self-determination, as was shown by the failure of the efforts to implement the United Nations Plan for Namibia.

85. The Government of South Africa must understand that the time for equivocation was past and that it had to put an end to its iniquitous apartheid régime and its current racist policies if peace in southern Africa was not to be irremediably compromised. The adoption of the United Nations Plan constituted the sole means of rapidly finding an equitable and internationally recognized solution to the problem; attempting to reshape or restructure the apartheid régime would be of no help in trying to build up a free and just society. There could be no compromise on the principle of the equality of all human beings, any more than in its application. The international community must pursue its efforts to bring the South African Government to make a radical change in its policy, and the Security Council must continue to examine the measures to be taken to achieve that end. The Irish Government would continue to support the action taken by the Secretary-General, the Group of Western States concerned and the front-line States in conjunction with SWAPO.

86. The Palestinian problem also involved the right of self-determination. In that connexion, the Irish Government fully supported the two principles laid down in the declaration made by the Heads of State or Government of the Nine members of the European Community in Venice on 13 June 1980. It involved the right to existence and security of all States in the region, including Israel, and the requirement of justice for all the peoples concerned, which included the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people within the framework of a peace settlement. In his Government's opinion a satisfactory solution to the Palestinian problem could be found only if those two principles were applied.

87. There were other regions where the principle of self-determination was at stake, such as Kampuchea and Afghanistan, both co-sponsors of resolution 1514 (XV) adopted by the General Assembly in 1960. The Irish Government believed that it was

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(Mr. O'Donovan, Ireland)

essential that Kampuchea be given its independence, freed from all military occupation and permitted to reconstruct its economy with the aid of the international community. As to Afghanistan, it must be given the opportunity to resume its policy of neutrality and non-alignment and to create conditions whereby the people of Afghanistan could freely choose its Government and decide its destiny without outside intervention.

88. Undoubtedly, the concept of self-determination was highly complex and its implementation frequently gave rise to difficulties. But it was a dynamic concept which, now that the colonial era was drawing to a close, required new interpretations. Thus it was important to give consideration not only to the political but also to the socio-economic aspects. There were some socio-economic problems which could not be solved without profound changes in world economic relations, just as political self-determination had required changes in international political relations. The right to self-determination was an international responsibility, as was the protection and promotion of the rights of the individual.

89. He also emphasized that the maintenance and implementation of the right of self-determination in the various countries depended on the degree to which human rights and fundamental freedoms were respected.

90. Turning to agenda item 67, he said that his Government was firmly resolved, despite all the disagreements which had arisen, to continue to participate in the Programme of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, as had been shown by its participation in the Seminar on Recourse Procedures held in Geneva in 1979.

91. Mrs. de Arana (Peru), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

92. Mr. NAO (Democratic Kampuchea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, protested against the statements made by the delegation of Viet Nam and recalled that in 1978 Viet Nam, revealing its expansionist designs on the region, had invaded Kampuchea, causing the death of 3 million Kampucheans as a result of famine and the use of chemical weapons. Viet Nam was now in an impasse because of the heroic resistance of Kampuchea, and the Phnom Penh Government was no more than its puppet. As was still being demonstrated by its aggression against Thailand, Viet Nam could no longer conceal its expansionist designs on the region, any more than it could deny the crimes and the genocide perpetrated against Kampuchea and the "boat people". To prove its good faith, Viet Nam had only to respect General Assembly resolution 34/22 and concern itself with its own people.

93. Mr. BRACINE-BA (Mauritania), responding to the injurious accusations made by the representative of Israel at the 13th meeting, said that Mauritania had no lesson to learn from a country like Israel which was occupying Arab territories, oppressing the Palestinian people by violating their fundamental rights, practising torture, ignoring United Nations resolutions and defying international public opinion. The close collaboration which had been established between Israel and South Africa could

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(Mr. Bracine-Ba, Mauritania)

not be regarded as surprising since the two régimes used identical methods. In Mauritania, human rights were scrupulously respected and the legislation in that field was being constantly revised. Mauritania also carried out periodic agricultural, economic and cultural reforms. Mauritania would never collaborate with Zionism and apartheid and would always denounce and combat racist régimes such as Israel and South Africa.

94. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he wished to recall a few facts in response to the accusations made by the representative of the Zionist entity; those facts were recorded in reports of the United Nations or other international organizations or had been reported in articles in the press.

95. Since they belonged to the semitic group, the Arabs could not be anti-semitic; it was Zionism, based on racist theories which prohibited any coexistence between Arabs and Jews, that they could not accept. In the Islamic countries, Moslems, Christians and Jews coexisted because the Arabs were not hostile to Judaism as a religion. The Israeli State, which had been established in Palestine by the political movement of Zionism, was the only Member State of the United Nations which had no fixed frontiers because of its expansionist policy. It was well known that Zionism had not been content with expelling the Palestinian people from their territory but was also establishing settlements in the occupied territories.

96. One of the essential requirements for the building of a modern State was the elimination of all forms of discrimination. Yet in Israel there was no equality of rights between Jews and non-Jews. Only Jews could become Israeli citizens. The decision of the Israeli Government to make Jerusalem the capital of Israel was a violation of the rights of not only the population of Palestine but also the three billion Christians and Moslems throughout the world for whom Jerusalem was a holy city. In one of its resolutions, the General Assembly had rightly equated Zionism with racism. Zionism also represented a danger for the Jews themselves and a great many Jewish organizations were militating against that movement in favour of coexistence with the Arabs. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion had said on 15 May 1963 after the explosion at the King David Hotel that he considered Mr. Begin to be one of the most dangerous of all terrorists and he had gone so far as to draw a parallel between Mr. Begin's methods and those of Hitler.

97. Mr. GLAIEL (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, because of the late hour, he would confine himself to reminding the representative of the Zionist entity of certain facts, while reserving the right to speak again at a later meeting.

98. If the representative of the Zionist entity believed that Syrian citizens who were followers of Judaism had not yet attained the paradise which he wanted for them, he should be reminded that their situation was very much more enviable than that of the oriental Jews who had gone to Israel, many of whom had preferred to return to their countries of origin. The representative of the Zionist entity had cynically tried to claim that the Arabs of the occupied territories were living in a paradise, when their life was imperilled and they were being exposed to a policy of racial discrimination. If conditions of life were no idyllic in the occupied territories, why was it that the Zionist occupation authorities had refused to co-operate with

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(Mr. Glaiel, Syrian Arab Republic)

the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories? Why was it that they had refused to grant the Committee authorization to enter those territories?

99. The daily murders of Arabs seemed to attract much less attention than the murder of a single Jew. If the Special Committee had been accused of partiality, that was simply because its members had not allowed themselves to be deceived by Israel's machinations.

100. Mr. ARMALI (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was surprised that the Zionist representative had drawn attention to his Government's opposition to apartheid when all the reports drawn up by the United Nations concerning apartheid and racial discrimination clearly revealed the privileged relations which Israel maintained with the white minority in southern Africa. It must not be forgotten that massive military and economic assistance had been provided by Israel to the Ian Smith régime. The Zionist representative had had the effrontery to announce his satisfaction at Zimbabwe's independence. He also noted that the Palestinian people were continuing to be subjected to the policy of institutionalized terrorism practised by the Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territories, a policy which conflicted with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter. The Zionist representative was persisting in accusing the Palestine Liberation Organization of terrorism. World opinion, however, would never be deceived by those manoeuvres.

101. Mr. CAHANA (Israel) said that the statements of delegations speaking in exercise of the right of reply only confirmed the remarks he had made at the 13th meeting. The representatives of the Arab countries were refusing to recognize the facts and accept reality to the extent that they could not even bring themselves to call Israel by its name. The President of Iraq, for example, in a charter published recently which his delegation had considered worth circulating as a document of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, had referred to Israel not as a State but as a "deformed entity".

102. The racist attitude of many leaders of Arab countries vis-à-vis the Jewish people did not date from the establishment of the State of Israel but went much further back. It went without saying that all Arabs were not racists. Contrary to what had been implied by the representative of an Arab country regarding Israeli citizenship, Israel had a large number of citizens who practised various religions. They participated in all aspects of Israeli life and some of them were officials or members of Parliament. A great many citizens of Arab countries would probably like to enjoy the same rights, opportunities and social conditions as the Arab citizens of the State of Israel. As his delegation had stressed on many occasions, the essential reason for the hostility of the Arab countries to Israel was their refusal to accept the very existence of Israel; that situation had given rise to several wars. Since violence engendered violence, Israel had certainly committed errors as a result of those conflicts. The Arab countries should perhaps reflect on the way they had reacted to their enemies in the course of their history or would react if they had to confront so many enemies. The State of Israel, which had about 3 million

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(Mr. Cahana, Israel)

inhabitants, was subjected to the slanderous attacks of 22 countries with a population of 120 million. The Arab countries which claimed that they were being oppressed now constituted one of the most powerful groups because of the enormous income they derived from their petroleum resources. Their solidarity with the Palestinian people should extend to the developing countries whose scant resources were being exhausted by exorbitant petroleum prices. The atmosphere of hostility between the Arab countries and Israel could be dispelled only if those countries abandoned their racist attitude to Israel and finally recognized its right to reconciliation and peace.

103. As far as his statement at the 13th meeting was concerned, he had referred to Mauritania and Iraq because he had wished to select two geographical extremes among the Arab countries. In the case of Mauritania, he had merely referred to an article which had appeared in The New York Times on 10 September 1980 reporting a statement by the Minister of Information of Mauritania recognizing that slavery still existed in his country. He believed that Mauritania was making effective efforts to eliminate that evil. Nevertheless, slavery did still persist. His delegation could only urge Member States to concern themselves first of all with violations of human rights in their own countries and report honestly on the subject to the United Nations before denouncing violations committed in other countries.

104. As to the question of the Kurds, the statement on the subject by the representative of Iraq was an insult to the intelligence of the members of the Committee. Everyone knew that the Kurds had been persecuted for many years; back in 1961 the USSR, Iraq's great ally, in a letter to the United Nations, had denounced the treatment of the Kurds and described it as veritable genocide.

The meeting rose at 7.05 p.m.