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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)  
(A/35/3/Add.2, 18, 22, 23 and Corr.1, 27, 28, 33, 34, 37 and Corr.1, A/35/120, 148, 199, 231, 259, 260, 265, 266, 267, 270, 272, 273, 336, 340, 348, 363, 405, 419, 426, 431, 450, 522, 543 and Corr.1, 614, 622; A/C.3/35/1, 10, 11, 12; E/1980/14; E/CN.4/1365, E/CN.4/1366; A/C.3/35/L.52, L.54, L.60, L.61, L.62 and L.63)

1. Mr. ORTIZ SANZ (Bolivia) said that in July the Bolivian armed forces, confronted with an institutional and economic crisis brought about by international extremism which had infiltrated into the country under the guise of democracy with millions of dollars at its disposal to finance election campaigns, had assumed the reins of government in order to wreck the conspiracy. They had acted without foreign influence, arms or mercenaries. The issue had been a purely domestic one, settled among nationals, as in many other Latin American republics. But international imperialist interests had intervened, working for the victory of extremist subversion on the continent - a victory of chaos essential to their continued exploitation of the wealth of Latin America for their own benefit, based on the use of a subject people as cheap labour. Claiming to be defending human rights, they had launched a campaign of defamation against Bolivia which was nothing but an expression of rage at the frustration of the new plan for a "democratizing" occupation of the continent involving the provision of millions of dollars to docile Governments and the economic strangulation on those who defended the principle of self-determination and tried to free their economies from foreign machinations. The campaign of defamation against Bolivia, initiated by extremists, had been expanded and intensified by more powerful entities which had made all kinds of accusations against a Government that sought only to defend Bolivia from the divisive threat of extremist anarchy and the predatory scheming of monopolist interests. Certain Governments had manipulated the price of tin, which was Bolivia's principal export and on which the country depended for its existence, by periodically dumping non-commercial reserves of that mineral on the world market. That was the crux of the matter. Nationalist Governments which proclaimed self-determination and opposed political and economic internationalism and intervention could not be tolerated.

2. The United Nations, aware of the secret manoeuvres of monopolist interests which had infiltrated into the decision-making circles of the most powerful Governments, had debated the problem earlier and in 1976 had adopted resolution 31/91, whose seventh preambular paragraph referred to a wide range of direct and indirect techniques being mobilized against Governments which sought to free their economies from foreign control and manipulation and exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, while operative paragraph 4 condemned all forms of overt, subtle and highly sophisticated techniques of coercion, subversion and defamation aimed at destabilizing such Governments.

3. Bolivia was a case in point, and the method used had been to flood the press with vague and tendentious news items unsupported by any evidence. For example, following the release of a correspondent of the London Economist arrested by the

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security police in La Paz for sending an incriminating report on the Government, the journal had confirmed that it had not published the dispatch because it had considered the accusations in it to be false. In August a correspondent of Agence France Presse had sent a dispatch from La Paz on the arrest by the State security police of Jorge Siles Salinas, brother of the former Bolivian President Hernán Siles Zuazo, and his release a few hours later after a severe beating. Four days later Dr. Siles had written a letter to the newspapers explaining that his arrest had been the result of a regrettable error of information, for which the official responsible had apologized, and that there was no truth in the statement that he had been beaten. Agence France Presse had issued a retraction two days later, which no one had read, but the calumny had already been world front-page news.

4. A third example: at a meeting of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva on 27 August, one of the experts - a Latin American - had asserted that although the Bolivian Government claimed to have popular support, there were hundreds of people who had disappeared and whose deaths had not been admitted; he had gone on to suggest that there ought to be a convention making it obligatory to inform international humanitarian organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), when persons disappeared as a result of political confrontations. However, according to ICRC Bulletin No. 56, dated 6 September, the International Committee's activities in Bolivia had started on 25 July, as soon as permission had been received from the Bolivian authorities, and were still continuing. Up to 18 August a total of about 250 prisoners had been visited and provided with such items as medicines, and blankets where necessary, and ICRC had paid the fare from La Paz to Trinidad for five of them who had been released shortly before and had no money to return home. All that had occurred before the accusation had been made in Geneva. Not even one person had disappeared. There was no closed police State and there were no crimes to hide.

5. In another case, press reports in Washington, quoting an official of the Department of State, had accused members of the Bolivian armed forces of being involved in drug trafficking - as usual a vague accusation without names or evidence. The reporter had subsequently claimed to be investigating the official's statement and had reported that the latter had refused to admit specifically that the United States had evidence to back the accusations against high-ranking Bolivian military officers. But by that time the calumnious statement had been widely publicized.

6. Lastly, certain of the less reputable United States newspapers had published reports attacking Bolivia but had subsequently dropped the campaign for the simple reason that it had not been based on fact. No Bolivian frontier had ever been closed: regular travellers on international flights and trains, representatives of business concerns, banks, foreign missions, all came and went freely.

7. The Bolivian Minister for Foreign Affairs had explained at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters on 8 October that in the events of July five persons had lost their lives; that 350 of the 500 persons detained at the beginning

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had been released; that 180 of the 250 people who had found asylum in foreign missions had been given safe conduct and left the country; that the former President of the Republic had moved to Europe with full safeguards and had settled in France; and that the national situation was one of peace, work and social discipline. The President of the Republic had extended an unsolicited invitation to a delegation of the Commission on Human Rights to visit the country. There could be no better testimony that the Government had nothing to hide, that Bolivia was not a closed police state and that the nation was living in peace and complete freedom. His Government looked forward to the Commission's visit and subsequent report.

8. Nevertheless, proposals were being made that would entail interference in his country's affairs, and that implied that the calumnies and defamation he had described were accepted. The United Nations was the highest forum in the world and was expected to be impartial, serious and just in its debates and to respect States. Bolivia was a nation of mixed Indian and European origin, which had started as a rich country and been robbed successively of its silver, saltpetre, rubber, oil and tin. Its history had been a struggle against foreign exploitation, and as a result of historical injustices it was now a land-locked country. Development was particularly difficult, with widespread poverty giving rise to political disturbances which made it hard for any Government to maintain public order. However, Bolivia was a Christian country, with none of the brutality encountered elsewhere. Only once in its history had there been a period of brutal repression and concentration camps - and that under a democratic, not a military Government.

9. In the past 15 years, under military governments, enormous efforts had been made to promote education and social and economic development, which had entailed a burden of external debt. When a rise in the price of tin had given hope of improvement, the Government of the United States had dumped thousands of tons of the very tin which Bolivia had sold it during the Second World War for its strategic reserve, thus causing a drop in prices.

10. That was the background against which the situation of human rights in Bolivia and any other third world country should be considered. Human rights were not only a question of the rights of political prisoners. Human rights were essentially the right to social security, to work and to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment, to just and favourable remuneration ensuring an existence worthy of human dignity, to a standard of living adequate for health, wellbeing, to food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services, to education and to a social and international order in which all rights and freedoms could be fully realized - as set forth respectively in articles 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The prosperous countries which talked so much about human rights ignored the other side of the coin. The truth was that if man was to be protected from imprisonment, torture and repression he must first be protected from unemployment, social insecurity, poverty, ignorance and neglect so that he would not turn in desperation to terrorism and subversion. It was the responsibility of the Commission on Human Rights to see that all those aspirations were realized.

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11. The Netherlands, which had attacked his country in a draft resolution, had for 350 years exploited the wealth of Indonesia, leaving a hundred million Indonesians in poverty and ignorance, establishing a caste system in which the Dutch had been at the top and the Indonesians at the bottom, and publicly maintaining that an Indonesian needed only one hundredth as much money to live on as a Dutch settler. Those were the people who today were concerned about human rights in Bolivia, the people who for 350 years had let 7 million Papuans live in a Stone Age culture in New Guinea and had grown rich by manipulating the market in oil and petroleum products.

12. Bolivia had signed the United Nations Charter and the instruments giving freedom to a hundred new States. Bolivia had always been against colonialism and imperialism and in favour of international social justice, collective economic security and a new international economic order. If human rights needed to be defended, that meant that the people of Bolivia must be defended, for they were being subjected to defamation, the blockade of economic assistance carried on for four months under the Carter Government, and exploitation. There was no need for any resolution other than resolution 31/91. His delegation would not take part in debate on any document until the Commission on Human Rights, in response to Bolivia's invitation, had submitted a report, for the proposals before the Committee would prejudge such a report. If any such draft resolution was adopted under sectarian pressure, the Government of Bolivia would be obliged to review its position regarding the visit of the Commission on Human Rights.

13. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that his delegation had always attached particular importance to the right to education as a human right. Its sponsorship in 1979, along with 41 other delegations of a draft resolution on the subject had been inspired by its concern to promote the achievement of that objective throughout the world, for lack of education affected the other human rights and freedoms. He welcomed the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submitted in document A/35/148, which confirmed that UNESCO had assumed responsibility as the centre for all action on ways and means of implementing the right to education for everyone.

14. It was rightly stressed in the report that education should be a comprehensive system enabling the population to play an increasingly conscious part in their country's development. The right to education was also inseparable from the other human rights and freedoms which were essential to the process of development, such as the right to work, to rest and to access to culture. The right to education was not merely a matter of legal recognition. Its implementation was an important part of the activity of the United Nations system under the International Strategy for the Third Development Decade and was a part of social development as a whole. The document on the International Development Strategy recently adopted by the Second Committee contained clear provisions on the right to education, to the effect that States should formulate and apply political measures to meet their economic and social needs and that each State should establish a proper balance between efforts and resources needed to provide education for all members of society and should endeavour to provide free education at all levels. Wider and

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

more equitable access to education and training would help to reduce inequalities and strengthen the capacity of society to achieve economic and social progress. Education must be viewed as part of the objectives of economic and social development and the establishment of a new international economic order. The right of peoples throughout the world to peace and life must be respected. Romania firmly believed that realization of the right to education, of economic and social equality, of the right of everyone, without distinction as to sex, nationality or race, to work, and of the right to participate in the management of public affairs, were essential elements in the promotion and protection of human rights.

15. In Romania, the right to education was recognized in article 21 of the Constitution and implemented in article 2 of Act No. 31 on education. It was accompanied by a wide range of social and economic safeguards, and the State provided enormous material resources for education and maintained a large network of schools of all levels. Students received grants and other forms of material assistance. One quarter of the population attended educational institutions and by 1985 the school population would represent 27 per cent of the population as a whole. The education budget was increased every year, and it was hoped to make a 12-year education for all a reality by 1985. Romania's attitude to education was based on the belief that education was essential to preserve man's creative capacity and raise the level of cultural and spiritual life. Experience had shown that the training of national cadres for the various sectors of activity, the participation of young people in economic and social development programmes, the establishment of a close link between research, education and production, the reorganization of educational patterns to make them less abstract and better suited to conditions in each country, the preparation of school curricula and encouragement of creative ability and initiative, must all be major concerns in education. Improvements in education required structural changes and it was right to stress the need to adopt dynamic and modern education systems as a factor in progress. Rigid, outdated structures, removed from everyday life, were a serious obstacle to the development of society.

16. The present serious situation in which 800 million people were illiterate and large numbers of young people were deprived of education through discrimination pointed to the importance of immediate and long-term discussions on the right to education and the means to put it into effect. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the conclusion of the Director-General of UNESCO that compulsory universal education at the elementary level and the elimination of illiteracy were the two main objectives in safeguarding the right to education. His delegation had been holding wide consultations on a new draft resolution on the right to education, which would be submitted to the Committee shortly.

17. Mr. ABAWI (Afghanistan) said that the illicit drug traffic and the illegal use of narcotic drugs constituted a major problem which required international co-operation for its solution. The Government of Afghanistan, which was attempting to combat that problem, was determined to carry out law enforcement measures against the illicit production of and traffic in narcotics. The Committee could serve as an excellent forum for the exchange of experiences and information on various aspects of the problem by Governments and institutions participating in the discussion.

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(Mr. Abawi, Afghanistan)

18. Afghanistan's commitment to taking effective measures for drug abuse control stemmed from the provisions of the Basic Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The Government's strategy in that regard included income-substitution associated with land reform and the creation of better employment opportunities. The Government would be in a position to reduce the illicit production of opium if the international community provided sufficient assistance to compensate for the loss of income of the farmers concerned. In addition, the authorities were prepared to continue and to expand their co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC). The assistance of the international community in promoting and expanding the scope of rural development programmes was essential to the curtailment of illicit poppy cultivation. It should be noted that that assistance had now been stopped by UNFDAC, for reasons unknown to Afghanistan. The Government intended to carry out a multidimensional development programme which would provide a substitute livelihood for those who had traditionally been opium farmers and would focus the attention of farmers on education and handicrafts and other small industries which could easily be developed in their localities.

19. His delegation was well aware of the critical financial position of UNFDAC. The global dimensions of the traffic in narcotics required urgent action, and that meant that the international community should increase contributions to the Fund. In conclusion, he wished to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that the efforts of the drug-producing nations to eliminate illicit production was considerably hampered as a result of the incentives provided by the ever-increasing illicit demand for drugs and the expansion of the illicit narcotics market.

20. Mrs. DUNG (Viet Nam) said that perhaps one of the reasons for the lack of improvement in the situation in respect of mass violations of human rights was that the perpetrators had been able to deflect international condemnation to others, including their own victims. Today it was unanimously acknowledged that the economic crisis and inflation, economic exploitation and the unequal terms of trade that prevailed under the old world economic order were continuing to weigh heavily on the developing countries, reducing hundreds of millions of people to a precarious level of living and making it almost impossible for them to enjoy their minimum human rights in terms of the satisfaction of their vital needs. In order to maintain the unequal status quo and to preserve their privileges, the forces defending that old economic order had spent billions of dollars to wage direct, indirect or preventive wars to maintain armed forces and develop means of mass destruction and to set up large mass media networks with which to control people's minds.

21. Thus it could be seen that the most serious violations of human rights today stemmed from war, repression, odious intrigues and machinations aimed at preventing the exercise of the rights of peoples to national independence and self-determination. The perpetrators of mass violations of human rights were precisely those who spent huge sums on the arms race, the manufacture of neutron bombs, the maintenance of military bases in all corners of the globe and the establishment of sophisticated espionage networks to carry out political assassinations, coups *d'état* and subversion and to sabotage peace and the security of peoples. It was

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(Mrs. Dung, Viet Nam)

they who sowed hate and suspicion, frustrated understanding, dialogue and friendship among peoples and promoted confrontation in order to establish their hegemony. The crucial question facing the Commission on Human Rights in carrying out its mandate was how best to support the victims of mass violations of human rights and avoid siding with the perpetrators of those violations.

22. Any serious observer would be able to recognize that the consequences of mass and flagrant violations of human rights, such as the destructive war waged by the United States during which the Vietnamese people had had to endure bombings and suffer the effects of toxic chemicals, could not be eliminated overnight. The old and new warmongers in Indo-China, namely, Washington and Beijing, must be held responsible for the suffering endured by the peoples of Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kampuchea, not only during the war but also during the post-war period in which the tragic consequences of the destruction of the economic infrastructure and the environment as well as the physical and moral disruption of the people's lives were seriously hampering the development of society and the restoration of a normal way of life.

23. Her delegation regarded it as scandalous that those countries that were responsible for so much grief and destruction could use the difficulties which they had created to justify their anti-Vietnamese coalition aimed at isolating her country by an economic blockade. Her delegation believed that resolution 29 (XXXVI) on the so-called situation in Democratic Kampuchea adopted by the Commission on Human Rights was part of that shabby undertaking. Her delegation wished to express its strong objection to the adoption of that resolution because it was replete with falsehoods. Even though international opinion and nearly all States Members of the United Nations were in agreement in denouncing the genocide and mass violations of human rights perpetrated in Kampuchea by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique, the Commission on Human Rights had not said a word in condemnation of those violations. Worse yet, the promoters of that resolution had taken up the mendacious themes of Beijing and Washington, which were distorting the traditional relations of friendship and co-operation between Viet Nam and Kampuchea to deny those countries their inalienable sacred right to stand as one with the partners of their choice for their own national defence. In that connexion, her delegation supported the position of the Revolutionary People's Council of Kampuchea expressed in its statement of 16 August 1980 rejecting that resolution, as reproduced in document A/35/405.

24. With regard to the International Covenants on human rights, her delegation had joined with those that had sent formal notes to the Secretary-General protesting the United Nations allowing those guilty of genocide against 3 million of their own compatriots to sign those international instruments. That was an insult to all mankind and to the memory of the 3 million dead Kampuchians. Similarly, her delegation believed that the fact that the representatives of a régime guilty of the crime of genocide against its own people - a régime, moreover, which existed only in the imagination of its protectors - could be present in the Third Committee was a serious offence against reason and justice and an affront to the elementary principles of human rights to which all subscribed.

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(Mrs. Dung, Viet Nam)

25. Despite great difficulties, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam had always followed an unwavering policy in the field of human rights and had achieved positive results over the years. For the first time, after more than a century of struggle, Viet Nam had put an end to colonial and neo-colonial domination and had restored to its citizens their national independence, right to self-determination, fundamental human rights and the sacred right to be sovereign masters of their country. In the southern part of Viet Nam, serious and complex post-war problems had been solved in a humanitarian manner. Viet Nam had succeeded in a few years in repairing the social fabric of a nation that had been seriously disrupted by war and artificially divided for more than 20 years. Exploitation and social injustice had been liquidated and illiteracy eradicated. Culture, sports and vocational studies were accessible to all and were encouraged by State institutions and non-governmental organizations. If people left Viet Nam because they were unable to enjoy the same standard of living as before or because they found the work too hard or could no longer engage in lucrative businesses, that was no reason for Viet Nam to be ashamed.

26. In conclusion, her delegation wished to express its solidarity with all the victims of serious violations of human rights, especially the gallant Chilean people. It joined others in demanding that the Chilean Government put an end to the state of emergency that had been in force for seven years and restore the exercise of the political rights of the Chilean people, in particular their rights to trade unions, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. It strongly hoped that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur would be prolonged so that he could prepare a report for submission to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

27. Mrs. SUTHERLAND (Canada) said that her delegation believed that many of the proposals put forward for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms were potentially very useful and deserved further consideration. It was obvious, however, that the consensus required to enable them to be rapidly implemented did not exist within the Committee so that, while the search continued for mutually agreed solutions, the Committee must concentrate on ensuring that the machinery and procedures already available within the United Nations system were put to the best and most effective use possible.

28. One such procedure was the good offices role of the Secretary-General in the human rights field, as envisaged in the Charter, which had been gradually developed over the years by successive Secretaries-General in response to changing circumstances in the world; it had come to be universally accepted by all Members of the United Nations as an integral and essential part of the Secretary-General's functions and had been employed on many occasions with welcome results. All the Secretaries-General had effectively resorted to their good offices role in the human rights field and they had all viewed that aspect of their function as constituting an integral part of their mandate. They had all approached it from a strictly humanitarian point of view and the good offices function had therefore consistently been regarded as non-political. The role had always been performed with the express consent of the countries concerned and had consequently never been

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(Mrs. Sutherland, Canada)

regarded as interference in internal affairs. Interesting parallels could be drawn between the Secretary-General's role in the human rights field and his activities in the area of humanitarian assistance and relief, to which all the considerations she had set forth applied. Her delegation believed that the protection of innocent individuals from flagrant abuses of their human rights was as important a function of the United Nations as the assistance that it provided to persons in distress who were the victims of man-made or natural disasters.

29. It was interesting to note that a similar good offices role in humanitarian matters or the human rights field had developed over the years in other international organizations such as UNHCR, ILO, UNESCO and ICRC, confirming that it responded to a need of the times. The ILO practice was especially illustrative of the effective use to which resort to the good offices function could be put: she had in mind such instances as the procedures whereby, subject to the consent of the Government concerned, a representative of the Director-General studied directly with the competent Government authorities the practical or legal difficulties encountered in the application of a ratified convention or, in co-operation with the country concerned, considered problems raised by complaints concerning infringements of the principle of freedom of association. The results so far achieved in ILO through that process had amply demonstrated that "quiet diplomacy" in the human rights field could be made to work in practice in resolving a number of situations which would otherwise have developed into unproductive confrontations.

30. Experience had shown that it was appropriate to leave to the discretion of the Secretary-General the precise manner in which he would elect to intervene in any given circumstances. His decision would always be predicated on the assumptions which had prompted the action of Secretaries-General in the past, namely: a determination that a resort to his good offices function was likely to have beneficial results in improving a given situation; a willingness to provide any assistance which might appear useful from a strictly humanitarian point of view; the consent of the country concerned; and a clear understanding that the Secretary-General's concern related to humanitarian and non-political considerations. Her delegation firmly believed that the informality of the procedure was conducive to the rapid improvement of situations of gross violations of human rights and the alleviation of the sufferings of victims of such situations. It was to be hoped that the current Secretary-General's expression of concern and offers of assistance would receive the most serious consideration on the part of all parties concerned.

31. With those considerations in mind, her delegation was submitting a draft resolution on the subject aimed at the full development of the good offices role of the Secretary-General to enable the United Nations system to cope more adequately with the all too frequent situations of mass and flagrant violations of human rights which persisted throughout the world. The adoption of the draft resolution would not distract the Committee from its concerted search for alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms but would signal its renewed commitment and determination to make the best possible

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(Mrs. Sutherland, Canada)

use of existing bodies and procedures in the quest for a more productive approach to the improvement of the human rights situation throughout the world.

32. Mr. DIENE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the implementation of the right to education lay at the basis of all UNESCO's activities and was the most visible and least controversial aspect of UNESCO's work. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its twenty-first session, had discussed all aspects of the question of education, with the participation of most of the ministers of education of member States. He would therefore confine his remarks to UNESCO's global approach in the field of education, particularly in relation to the problems of education for development.

33. In the 1960s, development had been equated with economic growth, and the concept of education for development had accorded priority to types of education likely to have the greatest short-term effects on economic growth, particularly secondary education to train middle-level personnel and higher education to train scientific and administrative personnel. That trend had still been clearly discernible in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade but had been accompanied by two other objectives, the achievement of universal schooling and the reduction of illiteracy. As the concept of integrated, multidimensional and endogenous development had emerged, ideas on education policies and planning and complete educational systems had developed further.

34. Education was an essential part of any real development effort. All aspects of an educational system were interdependent; it was impossible to establish or develop higher education without adequate education at the lower levels, or to achieve universal schooling at the primary level without taking into account the consequences for the higher levels.

35. There was a very close relationship between the objectives of democracy and development: democracy in the field of education was not only the realization of a human right but also a response to a deep-seated aspiration of national communities which saw in it one of the conditions of human dignity and social progress, the full exercise of civil rights and real participation in decision-making. The disparities which still persisted to the detriment of girls and women, rural communities, specific ethnic groups or disadvantaged socio-economic categories must be eliminated. That objective clearly accorded with the need to mobilize all the human resources needed for development. One of the priority tasks of the educational system during the Third United Nations Development Decade would be to ensure education for everyone. New teaching methods must be introduced and programmes reviewed, so as to give greater prominence to scientific and technological disciplines, the use of national languages as a teaching medium, and a clear identification with the cultural values of particular societies. There was a close interrelationship between education and society: education was inseparable from the social, economic, cultural and physical environment in which it was provided, and at the same time it stimulated change and development. Educational systems must be relevant to the concept of endogenous development and must

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(Mr. Diene, UNESCO)

therefore take into account both the traditions and values passed on by previous generations and the values of technological and social progress essential for the building of modern societies. A particularly important part of cultural relevance was the use of maternal or national languages as the languages of instruction, so as to ensure that the child was not cut off from his environment, family and community. It was also essential to teach children about all aspects of their cultural heritage.

36. In its ethical content, education should be inspired by the objectives and needs of development; it should promote the value of work, the active participation of the individual in the progress and transformation of the society to which he belonged, a sense of responsibility, respect for the natural and cultural heritage and the duty to make wise use of natural resources. At the same time, the ethical values transmitted by education must be rooted in international reality and an awareness of the rest of the world. Education for international understanding, co-operation and peace, without which there could be no real development, and education in respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were more necessary than ever. One of the tasks of education was to make each individual aware that development must be sought in solidarity among the world's peoples and to promote the concept of a more just and more unified international economic order.

37. The expansion of the role of education had obvious implications for the resources that must be allocated in the context of international co-operation for a development strategy. At the same time, co-operation among developing countries themselves was essential if education was fully to assume its new role.

Draft resolutions A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2, A/C.3/35/L.46/Rev.1, A/C.3/35/L.48/Rev.1, A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1, A/C.3/35/L.50/Rev.1

38. Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) said that the African Group had reached a solution on the problem of draft resolution amendments, and he announced that Somalia and Ethiopia had accepted the following amendments: In draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2, the entire ninth preambular paragraph, beginning with the phrase "recognizing that appeals to the international community" should be omitted. Paragraph 3 should be replaced with the following operative paragraph: "Takes note of the measures which the Government of Somalia is taking in order to provide shelter, food and other services to the refugees in Somalia." In paragraph 7, the phrase "in the areas where the refugees have been located" should be omitted. Paragraph 8 should be omitted entirely. In paragraph 10, the phrase "in the areas where the refugees are located" should be omitted. In draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the phrase "Taking note of" should be replaced by "Having heard". In paragraph 5, the word "certified" should be inserted before the phrase "voluntary returnees". His delegation hoped that both draft resolutions would be adopted by consensus.

39. The CHAIRMAN suggested that draft resolutions A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2, as amended, A/C.3/35/L.46/Rev.1, A/C.3/35/L.48/Rev.1, A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1, as amended, and A/C.3/35/L.50/Rev.1 should be adopted by consensus.

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40. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) proposed that draft resolutions A/C.3/35/L.49/Rev.1 and A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2 should be adopted by consensus and that the other three draft resolutions should be adopted by unanimous vote.
41. Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) proposed that all five draft resolutions should be adopted unanimously.
42. The CHAIRMAN said that there appeared to be general agreement to adopt the five draft resolutions unanimously.
43. It was so decided.
44. Mr. SANDOVAL (United States of America) said his delegation was pleased that the draft resolutions had been adopted without a vote, especially since the United States viewed the question of refugees as a humanitarian concern. His delegation supported the convening of a conference on refugees in Africa, which would succeed in focusing attention on the magnitude of the problem. Developmental needs resulting from flows of refugees could best be considered by the competent United Nations bodies, which were in the best position to deal with the infrastructural needs related to refugee emergencies. The resolutions included references to the Secretary-General's reports on certain countries; those reports were still being studied by his Government. His delegation's vote did not imply acceptance of all the reports.
45. Mrs. DUNG (Viet Nam) said that her delegation shared the Committee's concern about African refugees and associated itself with the group favouring the draft resolutions. It objected, however, to the sponsoring of draft resolutions A/C.3/35/L.45/Rev.2 and A/C.3/35/L.46/Rev.1 by the so-called delegation of a régime which had been guilty of flagrant violations of human rights and of genocide and which was no longer in existence. Such a delegation was not fit to be a sponsor of any resolution in the Committee.
46. Mrs. BROŠNAKOVA (Czechoslovakia), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and her own delegation, said that the so-called delegation of Democratic Kampuchea, representing a régime which had committed genocide and flagrant violations of human rights and which in fact no longer existed, was in no way entitled to be a sponsor of draft resolutions of a humanitarian character in the Committee. The true Government of Kampuchea, the People's Revolutionary Council of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, had a right to be represented.
47. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia and his own delegation, said that those delegations attached great importance to draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.50/Rev.1, for their countries bore a heavy burden of caring for young people, and sometimes adults, who flocked into their territory from neighbouring South Africa because of the adverse effects of the apartheid system. In view of the meagre resources of those countries, it had

(Mr. Dlamini, Swaziland)

become necessary to appeal to the international community for humanitarian assistance. The assessments and recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/35/149) were a true reflection of the conditions and needs existing in the four countries concerned, and his delegation endorsed them. The task of accommodating the refugees was made even more difficult by the fact that most of the refugee students were teen-agers, who should normally be under parental care and guidance. It was imperative, therefore, that resources should be made available not only to shelter, feed, clothe and educate them but also to provide the necessary counseling services for giving those unfortunate young people a proper and meaningful upbringing. The political situation in South Africa today was very volatile and unstable. The independence of Zimbabwe had encouraged black South Africans to demand their rights more vigorously. The black population of South Africa had never been satisfied with so-called Bantu education, rightly regarding it as a means of subjugation. Many parents even chose to pull their children out of the system and encourage them to seek better education in neighbouring countries. Those children who boycotted school were subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatment, and as a result, they crossed the border to look for better opportunities, thus worsening the problem by stretching the limited educational facilities of the neighbouring countries far beyond their capability. The proposed and ongoing projects in all four countries, as described in the Secretary-General's report, were no more than a beginning. After the construction and/or expansion of those facilities, there would be a need to maintain them, which meant that more funds would be required. There was no doubt that support far exceeding the amounts estimated in the report would be needed. The burden of providing for rural refugees from South Africa should also be given serious consideration by the international community. In addition, there was a need for more funds to finance a substantial increase in the clothing and monthly allowances furnished to the student refugees. Although the Governments in southern Africa had shown a considerable willingness to provide asylum for those who sought it, they could not be expected to carry an inequitable share of the burden.

48. Mr. DOMINGUEZ PASIER (Spain) said that his delegation had joined in the adoption of the draft resolutions and, in that connexion, wished to state that his Government was sending consignments of wheat to Somalia and Ethiopia in the context of an agreement on food aid and that in May, in conjunction with the Red Cross, it had sent humanitarian aid to the Sudan for refugee camps.

49. Mrs. GU (China) said that her delegation had participated in the adoption of the draft resolutions. The situation of refugees in Africa was very serious, and, as was pointed out in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, urgent relief was required to alleviate the plight of refugees in the Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Chad, the United Republic of Cameroon, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The report drew attention to the fact that in Somalia the number of refugees had increased substantially during the past year and that there were currently about 800,000 refugees living in camps in Somalia. Her delegation endorsed the call for increased international assistance to refugees in Africa and hoped that UNHCR would redouble its efforts to provide humanitarian relief to those refugees.

50. Mr. ALMOSLECHNER (Austria) said that his delegation welcomed the resolutions on assistance to African refugees. It hoped that assistance to refugees in all parts of the world would be centred in UNHCR, so as to reverse the undesirable trend towards a multiplying of action in that field.

51. Mr. SUONG (Democratic Kampuchea) said that although Viet Nam, which had invaded his country, massacred millions of its people and been condemned by the General Assembly in resolutions 34/22 and 35/6 for violating the United Nations Charter, had sponsored one of the draft resolutions, his delegation, in response to the appeal of the African Group and in solidarity with all African refugees, had joined in the unanimous adoption of the draft resolutions without any reservation.

52. Mr. GOODEN (Jamaica) said that his delegation fully supported the unanimous adoption of the five draft resolutions. Until recently it had not been convinced that the world community had given adequate attention to the refugee situation in Africa, where over half of the world's refugee population lived. In adopting the draft resolutions, the Committee had at last recognized the heavy burden of the affected countries. Jamaica, despite severe economic problems, had been providing scholarships to help the student population of southern Africa. It hoped that the problems addressed in the draft resolutions would soon be solved.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.