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held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Monday, 9 March 1981, at 8 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. CALERO RODRIGUEZ

(Brazil)

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The meeting was called to order at 8.15 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES (agenda item 13) (continued) (E/CN.4/1295; E/CN.4/1437; E/CN.4/1438; E/CN.4/1439 and Add.1; E/CN.4/1440; E/CN.4/1441; E/CN.4/1451; E/CN.4/1452; E/CN.4/1453; E/CN.4/1454; E/CN.4/1455; E/CN.4/1457; E/CN.4/1460; E/CN.4/1461; E/CN.4/1463; E/CN.4/1466; E/CN.4/1467; E/CN.4/1469; E/CN.4/1470; E/CN.4/1471; E/CN.4/L.1534; E/CN.4/L.1574/Rev.1; E/CN.4/L.1582; E/CN.4/L.1584; E/CN.4/L.1585; E/CN.4/L.1587; E/CN.4/L.1588; E/CN.4/L.1589; E/CN.4/L.1592; E/CN.4/L.1593; E/CN.4/L.1594; E/CN.4/NGO/294 and Add.1; E/CN.4/NGO/299; E/CN.4/NGO/305; E/CN.4/NGO/306; E/CN.4/NGO/314; E/CN.4/NGO/317; E/CN.4/NGO/319; E/CN.4/NGO/320; E/CN.4/NGO/322; E/CN.4/NGO/323; A/34/491; A/C.3/34/1; A/C.3/35/9)

1. Mr. BARROMI (Observer for Israel) said his delegation wished to protest emphatically against the derogatory remarks made during the 1631st meeting about his country's Prime Minister. At the same meeting, there had been a heated exchange in which the delegations of Jordan, Iraq and Syria had accused each other of failure to observe human rights: those were charges to which he would give credence.
2. Nowhere was the deprivation of human rights so acute as in a number of Arab countries. Libya had established a reign of terror at home and had inaugurated a policy of "physical liquidation" of enemies of the revolution abroad. In Iraq, as revealed in the 1980 report of Amnesty International, certain sectors of the population, such as the Shi'is, Kurds and Christians, were being systematically persecuted. In Syria, arbitrary imprisonment, torture and summary executions were routinely practised and political opponents were abducted from neighbouring Lebanon. Non-Arab and non-Moslem minorities were victimized and there was particular discrimination against Jews, who were forbidden to leave the country, in open defiance of international conventions.
3. In Iran, bigotry, intolerance and reckless violence had reached unprecedented heights. A number of Jews had been imprisoned and some had been summarily executed on the pretext of "contacts with Israel".
4. A matter of widespread international concern was the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union. During the second half of 1980 there had been a steep decline in Jewish emigration from that country as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. A new restrictive policy had been introduced in the Soviet Union whereby exit visas were refused to applicants who could not produce an affidavit from abroad by relatives of "first-degree kinship". Thus, the applications of thousands of Jewish families which had received invitations from Israel had been refused on grounds of "insufficient kinship". Such persons then became "refuseniks" and were discriminated against in employment, education and other spheres of activity. By the end of 1980, their number had reached more than 5,000 and 126 families had been waiting for exit visas for between five and 10 years. During the past few weeks there had, however, been some signs of leniency: an increase in the number of exit visas had been reported and a leading figure in the struggle for emigration to Israel, Yossif Mendelevich, had been freed from prison and had arrived in Israel on 18 February.

5. Some of those who had been refused exit visas were well-known scientists who were banned from universities and research centres but tried to maintain their contacts with the scientific community by holding seminars in private houses. Those efforts, too, had been the object of ruthless police repression. For example, on 13 November 1980, the police had arrested a leading figure, Dr. Victor Brailovsky, and had broken up the seminar held in his house in Moscow. Since his arrest, a campaign of harrassment had been directed against all forms of Jewish cultural and religious activity: there was a total lack of Jewish schools and a shortage of ritual objects and prayer books, and Jewish cemeteries had been closed down.
6. The most ominous aspect of Soviet policy towards the Jewish minority, however, remained the officially sponsored anti-Semitic propaganda. Such anti-Semitism was usually disguised under the veil of anti-Zionism. Thus, the academician Marc Mitin, in his book "Ideology and practice of international Zionism 1978"; had blamed the Prague spring of 1968 on "former communists turned Zionists" while V. Skurlatov, the author of a book called "Zionism and Apartheid", had even derived freemasonry, United States imperialism and South African apartheid from Zionism. The destructive impact of such a deliberate and planned policy of hatred, carried out by the machinery of an all-powerful State, on the minds of an entire nation was frightening.
7. Prisoners of conscience such as Anatoly Shcharansky and Ida Nudel, however, offered a shining example of courage and hope in the bleak landscape of the Soviet Union. The Commission would not be faithful to its duty if it remained indifferent to their fate and silent in the face of their suffering.
8. Mr. CASTILLO ARRIOLA (Observer for Guatemala) said that he had given a full account at the closed meetings held on 3 and 4 March of the guarantees of individual and social rights contained in his country's Constitution and laws, and had pointed out that the violations of human rights in Guatemala were the work of terrorist groups, both of the far left and of the far right, and of common criminals. He had also stated that Guatemala could not be held responsible for the situation of insecurity which had thus been created, with the aid of an international conspiracy which his Government was endeavouring to combat. He had given full replies to the questions raised at the closed meeting about the trials being held in his country and to the complaints made.
9. Although he was unable to repeat the information given in confidence at the closed meeting, he wished to state that Guatemala had, after a long period of dictatorship, established a system of government based on the separation of powers and popular elections held every four years. The campaign for the election of a new President of the Republic, National Congress and local councils to take office in 1982, in which eight political parties were taking part, had already started. Guatemala, however, was the victim of a pitiless international conspiracy in which armed clandestine groups indulged in terrorism and violence with the aim of overthrowing the legitimate Government. The Government had taken all possible measures to combat that violence and to restore respect for fundamental rights and freedoms in the country. It had invited the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit the country and had even fixed the date for the visit, but the Commission had requested a postponement until after the recent session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. His Government had also agreed to receive a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whom the Commission on

Human Rights had requested should be sent, but in view of the situation which had arisen as a result of the kidnapping of two officials of the World Health Organization, it had been decided to postpone that visit to a later date for security reasons.

10. The violent situation prevailing in his country was of just as much concern to the Government of Guatemala as it was to the Commission, since the victims were its own nationals, and it was making every effort to bring about a return to order in a democratic way. His Government was preparing a full report concerning the reported cases of assassination and crimes, which would set out the truth of the situation. It intended to co-operate fully in all the measures proposed in the draft resolution to be considered by the Commission (E/CN.4/L.1608), in particular the visits by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on dates to be agreed upon. The Guatemalan Government was determined to make every effort to wipe out the violence, to enable the situation of human rights in the country to be opened up for consideration and to use every means to guarantee the enjoyment of individual and social rights.

11. Mr. ALANIZ (Observer for Nicaragua) said that his delegation had requested permission to take part as an observer in the Commission's meetings for the purpose of providing any explanations required for the consideration of the human rights situation in his country. However, he was bound to respond to the irresponsible charges of the United States delegation, which had implied that Nicaragua was to blame for the situation in El Salvador. The Government of Nicaragua categorically rejected every accusation made by the United States delegation. It had no responsibility for the events in El Salvador and had not provided any assistance there, since Nicaragua needed to spend all its scant resources on its own people's welfare. The triumph of the Nicaraguan people over the Somoza dictatorship was, however, an incentive and an example to other countries, especially to neighbouring ones; the United States of America was fully aware of the impact of that example and that was why it had embarked upon a campaign of defamation against his country.

12. The United States Government traditionally perceived foreign intervention as the cause of any revolution in the Third World, since it was unwilling to recognize the true causes of such revolutions. In fact, the tensions in El Salvador were the result of the situation of injustice which had existed in that country even before the time of the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. If there was any outside intervention in El Salvador, it emanated from the United States itself, which had explicitly recognized that it had sent 50 military advisers to that country.

13. His Government had explained the human rights situation in Nicaragua to the Commission, to Amnesty International, to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and to the Working Group established by the Commission. They had all been invited to send observers to his country and explanations had been provided at their meetings. It was true that there were political prisoners in Nicaragua, but they had been tried impartially and more than 1,000 had recently been pardoned and freed. It was also true that the conditions prevailing in the country's jails were not of the best, but that was a legacy from the past. Murder and torture, however, were no longer common in Nicaragua, as they had been under the Government of the Somozas, who had maintained friendly relations with the United States.

14. In conclusion, he reiterated the desire of his Government and people to co-exist in peace and solidarity with all the peoples of a world on the basis of mutual respect and common enjoyment of human rights.

15. Mr. AFSAR (Observer for Iran), replying to references made earlier in the discussion to the situation of the Baha'is in Iran, said he wished to correct the statement that there were more than 300,000 Baha'is in Iran: in fact, their number was much less. As he had previously stated, the rights of religious minorities in Iran were enshrined in the Constitution, which not only recognized their freedom to practice and teach their religion as they pleased but also imposed on Iranian Muslims the duty of tolerance towards non-Muslims and respect for their human rights.

16. Minorities in Iran possessed the same rights as the majority, provided that they respected the interests of the country. At the 1631st meeting, the Observer for the Baha'i International Community had alleged that Baha'is were subject to arbitrary arrest, summary executions and abductions. The Iranian delegation categorically denied those allegations.

17. As his delegation had already stated, no one in Iran was subjected to discrimination on account of his opinions or social origin. Detentions could only take place by order of the legally constituted courts, which were based on Islamic principles of mercy.

18. Mr. KHERAD (Observer for Afghanistan) said that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, whose struggle for the peace and security of peoples and for human rights was enshrined in its provisional Constitution, had put an end to the reign of terror which had previously oppressed the country and was now fulfilling its duty to lead the Afghan people towards peace, freedom and democracy. Faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the non-aligned movement, it was combating war and those who fomented it, colonialism and neo-colonialism, imperialism, hegemonism, Zionism, apartheid and racial discrimination. It fully respected the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the many international conventions, agreements and activities which it had inspired.

19. It had, however, to be recognized that, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, the world had continued to witness many flagrant violations of human rights in all spheres, as a result of the aggressive policies of imperialism, colonialism, genocide, apartheid, racism and national and social oppression. The imperialists, seeking to preserve the last vestiges of their power, were providing military and financial assistance to the racist Government of South Africa, the military junta in El Salvador and many other reactionary régimes. While claiming to champion human rights, they recognized the murderous Pol Pot rule in Kampuchea, although in reality the revolutionary Government there had the full support of the Kampuchean people.

20. Those who set themselves up as defenders of human rights practised discrimination against blacks and their condemnation of the apartheid policies of South Africa was mere lip service. Furthermore, their imperialist and Zionist military activities in the Middle East, in defence of their so-called "vital interests", not only did nothing to protect human rights, but were a threat to peace and thus a violation of the most sacred of human rights, the right to life.

21. His delegation considered that an end to those massive violations of human rights was an indispensable condition for the continuation of international co-operation. The international community must speak out against such violations, against the arms race and the use of scientific and technological progress for evil ends, and call for the restructuring of international economic relations, the establishment of a new international economic order and respect for all human rights instruments. Each State should promote respect for human rights within its own frontiers by introducing progressive legislation.

22. Respect for dignity, freedom and equality was one of the principles of the policy of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and was guaranteed in its legislation. Since the victorious uprising of 27 December 1979, anti-democratic and inhuman laws had been abolished; arbitrary arrest, persecution and confiscation of property had been stopped and replaced by respect for all human rights under the principles of Islam, which were guaranteed in the provisional Constitution. But the representatives of imperialism and reaction, realizing that the freeing of Afghanistan from oppression had rendered illusory their dreams of a return to their lost position, were sparing no effort to place obstacles in the way of the Afghan people's development; they were increasing their subversive activities and an undeclared war which they had planned in secret collusion with the hegemonists had been launched against Afghanistan, in flagrant violation of human rights. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which hoped that such hostile actions and interference would soon cease, firmly condemned the imperialists' violations of human rights, policies of oppression and aggression, and interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

23. Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba) said that the allegations of violations of human rights in Cuba made by the representative of the Netherlands were groundless; perhaps the Commission should study the situation of human rights in the Netherlands, in particular with respect to South Molucca and the Netherlands Antilles. The United States had also accused Cuba of violations of human rights, justifying its accusation by the emigration of anti-social Cuban elements to the United States the previous year. In fact, there had always been economic emigration from developing to developed countries as a result of the poverty created in third world countries by the brutal imperialist system. People hoped to find an "El Dorado" in the United States, whereas in reality millions of chicanos, Latins, blacks and Indians lived in conditions of poverty there. Economic migration had existed even before the Cuban revolution, but it had been controlled by quotas established by the United States.

24. In the 21 years since the revolution, no country in the hemisphere had done more than Cuba to eliminate unemployment, disease, poverty, and prostitution. The United States had continually attempted to sabotage Cuba's economic plans and social development; it had tried to asphyxiate Cuba by refusing to sell it medicine or food, had occupied Cuba through its military base in Guantanamo, and violated Cuba's territorial integrity through espionage flights. The representative of the United States, while remaining silent about the situation of blacks, Latins and Indians in the United States and the colonial situation in Puerto Rico, had spoken of intervention, but the most notorious cases of intervention in the world had been carried out by the United States. In the nineteenth century, the United States had taken over Louisiana, Florida, Texas, New Mexico and California and had intervened in China, Japan, Korea, Nicaragua, Santo Domingo, Guam, the Philippines, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. It had imposed its colonial presence in the Panama Canal, intervened in Korea in the early 1950s, crushed the people's revolt in

the Dominican Republic in 1965, and caused the downfall of the Allende Government in Chile in 1973. From 1961 to 1975 it had tried to prevent the final liberation of Vietnamese people and had also intervened in Cambodia and Laos. Its economic, political and military intervention had facilitated Israeli expansionism at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. United States aid and support had allowed the racist régime in South Africa to maintain apartheid and racism.

25. The United States had tried to annex Cuba at the end of the nineteenth century and had continued to intervene militarily in its territory up to 1901 and again in 1906. After the liberation in 1959, it had armed and trained 15,000 mercenaries who had suffered, in the Bay of Pigs, the first defeat of imperialism on the American continent. The United States had threatened Cuba with military weapons in 1962 and subjected it to a military blockade. It continued to violate Cuba's air space and maintain its military base in Guantanamo. In reality, it was the United States imperialists who were the interventionists and who were endangering international peace and security.

26. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that there was no discrimination against Syrian citizens of the Jewish faith, who were treated like all other Syrians under the law. Travel restrictions were imposed only in relation to the duties of a Syrian citizen towards Syrian society with respect to such matters as foreign exchange; in fact, Syrian Jews were free to stay or leave the country.

27. In Israel, a country whose Prime Minister was a terrorist responsible, among other terrorist acts, for the massacre of 350 Arabs in Deir Yassin in 1948, a system of terror prevailed. On 4 January 1981, Israeli soldiers had, according to a United Nations statement, killed five Palestinians in South Lebanon and blown up their bodies. The Commission should evaluate Zionist terrorism against the Arab people both before and since 1948.

28. Mr. ZORIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the allegations of violations of human rights in the Soviet Union and socialist countries, with particular reference to the case of Andrei Sakharov, were false and that the persons mentioned had been guilty of a range of violations under Soviet law. Andrew Young, the former representative of the United States to the United Nations, had admitted that there were thousands of political prisoners in the United States, and the American Society of Friends had published a book describing surveillance of United States citizens with undesirable political views. Moreover, a Soviet citizen was being held in the United States against his will despite the norms of international law, and the United States, ignoring Soviet communications on the matter, had abducted his children and threatened him.

29. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had accused the Soviet Union of violating Sakharov's right of free speech, but the fact was that he had had ample opportunity to express himself. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the practice of barring people with undesirable political views from government service was continuing, despite a law prohibiting that practice, while the political views of applicants for government posts continued to be assessed in spite of constitutional provisions to the contrary. Thus, 4,500 people had been banned from government service and 2 million had had their political views assessed.

30. The criticism concerning Sakharov's human rights levelled against the Soviet Union by the representative of France did not have any basis in fact. In France, the Security and Freedom Act authorized the prohibition of demonstrations and participation in strikes, thus violating the Universal Declaration and the International Covenants on Human Rights. The French might do well to look at their own affairs.

31. He wished to state that the Soviet constitution guaranteed equal rights to all, including Jews. Allegations of violations of the human rights of Jews were a fabrication. The representative of Israel had confused anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, Zionism being a practice defined by the General Assembly as a form of racism. He had also defended Shcharansky, a person who had been found guilty in law of espionage. That verdict had been based on a full admission and proof that he had worked with the special services of a certain State for 13 years.

32. Mr. LINCKE (Federal Republic of Germany), said that he could not agree with the Soviet representative's allegation that the principles of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Germany were being violated. The Federal Republic was proud of the rule of law and of its democratic constitution and wished to retain them. Extremists who rejected the rule of law and democracy were not admitted to public service but could take up any other profession. The Soviet Union should not attack the basic principles of self-protection of a democratic nation nor should a totalitarian country attempt to interpret the constitution of a democratic country. The USSR should confine its ideology to its own country and refrain from attempts to spread it such as had occurred in Afghanistan.

33. Mr. SOYER (France) said that he had referred to Sakharov for reasons of principle arising from Commission resolutions 23(XXXVI) and 26(XXXVI). The representative of the Soviet Union had used a well-known diversionary tactic in accusing France with respect to a law forbidding demonstrations: in fact demonstrations in France were legal and took place often.

34. Mr. TRVONG QUAN PHAN (Observer for Viet Nam), referring to the false allegation that Viet Nam was sending arms to El Salvador, said that the United States delegation was carrying out a propaganda campaign against his country to camouflage its own intentions in El Salvador and was preparing to assist the military junta there to massacre the people of that country. In its determination to bring democracy to a halt and to wipe out all opposition, the United States was improving on the methods it had developed in Viet Nam. Along the northern frontiers of Nicaragua, 5,000 former Somozists, with the support of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and of mercenaries from Guatemala and South Korea, were carrying out a programme of sabotage. The United States had recently announced that it was to increase its aid to the El Salvador dictatorship and would effectively cease its aid to Nicaragua within two weeks. It had been officially stated that the number of military "advisers" in El Salvador had increased from 25 to 45, that military aid would increase from \$10.4 million to \$35.4 million and economic aid to the military junta would amount to \$130 million. Those figures, however, needed adjustment, since many hundreds of United States soldiers were in fact engaged in repressive measures against the insurgents, and the "aid" did not include discreet assistance by the CIA.



On 24 February a United States aircraft carrier had engaged in exercises off Puerto Rico which, it had been stated, had been planned long in advance. No doubt it was sheer coincidence that the exercise had taken place at the same time as the events in El Salvador and that one-third of the United States troops stationed in Panama had participated in exercises at the same time. The commander of the United States naval forces in the Atlantic had stated that some ships under his command had been called "to other vital areas", while according to the Boston Globe, the United States was considering sending ships, aircraft and additional military "advisers" to El Salvador. In addition, in an attempt to represent the revolt of the people of El Salvador as the work of the Soviet Union, Cuba, Viet Nam and Nicaragua, the United States Under-Secretary of State for European Affairs had travelled to Europe to try and gain support for Washington's policy of direct intervention in the affairs of the people of El Salvador.

35. It was regrettable that, at a time when voices of protest were being raised in the United States against that country's policies in Central America, a member of the expansionist and hegemonist Chinese ruling circles, Hoang Hoa, should have approved United States threats by condemning "subversion" in the area.

36. Just as the United States had manufactured the Bay of Tonkin incident in order to launch a criminal war against Viet Nam, its present propaganda campaign was aimed at opposing Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada and other democratic and progressive forces in Latin America, and formed part of its plan drawn up in collusion with the authorities in Beijing, to be an international policeman, to resist the forces of peace and national independence and the right of people in the area to self-determination, and to destroy world peace.

37. The Vietnamese people was determined to support El Salvador and was convinced that nothing could prevent final victory.

38. Mr. TE SUN HOA (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that the statement made by the Observer for Afghanistan would have been more credible if there were not, as everyone knew, 100,000 foreign soldiers in that country.

39. Mr. BARROMI (Observer for Israel) said that he must again protest about insulting remarks made against the head of his Government. The representative of Syria had claimed that Israeli troops had blown up the bodies of five Palestinians, but had failed to state that the bodies had subsequently been exhumed and found to be uninjured. His delegation had available for inspection statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by the Netherlands Minister concerned that refuted the allegation.

40. There was no freedom for Jews in Syria. A Jew who died without children forfeited his property to the State. Jews were restricted to a radius of two and a half miles if they wished to travel. No Syrian soldiers were permitted to shop in Jewish-owned shops. He asked the Syrian representative to explain why no independent observer from the International Court of Justice or from Amnesty International was allowed to attend trials in Syria.

41. Ms. SIMPSON (Women's International Democratic Federation) said that her Federation supported peoples in their struggle for national independence, democracy and social development, and against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, fascism and apartheid. WIDF thus shared the ideas expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important documents.
42. The Federation wished to draw attention to the crimes of the Pol Pot/Ieng Sary régime against the people of Kampuchea, as a result of which 3 million people had died in three years of dictatorship. Towns had been depopulated by forced resettlement, and plants, schools and hospitals had been destroyed. Out of 800 doctors working in 1972 only 56 survived, while of 23,000 teachers, only 207 were still alive. More than half of all children had lost a parent; there were 150,000 orphans and the majority of women in Kampuchea were widows. The Pol Pot régime had also committed aggressive acts against the Vietnamese people. Its troops had repeatedly violated the State borders, murdered women and children and destroyed the results of peaceful reconstruction. In view of the sufferings of the Kampuchean people, WIDF again requested the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was implemented.
43. The Federation's delegates had seen for themselves the efforts made at reconstruction by the People's Revolutionary Council of Cambodia. Phnom Penh, deserted in January 1979, now had a population of 400,000, with water and electricity. Eighty per cent of the plants and factories closed down under Pol Pot had resumed work, and the rice-growing area in 1980 was twice that of 1979. The right to education was being implemented, and art and culture had been revived. Aid in the form of medicine, food and school equipment had been extended by Viet Nam and other progressive countries to help the people of Kampuchea overcome the problems caused by the Pol Pot régime. The Federation therefore hoped that the international community would recognize the People's Republic of Kampuchea and its legal Government, the People's Revolutionary Council, as the sole legitimate representative of the people.
44. The Federation was also deeply concerned about the genocide being practised in El Salvador by the military junta in its attempt to suppress the legitimate struggle of the people, and urged that a special rapporteur be appointed to investigate the situation of human rights in El Salvador.
45. Mr. WEISSERODT (International League for Human Rights), noting that the Commission had called on Governments to encourage and support individuals who exercised their right and duty to promote human rights, said he wished to draw the attention of the Commission to the situation of human rights monitors in two countries.
46. The case of Andrei Sakharov in the Soviet Union was of particular concern to the International League for Human Rights, since he was a Nobel Laureate, an honorary vice-president and board member of the League, and a founder of the League's affiliated committee in Moscow. Since being sent into exile he had lived under 24-hour surveillance with a militia post in front of his door. Whenever he left his apartment he was followed by plainclothes policemen, and he was not secure even

within it: in July 1980, his papers had been searched and some of his tapes erased. Sakharov had no telephone and was prevented from making calls from public telephones, he received only some of the mail sent to him, and was prevented by a jamming device from receiving radio broadcasts. Friends and relatives who had previously been allowed to visit him were now prevented from doing so, in violation not only of Soviet law, but also of article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. His exile itself contravened article 12 of the Covenant, which protected the right of the individual to freedom of movement within his own country.

47. The Commission should recall from time to time the essential purpose of all its efforts - to safeguard the human rights of individuals. It must sometimes make its concern for human rights personal or lose the perspective necessary to protect those rights. Where an individual was an advocate of human rights or had become a symbol of them, concern for him was even more necessary, and it was wholly appropriate to place Sakharov's case on the agenda, since he was not only a leader of the human rights movement in the USSR but also a symbol of the plight of less publicized prisoners in that country; the Baptists, Ukrainians, Independent Unionists, human rights monitors and others languishing in prisons, labour camps and so-called psychiatric clinics. His case was an example of internal exile as used by Governments for repression, not only in the Soviet Union, but also in South Africa and Chile. The International League for Human Rights therefore suggested that the Commission should express concern about Sakharov's treatment and at least keep his situation under scrutiny until his release.

48. The second country to which the League wished to draw attention was El Salvador, where the Human Rights Commission, a politically independent monitoring organization, had strongly criticized the abuses of human rights committed in the past year. The Commission had been attacked with particular harshness, having suffered three bomb attacks in 1980 and having recently been forced to close down after being surrounded by troops. Its Press Secretary and Administrator had been killed, while another official, who had criticized the régime in a television documentary, had been kidnapped, tortured and exiled. His abduction once again attested to the courage and effectiveness of human rights monitors. The International League for Human Rights urged the Commission to appoint a special rapporteur or representative to study the human rights situation in El Salvador, and to continue its efforts for the protection of human rights throughout the world.

49. Mr. ARTUCIO (International Commission of Jurists) said that the report on Equatorial Guinea (E/CN.4/1439) indicated that Equatorial Guinea might return eventually to democracy and respect for human rights, and asked the Commission to continue its aid to Equatorial Guinea in achieving those aims. The Commission should renew the mandate of the expert who had prepared the report and call upon the authorities to create the necessary conditions for the return of those exiled under the Macías régime, among whom were many technical experts necessary for the reconstruction of the country. The military Government should be replaced by a civil one based on popular consent, which should accelerate the adoption of a constitution and convene a constituent assembly, in which all forms of political opinion including those of the exiles would be represented, to that end.

50. The increase in violations of human rights in El Salvador had bathed that small country in blood. In 1980, there had been 10,000 political assassinations and hundreds of people had disappeared. There was sufficient information to show that high governmental authorities were participating in those crimes. The victims of political violence included many defenders of human rights such as members of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador and priests. Defenceless peasants, who regarded the armed forces not as defenders but as oppressors, were murdered in areas where guerrillas had been sighted. It was scarcely possible to believe the Government's claim that it could not prevent such acts committed by terrorists of the right and the left. The International Commission of Jurists and 13 other non-governmental organizations had in document E/CN.4/NGO.299, requested the Commission to undertake an in-depth study of the situation in El Salvador and expressed willingness to submit all the information they possessed to a special rapporteur.
51. In Bolivia, the military coup of 17 July 1980 which had taken place only a short time after the free election of a new Government, had dealt a severe blow to the process of a return to true democracy. He expressed the hope that the Commission would accept the present Government's invitation to visit Bolivia and would send a representative with full powers to investigate the situation.
52. Evidence of violations of human rights in Guatemala was contained in document E/CN.4/1438. The Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, had submitted information on various violations, including the murder of lawyers, judges and trade unionists. Although 35 lawyers and judges had been murdered or had disappeared for political motives in the past 13 months, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights had never been allowed to visit the country, nor had the Government permitted a visit by a representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Since the events in Guatemala were equal in gravity to those in El Salvador, the Commission believed that both cases should be treated on an equal footing.
53. Mr. EICKHOLT (Movement against Racism and for Friendship between People) said that he spoke with the support of the International Indian Treaty Council, the Anti-Slavery Society, the International Federation of Human Rights and the Women's League for Peace and Freedom. The Movement, a member of the International Advisory Council, had helped to organize the fourth Russell Tribunal held in November 1980 at Rotterdam, which had considered mainly the rights of the Indians of the American continent, although it had also heard statements from representatives of other indigenous peoples. Forty-eight complaints of human rights violations had been submitted and 14 cases had been studied in depth. It had been shown that more than a dozen international instruments, including the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide had been violated, and violations of national laws had also been proved. Traditional laws, which had been misunderstood and neglected, had been violated to an even greater extent. The jury's report stated that oral and written testimony had disclosed many crimes and tragedies, but also revealed the determination of the Indian Nations which, without seeking to impose their way of life on others, demanded respect for their right to own identity.

54. The Movement wished to submit a number of considerations to the Commission. Firstly, the situation of the indigenous peoples of the American continent should be given full consideration. In that connection, the Movement was willing to transmit the final documents of the Tribunal to the United Nations or to any interested Government. Secondly, the representatives of the indigenous peoples should be free to organize themselves and attend international meetings without harrassment. Thirdly, a permanent Commission for continuous protection of the rights of indigenous peoples should be set up within the United Nations in the near future and funds raised for its establishment. Fourthly, international laws should be respected and the traditional laws of the indigenous peoples must be recognized and taken seriously. Fifthly, the General Assembly should deal with the situation of the indigenous peoples and they should be represented in the United Nations. The Movement requested the Commission to consider the final documents of the Tribunal and urged all delegations to support the resolution (E/CN.4/L.1597) concerning the study on discrimination against indigenous peoples.

55. The year 1992 would mark the fifth centenary of the arrival of Columbus on the American continent, which had ushered in a nightmare of slaughter, genocide, cultural and religious oppression and discrimination for the Indian peoples. It should therefore be made a year of celebration of the human rights of indigenous peoples of the Western hemisphere.

56. Ms. BRIDEL (International Association of Democratic Lawyers) said that, with respect to El Salvador, her Association wished to associate itself with the statement made by the International Commission of Jurists.

57. A mission of inquiry had recently been conducted in Bolivia by the President of the Association, who had observed a pattern of gross and systematic violations of human rights in that country. The constitutional process was being interrupted and cruel treatment and summary executions of prisoners were taking place. Trade union rights were being suppressed, and all right of association had been eliminated under a decree of 25 July 1980. The right to education was being undermined through the closing and occupation of universities by the army, and the right to information through the censoring of newspapers. Armed commandos were known to have hidden in ambulances marked with the red cross or the green cross social security.

58. In August 1980, the Bolivian Junta had been recognized by only nine countries. The leaders of the coup, in the preparation of which Argentina had played a leading role, had been educated in the United States and nurtured on the doctrine of "national security", although that doctrine was not consistent with the growing desire of many Governments of the sub-continent to participate actively in the non-aligned movement.

59. In January 1981, after a strike in protest against a rise in prices, workers in mining centres and at a textile factory in La Paz had been killed. However, the Bolivian people, with its tradition of workers' struggles, and experience in united action for political democracy, would not be crushed by repression. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers requested the Commission and the Governments of Andean Pact countries to ensure that demonstrations of support of the people of Bolivia continued.

60. Mr. GALINDO (International Union of Students) said that he wished to draw the Commission's attention to the repression practised against students, students' unions and universities by reactionary and dictatorial régimes all over the world. Tragic examples were the murder of professors and students in Guatemala, the military occupation and lengthy closure of the University in Bolivia, the expulsion of students in the Arab territories occupied by Israel, the practice of apartheid in education, and the torture to death of students in prisons in Uruguay.

61. In El Salvador, repressive measures in education were aimed at eliminating both educators, many of whom had been murdered before their own students by para-military groups, and students, 479 of whom had been killed in 1980, as well as destroying the General Association of University Students of El Salvador. Raids on primary and secondary schools were a daily occurrence. In June 1980, military intervention at the national university had resulted in 21 killings, and troops had also been sent to the University of Central America. The Rector of the University had been murdered and all the members of its Supreme Council arrested. They were now in prison, awaiting trial under a Decree which permitted every kind of abuse, including torture, to obtain confessions.

62. International action was needed to prevent such flagrant and massive violations of human rights. The International Union of Students would provide every assistance to the Commission in the continuing struggle for human rights and democratic freedoms.

63. Mr. MOLTINA (Argentina) said that the allegation made by the representative of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers concerning intervention by Argentina in Bolivia was false. Non-governmental organizations were entitled to defend human rights and express their views, but should refrain from making politically motivated accusations unrelated to the defence of human rights.

The meeting rose at 10.55 p.m.