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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
38th meeting
held on
Monday, 29 November 1982
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New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 38th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUBAREZ (Yemen)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 67: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/37/L.15, L.16 and L.18)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (continued)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (continued)

1. Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the open-ended Working Group on questions relating to information, reported that a consensus had been reached in the Working Group on the draft resolutions contained in documents A/SPC/37/L.15 and L.16. He wished to place on record the open-minded and constructive attitude that had characterized the Working Group's deliberations and the desire of the different regional groups to draft appropriate texts.

2. Introducing draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.16, which was designed to strengthen relations between the United Nations and UNESCO and, above all, to emphasize the importance of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) for the establishment of a new world information and communication order, he paid a tribute to the spirit of co-operation shown by members of the Working Group, in particular the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Western and Eastern European countries, which had made a consensus possible. He hoped that the Committee would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

3. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15, said that the draft resolution reflected the consensus already reached in the 43 recommendations adopted by the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1982 and the spirit of understanding that had prevailed in the Working Group. That spirit had made it possible to find common ground and make recommendations which respected the political and ideological positions of all participants.

4. The preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution recalled a variety of instruments, resolutions, principles and activities relating to information, which, in general, stressed the need to harness the tremendous potential of the information media for promoting world development, peace and international understanding.

5. Paragraph 5 in essence appealed to the information media not to remain indifferent to the poverty, ignorance and disease in the world and to publicize the developing countries' efforts to improve their own situation. Paragraph 6 appealed to the various organs and organizations of the United Nations system to act as a system, working together for the purposes for which they had been created and bearing in mind the fact that both their mandate and their financing came from Member States.

(Mr. Albornoz, Ecuador)

6. Paragraph 12 proposed a programme of action for the Department of Public Information (DPI) and pledged the political backing needed to implement it. Paragraph 13 was aimed at co-ordinating information activities more closely with the development process, while paragraph 14 emphasized the importance of the information media for promoting an international climate conducive to peace and disarmament, the enhancement of human rights and development. Finally, the draft resolution contained various recommendations on issues crucial to the functioning of DPI.
7. The various recommendations in the draft resolution created new responsibilities and tasks for DPI; he was sure that they would be received by the Under-Secretary-General and the staff of DPI in the constructive spirit in which they were intended.
8. He wished to pay tribute to the spirit of co-operation and understanding that had characterized the Working Group's deliberations, in particular the fact that due consideration had been given to the proposals of the Group of 77 which had submitted the initial text of the draft resolution. Its authors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.
9. Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, recalled that the Working Group's deliberations had been based on two working papers submitted by him on behalf of the Group of 77. Members of the Group had worked extensively among themselves to prepare the two working papers, bearing in mind the need for renewed efforts towards the early establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order and also the need to ensure the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee on Information at its substantive session in 1982. The basic input for the working paper on which draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.16 was based had been provided by the Group of 77 in Paris. Throughout its work on the draft resolutions, the Group had been motivated by a spirit of understanding, co-operation and desire for collective benefit and by recognition of the need to reach a consensus. The Group intended to honour the consensus arrived at after long and difficult negotiations and sincerely hoped that other members of the Committee would do likewise.
10. The position of the Group of 77 on questions relating to information had been amply reflected in its two working papers. The Group had been in the forefront of global efforts to establish a new world information and communication order and it believed that the early establishment of such an order would strengthen peace and international understanding and change the dependent status of the developing countries in the field of information. Believing that the establishment of such an order was also closely linked to the new international economic order and formed an integral part of the international development process, the developing countries, and the non-aligned countries in particular, had made a significant contribution towards enhanced international co-operation in the field of information.
11. Information could play an important part in promoting not only an understanding of and support for the establishment of the new international economic order and international co-operation for development but also greater

(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

support for universal disarmament and wider public understanding of the direct link between disarmament and development. In that context, the Group attached great importance to the work of the Committee on Information and the efforts being made by DPI to make more efficient use of its resources. It emphasized the need to develop an integrated and coherent public information programme within the United Nations system as a whole, in order to promote understanding of and support for the activities of the system in all fields. To that end, it also supported closer co-operation between DPI and the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and other regional and interregional news agencies of developing countries.

12. The developing countries strongly supported UNESCO's significant contribution towards the establishment of a new world information and communication order and attached great importance to the full implementation of its Declaration on the Mass Media. They also viewed the activities of IPDC as a significant step towards the establishment of a new information order and therefore urged all countries to make additional contributions towards its effective implementation. As a complex socio-cultural phenomenon with important economic and political implications, communication played an increasingly vital role in society, and the world-wide disparities in that field were the greatest obstacle to a free and better balanced exchange of information at the international and regional levels. The impact of current technological developments on information and communication and on the cultural, educational and scientific process, especially in developing countries, was a matter of great importance to those countries.

13. Adequate resources must be made available for the full and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Information and of the provisions of draft resolutions A/SPC/37/L.15 and L.16. The consensus that had taken such efforts to achieve must not be upset by the introduction of negative elements, and the Group therefore urged all members of the Committee to co-operate and avoid discord so that the United Nations might expand its activities in favour of peace, freedom, equality and justice.

14. Mr. LINDAHL (United States of America) observed that previous speakers had referred to draft resolutions L.15 and L.16 as consensus resolutions. He wished to recall that, in the Working Group, his delegation had expressed serious reservations regarding four of the operative paragraphs of draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15. His delegation maintained those reservations and would take a decision on the draft resolution when the statement of its financial implications was issued. In the meantime, it was premature to assume that draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15 would be adopted by consensus.

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take a decision on the draft resolutions at its meeting on Wednesday, 1 December.

AGENDA ITEM 61: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
(continued) (A/37/162, A/37/485, A/37/525, A/37/541)

16. Mr. MATYUKHIN (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories (A/37/485) contained incontrovertible evidence that the Israeli authorities were trampling on human rights there, intensifying repression of the local Arab population and following a policy of annexing the lands they had seized. His delegation fully shared the conclusion in paragraph 286 of the report that the persistent violation of human rights derived from the very fact of a 15-year military occupation and a policy of colonization and annexation of the occupied territories. The report rightly affirmed that the Palestinian people as well as the Syrian people under occupation could not expect to enjoy their fundamental rights so long as they were denied the right to self-determination. His delegation resolutely supported the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent State, as well as the right of Syrian citizens living in the Golan Heights to be reunited with Syria within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement in the region.

17. Unfortunately, Israel's aggression in Lebanon was complicating the prospects for a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The monstrous crimes of the Israeli military in Lebanon, together with Israel's policy and practice in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, left no doubt that the aggressor's final objectives were to deprive the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights to self-determination and the creation of an independent State, to annex the Arab and Palestinian lands which had been seized and to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization. The facts in the report and statements by many speakers confirmed the increasing efforts being made by the Israeli leadership to perpetuate changes in the geographic and demographic character of the occupied lands. As the report emphasized, the occupation was not only worsening the situation of the civilian population but was depriving it of the right to develop as a community.

18. Israel had enforced numerous laws and decrees aimed at facilitating annexation of the occupied areas. The number of military decrees by which the Israeli authorities had changed local legislation in all fields exceeded 950. Their extension of Israeli legislation to cover the Golan Heights area amounted to de facto annexation of that territory and was a blatant violation of international law.

19. To judge by their statements and actions, Israeli's ruling circles were currently preparing effectively to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, to which end their policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories had been considerably intensified. Israel was planning to double the Jewish population of the West Bank and almost quadruple it in the Golan Heights over the next four years. In the economic sphere, the Israeli occupation authorities were constantly impeding the development of Arab lands, violating the social way of life of the population and creating their own infrastructure in the occupied territories. By their actions to drive the Arabs forcibly from their own lands, create militarized

(Mr. Mathyukin, Byelorussian SSR)

settlements and seize water sources and other natural resources, the Israelis were trying to compel the Palestinians to quit their homeland and so make the planned annexation of the occupied territories easier. Further evidence of the strengthening of annexationist tendencies was provided by the constant escalation of terror and violence in the occupied territories, where persecution, arrests, torture, the imprisonment of thousands of Palestinian patriots in Israeli torture chambers, and the dismissal and deportation of Palestinian notables had become everyday events.

20. His delegation condemned the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the wave of violence in the occupied Arab territories as demonstrating crude contempt for United Nations resolutions and a blatant violation of human rights. It therefore demanded that the Security Council should take measures which would place an effective barrier in the way of any further annexationist endeavours. His delegation also reiterated its support for the just struggle of the Arab peoples for the complete elimination of the consequences of Israeli aggression and for a comprehensive political settlement in the Middle East. Such a settlement would be possible only on the basis of Israeli withdrawal and the guaranteeing of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination and independent statehood and of all States in the area to a secure and independent existence. The Palestine Liberation Organization must naturally participate in such a comprehensive settlement on an equal footing with the other interested parties as the acknowledged leader and sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

21. Mr. AZAZY (Yemen) said that, in connection with the Committee's deliberations on the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, new reports were issued and new statements made year after year. Israel had not wearied of that repetition and had continued to shed the blood of the Palestinian people wherever that people was to be found. Because of the values cherished by racist Zionist thought, Israel's thirst for blood would never be quenched but would only become more insatiable.

22. It was truly saddening that a major Power which claimed concern for the maintenance of peace and security, which fought for human rights and which made great play of freedom and democracy because of martial law in one country or lack of respect for religious beliefs in another, should, when it came to the question of Palestine, deny its own ideals and values. The United States, through its political support and large-scale economic assistance had ensured that Israel would never have to yield to any economic or political pressure. Even worse, it had provided Israel with the latest and most sophisticated means of destruction so that it could satisfy its thirst for blood. One could only conclude that the United States was the natural and historical ally of the Zionist ally of the Zionist entity, along with all of the racist values that it embodied. His delegation had made that statement before and would do so again, whenever the opportunity was given to it, in order to expose that unholy alliance against the human race. Past events had demonstrated that there was nothing to be hoped for from American efforts on the question of Palestine and the most recent examples of such events had been those of Sabra and Shatila.

(Mr. Azazy, Yemen)

23. The statement made by the Chairman of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli practices in introducing its report had contained only a brief survey of Israel's practices in violation of international law since the time of its establishment. The report of the Special Committee presented a picture of the present tragic state of the population of the occupied territories and of the plunder, expropriations and mass detentions to which it was subject. Witnesses had described the brutality with which protests against measures taken by the Israeli authorities were suppressed; health services had been reduced and fees raised; schools and universities had been closed; continuing attempts were made to prevent religious services from taking place; the demolition of houses continued; Palestinian farmers were subjected to harassment, and agricultural settlements were established in order to deprive them of their sources of income; an attempt had been made to bring Palestinian society into line with Israeli law through the establishment of the so-called civilian administration; the occupied territories had been flooded with Israeli industrial and agricultural products; and Palestinian detainees were subject to brutal torture in which use was made of the most abominable Nazi methods.

24. Such practices were not new but were a natural and deeply entrenched part of Zionist thought and values. The new elements in those practices were the annexation of new lands, the establishment of new settlements and the fact that new victims had fallen among the Palestinian people.

25. According to statistics gathered by a Palestinian news bureau in Jerusalem, the number of people injured between 16 March and 6 May 1982 totalled 365. Among them, 251 had been wounded by bullets; 31 had been killed and 12 other kidnapped. Between September and December 1981, there had been 83 incidents in the occupied territories and, between January and July 1982, about 354 incidents, reflecting the staunch opposition of the Palestinian people to the Israeli occupation authorities. Israel was imposing itself by force of arms and with the blessing of the United States on the population of the occupied territories. The population was resisting and was fighting to rid the territories of the Israeli nightmare, in order to establish an independent State under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

26. After so much bitter experience in the Middle East, it was no longer possible to believe that the problems involved could be solved by the intricate means of diplomacy. Events had proved that the Arabs could only solve their problems through self-reliance and the elaboration of a long-term strategy based on economic, political and other factors. Reliance on the policy of successive American administrations was a mirage. After coming to power, each new administration spent its first year settling down; it then required a second year to study the situation in its entirety, a third year to determine the views of the parties to the dispute in the region and a fourth year to prepare for new presidential elections. A new administration then came to power and went through the same process. That was the manner in which American administrations behaved with regard to the Middle East problem, but for problems affecting European countries or Afghanistan or Kampuchea they took office fully prepared to make decisions.

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(Mr. Azazy, Yemen)

27. Israel's policy of annexation and settlement had been declared openly by a number of its leaders. The Deputy Minister of Agriculture had stated that construction in the West Bank during the coming four years would be in the hands of public and private companies, building 8,000 apartments per year beginning in 1982. He also stated that the settlement policy was determined by the Government of Israel alone and that the Jewish Agency was only an executive body. Sharon had said that the establishment of settlements in Eretz Yisrael did more to assure the future of the Jewish people than any written word or signed treaty. Begin, whose hands had yet to dry from the massacre at Deir Yassin, had affirmed that, in any future negotiations on any peace treaty between Israel and its neighbours, Israel would reject any proposal to dismantle any Jewish settlement. Shamir had stated that the Government's intention in seeking a parliamentary ban on the removal of Jewish settlements from the West Bank and Gaza was to make clear to future negotiating partners not to expect such a thing.

28. It was clear from the few examples given that the bloody trio made up of Begin, Sharon and Shamir had stated the matter clearly, and that statement was open to no other interpretation than that the policy of annexation and settlement would continue. The Golan Heights had been officially and openly annexed, and more than one Israeli leader had stated that there was no need to proclaim the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza since they were Jewish territory which had been liberated. Israel was a State built upon aggression and bloodshed, the usurpation of Palestine and of Arab territory and the expulsion of its people, making use for that purpose of American armaments, the American economy and American diplomacy. While it was true that it had signed a so-called peace treaty with Egypt and had withdrawn from Sinai, the thinking of the Zionist State in doing that had been to isolate the most populous and militarily the most powerful Arab country in order to be at liberty to practice armed robbery against its neighbours.

29. Israel's barbarous invasion of Lebanon had followed upon its strike against the nuclear installations in Iraq and repeated attacks against south Lebanon. The displeasure of the international community at that invasion was clear to all and the Security Council had adopted a number of resolutions calling for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal. It was to be expected that Israel would not withdraw, and the more time that elapsed, the more conditions it imposed. His Government was well aware that Israel's withdrawal would not come about with the simplicity that some supposed. That State which had remained in occupation of the deserts of Sinai for 15 years could not be expected to withdraw from Lebanon, a beautiful, fertile country of strategic importance. It would certainly like to remain there and impose a fait accompli.

30. The events of Sabra and Shatila remained before the eyes of all. After the Palestinian fighters had withdrawn, the United States had undertaken in writing to protect their families. That undertaking had evaporated completely during the massacres to which thousands of children, women and old people had fallen victim. It had recently become clear, from the inquiries under way in Israel, that Israeli leaders had known about the matter. His delegation would say that they had participated in it directly, since whoever could bombard refugee camps with cluster bombs and phosphorous bombs would not hesitate to carry out such a criminal act.

(Mr. Azazy, Yemen)

For the United States, it seemed that a single dissident unable to leave the Soviet Union aroused its concern for human rights to a greater extent than the annihilation of an entire people.

31. The Arabs, having failed in their use of the military option for objective reasons and because of certain international alignments, had seen the political option fail also. It should not be forgotten that there were many other options before the Arabs to which they would certainly have recourse, if not in the present generation, then in the future. The present struggle was not simply for a piece of land but for existence and for a civilization and a history. While present international alignments were not to the advantage of the Arabs, that situation would certainly not last.

32. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia) said that the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices (A/37/485) again proved the need for urgent and decisive action by the United Nations in the light of the alarming situation in the occupied territories. The Chairman of the Special Committee had referred, in his letter of transmittal, to the unprecedented brutality of repression against civilians in those territories. In pursuing its policy of annexing the occupied territories and expelling the local inhabitants, Israel was systematically violating basic human rights and generally accepted norms of international law. For over 15 years of military occupation, the Palestinians had been subject to terrible repression: they were being driven from their homes; their land was being confiscated to make way for Jewish settlements; their water was being diverted; duly elected municipal councils had been dissolved; imprisonments and restrictions on freedom of expression and information were becoming the rule rather than the exception.

33. The precise facts and figures given by the Special Committee in its report amply demonstrated the seriousness and scope of Israel's policies. The total picture of the situation was grim indeed.

34. Those policies did not affect only the fate of the Palestinians; they affected the faith and spiritual heritage of hundreds of millions of Muslims and Christians. The historical and religious character of the Holy City of Jerusalem was threatened by Israel's constant desecration, and even demolition, of Islamic Holy Places. Israel had ignored General Assembly and Security Council resolutions prohibiting any action to annex Jerusalem or change its status. In its resolution 446 (1979), the Security Council had reaffirmed that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, was applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem. It had strongly deplored the failure of Israel to abide by Security Council resolutions and had once more called upon it to abide scrupulously by the Geneva Convention. It was by that resolution that the Security Council had established a Commission to examine the situation relating to settlements in the occupied Arab territories. During the Security Council's consideration of the Commission's report, the representative of Israel had stated that Jerusalem would for ever remain the capital of Israel and of the Jewish people.

(Mr. Amari, Tunisia)

35. The situation in the other occupied Arab territories was no less alarming. By its unrelenting policy on settlements, Israel was changing the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of those territories. New settlements were being established and some of the most fertile land was being illegally expropriated. Israel was using coercion (control of the water supply, seizure of private property, destruction of homes) to force the inhabitants to make way for new settlers. The effects on the economic and social life of the remaining Arab inhabitants had been devastating. In some cases, Arab land-owners had had no choice but to work on their own land as employees of Israeli settlers.

36. There was a long list of Israeli violations of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of international law. By denying the members of the Special Committee access to the occupied territories and by interfering in its work, Israel was failing to fulfil its responsibilities under Article 2, paragraph 5, of the Charter, which stated: "All Members shall give the United Nations every assistance in any action it takes in accordance with the present Charter".

37. The Israeli Government must realize that neither its policy of annexation, the establishment of settlements, the expropriation of land by force, the changing of the status of the Holy Places, nor its constant violation of human rights in the occupied territories would guarantee it peace and security, which could be based only on respect for human rights and the elementary principles of morality and justice. The resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council were the authentic expression of the will of the international community and must be complied with. It was more essential than ever for the international community to do its utmost to restore to the inhabitants of the occupied territories their dignity and all their rights.

38. Mr. HANSEN (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the 10 States members of the European Economic Community, said that the Community attached the greatest importance to all matters affecting the rights of the population of the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. It viewed with profound concern Israeli policies in the area during the past year, which had led to mounting tension and continued unrest. Such developments constituted one of the most serious obstacles to a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The need for a negotiated, comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was more pressing than ever. There could be no real peace or stability in the region unless the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people were recognized. They had demonstrated their resolve to work in a concrete way towards achieving such a solution. The Community believed that a settlement should be based on the essential principle of security for all States in the region, including respect for Israel's right to exist, and justice for all the peoples, including respect for the Palestinians' right of self-determination, with all that that implied, and mutual recognition by all the parties involved.

(Mr. Hansen, Denmark)

39. The Community reaffirmed that Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation it had maintained since 1967, that the provisions of the Hague Convention of 1907 and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 were applicable to the Arab territories occupied since 1967, and that the Israeli settlements in those territories, as well as any change in the status and demographic structure of the territories, were contrary to international law and to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war, as specified in Security Council resolution 242 (1967).
40. In particular, the Community was deeply concerned by the Israeli policy on settlements. That concern had been heightened by the recent announcement by the Israeli Government of its intention to expand the settlements programme. Its policy had taken on a new and disturbing dimension with the provision of subsidized housing to encourage the use of the occupied territories as dormitory suburbs for Israel.
41. The growth in the number of Israeli settlers had inevitably led to friction with the local inhabitants. In that connection, there had been worrying reports of settlers taking the law into their own hands. Each construction or expansion of a settlement had served only to increase the strong and justified resentment of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Community called on Israel to put an end without delay to that illegal and damaging policy, and, in particular, to rescind its recent decision concerning the establishment of additional settlements. The Community supported the call by the President of the United States for the immediate adoption by Israel of a freeze on settlements. The continuation of the current policy on settlements in the occupied territories could only serve to undermine the necessary bases for dialogue and trust, which were essential prerequisites for any constructive negotiation to reach a comprehensive peace settlement.
42. While the Community noted that Israel had fulfilled its commitment to withdraw in due time from the occupied territory of Sinai, it was deeply concerned at the situation in the remaining territories, where, during the past year, acts of repression and violence had caused an unjustified toll of dead and wounded. The Community had denounced in particular the dismissal by the Israeli authorities of democratically elected mayors, as well as the violation of the liberties and rights of the inhabitants of the occupied territories. The Community once again called on Israel to refrain from expulsion and other measures against Palestinian notables, which prevented them from carrying out the functions for which they had been elected or appointed. At the same time, Israel should facilitate the return of those Palestinian leaders whom it had expelled, and lift restrictions on the travel abroad of those remaining in the occupied territories. The Israeli authorities should ensure that the allocation of water was not to the detriment of Arab farmers in the occupied territories.
43. The Community noted with concern the closure of educational institutions for extended periods of time. The treatment of such institutions was a matter of particular concern to the Arab population of the occupied territories; Israeli policies should reflect that fact. The practice of demanding what amounted to political pledges from faculty members was unacceptable and constituted a violation

(Mr. Hansen, Denmark)

of academic freedom. Recent reports indicated that the Israeli authorities had discontinued that practice. The Community hoped that all faculty members who had been expelled would be allowed to return.

44. The Community was concerned by the policy of imposing civil administration on the occupied territories. Pending a peace settlement, the military occupation was supposed to be a temporary state of affairs, which could not confer on the occupying State a right to dispose of or annex occupied territory, or the right to extend its law, jurisdiction and administration therein. The Community strongly deplored Israel's decision to extend Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to occupied Syrian territory in the Golan Heights. Such an extension, which was tantamount to annexation, was contrary to international law and therefore invalid.

45. Recognizing the particular importance of the question of Jerusalem for all parties involved, the Community rejected any unilateral initiative aimed at altering the status of that city, and reiterated its commitment to the inviolability of the Holy Places. Any agreement on Jerusalem should guarantee the protection of the Holy Places and free access to them by all. Once again the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, through no fault of its own, had been prevented from visiting the occupied territories. Accordingly, its report (A/37/485) could not present a complete picture. The Community nevertheless recognized the effort which had been made to give a full and objective account of the situation. It took note of the views of the Israeli and other delegations on that matter, and reiterated the importance it attached to human rights in the occupied territories and to the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace settlement which would provide for Israel's withdrawal.

46. Mr. BOLD (Mongolian People's Republic) said the Special Committee's report (A/37/485) was full of facts proving that the Israeli occupation authorities were continuing their illegal acts against the native population of the territories seized in 1967. It was quite evident that the 15-year occupation of Arab lands had entered the subsequent stage of annexation, and the speed and scope of annexationist activities had increased sharply over the last two years. It was also evident that zionism meant unbridled expansionism.

47. The Zionists were not fastidious in implementing their aims in the occupied territories, where they destroyed harvests, seized water sources to force the Arabs to leave their lands and plundered Arab settlements. Israel's violence against the native population of the occupied Arab territories and its legislative and administrative measures aimed at changing the geographical and demographic status of those territories were a grave violation of human rights and the norms of international law. His delegation entirely agreed with the Special Committee's conclusion that the persistent violation of human rights derived from the very fact of a 15-year military occupation and a policy of colonization and annexation of the occupied territories.

(Mr. Bold, Mongolian People's Republic)

48. The Middle East had been an object of the United Nations' particular concern for 35 years, during which every attempt to settle the crisis and achieve a stable peace in the area had failed. The slaughter perpetrated by the Israeli military in Lebanon was fresh proof that the Zionists were prepared to commit any crime in implementing their expansionist policy. It was clear to everyone that Israel would not be able to behave so arrogantly and defiantly if it were not for the support and assistance of the United States, which provided the most modern weapons in abundance and injected billions of dollars to build up Israel's military might. Every time there was a question of condemning Israel's aggressive actions against the Arab peoples and taking appropriate measures to stop them, the United States invariably sided with the aggressor and it had used the right of veto in the Security Council dozens of times to block the adoption of resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab lands and the re-establishment of the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

49. The history of the Middle East crisis showed that it could only be solved by means of a comprehensive political settlement. The basis for such a settlement was the ending of Israeli occupation, implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people and guaranteeing the security and sovereignty of all States in the area. That was his country's approach to solving the Middle East problem in general and the Palestinian question in particular, and that was why his Government supported the new Soviet proposal for a Middle East settlement dated 15 September 1982.

50. Mr. BA-ISSA (Democratic Yemen) said that his delegation was not surprised that the Zionist authorities had not allowed the Special Committee to visit the occupied territories in order to examine conditions there. The Zionist entity had, through its ideology and practices, shown itself as it really was and had received the unanimous condemnation of the international community. What was really surprising was that some had had recourse to transparent excuses in an attempt to conceal the truth and had participated in the deception practiced by the Zionist entity to cover up its criminal practices and its expansionist racist policies.

51. The Zionist entity had from the beginning been based upon terror, aggression and colonialism by settlement and could not have been established without the expulsion of the original inhabitants and their replacement by the Jews of the world. The law of return allowed any Jew in any part of the world to settle in Israel and acquire Israeli nationality, while the local Palestinians were deprived of their right to live in their country and enjoy those human rights recognized by international law for every human being. Such phenomena threw light on the true nature of the Zionist entity, based as it was upon expansion and settlement. Otherwise it would be impossible to understand the Israeli policies aimed at altering the characteristics of the Arab territories, obliterating the Palestinian personality, suppressing basic freedoms and forcing the Arab inhabitants to leave and preventing their return. From the beginning, Israel had followed an organized policy of terror and expansion and had done all in its power to expel the Arab inhabitants and appropriate their land, natural resources and property. The Zionist bands had not been content with the partition resolution, but had continued to work and dream for a greater Israel.

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(Mr. Ba-Issa, Democratic Yemen)

52. The defiance of the Zionists had reached such an extent that they had replied to the note verbale of the Secretary-General concerning the illegal measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities in expelling Mayors and Sharia Judges by stating that those measures had been guided by a concern for the cause of peace and the welfare of the population, that those concerned had abused their public and official positions in order to incite the Arab population to acts of violence and subversion and that they were engaged in a continuous propaganda campaign throughout the world against Israel. But what was the meaning of peace and welfare under occupation? How were those in public and official positions in the occupied territories to respond to the desires and aspirations of those who had elected them? Rejection and condemnation of the occupation and of the expansionist racist policies and repressive measures associated with it were quite natural and a legitimate right.

53. The Zionist entity was not content with the expulsion of Mayors, the dissolution of municipal councils and the restriction of academic freedom and the freedom of movement of the Arab population but also adopted more general and more comprehensive policies with the aim of imposing the fait accompli of a purely Jewish State. It pursued a policy of absorption in the economic, educational, health and social fields as a preparatory step towards political annexation, to say nothing of outright annexation as had happened in the case of Jerusalem and the Golan. The closing of universities and schools, acts of aggression against holy places, the mass arrests and torture of local inhabitants and the dispersal of demonstrators by gunfire were some aspects of that policy.

54. The Zionist entity was in violation of international law and in open defiance of the will of the international community and the resolutions of the United Nations. It continued to increase the number of settlements, to impose its control over natural resources, to expropriate land in the occupied areas and to adopt various means for transforming the farmers there into workers in the factories established by the occupational authorities.

55. The Zionist entity had given proof of its true intentions with its invasion of Lebanon and its occupation of its territory, its savage bombardment of Beirut and its blockade of that city; the world had seen nothing comparable to such acts since the Nazi atrocities. It would not have been able to persist in such policies without the unlimited support provided by the United States in the military, economic and political fields. The United States had justified its actions on the basis of the maintenance of peace and the search for solutions, but the international community demanded a just solution which would promote the cause of the Palestinian people and bring about the withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territory. That would not come about unless the aggressor was deterred and unless the national rights of the Palestinian people were recognized, including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish an independent State in their own land under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

56. Mrs. NOWOTNY (Austria) said that, although the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices had not been permitted to obtain first-hand evidence, the information contained in its report (A/37/485) gave rise to serious concern. It remained Austria's position that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War was fully applicable to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and should govern the action taken by the Israeli Government and the military and civilian authorities in the West Bank.
57. Under customary international law and under that Convention, an occupying Power was entitled to make alterations to domestic law only to the extent that they were necessary for the security of its forces. It was established beyond doubt, however, that the administration of the occupied territories had gone much further. The far-reaching changes it had made in the legal and demographic status of the territories were completely unacceptable.
58. One of the most harmful facets of those policies was the continuous construction of new settlements and the expropriation of land from the rightful owners for that purpose. Despite unanimous rejection by the international community, that policy continued. Israel's announced plans and budgetary allocations made it clear that the policy would not be abandoned for the time being.
59. The building of settlements in the occupied territories and the demographic changes which it entailed were illegal and clearly violated international law. The systematic efforts to change the status of the occupied territories could be viewed as an indication of an intention to perpetuate Israeli domination over the Arab territories. Thus, in addition to increasing tension in the region, Israel was seriously impeding the search for a peaceful and negotiated settlement, in which the status of the occupied territories would have a predominant place.
60. Another facet of the problem was the question of the water supply for the inhabitants of the occupied territories. Inasmuch as agriculture was the main economic activity in the occupied territories, it was essential to guarantee the water supply. Pictures which had appeared in the media showing swimming-pools in the settlements and dried-up olive groves on the other side of the fence spoke for themselves.
61. It was not a coincidence that the Fourth Geneva Convention used the term "protected persons" to refer to a population under military occupation. That term alone defined the moral and legal obligation of an occupying Power to protect the population and to safeguard their human rights and general interests. The information about the denial of the most fundamental freedoms by the military and civilian occupation authorities showed clearly that that obligation was not being fully complied with. Reports concerning collective punishment, curfews, evictions and measures affecting educational institutions were deeply disquieting. The activities of Israeli settlers directed against the inhabitants of the occupied territories had led to an increase in the level of violence and had generated an even stronger spirit of resistance among the civilian population.

(Mrs. Nowotny, Austria)

62. Austria had consistently held the view that the only possible solution lay in a negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict in all its aspects, under which the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people would be realized and Israel's security concerns met. In the meantime, Israel would have to desist from a policy which ran counter to peace efforts and only made the situation more dangerous and the problem more difficult to solve. Israel should seek to conduct its policy in the occupied territories in accordance with international law, in order to reduce enmity and build the confidence needed for a negotiated settlement.

63. Mr. KULAWIEC (Czechoslovak Socialist Republic) agreed with the conclusion in paragraph 292 of the Special Committee's report (A/37/485) that the Government of Israel was continuing to pursue the policy underlined in previous reports, as was shown by statements made by members of that Government. But it was also appropriate to point out that Israel's aggressiveness, arrogance and cruelty had increased sharply in the year since the last report. The facts adduced by the report showed that Israel was settling international problems by the use or the threat of force and so undermining the foundations of modern inter-State relations. Israel's 15-year military occupation of foreign territories was a blatant mockery of all human rights. However, Israel had not stopped there, and the declarations by its leaders about the annexation of certain illegally occupied territories bore witness to the escalation of its expansionist policy. Direct responsibility for the consequences lay with American imperialism, the creator of Israel's military and political power.

64. The human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel showed that the policy of separate deals was ineffective and could not achieve the desired results. Separate deals had increased Israel's unhealthy self-confidence and resulted in even more cruel repression of the Palestinian population. Israel was neither observing the fundamental norms of international law nor considering the opinion of United Nations bodies, which had repeatedly condemned Israel's attempts to change the geographic nature, demographic structure and legal status of the occupied territories. Israel's aggression against Lebanon and its participation or direct responsibility in the massacres in Palestinian refugee camps were obviously contrary to the spirit and the letter of the United Nations Charter. By its own actions, Israel was thus practically excluding itself from the organization, as was shown by its political isolation at the United Nations.

65. The latest plan for a settlement of the Middle East conflict from United States President Reagan was a clear attempt to bypass the legal rights of the Palestinian people, in particular, their right to establish an independent Palestinian State. The unhealthy spirit of Camp David was evidently still alive and such endeavours to change the balance of forces in the area were creating the prerequisites for still more dangerous conflict. It was noteworthy that the international community saw implementation of the natural and inalienable rights of every people as the only possible way of settling the problems, whereas Israel and its transatlantic protector held a different opinion.

(Mr. Kulawiec, Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic)

66. His delegation agreed with the Special Committee's conclusions on solving the problem of the consequences of the 15-year occupation. The six-point plan for a settlement of the Middle East conflict presented by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proceeded from similar objective conclusions. The plan was based on the need to implement the inalienable rights of the Palestinians, to observe the principle that illegal occupation was impermissible, to guarantee the right of all States in the area to a secure and independent existence and to create the prerequisites for solving disputes by peaceful means. If appropriate international guarantees were provided, the Soviet plan would be viable and promising.

67. His delegation was convinced that the Middle East would eventually become a region of peace, but the path lay through the united peaceful efforts of all interested States and peoples, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, not through military pressure which trampled on human rights. The United Nations was required to play an important part in settling the conflict.

68. Mr. XIE OIMEI (China) said the report of the Special Committee showed that the Israeli occupation authorities' refusal to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly had caused a further deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories. In the year which had elapsed since the last report, the Israeli authorities had continued to establish new settlements and to expel the native Arab inhabitants, confiscating their property, carrying out mass arrests and inflicting inhuman treatment and torture on them. In addition, the occupation authorities had closed educational institutions and universities, plundered the Arab cultural heritage and desecrated Muslim holy places. Democratically elected local authorities had been dissolved and their leaders expelled. The recent massacres of thousands of people in Palestinian refugee camps engineered by the Israeli armed forces were horrifying atrocities unparalleled in the recent history of human rights violations.

69. Israel's brutal rule in the occupied Arab territories and its invasion of Lebanon were integral parts of its policy of trying to change the status of the territories so as to cow the native inhabitants, annex their lands and destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization. In the final analysis, that policy pursued the evil aim of denying the Palestinian people their inalienable rights and their own independent State. But the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in the occupied territories had continued to demonstrate their resistance to Israeli occupation, and the Palestine Liberation Organization's just struggle had won world-wide sympathy and support.

70. The international community could not continue to tolerate Israel's inadmissible trampling on the human rights of the native inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories and on the principles of the United Nations Charter. His delegation believed that the General Assembly should strongly condemn Israel's crimes and should declare null and void all Israeli actions aimed at changing the status of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. It should also call upon

(Mr. Xie Oimei, China)

Israel to withdraw its forces from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and ensure that the Arab peoples of those areas were able to exercise their inalienable rights.

71. In conclusion, he expressed his Government's sympathy and resolute support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their land and their human rights. He was confident that, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization and with world support, the Palestinian people would win final victory and national independence.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.



