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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. TSHERING	(Bhutan)
later:	Mr. RATA (Vice-Chairman)	(New Zealand)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1 and L.26)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to resume its consideration of draft resolutions A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1 and A/C.3/50/L.26 under agenda item 107. The draft resolutions had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening of the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women"

2. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cambodia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Suriname, Togo, Uganda and the United States of America had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1.

3. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.25/Rev.1 was adopted.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.26, entitled "Traffic in women and girls"

4. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) announced that Belgium, the Marshall Islands and Ukraine had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.26. On behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, she proposed a number of revisions. In the tenth preambular paragraph, the word "children" should be followed by the words "and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person". In paragraph 6, the words "Recommends to" should be replaced by the word "Invites", the words "that he" should be deleted, and the words "Human Rights" should be followed by the words ", in addressing the obstacles to the realization of the human rights of women, in particular through his contacts with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, to". In paragraph 7, the words "Recommends also to" should be replaced by the words "encourages also", and the words "that it" should be replaced by the word "to". In paragraph 8, the words "women and girls" should be followed by the words "under its programme of action to eliminate the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others". Paragraph 8 should be followed by a new paragraph reading: "Requests the Commission on Crime Prevention to consider appropriate follow-up to the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, on measures to address the problem of trafficking in women and children, and to submit a report thereon to the Secretary-General, through normal channels, for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly." Finally, in paragraph 11, the word "resolution" should be followed by the words ", with due regard for possible measures to improve the reporting procedure."

5. She announced that Côte d'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Togo had become sponsors of the draft resolution as orally revised.

6. Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany) speaking with regard to the proposed new paragraph, said it was his understanding that the Commission on Crime Prevention was not invited to draw up a separate report but rather that its reflections on the matter in question could be contained in its regular report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

7. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that the reference to "normal channels" in the proposed new paragraph was to be interpreted to mean whatever channels were normal for the Commission on Crime Prevention.

8. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain) said that the words "internationally recognized human rights standards" in paragraph 3 did not correspond to the language of the Beijing Platform for Action and should be modified.

9. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that the wording was a direct quote from a resolution adopted at the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

10. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain) said that, since it had been decided at the Beijing Conference not to use the words "internationally recognized human rights standards", he would prefer a different wording.

11. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that she was willing to omit the words "internationally recognized".

12. Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, her delegation preferred the stronger wording of the original text of paragraph 3. However, it was willing to accept the proposed change.

13. Mr. ALAEE (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, bearing in mind the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Special Rapporteur’s report on violence against women, and other reports on those matters and on the questions of violence and pornography, and recalling that traffic in women was generally for the purpose of pornography, he felt that the concepts of prostitution and pornography should be added to the resolution whenever the traffic in women was mentioned. He had proposed amendments to the draft resolution two weeks previously but, while he had consulted with other delegations on the matter, agreement had not as yet been reached. He suggested that further consultations were needed.

14. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) said that she had repeatedly informed the representative of Iran that his proposed amendments were problematic; they would dilute the purpose of the resolution and did not have the support of the 18 sponsors. Three of the amendments which he had proposed had, in fact, been included in the revised text. She requested him to withdraw the remaining ones so that the Committee could proceed with action on the draft resolution.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee did not seem prepared to take a decision on the draft resolution. He therefore suggested that action on it should be postponed until the next meeting.

16. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 110: PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN (continued) (A/C.3/50/L.28 and L.31/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.28, entitled "The rights of the child"

17. Mr. RÖNQUIST (Sweden) read out the following oral revisions to the text. In the sixth preambular paragraph, the word "requires" should be replaced by the word "states". In the seventeenth preambular paragraph, the word "age," should be followed by the words ", especially in poverty-stricken areas,". In the nineteenth preambular paragraph, the current wording should be replaced by: "Encouraged by measures taken by Governments to eradicate economic exploitation of child labour,". In paragraph 1, the number "180" should be replaced by the number "181". Finally, in paragraph 22, the words "and to make recommendations" should be deleted.

18. He announced that Andorra, Angola, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Poland, the Russian Federation and Senegal had become sponsors of the draft resolution at the time of its introduction. Subsequently, Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Malta, Singapore, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Turkey had also become sponsors.

19. The CHAIRMAN announced that Bhutan, Cambodia, Gabon, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Mauritania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania had also decided to sponsor the draft resolution.

20. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.28, as orally revised, was adopted.

21. Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that her delegation, which attached a great deal of importance to the concerns of children, had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.28. Nevertheless, India deeply regretted the manner in which the negotiations on parts of the draft resolution had been conducted, particularly the lack of transparency and consultation at various stages in those negotiations, and therefore had been unable to sponsor the draft resolution, as it had done in previous years. In such matters, it was all the more important to act in a spirit of cooperation and obtain all-round support. Accordingly, her delegation and other interested delegations would consider other ways to address their concerns, including the submission of a draft resolution on the subject in the Commission on Human Rights or in the Third Committee at the next session.

22. Mr. Rata (New Zealand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1, entitled "The girl child"

23. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1. Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Togo, Uganda and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

24. Mrs. KABACAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, during the negotiations on the draft resolution, her delegation had proposed wording calling for the proclamation of an international day of the girl child, which had been supported by many delegations. However, some delegations, particularly European ones, had threatened to withdraw their sponsorship if the wording was adopted. Her delegation had therefore not insisted on its proposal so as not to embarrass the initiators of the draft resolution.

25. Her delegation, however, would pursue the matter at a later stage and urged those that had opposed the wording in question to reconsider their positions. The proclamation of an international day of the girl child was important for countries where girls were discriminated against from birth. Observance of such a day would make Governments accountable for measures that they took ensure a quality of opportunity for girls and would make it possible to determine the extent to which the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were being applied with regard to girls. In addition, non-governmental organizations would be able to use the occasion to increase public awareness of the needs of girl children. Her delegation felt strongly that the Committee should support that idea.

26. Mr. HABIYAREME (Rwanda) said that Rwanda also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

27. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.31/Rev.1 was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 111: PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (continued) (A/C.3/50/L.29 and L.30)

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.29, entitled "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations"

28. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.29. Bhutan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Peru, and Solomon Islands had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

29. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.29 was adopted.

30. Mr. MITSUDA (Japan) said that his country had joined the consensus on the draft resolution under consideration and, as a nation which contributed annually to the Voluntary Fund, hoped that it would be used for those who were truly in need of assistance.

31. Mr. OTUYELU (Nigeria) said that his delegation had sponsored the draft resolution in the belief that the empowerment of indigenous peoples was necessary to enable them to participate effectively in their own development. Most of the peoples of Africa were indigenous peoples and supported any measure to improve the situation of indigenous populations. It was hoped that Member States would increase their contributions to the Voluntary Fund, demonstrating their commitment to the development of the world's indigenous people.

Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.30, entitled "Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People"

32. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.30.

33. Mr. WILLIS (Australia) said that, during the consultations on the draft resolution, the sponsors had agreed to revise paragraph 53 of the programme of activities in the annex to the document by inserting the phrase "where appropriate" after the word "laws" in the second line and by deleting the word "territorial" in the third line. Referring to the draft resolution itself, he pointed out that the convening of a second workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people, referred to in paragraph 9, would be contingent on the results of the review of the existing mechanisms, procedures and programmes concerning indigenous peoples, referred to in paragraph 8. Lastly, he pointed out that Bolivia, Estonia and Solomon Islands had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that Bhutan, Ecuador and the Philippines had also joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

35. Mrs. TAMLYN (United States of America) said that, for technical reasons, her delegation wished to dissociate itself from the consensus on the draft resolution.

36. Draft resolution A/C.3/50/L.30, as orally revised, was adopted.

37. Mr. MITSUDA (Japan) said that each country should be able to determine the extent and nature of its participation in the Decade in accordance with its specific situation since the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the definition itself of indigenous peoples were still being debated and since the situation of indigenous populations varied from country to country. Furthermore, some countries were of the view that their populations did not include indigenous people.

AGENDA ITEM 112: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

38. Mrs. PHAM THI THANH VAN (Viet Nam), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in a statement to the Committee, the representative of Canada had mentioned Viet Nam as one of 22 countries where the human rights situation was of deep concern to Canada. Canada's concern was, however, based on false information. In accordance with the Constitution, all Vietnamese citizens were equal before the law, without any discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, and anyone who violated the law must be dealt with in conformity with the legal procedures established for criminal prosecution. Her delegation questioned the motives behind the statement by the representative of Canada. Relations between Viet Nam and Canada had been improving, as evidenced by the recent visits of the Canadian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, during which there had been candid exchanges of views on issues of mutual concern, both sides having expressed satisfaction with the changes under way in Viet Nam. The statement by the representative of Canada had undermined the confidence of the Vietnamese people in Canada's good will. If delegations wished the United

Nations to be a forum for constructive discussion, they must refrain from criticizing other States without first assessing the situation in their own countries.

39. Mr. AL-DOURI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said he wished to make it clear, with reference to the statement by the representative of Kuwait, that there were no prisoners of any nationality, Kuwaiti or otherwise, in Iraq. There were missing persons, as was often the case in the wake of armed conflicts. The issue was a humanitarian, not a political one and was being dealt with by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which enjoyed the full cooperation of the Iraqi Government. Iraq had no interest in withholding information. On the contrary, Iraq had already provided ICRC with valuable information and would continue to do so. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq had mentioned the problem of missing persons in his report (A/50/734), but that issue was not within his competence.

40. As to the allegations made by human rights violations in Iraq, it had been surprising to hear him express concern for the Iraqi people when the Kuwaiti Government was using every means at its disposal to block resolutions aimed at easing the hardship caused by the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Iraq had rejected Security Council resolution 986 (1995) in response to the will of the Iraqi people, who attached great importance to their nation’s sovereignty and were prepared to defend it despite the great cost to them.

41. His delegation regretted the extreme position adopted by the delegation of New Zealand. The representative of New Zealand had referred in his statement to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iraq, but that document was biased, misleading and aggressive in tone. The Special Rapporteur no longer enjoyed the confidence of the Iraqi people. His delegation would have welcomed a more balanced and less selective statement by the representative of New Zealand. Such a statement might have included reference to the need to lift the harsh sanctions which were themselves prejudicial to the enjoyment by the Iraqi people of their human rights.

42. Mr. SURIE (India), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the allegations made against his country by the representative of Pakistan were baseless. While his delegation had previously exercised restraint and had not responded to the allegations, Pakistan’s pursuit of its vendetta against India in the context of the discussion of such an important issue as human rights was intolerable. It appeared that the representative of Pakistan was unhappy with the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/50/743), for he had persistently misquoted and quoted out of context the references in that report to India. In fact, the High Commissioner had expressed satisfaction with the human rights situation in India.

43. Pakistan, by contrast, had been accused by certain groups of conducting a campaign of terror against the Mohajir people, involving victimization, mass arrests and extra-judicial killings. In an open letter to the Prime Minister, six eminent Pakistanis had called upon the Government to set up a presidential commission to examine urgently the problems affecting the objectivity of public servants and the independence of the judiciary. They had written that

corruption had reached such proportions that effective administration and economic development were at risk. In addition, Pakistan had been guilty of systematic interference in the internal affairs of India and other neighbouring countries, including Afghanistan. Indeed, the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan had recently requested the President of the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting to consider the intervention by Pakistan in his country.

44. The representative of Pakistan had claimed that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir posed a threat to international peace and security. Yet, even the Pakistani Minister of Defence and Army Chief of Staff had recognized that there was no such threat from the Indian side. On the other hand, Pakistan's direct involvement in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir had been established beyond doubt. In addition, Pakistan had failed to implement the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. It was an immutable fact that Jammu and Kashmir formed an integral part of India. The conflict in that area would be resolved only when Pakistan returned the portion of Jammu and Kashmir which it had occupied since 1947.

45. It was clear that Pakistan would best serve the cause of peace and the interests of its people by addressing its domestic problems, rather than interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbours and instigating acts of terrorism in their territory. He could not but agree with the representative of Pakistan who had declared that the international community must speak out against human rights abuses wherever and whenever they occurred. The time had come for the international community to examine the pervasive human rights violations in Pakistan itself.

46. Mr. ARDA (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the politically motivated habit of the representative of Greece of repeating the same allegations with reference to the question of Cyprus could be described as obsessive and xenophobic nationalism.

47. In 1963, the Greek Cypriot leaders, encouraged by Greece, had initiated an ethnic cleansing campaign, as a result of which the Security Council had ordered the deployment of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) to end hostilities. The Greek Government had further engineered the 1974 coup in Nicosia which had set in train the events culminating in the status quo. The intervention by the Government of Turkey had been undertaken in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee; by its legitimate action in 1974 and its continuing presence in Cyprus, it was protecting the right to life of the Turkish Cypriot community.

48. The issue of displaced persons had been settled by an agreement between the two sides, reached in Vienna in 1975, which had laid the ground for a bi-communal, bizonal settlement of the Cyprus issue which encapsulated the issues of freedom of movement and settlement and the right to property.

49. It was not true that the cultural heritage of Cyprus was being looted and destroyed; UNESCO and the Council of Europe had testified to the contrary. Islamic places of worship had, however, been destroyed in many villages.

50. With reference to the distortions advanced by the representative of Greece concerning the demographic composition of Cyprus, recent history showed that the Greek side had tried for years to eliminate the Turkish Cypriots in one of the earliest forms of ethnic cleansing of modern times. Population figures were not of overriding concern for the Turkish side since it had political equality in the island under the 1960 agreements, irrespective of its population.

51. The representative of Greece had referred to Greek Cypriot missing persons but not to Turkish Cypriot missing persons; many of the former had been military personnel killed by their own people during the 1974 coup, while the latter had been civilians for the most part. The efforts of the tripartite committee on missing persons had been hampered by the inconsistency and bad faith displayed by the Greek Cypriot side.

52. The numerical decline of the Greek Cypriot population since 1974 was the result of the voluntary return of Greek Cypriots to southern Cyprus. Meanwhile, the Turkish Cypriot authorities had initiated measures for the improvement of the living conditions of Greek Cypriots resident in northern Cyprus.

53. His delegation believed that there were ways and means of reconciling the differences between the two parties. His Government continued to support the good offices mission of the Secretary-General and to encourage a freely negotiated settlement.

54. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the question of Jammu and Kashmir was the oldest unresolved issue on the agenda of the Security Council and that its future was to be decided through a free and impartial plebiscite as mandated by Security Council resolutions. The representative of India had once again failed to address that core issue and the massive human rights violations in the territory in question. If he believed in diplomatic dialogue he should refrain from making malicious attacks on the Government of Pakistan.

55. He asked whether the Government of India could deny the deployment of troops in Jammu and Kashmir or the killing of more than 50,000 Kashmiris over the past five years, or whether it could imply that documented reports of massacres, extra-judicial executions, disappearances and rape were acts of terrorism by Pakistan. He also asked whether it could be denied that Indian security forces had raped Kashmiri women as an act of reprisal against the freedom movement, and why the Government of India opposed the dispatch of a human rights fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir.

56. No one would give credence to the Indian Government’s allegations of terrorism against Pakistan, whereby it sought to divert attention from its war crimes in Jammu and Kashmir and the extension of its regime of terror from Srinagar to Karachi. The desperation of a despot could be perceived in the statements emanating from the Government of India. Its boast that its population was greater than that of the European Union was no criterion on which to base new principles of sovereign equality or the monitoring of human rights. Discrimination and terrorism were embedded in the Indian psyche, the only State in the world to practise a deeply-entrenched caste system. A systematic pattern of human rights violations was to be found throughout India; a recent UNICEF

report had stated that up to 50 million girls and women were missing from India's population as a result of systematic sex discrimination.

57. The central issue, however, was the continued denial of the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir and India's refusal to enter into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan. The only course of action left to the Government of Pakistan was to invoke the intercession of the United Nations.

58. Mr. BRAHA (Albania), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed satisfaction that the representative of Greece had recognized, to some extent, the significant progress made in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Greek minority in Albania. He had been pleased to note that Greece, like Albania, viewed the Greek minority in Albania as a bridge between the two countries. His delegation could not, however, accept the allegation by the representative of Greece that the Greek minority's right to freedom of religion and education in the Greek language was subject to considerable restrictions. The Albanian Constitution guaranteed the Greek minority the right to freely express, preserve and develop its ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity. In addition, Albanian legislation, including the Constitution, provided ample opportunities for the Greek minority to exercise its right to education in the Greek language. The Government's commitment to the promotion of that right was demonstrated by the fact that spending on the education of children attending Greek minority schools was considerably higher than on those attending Albanian schools. Representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe who had visited Albania had confirmed that his Government's provisions for the education of the Greek minority met the requirements laid down in the relevant international standards. Since the holding of the first democratic elections in 1992, Albania had made great progress in promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens, including those of Greek origin.

59. Mr. KODELLAS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that for the past 21 years it had been indisputable that the Cyprus problem was a clear case of the violation of the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of an independent State, of massive human rights violations and of the artificial division of a country by military force.

60. Security Council resolutions on Cyprus since July 1974 had called for the withdrawal of the Turkish occupying forces, the withdrawal of Turkish settlers, the safe return of refugees and respect for human rights. The Turkish Government had failed to comply with any of those resolutions. The Secretary-General's report of 7 June 1994 had confirmed that the occupied part of Cyprus was very highly militarized. The Government of Turkey had nevertheless maintained the status quo of occupation and division in Cyprus which the Security Council had described as unacceptable in a number of resolutions. While the Turkish side had for many years blamed the Government of Cyprus for the stagnation of negotiations, the report of the Secretary-General of 30 May 1994 had attributed the absence of progress to lack of political will on the Turkish side.

61. The flagrant violations of the human rights of the Greek Cypriots were a direct consequence of the presence of 35,000 heavily armed Turkish soldiers in Cyprus. In a letter to the Secretary-General of 17 December 1993, the President of Cyprus had made a proposal for the demilitarization of Cyprus which would have contributed to the restoration of respect for human rights. The Turkish Government had rejected that proposal. In the circumstances, the use of the term "ethnic cleansing" by the representative of Turkey constituted a blasphemy.

62. Mr. AL-SAEID (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he had been under the impression that the Government of Iraq was ready to release the children, women and old men it held prisoner; it was, however, continuing to prevaricate, as it had done for the past five years, refusing to admit that it held any prisoners of war or other detainees. His delegation was desirous of settling the humanitarian questions as rapidly as possible, but the Government of Iraq wanted political gains in order to maintain the current regime in power. The tripartite committee was of no concern to his Government, which was interested in practical steps to release all prisoners.

63. The people of Kuwait understood the sufferings of the Iraqi people; they too had been the victims of that regime and its human rights violations for many months. For that reason, the Government of Kuwait had cooperated with the Governments of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran in sending humanitarian assistance to Iraq. It asked the Government of Iraq to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council and honour its commitments so that the Security Council could lift its sanctions and relieve the country’s suffering.

64. Mr. EVRIVIADES (Cyprus), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the partitioning of Cyprus could not have taken place without the Turkish occupation and the status quo was maintained by force. It had been over 30 years since the establishment, at the Cyprus Government’s request, of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus. The action the Cypriots had feared the Government of Turkey would take at that time, in the 1960s, it had subsequently taken in 1974, when it had invaded their country and committed human rights violations, as the United Nations was recognizing 21 years later. The Government of Turkey had failed to implement any of the Security Council resolutions concerning the restoration of sovereignty to Cyprus. The Turkish presence in that country was an anachronism and the greatest confidence-building measure which could be taken would be its withdrawal from Cyprus.

65. It was not true that an agreement had been reached on population exchange. The third Vienna agreement provided, inter alia, for the return of persons who had been expelled, the improvement of living conditions in Greek Cypriot enclaves, educational facilities, the right to practise religion and freedom of movement.

66. The puppet regime that had been installed in Cyprus after the invasion had been condemned by the United Nations; the facts spoke for themselves. The inhabitants of Cyprus were a proud people, engaged in a struggle for the reunification of their country and the restoration of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

67. Mr. ARDA (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Greek Government was continuing to violate the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Turkish minorities not only in Cyprus but also in Greece, in breach of the international treaties to which it was a party. The so-called "defence region" in northern Thrace adjacent to the Bulgarian border still existed; it was a Turkish enclave of 40,000 inhabitants who required passes to enter and leave. It was to be hoped that time would heal the divisions caused by such examples of ethnic discrimination.

68. Mr. KODELLAS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the serious questions he had raised had gone unanswered. The representative of Turkey had gone beyond the issue of Cyprus. He for his part would remind members of the Committee of the ethnic cleansing of Greeks in Istanbul by the Government of Turkey in 1955 and acts against other populations. It was no coincidence that the Government of Turkey had taken no steps to comply with United Nations resolutions or to fulfil its commitments under the international human rights conventions. All the major human rights organizations had stigmatized it for its human rights record.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.