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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 69th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)
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1. Mr. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that international co-operation in the promotion of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be based on strict compliance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and respect for the sovereignty of all States and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. The objective should be to halt mass and flagrant violations of human rights. At its thirty-sixth session the Commission on Human Rights had placed particular emphasis on the mass violations of human rights in southern Africa and in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. It had also stressed the need to achieve the objectives of the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had condemned the various forms of violation of human rights committed by the racist régime of South Africa, while reaffirming the inalienable right of Namibia, southern Africa and the Palestinian people to self-determination.

2. With respect to the situation in Chile, the Commission, in resolution 21 (XXXVI), which had been approved by the Economic and Social Council, had expressed concern at the increase in the number of violations of human rights in that country. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile (A/35/522) provided documented evidence of an increase in repression in that country, where economic, political and trade union rights did not exist. Arbitrary arrest and torture continued to be the main means of silencing those who wished to restore rights and democratic freedoms in Chile. In paragraph 427 of his report, the Special Rapporteur stated that the number of individual and collective arrests had increased by comparison with previous years, and pointed out that "Many detainees have been kept in prison in secret places where they have been subjected to torture which, though varying in degree, included in almost all cases physical ill-treatment, mental torture and threats ... The number of persons tortured during the period covered by this report is slightly greater than in the same period last year." Furthermore, in spite of the protests of world public opinion and the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly and its organs, the fate of 2,500 victims of the fascist régime, who were still considered missing persons, was not yet known.

3. The farcical plebiscite designed to impose a fascist constitution on Chile could only arouse the indignation of the Chilean people and world public opinion. The new "Constitution" trampled recognized rights under foot and legalized arbitrary fascist rule in the country. In that connexion, the Special Rapporteur noted in his report that "Approval of this text would not improve the present situation but would give a permanent character and constitutional status to legislation which violates the civil and political rights of the Chilean people".

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(Mr. Komissarov, Byelorussian SSR)

All of that showed that the assertion that the human rights situation in Chile had improved was unfounded. Accordingly, his delegation vigorously condemned the heinous crimes committed by the Junta and demanded that they should be stopped immediately, that all United Nations decisions concerning that matter should be implemented and that further effective measures should be adopted to put an end as soon as possible to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights in Chile.

4. At the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, certain countries had sought to divert attention from the search for solutions to fundamental problems in the field of human rights and, in particular, the mass and flagrant violations committed by those who followed policies of racism, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism. That could be the only explanation for the proposal that the Commission should examine questions which constituted interference in the internal affairs of sovereign Member States endeavouring to resolve their internal questions in the interest of their peoples.

5. The strategy currently prevalent in the domestic and foreign policies of certain Western countries, which was designed to generate military hysteria, an arms race and a climate of hostility against certain countries and peoples, was especially harmful to co-operation activities. Furthermore, the situation in the Middle East and southern Africa, where thousands of persons who refused to accept terror and the arbitrary rule of racism suffered cruel repression, including death, revealed the true nature of certain countries which were very vociferous with regard to human rights, but ignored the truly appalling violations of those rights committed by régimes which enjoyed their support and protection. That point was well illustrated by the vicious repression carried out by the military dictatorship in South Korea, which had the support of Washington, against the popular insurrection the previous May, resulting in a bloodbath for democratic and patriotic forces.

6. In the climate of military psychosis which had recently gripped certain countries, fascist and neo-fascist groups had redoubled their efforts, in conjunction with other organizations which espoused an ideology of racial superiority; it was disturbing to note that the activities of fascist elements in certain Western countries were tolerated and encouraged and that the criminal acts of those elements were committed with impunity and in some cases vindicated, even in legal bodies.

7. In his delegation's view, the United Nations could not remain indifferent to those facts, but must take appropriate steps to eliminate the danger of a resurgence of nazism and fascism in any form. Those ideologies had claimed millions of victims in the last World War; in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, in particular, one fourth of the population had fallen victim to nazism and fascism.

8. Lastly, his delegation took the view that the Economic and Social Council and its organs should base their consideration of social development and human rights issues on the Charter of the United Nations and international legal instruments.

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(Mr. Komissarov, Byelorussian SSR)

Furthermore, more effective use should be made of existing machinery and procedures so as to contribute to the solution of problems related to the social progress of peoples and respect for human rights.

9. Mr. PARSONS (United Kingdom) said that it was depressing to note that the subject of human rights had become heavily politicized within the United Nations, to the point that certain people felt that the defence of those rights was used as a weapon by the West in ideological battles or was nothing more than an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of other States. The fact that it was the countries of Latin America and the third world which had had a decisive influence on the United Nations with respect to that question was seemingly overlooked. Those countries had insisted that international concern for human rights should be fully and clearly reflected in the Charter, so that the United Nations had committed itself from the very outset to promote "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion". In addition to the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, various United Nations bodies and numerous international covenants, treaties and resolutions had dealt with and continued to deal with the question of human rights.

10. Although those mechanisms reflected the high standards set by the United Nations in regard to human rights and gave it the means of attaining them, the past five years had seen some of the worst instances of mass killings of innocent people since the establishment of the Organization. Millions of people had been expelled from their homes and countries because of war, massive human rights violations by Governments, or religious prejudice. Arbitrary arrests, the disappearance of arrested persons and indefinite imprisonment without trial, often combined with torture, were rife in many States Members of the Organization. Religious persecution of inoffensive and law-abiding minorities had also increased, involving in some cases the summary execution of religious leaders. At the same time there had been an increase in the repulsive practice of summary execution, with or without trial, of political opponents and dissidents. Other more subtle but no less intolerable forms of oppression had been the loss of jobs, interference with children's education, expulsion from States or refusal of the right to emigrate, and even the confinement of healthy people in psychiatric institutions.

11. In the face of that desolate scene, the General Assembly could take little or no comfort from its own performance. It was true that some situations were regularly and almost traditionally condemned by the General Assembly. It was equally true, however, that the General Assembly had not spoken out unequivocally against violations of human rights wherever they had occurred. What had the General Assembly said when the people of Uganda had been suffering torture and death under Idi Amin, when the Pol Pot régime had been engaged in genocide in Cambodia, or when Macías had been murdering and driving out large numbers of the population of Equatorial Guinea? Certainly, when there was increasing talk of world independence in regard to economic and political matters and to information and communications, it could not still be argued that the way that Governments treated their people was a purely domestic question and that no outsider, even the United Nations itself, had a right to express an opinion on the subject.

(Mr. Parsons, United Kingdom)

12. His delegation considered that the United Nations could not remain silent when serious violations of human rights were committed, not simply in order to strike a moral posture but in order to live up to the standards it had set itself. It was convinced that public debate and judgement at the United Nations of the more glaring violations of human rights occurring in any part of the world would have a definite effect on the perpetrator. No nation, however firmly it rejected criticism of its performance in the field of human rights, was immune to the judgements of an Organization which had virtually achieved universality.

13. The United Kingdom Government had always been prepared to consider most carefully any criticism made against it in that respect, for it believed that all Governments, whatever their political complexion, must be concerned about their reputation within the international community. In some cases, public exposure of human rights violations could even cause the Government concerned to conclude that the only way to salvage its international reputation was to put an end to the practices that had excited universal condemnation. In turn, that could help oppressed people in individual countries to demand reforms from their own Governments. If, however, the United Nations was to make its impact universal, it must show itself free of selectivity and political partiality. Its judgements must be related directly and objectively to the violations established, and not to the political power or international interests of States. At all events, open discussion of such matters was necessary and beneficial in a world which was increasingly becoming a single human community.

14. Miss LEE (Singapore), referring to the question of drug abuse, said that the problem was not new to her country. Since 1946, when the United Kingdom Government had prohibited the possession of opium, the main effort had been directed against that particular type of drug abuse. However, since 1971, the problem had widened to include the abuse not only of opium but also of other drugs by young people. The problem had reached alarming proportions, particularly for a developing country such as Singapore, and Government had taken a series of stringent measures to try to eradicate it. However, the enactment of laws and the establishment of institutions were not enough to deal with the problem and the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts was equally important. Accordingly, in 1977, a programme had been launched to attack the demand and supply sides of the drug problem simultaneously.

15. In 1978, the second phase of that programme had been implemented with the aim of preventing rehabilitated addicts from relapsing and isolating those who had relapsed for further treatment. There had been many relapsed cases, which showed that although rehabilitation treatment was sufficient to cure the addicts of their physiological dependence on drugs, it was more difficult to discern whether they had also been cured of their psychological dependence. The Central Narcotics Bureau had therefore directed priority attention towards the supervision of ex-drug addicts discharged from the rehabilitation centres through the initiation of a supervision scheme. The process of eradicating psychological dependence was long and gradual, and in September 1979 a complementary scheme had been introduced to help treated drug-dependent persons to adjust by allowing them freedom in

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(Miss Lee, Singapore)

stages, since many of them were unable to cope with sudden freedom on their release from the rehabilitation centres. Of the 1,379 ex-addicts who had gone through the scheme, only 1.0 per cent had failed.

16. Through that programme, Singapore had succeeded in containing the drug problem. However, the Central Narcotics Bureau exercised constant vigilance, particularly with regard to the dangers of recidivism. Further, although measures could be taken at the national level to help to curtail demand, the dangers of the illicit traffic in and supply of drugs knew no boundaries. It was therefore essential for national efforts to be complemented by action at the regional and international levels. Similarly, the efforts of the international community should take fully into account the danger to nations of drug abuse, which impaired not only the health of persons so victimized but also society as a whole. Accordingly, the delegation of Singapore agreed with the representative of Malaysia that the United Nations should undertake a thorough examination of drug abuse as a threat to national security and resilience and not merely a social problem. It would therefore support the draft resolution on international co-operation in drug abuse control (A/C.3/35/L.77), and thanked the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany for its initiative in putting it forward.

17. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) referred to the statement on the right to education made in the Committee by the representative of UNESCO. A study by the World Bank showed that there were still major obstacles to the full achievement of that right. The first difficulty arose with the rapid increase in the number of school-age children in the developing countries, while at the same time and for a variety of reasons there were great differences in the matter of access to education. The World Bank study showed that differentiation based on sex was a major obstacle.

18. Bearing in mind that the constant increase in population was the chief obstacle to steady, planned development, and that the social, economic and educational status of women had a considerable effect on fertility rates, the access of women to education was seen to be of fundamental importance. The problem was not merely one of access to education, which had increased at all levels in developing countries, it was rather a problem of ensuring that all school leavers could find jobs and consequently it was necessary to establish a close relationship between development and the democratization of education. Her delegation entirely agreed with the UNESCO view that the quality of education must be improved if better results were to be obtained; she also favoured the development of a country's own cultural resources and thought that education should be a positive factor for change which, while preserving the individual's personality and values, would ensure him fuller access to the modern world, whose riches he could use for the benefit of society as a whole. Aid given to a country would pay a two-fold dividend if it were applied to education, and in that connexion she hoped that the industrialized countries would contribute by sharing the enormous burden of those developing countries which wanted their nationals to be able to enjoy their right to education.

19. In the matter of drug abuse she welcomed the move towards an international control strategy but thought that measures should primarily be taken at government

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(Mrs. Warzazi, Morocco)

level in the consumer countries. Political will must be shown in the matter of controlling and reducing the demand for narcotics; no propaganda of any kind in favour of drug consumption should be permitted, while the making of films on the evils of drugs should be encouraged. There should be an international year or a decade devoted to the relentless pursuit of those criminals who were hazarding the physical and moral well-being of millions.

20. A perusal of documents A/35/340 and A/35/231 which were before the Committee had led her to conclude that their contents should be thoroughly studied by experts. In her opinion, the information contained therein would have been better received, and would have elicited more comment, if it had been submitted to the Second Committee.

21. Turning to human rights, she said that 30 years after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the world still saw every kind of violation constantly recurring. She thought that the new trend to move human rights from the level of the individual to the level of peoples gave too much scope to dictators and authoritarian régimes. There were not two kinds of human rights, one for the industrialized and the other for the developing countries. The United Nations was making every effort to play a leading part in the protection of human rights, but there were many who contended that its efforts were largely ineffective because of its structure and the many different interests involved. In recent years the theory of a double standard of values had been followed, together with a degree of selectivity in order to accommodate particular political stands or even long-standing revanchist attitudes. In her view, some of the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee regarding violations of human rights were particularly significant in that respect.

22. Her delegation was well aware of the efforts still needed to defend the individual and establish reliable protective systems. She again stated that the political will of Governments was a sine qua non for the guarantee of all human rights.

23. Mr. PHENODOS-VADET (Cyprus) said that General Assembly resolution 33/172 on missing persons in Cyprus had not yet been implemented, nor had certain other related initiatives of the Secretary-General yet yielded any results. However, resolution 33/173 on the general problem of disappeared persons had led to the establishment by the Commission on Human Rights of a Working Group to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons. The Working Group was already functioning in a most promising way and his delegation hoped that its usefulness would soon be proved. He therefore supported the renewal of the Working Group's mandate and appealed to all delegations to support without reservations draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.74, of which Cyprus was a sponsor.

24. With regard to the human rights situation in Chile, he expressed appreciation of the valuable report prepared by the Special Rapporteur (A/35/522) and felt that his mandate should be extended.

25. Finally, he regretted the very limited attention aroused by the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile established by General Assembly resolution 33/174 and thought

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(Mr. Phenodos-Vadet, Cyprus)

that it was incumbent on Member States not only to condemn any violations of human rights but also to assist materially at least some of the victims of such violations.

26. Mr. BIALY (Poland) said that the report of the Secretary-General on distribution of income in the nation (A/35/231) contained several interesting observations which had proved to be valid in Poland's experience in socialist industrialization. Indeed, there had been in Poland a tendency for the rural population to migrate to the cities and his delegation agreed with the conclusion of the report that it was advisable to generate a pattern of growth in which there was a close integration of urban growth and rural modernization.

27. With regard to the report on improvement of the methodology for monitoring social trends (A/35/340) he was fully aware of the complex nature of the problems involved and the many hindrances to gathering the necessary information, and therefore agreed with the report's conclusion that efforts to improve the scope and quality of social data were part of a long-term process.

28. His delegation welcomed the preliminary report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on UNESCO activities in support of education and training of national personnel of developing countries (A/35/148). His interest in the subject was particularly keen because Poland had carried out a radical educational revolution thanks to which its people had reached a relatively high level of education. The right to education was fully established by the Constitution of the Polish People's Republic and more than 7 per cent of the work force were graduates of institutes of higher education, while some 24 per cent were secondary school graduates and about 22 per cent had received basic vocational training. With such considerations in mind, his delegation had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.68.

29. Documents submitted to the Committee on the agenda item under discussion showed that despite the resolute condemnation by the international community, mass and flagrant violations of human rights were still continuing in various parts of the world, such as South Africa, Chile and the occupied Arab territories. In South Korea, every day brought new violations of basic human rights under the recently established military régime, while a group of individuals calling themselves representatives of Democratic Kampuchea, guilty as they were of the death and suffering of millions of Kampucheans, were still illegally occupying Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations.

30. At the present time, 35 years after the end of the Second World War, there were increasing activities by groups and organizations propagating and practising nazism, fascism and neo-fascism in various parts of the world. As the representative of a people which had suffered most under Nazi occupation, which had cost the lives of 6,028,000 citizens, he could only call the attention of the international community once again to certain dangerous tendencies and the rebirth of nazism, fascism and neo-fascism. With the experience of the Polish people in mind, his delegation was co-sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.70.

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31. Miss BASTIAN (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the nine States members of the European Community, said that the protection and the promotion of human rights were indissociable. The activities undertaken by international bodies with the aim of protecting human rights proved inadequate when confronted by the most serious situations, particularly such as required urgent action. To overcome that inadequacy they must first make better use of the means available and, secondly, supplement them.

32. Considerable means were available. There were precise texts which were universally recognized, at least as a set of principles, and which, if implemented in good faith would enable an agreement to be reached whereby it could be determined whether a given situation constituted a violation of human rights. In that first phase of any protective action, two dangers had to be avoided, namely ill-considered charges and selectivity. The best way to avoid those two dangers was to determine the cases of violation of human rights by means of universally recognized, objective procedures. Violations of human rights could be examined, in accordance with the established procedures, by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Other procedures were provided for in the Covenants on Human Rights, the Optional Protocol and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, all those procedures had one short-coming: they did not allow for dealing with a situation of emergency. Until that problem was resolved it was perfectly legitimate for the General Assembly to discharge its responsibilities through its competent organs and, where necessary, itself to adopt the measures called for.

33. The means of action constituted a second problem in the area of protecting human rights. Public denunciation of violations could be one of those means, but was not an end in itself nor was it always the most effective means. Direct contacts with the Government concerned were preferable to denunciation in order in the first place to verify the alleged facts and subsequently to examine the best ways likely to restore the full respect of human rights.

34. The States members of the European Community again wished to emphasize the importance which they attached to strengthening the instruments at the disposal of the United Nations for guaranteeing ever-more adequate protection of human rights in accordance with its responsibilities laid down in the Charter. In that context the establishment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights still remained a major objective. The first task of a High Commissioner would consist in promoting universal and effective understanding of human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration and in the Covenants. His second task would be to make use of his good offices to assist States to implement human rights. It would be valuable if, at its next session, the Commission on Human Rights examined what should be the mandate of a High Commissioner so as to avoid any misunderstanding.

35. Among other measures which might contribute to the strengthening of existing structures for the protection of human rights would be to redesignate the Division of Human Rights as a Centre for Human Rights. As the Secretary-General pointed out in his report (A/35/607), the necessary technical criteria already

(Miss Bastian, Luxembourg)

existed and the decision would entail no additional financial implications. Appropriate redesignation of the Division of Human Rights would eliminate an obstacle which at present stood in the way of the efforts of the Division to fulfil its responsibilities.

36. Using the good offices of the Secretary-General would be another way which might improve the protection of human rights. Such a measure, obviously had the advantage of discretion and personal contacts, so there would be no need to set up rigid procedures. Nevertheless the States Members of the United Nations could make a major contribution in that regard, by encouraging the exercise of good offices and demonstrating their willingness to attribute still greater importance to them.

37. In spite of the work performed by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, it could scarcely be denied that the United Nations continued to be timid and slow to act for the protection of human rights in the world. Furthermore, that action was singularly selective. For instance, in the report of the Economic and Social Council there was no reference to such situations as the systematic and mass violation of the rights of the Afghan people, including their right to self-determination, as a result of foreign invasion and the military operations aimed at consolidating the results of that invasion. Nor did the report make any mention of as disturbing a situation as currently prevailed in Democratic Kampuchea. The situation of human rights in Chile had received the considerable attention which it deserved. The fundamental reason for the violations of human rights in Chile was the atmosphere of oppression connected with the maintenance of a form of government where recourse to intimidation was standard practice.

38. The situation in Chile was not the only one causing concern. The assassination of the Archbishop of El Salvador, Monsignor Oscar Arnulfo Romero in March 1980 had been condemned by the nine States members of the European Community, which called upon the Government of El Salvador to take the necessary steps to guarantee human rights in that country. The United Nations could not remain indifferent when the principal defenders of human rights were being imprisoned or silenced. The discussions on security and co-operation in Europe which had just opened in Madrid would provide an opportunity to highlight the contributions which individuals could make to the promotion of human rights and to examine violations which were persisting and intensifying in numerous East European countries, in spite of the obligations undertaken by virtue of the Helsinki Final Act.

39. He stressed that the problem of disappeared persons was far-reaching and affected many countries, and drew attention to General Assembly resolution 33/173 on that subject. In addition, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 20 (XXXVI), had set up a Working Group to study the question.

40. The Nine States for which she spoke welcomed the report of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on southern Africa (E/CN.4/1366) and shared the Group's concern at the increasing number of persons in South Africa who had disappeared by reason of their political opinions and their opposition to apartheid. The Nine also condemned the

(Miss Bastian, Luxembourg)

policy of bantustans and the forced confinement of African populations to those territories, and would continue to work for the elimination of that systematic violation of human rights which the apartheid system constituted.

41. With regard to the programme of Humanitarian Assistance and Relief to the Kampuchean People, the results achieved were summarized in the note by the Secretary-General in document A/35/502. It would probably be necessary to resume those relief activities in the second half of 1981. That programme had been the key instrument which had made it possible to succour the suffering people of Kampuchea, but its effectiveness had been hampered by obstacles of a political nature. Thus the solution of that humanitarian problem was closely linked with the political solution of the situation.

42. Mr. TERNSTRÖM (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that drug abuse was a global problem and society could not remain indifferent to the harmful effects, disease, crime, personal injury and property damage to which it gave rise. Despite the great efforts being made in many countries, the problem was steadily becoming worse.

43. The consumption of heroin, barbiturates, amphetamines and other central nervous system stimulants was continuing to grow. Drug addiction was increasing rapidly and the production of cocaine in South America had risen. The abuse of cannabis was also growing in many countries, and groups of people who could not be regarded as typically vulnerable, such as people with well-established positions in society and young people in schools and universities, were starting to use hashish, marijuana and cocaine. There was an attitude of tolerance toward drug abuse, which was presented as a natural way of life, something exciting and harmless. Behind that attitude economic forces were working which did not stop at jeopardizing people's social and economic well-being and health.

44. The battle against drug abuse must be aimed at stopping the illegal supply of drugs and reducing demand. That required co-ordination of all the measures adopted. However, no measure could stop the abuse of drugs without international co-operation. Co-operation within the United Nations had yielded positive results; the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 had created the conditions necessary for more effective control of the cultivation, production and distribution of drugs, but if the Conventions were to have the intended effect all countries must ratify them.

45. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs was assuming increasing importance as the problem of drug abuse became more serious. At the Commission's meetings too much time was devoted to reports and statistics; there should be more scope for discussion of specific subjects in working groups. The Commission must be given more resources to enable it to combat the grave situation prevailing in the drugs field. There should be an exchange of information among countries with similar problems, and information activities should be expanded. In addition, the developing countries must be helped to strengthen the control of drugs and combat the forces which exploited the deficiencies of national controls for their own profit.

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(Mr. Ternström, Sweden)

46. The Division of Narcotic Drugs was one of the units of the United Nations system responsible for the day-by-day handling of operations; without an increase in its resources, the Division would be handicapped in its efforts to perform its task. It was also necessary to expand the operations of the International Narcotics Control Board, since its work was increasing with the growing number of parties to the international drug control Conventions. Consequently, its working budget must be increased.

47. Supplies of illicit drugs could be reduced by replacing the cultivation of opium and other crops from which narcotic drugs could be manufactured. The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control was active in that field. The most effective weapon in the fight against continued opium production was the improvement of the general living conditions of the poorest of the agrarian population, in order that they might replace opium cultivation by other crops. Consequently, the Fund's projects had included the provision of medical services, education and help in improving the social situation of that group.

48. Real and lasting change could, however, be achieved only by the endeavours of the countries concerned, which in turn needed financial and technical support from the industrialized world and international finance and aid agencies. The Nordic countries hoped that the World Bank, the regional development banks and IFAD would in future pay greater attention to the work done by the Fund. The operations of the Fund should stimulate the activities of the specialized agencies in the narcotic drugs field; the resources available from the Fund should be seen as a complement to the regular allocations to activities in that sphere and should not lead to any reduction in the working budgets of the specialized agencies.

49. Eighty per cent of the Fund's programme consisted of integrated rural development projects directed towards reducing the production of opium and its derivatives; such projects ought to be effective also in combating the production of cocaine in South America, for which the Fund had insufficient resources. The Fund also needed additional means for its regular programme consisting of projects for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, information, education and the prevention of drug abuse. The Nordic countries supported the proposal made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the Fund should be included in the annual regular pledging conferences of the United Nations.

50. The Nordic countries urged all States Members of the United Nations to take increasing action against the abuse of drugs. The decision-making body of every agency should regularly study how that agency could increase its efforts to combat drug abuse. It was essential to fight against drug abuse with more determination than ever.

51. Mr. PAPASTEFANOU (Greece) said that both the statement by the Director of the Division of Human Rights and the discussion on the item confirmed the importance of the question of human rights to the United Nations. After a long absence, Greece had participated as a member at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights and it wished to emphasize its commitment to the vital function which that body was called upon to perform in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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(Mr. Papastefanou, Greece)

52. In a rather gloomy international political climate, the work of the Commission was becoming increasingly delicate and difficult. The stage of mutual accusations and condemnations and sterile polemics must be left behind and give place to a positive, realistic study of ways and means of facilitating the solution of the complex problems which arose in connexion with the question of respect for human rights. The thirty-sixth session of the Commission had shown that deep divergences of views did not preclude constructive discussion if goodwill and political determination existed.

53. His delegation was pleased that the Commission had increasingly concentrated on new violations perpetrated by totalitarian régimes and on situations involving military intervention and foreign occupation. In that respect, he took note of resolution 3 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights, concerning the violation of the fundamental rights of the Afghan people, including the right to self-determination.

54. Another matter of concern for the Committee had been the mass exoduses of people followed by mass and flagrant violations of the human rights of the refugees. Those population movements, whether caused by internal conflict or foreign invasion, called not only for humanitarian assistance but also for study of their causes and of ways of restoring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those considerations were reflected in the Commission's resolution 30 (XXXVI).

55. Resolution 27 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights, which requested the Secretary-General to intensify his good offices to facilitate the solution of problems relating to human rights, was also a source of satisfaction to his delegation, which was supporting a similar draft resolution submitted to the Committee.

56. One of the fundamental conditions for respect for and promotion of human rights was the awareness and mobilization of public opinion and familiarity with the international human rights instruments on the part of those concerned. Public opinion was becoming increasingly sensitive to human rights problems and was aware of the effects of violations of human rights on human dignity, the prosperity of peoples and international peace. The Commission on Human Rights must do everything it could to promote activities which would strengthen knowledge of the principles of human rights and education and the dissemination of information on the subject.

57. There was no doubt that the unanimous adoption of resolution 20 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Human Rights was an important step towards solving the serious problem of missing and disappeared persons. Aware of the gravity and extent of that deplorable situation, and recognizing the concern about the question repeatedly shown by international public opinion, the Commission had decided to establish a working group to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons. In the opinion of his delegation, the resolution could contribute to an effective solution of the problem.

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(Mr. Papastefanou, Greece)

58. Regarding the question of prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, he observed that at the thirty-third session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held at Geneva during the past August, it had been very clear that the Sub-Commission's members were determined to make an active contribution to the protection of human rights all over the world. In that respect the Sub-Commission's experts had shown great skill in their constructive handling of the different problems arising in connexion with the enjoyment of human rights and in formulating practical proposals for the realization of those rights.

59. However, despite the continued efforts of the Commission on Human Rights and other competent United Nations bodies, grave violations of human rights continued to be perpetrated in different parts of the world and, worse still, new cases of violations were occurring. It was therefore essential for the Commission, with the support of all Member States, to persevere in its efforts and continue its search for the best ways of achieving its objectives.

60. Miss HUSSAIN (Pakistan) said that the diversity of the problems connected with drug abuse and the individual and collective efforts required to surmount them needed special attention. In that context she recalled the useful discussions at the sixth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held at Vienna during February 1980. The international community must make a greater effort if it wished to check the alarming growth in demand and the resulting increase in trafficking in and production of narcotics, which brought astronomical profits to those responsible for such criminal activities.

61. Pakistan had made great progress in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and production through prohibition of the traffic, larger seizures and identification of traffickers and by introducing new crops in the former poppy-growing areas. The programme for drug abuse control established by Pakistan comprised reduction of demand, elimination of illegal production and suppression of illicit supply. The Prohibition Order promulgated by the President on 9 February 1979 made "import, export, transport, manufacture or processing of narcotics" a punishable offence. It was anticipated that that law would result in a reduction of between 75 and 80 per cent in the acreage under poppy cultivation.

62. Her delegation considered that the menace of drug abuse could not be controlled without curtailing the illicit demand for narcotic drugs. As part of the over-all strategy, special efforts must be made to reduce demand in countries where drug abuse was increasing. A reduction in demand would undoubtedly affect the supply rate and reduce illicit growth of opium as well as illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs. She also wished to emphasize that the resolutions and decisions adopted by international organizations must be matched by the availability of resources, without which the desired objectives could not be achieved. In the view of her delegation, the problem should be tackled with more effective North-South co-operation and the allocation of increased funds to the budgets of such organizations as FAO, WHO and ILO and other similar bodies. The Economic and Social Council should also devote more attention to the problem.

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(Miss Hussain, Pakistan)

63. Pakistan maintained close and fruitful co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, and the steps taken by the Government reflected the seriousness with which it was tackling the problems of production of and trafficking in narcotics. Her delegation looked forward to the adoption of the necessary measures by various importing countries as called for in resolutions 1979/8 and 1980/20 of the Economic and Social Council. It also hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution in document A/C.3/35/L.77 by consensus.

64. Regarding the question of human rights in southern Africa, she referred to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group contained in document E/CN.4/1366 which highlighted the abominable and inhuman practices of the South African régime. While those facts were widely known, her delegation would join other delegations in recommending that the findings and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group should be given the greatest possible publicity.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.