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THIRD COMMITTEE
24th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 20 October 1981
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 24th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ESQUIVEL (Costa Rica)

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UN/SA COLLECTION

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/215 and Add.1; A/C.3/36/9; A/C.3/L.15, L.20)

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AGENDA ITEM 90: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/442; A/C.3/36/L.22, L.24)

1. Mrs. YONG FATIMAH (Malaysia), referring to agenda items 76, 84 and 90, said it was appropriate that the main objectives of the new International Development Strategy should include the promotion of human dignity and the well-being of the entire population on the basis of its full participation in the development process and a fair distribution of benefits. Her delegation welcomed the programmes on youth, the aged and the elderly, and the disabled, and the accent on participation, development and peace, which recognized the valuable contribution of those three categories of the population to regional and valuable contribution of those three categories of the population to regional and international understanding and development

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2. The reports of the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (A/36/125 and Add.1) contained useful guidelines on national, regional and international action, in particular concerning education and training, employment and economic activities, health, population, social services, environment and housing. Malaysia recognized youth as the basis of society and the guarantee of independence, national identity, survival and progress. A Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture had been set up with the sole function of promoting youth's rightful role in nation-building and the creation of a dynamic society. The youth movement was represented on the National Youth Consultative Council - "Youth Parliament" - established in 1971. The country's past five-year development plans had contained a number of programmes on youth, including opportunities for their active participation in land development projects, public and private business enterprise, and vocational education and training.

3. In the current budget, the Government had allocated 17 million Malaysian dollars for youth development, involving 500 projects providing employment for 2,000 youth farmers and 2,400 youth entrepreneurs. The Fourth Malaysian Plan (1981 to 1985) would provide 87,300 trained youth in various fields. National Youth Day on May 15 was an annual event.

4. Education was a top priority in Malaysia's national development. The Government had provided educational programmes at various levels but lacked the facilities for higher education, which students sought abroad. Unfortunately, persistent inflation had made the cost prohibitive, and the Government was appealing to friendly industrialized countries to provide more places for Malaysian students at the same fees paid by their students or at concessionary rates.

5. With regard to youth participation in the promotion of international understanding and peace, her delegation was pleased to note the progress made by the United Nations system in improving channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, as reported in document A/36/427. Malaysia also welcomed the publication of the Youth Information Bulletin and the project for strengthening channels of communication within the framework of the International Youth Year. She noted the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), including the publication of a Directory of Regional Youth Organizations in 1980, as reported in paragraphs 9-11 of document A/36/427. An annual International Islamic Youth Conference, as recently proposed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, would contribute to the realization of the objectives of the International Youth Year.

6. The elderly and the aged and the part they had played in national development, as breadwinners, leaders and innovators in peace and development, were too often neglected. In traditional societies and in most developing countries, they were still respected and still played an important part in community development. Their economic and social well-being was still secured by the social institution of the extended family, but their status and role were slowly diminishing as the family system changed with progress towards modernization. She welcomed the World Assembly on Aging which would be held in Vienna in 1982 and commended the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on their preparatory work, as reported in documents A/36/472 and A/36/70. The recent meetings in Manila and Bangkok under the sponsorship of ESCAP had brought out the need for urgent action, since the population of Asia was expected to increase by 52 per cent by the year 2000, with an additional 115 million elderly. In Malaysia, a young country, the aged and elderly formed only a small percentage of the population and were well cared for by various governmental and non-governmental institutions and programmes and by the extended family. However, the Government welcomed the intantional effort to concentrate on their present and future problems.

7. Malaysia also welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/36/442) and the Secretariat's preparations for the seventh session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in 1982.

8. Ms. SHARPE (Jamaica), referring to agenda items 76, 77, 78, 80 and 84, said that her Government was deeply committed to the development of youth and attached great importance to the International Youth Year. Jamaica's programmes and policies on youth were an integral part of its over-all development plan.

9. Jamaica had a high rate of unemployment, over 70 per cent of the unemployed being young peoples. The Government had introduced a number of programmes to relieve the situation, including the establishment of youth camps to provide vocational training between the ages of 15 and 19, the trainees to work on special agriculture and construction projects and to be trained for employment in the hotel industry. The Government had also taken steps to revitalize the handicraft industry in order to provide employment for youth and was exploring with trade unions and management the possibilities of employment in the private sector.

10. Jamaica was represented in the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, and her delegation supported the Programme of Measures and Activities adopted earlier in 1981. It endorsed the principles, recognized by the Advisory Committee, that the Year should concentrate primarily on national and

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local activities and supported the recommendation that national machinery should be set up to co-ordinate activities by governmental and non-governmental agencies. With regard to the elderly and the aged, she commended the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging for reminding members that aging in individuals and societies was a sign of progress, since increased life expectancy was usually accompanied by improved health services. She supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging and agreed that two additional sessions would be needed to complete the preparations for the World Assembly.

11. In Jamaican society the extended family was important and the aged played an active role, being highly respected as transmitters of culture and history. Government programmes were administered by the National Council for the Aged under the Ministry of Social Security and important work was done by the church and voluntary organizations. It was appropriate for the international community to emphasize the contributions of the aged to society and to make recommendations designed to guarantee them the right to live in dignity.

12. Mr. JHA (Nepal) expressed his delegation's appreciation of the Secretary-General's reports, and the introductory statements, on agenda items 80, 84 and 90. He welcomed the convening of a World Assembly on Aging in 1982, the establishment of an Advisory Committee and the preparations for an International Plan of Action on Aging. Urgent attention must be given to the problems of older citizens whose conditions had been deteriorating in both developed and developing countries. The elderly and the aged formed a large proportion of the world's population and were increasing faster than anticipated, particularly in the developing countries, where the increase was likely to lead to radical changes in the structure of society. While in most industrialized societies old people suffered neglect and isolation, in developing countries such as Nepal, where the family community still existed, respect and care increased with age. In his delegation's view, the elderly and the aged were a valuable resource and had a creative role to play in the community. It was essential to maintain the family structure and to recognize it as an essential social unit.

13. However, economic and social development and the rapid growth of modern civilization and technology were changing attitudes towards the family system and causing problems for the elderly and the aged. A wide international exchange of information was needed, and his delegation therefore welcomed the convening of a World Assembly on Aging in 1982 and wished to express its gratitude to the Government of Austria for acting as host to the Assembly. In that connexion, the two major studies undertaken by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs during 1980 and 1981 which were referred to in paragraph 27 of document A/36/70 would be of great value in making a global assessment of

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the situation of older citizens and identifying variations in their conditions and needs.

14. Nepal recognized the contribution that older citizens could make to the solution of economic and social problems and had accorded them a separate status under the Constitution. Ample provision was made for the welfare of old and handicapped people by the Social Service National Co-ordination Council and its Sub-Committee and by the Ministry of Social Welfare, which supervised and co-ordinated the work of various governmental and other bodies. His delegation supported the efforts of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly and emphasized the need to co-ordinate its proposals with national programmes. The proposed draft Plan of Action should serve solely to provide a set of broad guidelines for nations: specific measures for each country should be formulated to meet specific national conditions. His delegation noted with satisfaction the increased attention being given to the question by the United Nations specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions and welcomed the steps being taken in the exchange of information, interagency co-ordination, discussions and seminars, and technical co-operation. It also appreciated the work of international non-governmental organizations which had co-operated in the preparatory work for the World Assembly and the leading role played by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. His delegation joined with others in appealing to Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, in order to ensure effective preparatory and follow-up activities.

15. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Development (A/36/442), his delegation had noted with satisfaction the activities undertaken to implement the Caracas Declaration of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. In view of recent events, his delegation advocated sustained efforts to seek a new approach and develop better methods for dealing with crime prevention and the treatment of offenders. In that context, the effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/171 was increasingly important. His delegation welcomed the Secretariat study programmes on the ten countries with the highest and the ten with the lowest crime rates in the world, which would help to further international co-operation in crime prevention and criminal justice. He also welcomed the regional approach to the problem which was evidenced in the Secretary-General's report.

16. Mrs. SALZLER (German Democratic Republic), referring to agenda item 78, said that General Assembly resolution 33/47 had rightly stressed the importance of co-operatives in the economic, social and cultural development of all members of society and in increasing employment for women and cultural development of all members of society and in increasing employment for women and integrating

them in the development process. The importance of the co-operative movement was also brought out in the report of the Secretary-General in document A/36/115. The German Democratic Republic believed that an international exchange of experience would help to promote world-wide implementation of social, economic, political and cultural in the human rights fields and that the safeguarding of economic and social rights was vitally important for the protection of other basic rights and liberties, in conformity with article 55 of the Charter.

17. As a result of centuries of colonial suppression and exploitation - which imperialist interests were trying to perpetuate by neo-colonialism -- millions of people in the newly independent countries were still suffering from unemployment, poverty, disease, malnutrition and illiteracy. The United Nations therefore had an increasingly important role in organizing co-operation among States to promote social and economic rights. An exchange of experience in matters such as land reform and the promotion of agricultural production co-operatives was particularly important, since in many of the newly independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America as many as 70 or 80 per cent of the people lived and worked in rural areas.

18. A determined policy for promoting agricultural production co-operatives on the basis of democratic ownership offered vast possibilities for increasing the people's prosperity and promoting the social and economic rights of working people, in accordance with the aims and purposes of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. It was only in a peaceful world that the right of peoples to development and to self-determination, including sovereignty over their national wealth and resources, and the improvement of their material and cultural life - the prerequisites to the development of co-operatives in the interests of social progress -- could be safeguarded. Her delegation would therefore support all demands and measures for opposing imperialist confrontations and promoting disarmament and peaceful coexistence.

19. In her own country, the socialist transformation of villages and the establishment of agricultural co-operatives had brought about profound social and economic changes. Vast tracts of privately owned land had been expropriated, and peasants had been given land and other means of production in order to establish independent agricultural enterprises. The first agricultural production co-operatives had been established in the 1950s, and today they were an essential factor in the country's social life. The rights and duties of the farmers in the socialist production co-operatives were laid down in the Constitution of the Republic. The co-operative system had safeguarded fundamental rights, such as the right to work, education, culture, leisure and

recreation, and had aligned the incomes of co-operative farmers with those of people working in other fields of the national economy.

20. The co-operative movement had also brought about far-reaching changes in the position of women in villages, who now enjoyed status with men in respect of all rights and duties and participated on an equal footing in the development of society. Her delegation therefore particularly welcomed the statements on co-operatives and new possibilities for rural women which were contained in the Secretary-General's report. In her own country, 340,000 women were now employed in the co-operative movement - about 44 per cent of total employees - with tasks and conditions that were vastly different from the arduous work of the past. About 80 per cent of women working in agriculture had completed their education.

21. Miss KHAPARDE (India) said that her delegation agreed completely with the conclusions of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year that the primary responsibility for the formulation and implementation of youth policies and programmes lay with individual countries. It also agreed that each Government must evolve its own strategy for dealing with problems relating to youth in the light of its own situation, experience and priorities. India placed special emphasis on issues related to youth because it believed that youth constituted the most crucial segment of its population, not only numerically but also from the point of view of development. Although the situation and problems of youth might vary from country to country, a certain uniformity in the general pattern of those problems could be observed. At the same time, the situation and problems of youth could not be viewed in isolation from the situation and problems of society as a whole, and any strategy to deal with the latter. India had therefore attempted to devise specific programmes to ensure an all-round development of the young population and to enable them to participate in the developmental and decision-making process.

22. At the same time, India participated in international youth programmes, such as the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the United Nations Volunteers programme. It also provided for international exchanges of youth delegations under bilateral agreements. India had already established a national co-ordinating committee for the Year, the National Youth Board, whose functions included advising the Government on the formulation of a national youth policy, appraising ongoing programmes and providing a forum for co-ordination between departments of the central Government and State Governments and voluntary agencies working for youth development.

23. The problems related to youth were many and complex, and there were also the specific needs of various sectors and groups, such as young men and rural and

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urban youth, which had to be taken into account. The Advisory Committee had done well to highlight problems such as unemployment, rural-urban migration, limited educational and other opportunities, limited access to health care and nutrition, and limited scope for physical education and development. While international action undoubtedly could act as a catalyst to stimulate national awareness, interest and action, the focus of attention had to be at the national level, since that was where the problems existed and where they had to be solved. Her delegation therefore hoped that activities undertaken in preparation for and during the International Youth Year would focus primarily in providing assistance to Governments to formulate strategies for youth development and/or implement strategies that had already been formulated. India would hesitate to advocate wide-ranging action at the global level which would not have a significant impact in improving the situation at the national and local levels.

24. What was needed to solve the problems of youth was not more research and information but a concerted effort on the part of the international community to assist in solving those problems. Research and data collection could be entrusted to Governments themselves, as they were in a far better position to undertake that work. Her delegation was not in favour of using already scarce resources for activities in that field. It believed instead, that whatever resources were available should be used to support programmes and activities at the national level and, if considered appropriate by Member States, at the regional level. In that connexion, she wished to emphasize the role that non-governmental and voluntary organizations could play because India's own experience with such organizations had been most satisfactory. In order to avoid duplication and ensure that scarce resources were used for maximum possible benefit, it was important to ensure co-ordination among different agencies and organizations of the United Nations system. Lastly, while India agreed that national co-ordinating committees could serve as a focal point of national action and as a means of maintaining liaison with the United Nations, it hoped that the setting up of similar bodies at the regional level would be done only after the establishment of national committees.

25. Mr. AL-SAYAGHI (Yemen Arab Republic) said that his country believed in the pioneer role of youth in all areas. Youth had played an outstanding role in the revolution of 26 September 1962 and in the defense of that revolution. Yemen believed firmly in the need for the participation of youth in national development efforts, being convinced that the participation of youth in the development process would contribute effectively to the harmonization of their creative capacities with the efforts and capacities of other sectors of society for a better life. His Government had accorded special attention to youth and had formed the Higher Council for Youth Care, which had numerous tasks,

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26. Yemen had also formed various sports unions and the Yemeni Olympic Committee, which played a significant role in promoting a national sports movement. The State subsidized the Committee generously in order to give the youth of Yemen an opportunity for active participation in national, regional and international youth activities.

27. Through the Higher Council for Youth Care, the youth sector was playing a positive role in the development process by participation in co-operative work or by taking an active part in social, economic, cultural and political efforts. The State tried to provide youth with opportunities to acquire scientific skills that would enable them to carry out their national duty effectively.

28. Meeting the needs of youth meant giving opportunities for participation by youth in preserving peace. Youth in Yemen had an opportunity to do this through the Peace Council formed recently by the Secretary-General of the Higher Council for Youth and Sports. The Peace Council endeavoured to encourage young people to make a positive contribution to the organizations which sought to strengthen international peace, develop friendly relations among States and achieve better understanding among peoples through visits by young people from different countries and the exchange of cultural, sports, educational and social programmes.

29. With regard to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, adopted by the United Nations in 1971, Yemen stressed the need for keeping racism out of sports. Sports exchanges with racist regimes, such as South Africa and Israel, contravened the principles and resolutions of the United Nations.

30. With regard to national experience in promoting the co-operative movement, he said that intensive efforts were being made in Yemen to raise co-operative labour capacity. The General Union for National Co-operation for Development had been formed to carry out development tasks, side by side with governmental efforts. There had been great progress and many achievements. Numerous economic and social projects were being carried out by the co-operation committees, which constituted a national organization. Roads had been constructed to link the rural areas with the cities, schools and hospitals had been built, wells had been dug in rural areas, and those projects were being carried out through the efforts and financing of citizens, demonstrating the cohesiveness and solidarity of the Yemeni people.

31. All vital projects in the country involved the co-operative movement. The co-operative movement had also undertaken a general census of the population, which would be taken into account in the preparations now being made for the second five-year plan.

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32. The Government had given the co-operative movement all possible support and assistance since its foundation. It had contributed 100 million rials (\$23 million) to the capital of the Co-operative Bank. It had also enacted a law stipulating that 75 per cent of the Bank's profits should go to the General Union for National Co-operative for Development and also that 2.5 per cent of the national income should be given to the Union.

33. One of the ambitions of the Yemeni co-operative movement was the realization of an international system based on joint co-operation among peoples, which would benefit and advance mankind. The General Union of Committees for National Co-operation for Development had become an active member of the International Co-operative Alliance, which Yemen hoped would help to achieve progress and prosperity for all the peoples of the world and strengthen the international co-operative movement.

34. Miss LUANGHY (Zaire) said that from time immemorial, both prosperous societies and developing societies had been affected by crime. Throughout the decades, the social machinery for suppressing crime had evolved in such a way as to respond to the needs of the times and to take into account the evolution of criminal trends and the importance of preparing appropriate crime-prevention strategies. For many years, the United Nations had played a pioneering role in the formulation of standards and universally acceptable guidelines in the field of criminal justice and had prepared a number of rules setting forth the principles to be applied in order to safeguard the rights and dignity of persons involved in the criminal justice system. In that connexion, the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was a valuable forum for the exchange of experiences and the elaboration of common strategies in the field of crime prevention, crime-fighting and the treatment of offenders.

35. Zaire's interest in crime prevention and crime-fighting was well reflected in the country's system of criminal justice, based on the fundamental rights and the main guidelines of State policy enshrined in the Constitution which guaranteed the principles of justice, freedom and equality for all citizens. Zaire had participated in the work of the Sixth Congress and had joined in the general consensus for the adoption of the Caracas Declaration, which had reaffirmed that crime impaired the over-all development of nations and undermined people's spiritual and material well-being. Zaire felt, however, that while development in itself did not give rise to crime, there were certain components of development which did, such as poverty in the face of abundance. Furthermore, social inequality, deterioration in the level of material and spiritual life, unemployment and illiteracy were regarded as being among the main causes for the growth of crime. For that reason, her delegation believed that the fight against crime must be an integral part of the over-all strategy

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for development in each country, and that required an increase in international co-operation.

36. Lastly, her delegation welcomed the initial steps taken by the Secretary-General to give effect to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/171 and to promote the aims of the Caracas Declaration, as well as to comply with other recommendations of the Sixth Congress, particularly those related to new perspectives for international co-operation in crime prevention in the context of development. She hoped that Africa would soon have its own institute for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders similar to those already existing in Latin America and in Asia and the Far East.

37. Mrs. YANISHCHITS (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that young people, who made up half the population of the world, were an integral part of society and played an important role in all spheres of human endeavour. Their increasing social and political activity was one of the main elements in the social life of most countries and reflected their yearning for a better future without war, exploitation or economic backwardness, a future in which the gains of social progress and democracy, the achievements of science and technology and natural wealth would be made to serve the true interests of the people. The international youth and student movement was making an important contribution to the campaign to remove the threat of another world war, to strengthen the process of detente and to achieve mutual understanding and friendship among peoples. Detente had the strengthening of peace and the security of peoples reflected the true interests of the younger generation and promoted the realization of their aspirations. With the deterioration of the international climate, it was becoming crucially important that youth should become even more actively involved in the movement to promote peace, check the arms race and remove the threat of war.

38. The diversion of enormous material resources to the arms race had a deleterious effect on the social and economic position of all people, including the young. Social injustices in the developed capitalist countries prevented the full utilization of the great potential, energy and creativity of young people for social development. Young people in those countries suffered from social inequality, discrimination, and inadequate level of education and vocational training, and deprivation of many political, civil and economic rights. The constant unemployment of young people was a scourge of such societies, with young people under the age of 30 accounting for approximately half the total number of unemployed in the world. It was States and Governments that bore responsibility for the fate of young and must carry out policies and national programmes which met the needs of young people, based on the observance of fundamental political, social and economic rights and freedoms, and which promoted the wider participation of youth in all spheres of life.

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39. An example of the interaction between the aims of society and the aspirations of the younger generation could be seen in socialism. Developed socialism gave each young person a genuine opportunity to develop and to participate in creative activity, so that he might become a useful member of society in accordance with his desires and abilities. The Constitution of her country devoted a number of articles specifically to young people and guaranteed them, like all other citizens of the Republic, a broad range of social, economic and cultural rights. It was also their inalienable right to participate in government; article 85 of the new Constitution stated that persons aged 18 or over could be elected to all Soviets of Peoples Deputies. Indeed, 18.4 per cent of the members of the supreme legislative body in her country were under 30. Young people had the right to free education and, on completion of specialized secondary education or higher education, young specialists did not have to look for work, as the State took upon itself the responsibility of finding employment for them. In fact, young people in the Byelorussian SSR had no idea of what unemployment was. Young workers were granted a wide range of benefits under labour legislation, including the opportunity to increase their general level of education or improve their employment qualifications through a system of free vocational training.

40. Young people in the Byelorussian SSR had their own mass socio-political organization, the Communist Union of Youth (Komsomol) of Byelorussia, which had celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in September 1980 and had more than 1,300,000 members. The Komsomol had the right to take part in the political, economic, socio-cultural and legal life of the country.

41. The Byelorussian SSR helped to train highly qualified professionals from many developing countries. There were currently more than 3,419 students from 93 countries studying in various educational establishments in her country. The international youth centre at Minsk held regular symposia, discussions and other gatherings at which young people from the Republic could meet their contemporaries from many foreign countries.

42. With regard to the International Youth Year, her delegation felt that the programme of measures and activities up to and during the Year, contained in document A/36/215, would make for greater participation by young people in the campaign for peace and disarmament and in the social and economic development of their countries and would improve access to education and job opportunities. She was gratified that the programme contained provisions aimed at mobilizing young people in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The urgent need to strengthen that struggle was reflected in the Committee's recent resolutions concerning the struggle against racism and the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination.

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43. Her delegation endorsed the remark made in document A/36/215 that the rights and interests of young people could be implemented only in circumstances of peace. Indeed, the statement in the same document that peace and the interests of youth were indivisible could well become the slogan for the International Youth Year. Noting the participation of young people in anti-war demonstrations, peace marches, protests against the manufacture of the neutron bomb and other activities, she said that youth was a force which played an important part in achieving international peace. Millions of young people in Western European countries had signed petitions demanding the abandonment of the dangerous designs whose realization would give a further twist to the spiral of the arms race.

44. In her delegation's view, international democratic non-governmental organizations such as the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students and the International Democratic Federation of Women should participate actively in implementing the programmes for the Year. Those organizations were continually concerned with mobilizing young people in the struggle for peace and had organized many well-attended international conferences on the subject.

45. The World Forum of Youth and Students for Peace, Detente and Disarmament, held at Helsinki in January 1981, was an important landmark in uniting the efforts of young people in the struggle for peace. Those attending the Forum had expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Soviet Union and other Socialist countries to reduce the danger of war and achieve real results on various aspects of limiting the arms race. The forum was attended by some 650 representatives of international, regional and national organizations from more than 100 countries and marked the first time in the history of the international youth movement that such a broad spectrum of young people had been brought together to discuss the campaign for peace, detente and disarmament. The Advisory Committee would find it useful to study the experience of holding such forums. It should also devote more attention to solving social and economic problems in the interests of young people, implementing the rights and vital interests of various sectors of the younger generation, including the right to work and education and the full equality of young men and women in all spheres of human activity.

46. Mrs. LOPEZ (Bolivia) said that important role which youth could play by direct participation in shaping the future of mankind meant that there was an urgent need to adopt a series of immediate actions aimed at transforming the critical situation of youth, which, particularly in the developing countries, was characterized by illiteracy, excessive migration towards urban centres, lack of educational opportunities and unemployment, all of which threatened to become worse. In order to provide institutional support for the efforts to

that end, Bolivia had established the Under-Secretariat for Youth and Sports, whose objectives were, inter alia, to carry out appropriate planning and prepare new programmes with a view to mobilizing efforts for the improvement of youth, especially in rural areas, in the fields of education, housing and health. Those concerns had also been extended to the cultural and artistic fields, with the creation of opportunities for the adequate development of young people's potential.

47. Her Government also regarded sport and physical education and logical priorities because it was aware that such activity had a basic influence on the material, moral and intellectual development of youth. Juvenile groups with healthy habits within their societies should be supported by their Governments in undertaking frequent sports and cultural exchanges among young people, thus creating a fraternal atmosphere in which powerful links between countries would be established, so as to preserve the peace and security of peoples. Her delegation therefore appealed to the international community to provide the necessary co-operation to carry out studies and programmes aimed at raising the standard of living of youth, whose active work should be shaped under the triple watchword of participation, development and peace.

48. Mr. AL-DOSERI (Qatar) said that young people today were exposed to many outside influences which shaped their conduct, their orientations and their morals but gave them no guidance in organizing their lives or their goals. There had been some results which were unhealthful and unsatisfactory from the point of view of society. Expressing the collective will and believing in human values, the United Nations at its thirty-fourth session had declared 1985 the International Youth Year. Qatar fully supported General Assembly resolution 34/151 as a positive step that could greatly benefit the international community. The interplay of ideas and exchange of experiences during the International Youth Year would provide an opportunity for promoting the growth of the individual personality, reveal young people's creative gifts and develop their productive capacities in the prevailing environmental and social circumstances. Young people would acquire a sense of responsibility in the light of the international community's acknowledgement of their powers. The declaration of the International Youth Year showed the international community's awareness of the needs and aspirations of youth for sound guidance and sound education through well-planned and rightly oriented programmes.

49. Qatar was fully aware that youth formed the essential base on which society rested. Young people were a tremendous human force for the advancement of society. The participation of young people in all fields depended upon the extent to which they were provided with means, services, and programmes to

mobilize their endeavours and their capabilities for contributing to all phases of national and international growth.

50. Programmes for youth must be concerned with their various physical, intellectual, social and moral needs and must cover both the individual and the collective. They must be concerned with preventive and constructive as well as therapeutic efforts. They must not be confined to providing young people with skills, orientations and knowledge but must transcend those limits to constitute a means of using young people for the provision of services to the society and a vehicle for participation in development projects, whether economic, social or cultural.

51. He therefore proposed that the programmes should comprise complementary elements that meet the needs and desires of youth. They should include social programmes, sports programmes, cultural programmes, arts programmes and programmes for public service and work camps.

52. Youth was a part of humanity, and humanity was the most valuable thing in existence. Society owed the young people respect as individuals with status, dignity and freedom. That would open to them a broad vista for the utilization of their latent powers and their creative potential for construction and progress. Youth could be a tremendous force and must be rendered more capable of active participation in the various fields of development.

53. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the International Youth Year would achieve the objectives which he had outlined and constitute a new starting point for youth throughout the world in promoting participation, development and peace.

54. Mrs. BHUIYAN (Bangladesh) said that her delegation attached great importance to the International Youth Year and to policies and programmes relating to youth, since nearly 65 per cent of the population of Bangladesh belonged to the under-25 age group. Mobilization of young people was a key element in her Government's development policies. Her delegation fully supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year.

55. The major problems faced by young people in Bangladesh were unemployment and a lack of marketable skills. A Ministry of Youth Development had been established in an attempt to resolve the problems of young people and to co-ordinate development efforts. Various programmes providing for the educational, physical, cultural and political development of young people had been implemented. The current development plan stressed the need to mobilize young people and the importance of involving them in over-all social and

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economic development. Vocational training programmes for young people in rural areas had been instituted, with a view to achieving a balance between governmental endeavour and private efforts, in order to create a country-wide organization of trained young people. The basic problem faced by the entire population of Bangladesh was poverty, and hence all activities relating to young people had to be viewed in the context of establishing a new international economic order.

56. With regard to the question of the elderly and the aged, she said that life expectancy in Bangladesh was only about 50 years. Only a very small percentage of the population was over 60 years of age. The social structure of Bangladesh was based on the extended family, and the older generation continued to perform useful roles and heads or important members of their families. The emotional and economic needs of older people were met by their relatives, so that the social and economic problems associated with aging were not so intense in Bangladesh as in most developed countries. In the absence of serious need, services for the elderly and the aged had not grown significantly, although non-governmental associations were active in that field.

57. Demographic projections indicated a fairly substantial increase in the numbers of older people, as the population and life expectancy increased. Gradual urbanization and industrialization might, in the future, erode the extended-family system. The Government was thus aware that the problems of senior citizens might assume greater importance in later years and welcomed the convening of the World Assembly on Aging. It was to be hoped that that Assembly would focus on the needs and problems of older people and would recommend specific programmes aimed at associating them with national development.

58. Mrs. KRAVCHENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on agenda items 78, 80 and 84, said that her country supported the work of the United Nations in encouraging an exchange of far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress and felt that it was extremely important to many countries, especially to the young developing States. The Soviet Union constantly supported the newly free countries in their fight for economic independence, against the domination of imperialist monopolies, for full equality in international economic relations, and for the full and unconditional right to dispose of their own natural resources as they saw fit. Lasting peace and international security were of crucial importance for the attainment of social progress and development. Therefore, in view of the current increase in international tension, caused by the policy of the most aggressive imperialist quarters, the problem of reducing the threat of war, halting the arms race and improving the international climate had become especially acute.

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59. The experience of many countries showed that progressive changes helped quicken the pace of development and strengthen national independence. An exchange of experience on the subject would draw attention in each country to everything of value in the experience of other countries and constituted one form of international co-operation on an equal footing. The United Nations had acknowledged in many decisions and studies that a significant number of States had a rich experience of carrying out far-reaching and democratic changes. The information contained in those documents clearly affirmed the vitality of the aims and principles set forth in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, one of the most important provisions of which was that social progress and development required the establishment of forms of ownership of land and of the means of production which precluded any kind of exploitation of man, ensured equal rights to property for all and created the conditions for real equality among people. The recent efforts of certain highly placed officials in some countries to promote position contrary to that provision and to impose their own ways on other countries were therefore quite unacceptable.

59. While agreeing that the United Nations documents on the question of national experience in carrying out far-reaching social and economic changes contained extremely interesting material and several useful recommendations, she noted that the methodology employed by the United Nations Secretariat in compiling the documents on economic and social development continued to be tendentious and inaccurate, with the result that the experience of real socialism was overlooked. For example, the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (document A/36/115) did not reflect the reality of agricultural, consumer and housing co-operatives in the "countries with centrally planned economies". The unco-ordinated information, concerning only individual socialist countries, in the report did not bring out the role of co-operatives in the economies of that group of countries. The report said practically nothing about the experience of developing co-operation in the Soviet Union.

60. The experience of socialist and many developing countries showed that social and economic changes aided social progress only when they were carried out in the interests of the population as a whole and were aimed at strengthening national sovereignty and independence and protecting the national economy from foreign plunder, inter alia, by transnational corporations. Those changes were particularly valuable when they were directed at giving broad sections of the population, especially the workers and peasants, real opportunities to participate actively in developing and implementing general national plans and programmes of economic and social development. Changes of that kind included progressive agrarian reforms, limitation of the size of

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foreign and large-scale national ownership, a just distribution of national income, the establishment of effective control over natural resources, limitation of the activity of foreign capital, particularly of transnational corporations, nationalization and the establishment of control over key economic sectors, the co-operation organization of agriculture, and the introduction of progressive systems of education, health care and social security. There could be no doubt that important measures of that kind helped to accelerate the social progress and development of countries and raised the material and spiritual living standards of all members of society, first and foremost those of the working masses.

61. The Soviet Union fully supported United Nations efforts with respect to exchanging experience of far-reaching social and economic changes. Turning to the experience of her own country, she said that, as a result of the Great October Socialist Revolution, profound social and economic changes had been carried out, putting an end to the exploitation of many by man, to class antagonism and to national hostility. The Soviet people had succeeded in building a new life in exceptionally difficult circumstances caused by the continual hostility of the forces of imperialism, which had repeatedly resorted to armed intervention and economic blockades against the young Soviet State. Later, the country had sustained enormous human and material losses as a result of aggression by Hitlerite invaders and Japanese militarists during the Second World War. The great victory of the Soviet people in the Second World War and the rapid rebuilding of their country from the war-time ruins clearly demonstrated the indisputable advantages of the socialist system.

62. The building of a society with developed socialism was the great achievement of the Soviet people. The economy of the USSR had continued its successful development during the tenth five-year plan. The economic capacity and the scientific and technical capacity of all productive and non-productive sectors had grown significantly. National income had grown by 400 billion rubles, of which four fifths was used directly for social consumption, housing construction and social and cultural improvements. The further growth of heavy industry, the foundation-stone of the economy, was assured. The advanced sectors of the economy had grown rapidly, and significantly increases in the output of consumer goods had been recorded. The major task of the eleventh five-year plan was to ensure further growth in the well-being of the Soviet people through the steady and progressive development of the economy, accelerated scientific and technical progress, a more rational use of the country's productive capacity, conservation of resources in every possible way, and improvement in the quality of work. The economic policies it set forth reflected the deep-seated and vital interests of the Soviet people and guaranteed a steady movement towards increasing the well-being of workers and creating the material basis of communism.

63. International tension and the intensification of the arms race posed serious obstacles to social and economic progress, the main conditions for which were peace and security. Indeed, one of the main conclusions of the Seminar on Relations that Exist between Human Rights, Peace and Development was that the maintenance of international peace and security was vital for social and economic progress and for the full implementation of human rights. The strengthening of peaceful coexistence would encourage the development of equitable economic relations and would create the conditions for accelerated economic and social development. The intensive study within the United Nations of the experience of far-reaching social and economic changes for the purposes of social progress would promote a healthy international climate.

64. The Soviet Union felt that the question of national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes should be kept on the agenda of the United Nations social bodies and that seminars on the subject, as provided for in relevant General Assembly resolutions, could play an important role in disseminating information concerning national experience, in particular that of the socialist and developing countries. She regretted that, in spite of the repeated recommendations of the General Assembly, the Secretariat still had not taken the necessary measures to organize such seminars and saw that it should fulfil the task entrusted to it without further delay.

65. Turning to agenda items 80 and 84, she said that the Soviet Union attached great importance to enabling the elderly and the aged to live a secure and fruitful life. Socialism guaranteed workers protection in their old age and, as a result of social and economic changes, her country had established and was constantly improving a State system of social security which enabled Soviet citizens to realize their right to material protection in old age. Besides pensions, there was provision for free social and medical care, residential homes and sanatorium and resort facilities. Party and economic organs were constantly concerned about veterans of work and war service. The minimum pension for workers, peasants and professionals had recently been further increased. There were plans for expanding and improving substantially the network of homes for the elderly and the disabled. Efforts would also be made to widen the range of opportunities open to pensioners who wished to take part in socially useful work, including opportunities to work a shorter day and in their own homes.

66. Her delegation had noted with interest the information contained in documents A/36/70 and A/36/472. It hoped that the forthcoming World Assembly on Aging would be a success and was prepared to contribute to its work. One of the basic tasks of the Assembly was to provide for an exchange of experience concerning the wide range of problems connected with aging. The Soviet Union had made great advances in developing gerontology, which had received

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international recognition, inter alia, at an interregional seminar on questions of aging, held at Kiev in May 1979. The World Assembly on Aging would have a greater chance of success if the main stress was put on activities undertaken at the national level, particularly with respect to each country's legislative guarantees of the right of the elderly and the aged to social security and medical services, non-discrimination in realising their right to work, material security in old age and the provision of proper living conditions.

67. Mr. AVILES (Nicaragua) said his delegation endorsed the observation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, that the problems of youth were those of society as a whole and should be covered by over-all social and economic policies. Young people should be seen not as passive recipients of welfare services but as active participants in development, transmitters of positive values, resources of production and potential possessors of skills. There was a need for research and operational activities to investigate issues such as employment, leisure and cultural values.

68. Nicaragua agreed with the approach adopted by the General Assembly in recognizing the importance of direct participation by young people in shaping the future of humanity and the need to meet their aspirations, and in basing the programming for the International Youth Year on its concern for the situation of young people.

69. The report noted that young people in rural and semi-urban areas were the most underprivileged. His delegation agreed that the situation of young people was so closely linked to development that any long-term economic downturn might have adverse effects on economic, social, cultural or other programmes relating to them.

70. The aim of participation by young people in the life of society particularly in development, should not be merely to resolve their own problems but to co-ordinate their efforts with other groups in society with a view to improving the quality of life. Special attention should be paid to the leadership role of young people in community-based projects.

71. Young people had the right to share the responsibility of development. They should be made aware of the contribution they could and should make, and they should be given opportunities for direct participation in development programmes.

72. Peace and the interests of youth were indivisible, for young people's interests could be furthered only under peaceful circumstances. Young people should be educated in a spirit of humanism, international peace, friendship, co-operation and understanding.

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73. His delegation trusted that all those elements would be reflected in the International Youth Year, as they were in the role currently played by young people in the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

74. In countries such as Nicaragua which were struggling to escape from years of political and cultural stagnation and economic exploitation, it was essential for all sectors of society, including young people, to play their part. Peoples which underwent profound social changes had an opportunity to see young people play decisive roles with the same responsibility as adults.

75. A society's values were moulded not by individuals but by historical circumstances. When those were not favourable for young people, they became apathetic and adopted "counter-values", such as drugs, delinquency and prostitution. If society motivated individuals, then adopted new values, benefitting both themselves and society as a whole. Such was the role of young people in societies undergoing change.

76. In Nicaragua, it had been the young who had overthrown the tyrannical Somoza dynasty, shared up until then by a certain great Power. Thousands of young people had risen against the injustices afflicting the Nicaraguan people. Many had become heroes and martyrs, falling in the struggle for national freedom. Of still more significance was the fact that young people were bearing much of the responsibility in the economic, political and cultural reconstruction of the country.

77. Young people had played a major role in the political development of the revolution. Their performance in every area required by social conditions provided an example to the older generation. In their two years of freedom young people had played a role in the Council of State, in which they shared in political decision-making. They had participated in a literacy campaign, which had been astoundingly successful. Young people, formed into "volunteer brigades" had raised production in key areas in which labour was short. Organized as "health brigades", they had played a role in various health programmes. They had assisted in the development of communal projects.

78. Students had influenced curricula in universities, bring about greater concentration on national priorities. Young people had travelled throughout the land, restoring indigenous culture. The Sandinista Youth Movement was fully involved in defending the revolution and was engaged in organizing popular militias. Such measures were necessitated by external threats aimed at destabilizing the country. That young people were obliged to provide such service was regrettable, since they could otherwise spend their time

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studying and since their needs could be fully met only in circumstances of peace. Peace was what the Nicaraguan people sought, in order to combat inherited social evils. Nicaragua wanted its young people to live and grow in peace and for peace.

79. His delegation was greatly interested in the preparations for the observance of the International Youth Year, as Nicaraguan young would surely have an opportunity to learn and serve as examples. The Year, by promoting international solidarity, would help to forge a better world society. His Government would do its utmost to ensure the success of the Year.

80. Mr. SENGO (Mozambique), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said that his country attached particular significance to the items concerning youth because of the high percentage of young people in its population.

81. Under the guidance of the Mozambican Youth Organization, young people participated in all aspects of national development. They also helped unemployed young people, students and others to improve their skills and thus to become active participants in various economic and social projects.

82. In Mozambique, the decade had been dedicated to the struggle against under-development, and young people were making an immeasurable contribution to that effort. They were deeply involved in the areas of agriculture, education and the military and were helping to build communal villages, schools and hospitals. In so doing, they acquired additional know-how in both the technical and the political field.

83. Guided by the revolutionary experiences and internationalist solidarity of the FRELIMO party and with the co-operation of other youth organizations in the region, Mozambican young people looked forward to creating a zone of peace and social progress in southern Africa. To that end, they conducted campaigns of solidarity with the South African and Namibian people, raised funds and made other material contributions to the attainment of their goals. They also supported the thousands of oppressed young people in other regions whose rights were being flagrantly violated by apartheid, racial discrimination and colonial domination.

84. Constant contact with young people in friendly countries was maintained through exchanges of teams of young volunteers. In that way, Mozambican youth were able to contribute their varied experience and virtually inexhaustible energy to the establishment of healthy co-operation, mutual understanding and friendship among the young people of the world.

85. All those activities and manifestations of friendship were part of preparations for the International Youth Year. His delegation appreciated the opportunity the Year provided and was pleased to see that many countries and organizations were working to ensure that the Year was a success.

86. As a member of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, Mozambique would intensify its co-operation with other members of that Committee and with various youth organizations in an effort ensure that the International Youth Year was a great year for every young person in the world.

87. Mr. CHUGHTAI (Pakistan) said the remarks made by delegations on the problems of young people and the measures taken by their respective Governments to tackle those problems were of great interest to his Government.

88. As a country with an increasing percentage of young people, Pakistan was fully aware of its responsibility towards its future leaders. Efforts to find solutions to the problems confronting young people in developing countries were hampered by the limited availability of resources. Within such limits, Pakistan was making every effort possible to enable its young people to play a positive role in the achievement of progress and prosperity. A Ministry of Youth and Student Affairs had been established to deal with problems affecting young people. The provisions of social services for young people formed in integral part of the Government's development plan. Students were represented at the highest levels in educational institutions. Efforts had been made to prepare young people for gainful employment, and a national organization to promote co-operation between young people in Pakistan and other countries had been established. His delegation fully supported the programmes proposed for the International Youth Year and trusted that they would meet the needs of young people, especially in developing countries.

89. It was gratifying that the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement had noted the success of the movement, particularly in the agricultural sector. The assistance given by the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC), and provided by UNDP, UNESCO AND WFP was also praiseworthy. His delegation fully supported the recommendations contained in the report.

90. With regard to the question of the elderly and the aged, his delegation was grateful to those non-governmental organizations which had co-operated in the preparations for the World Assembly on Aging. The decision of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to undertake studies on the matter was welcome.

91. Religious sentiment, tradition and social structures in Pakistan meant that the problems of older people had not become a national issue. However,

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it seemed that the trends apparent in industrialized countries, including the growing isolation of older people and a decline in their role and status in society, would manifest themselves in due course in the developing countries. In response to the Secretary-General's request, his Government had established a national committee to care for the interests of older citizens and was formulating a plan of action for their social welfare, encompassing the provision of various services. His delegation fully supported the efforts of the international community to improve the social and economic environment of the elderly and the aged. The World Assembly on Aging should help in devising effective ways of improving their condition.

92. With respect to the question of crime prevention and criminal justice and development, his delegation looked forward to the conclusion of the research initiated by the Secretariat on the interrelationship between crime and development on the one hand and international co-operation in crime prevention on the other.

93. Miss ABU-LUGHOD (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking on agenda items 76 and 77, said the her delegation had read with great interest the relevant report of the Secretary-General, and she commended members of the Committee on their sensitivity to the many problems of youth which, ideally, should be addressed in 1985 and in other years as well. The Palestine Liberation Organization was proud to have a standing invitation to participate as an observer in sessions of the General Assembly and looked forward to the day when it would participate as a Member State.

94. The International Youth Year evoked both sadness and hope among the Palestinian people: since they had no State, references to State policies towards youth had less meaning for them than for other representatives. However, far from being discouraged by that fact, Palestinian had taken independent initiatives through student groups, workers' unions, women's groups and aid societies, which had been strengthened precisely because their survival as a national entity was at stake.

95. Some representatives had mentioned youthful innocence, hope, freshness and immunity to the scars of the past. However, Palestinian young people, who longed for those qualities, grew up very fast and did not inherit scars because they had their own to bear, scars resulting from the humiliation suffered by their parents, families and friends, from night arrests, tortures and killings.

96. Nevertheless, the dream of a homeland and undying faith in justice helped to create a resilient optimism that endured all odds.

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97. She expressed the hope that during the International Youth Year some consideration would be given to the Palestinian youth groups, the most important of them being the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS), which had been founded in 1959 but which was, of course, illegal in Israel. Its activities, which were conducted at the Palestinian, Arab and international levels, focused on organizing Palestinian students by involving them and educating them in political and development issues and urging them to co-operate in the social, economic and political development of the community. GUPS had more than 100,000 members world-wide.

98. Whatever hardships the Palestinian people encountered, an education could never be taken away and, therefore, the main goals of GUPS concerned education. As a result, there were 20 university graduates for every 1,000 Palestinians. GUPS also provided educational grants and defended the material, literary and cultural rights of its members. It sought to strengthen the relationship between Arab and international student organizations and resisted all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian question. Moreover, it fully supported the Palestine Liberation Organization in its legitimate struggle to achieve the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, to statehood and to return to Palestine. Therefore, it provided support for both students and institutions in the Israeli-occupied territories, helped to ensure that students in those areas could enjoy academic freedom and freedom from occupation, and kept people of the United States informed about the facts of their struggle.

99. She expressed appreciation to countries that had aided Palestinian students by admitting them to their universities and providing them with educational grants. The experiences Palestinian students acquired abroad helped them to understand the world and inspired them to build a just and democratic society. She therefore urged the Committee to give priority to student-exchange programmes during the International Youth Year, for there were few better ways to increase cultural awareness and to promote international peace.

100. She drew attention to the great suffering of Palestinian students both in Israel and the West Bank, particularly under the Anti-terrorist Act, which categorically prohibited sympathetic mention of the word "Palestine" and which provided a penalty of three years in prison for anyone involved in cultural or educational organizations supporting Palestinian youth. She asked how the Committee could talk about youth programmes while many young people were being systematically deprived of their rights. The Committee should seek to dismantle the oppressive apparatus in Israel and the West Bank, so that Palestinian young people could participate in the activities conducted in the context of the Year.

101. However, Palestinian youth were not only students; they were also productive members of the societies in which they lived. For example, SAMED,

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the economic arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization, produced clothing, furniture and handicrafts and worked in agriculture. Its workshops also helped to provide the children of Palestinian martyrs with training in useful skills. In many countries, Palestinians often became high-level professionals, but in Israel and in the occupied territories they were prohibited from fulfilling themselves and contributing to society.

102. Palestinian youth were also involved in defending their cultural heritage through the Association for Theatre and Palestinian Popular Art. The artistic exchanges carried out during the International Youth Year would be very valuable in the connexion.

103. Clearly, the future of society depended on the contribution of young people, and if they were to be able to make a positive contribution, they must share common, lofty values, they must feel that they were part of the societies from which they came. The International Youth Year could help to heighten young people's awareness of their social environment and help them to find a meaningful life in that context. Moreover, in a world of unemployment, racism, mistrust, drug abuse and other problems, special efforts must be made to preserve such values.

104. However, young justice must also be able to have faith in the law and in the triumph of justice. In that connexion, she drew attention to a very important legal case in the United States, which had serious implications not only for the Palestinian people but for all peoples involved in the struggle for liberation. In August 1979, a 16-year-old native of the West Bank, Ziad Abu Ain, had been arrested in Chicago while visiting his sister there. He had not committed any crime in the United States and had been arrested only once, several years earlier, when he had been imprisoned and tortured for having participated in a peaceful demonstration against the Zionist authorities. He had been held in a Chicago prison without bail, without visitation rights, deprived of his right to pursue his education, allegedly for having planted a bomb at Tiberias. The confession that had implicated him, extracted under torture, had been retracted several times over.

105. Mr. JOHNSON (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that remarks made by the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization concerned a case pending before the United States judiciary and were out of order. He therefore asked the Chairman to ask that observer address herself to the agenda items under consideration and not to engage in gratuitous political attacks on Member States.

106. Miss ABU-LUGHOD (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) said that she had raised the matter in question because it was important for young people

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to experience justice. Ziad Abu Ain was to be extradited soon to Israel, where no Palestinian had ever been found innocent of anything, and he was sure to spend the rest of his life in prison.

107. The CHAIRMAN asked the observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization to confine her comments to the items under consideration.

108. Miss ABU-LUGHOD (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization) requested for the sake of youth and of a world of justice, that special attention should be given to the case she had mentioned which posed a grave threat to the participation of young people in society and to their faith in the world. She pleaded with the Committee to stop the extradition in question and to review the facts of the case; the Committee should set an example for youth and should promote solidarity among peace-loving peoples.

109. The CHAIRMAN announced that the list of speakers on agenda items 75, 85, 86, 87 and 91, which were to be considered subsequently, would be closed on 23 October at 6 p.m. He also drew attention to the fact that the debate on those items was to be concluded on 29 October.

OTHER MATTERS

110. Mr. DERESSA (Ethiopia) said that although the press releases issued by the Department of Public Information were unofficial reports of United Nations meetings, his delegation relied on them for official purposes. It had therefore been surprised to note that the important comments it had made in connexion with the introduction and discussion of a controversial draft resolution had been omitted from the relevant press release. He had contacted the appropriate office in that connexion but thus far, had not yet received any reply.

111. In addition, press release No. GA/SHC 2440, dated 16 October 1981, indicated that the representative of Swaziland had been speaking on behalf of the Africa Group in raising the objections to paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.11 concerning the recent invasion of Angola. That report had evidently been mistaken, and the relevant corrigendum had been issued.

112. However, on page 8 on the same press release, the representative was said to have expressed the same reservations in connexion with draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.11 - of which Ethiopia was a sponsor - as he had expressed in connexion with an omission in draft resolution A/C.3/36/L.10. Since Ethiopia had fully participated in the drafting of the former resolution, that was clearly a mistake. Accordingly, he hoped that the necessary corrigendum would be issued and that that mistake would not be perpetuated in the official summary record of the relevant meeting of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

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