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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
40th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 30 November 1982
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 40th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RODRIGUEZ MEDINA (Colombia)

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AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

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, 485, 525, 541; A/SPC/37/L.26 and L.27)

1. Mr. RATHORE (India), referring to the Special Committee's report (A/37/485), said that it was replete with facts and figures concerning the barbaric acts of oppression of the Government of Israel. His delegation regretted Israel's refusal to co-operate with the Special Committee, including the refusal to grant it access to the occupied territories, which was necessary for on the spot investigation, and strongly condemned Israel's interference with the proper conduct of the Special Committee's work by preventing people from appearing before it. Israel's actions made a mockery of its oft-repeated assertions that it had an open society and that there was no oppression of the Palestinian Arab people residing in the occupied territories.
2. The report concluded that the situation in the occupied territories had seriously deteriorated; that conclusion, read in conjunction with the conclusion arrived at in the report of the previous year, to the effect that the policy followed by the Israeli Government constituted a threat to international peace and security, should serve as a warning to the international community that, unless urgent and drastic remedial measures were taken, the result would be catastrophic.
3. Israel had continued its relentless policy of depriving the Palestinian Arab population of every human right recognized by international law and, indeed, by every acceptable norm of civilized behaviour. Fundamental freedoms were increasingly being denied, restrictions had been imposed on a number of local leaders from the occupied territories, freedom of expression was being curbed through military censorship, and even freedom of education was being infringed by Military Order No. 854. Several other orders had brought about radical alterations of the existing law in virtually all areas of life of the individual. They extended to the confiscation of property, the strict control of access to water resources, restrictions on foreign trade and limitations on exports, resulting in a general paralysis of economic activity, which had become totally subservient to the Israeli economy.
4. In addition, settlements continued to be established in the occupied territories and several existing ones were being rapidly expanded; even the number of Jewish settlers there continued to increase. The Minister of Defence, Mr. Sharon, had stated that Israel would continue its policy of establishing settlements in the West Bank. Furthermore, the application of legislation to the Golan Heights constituted de facto annexation, in flagrant violation of international law.
5. The Israeli practices were illegal and a dangerous violation of Security Council resolutions. Such policies and practices, designed to establish Israeli sovereignty over the occupied territories, had increased the tension in the region

(Mr. Rathore, India)

and had created major impediments to the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Peace and security could be achieved only on the basis of respect for the rights and dignity of others and for the fundamental principles of morality and justice. His delegation was convinced that peace and security would remain elusive until a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement was achieved through the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the Holy City of Jerusalem, recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to establish an independent State in their homeland, and the right of all States in the region, including Arab Palestine, to live within secure borders. Until their inalienable rights were restored to the Palestinian people, it was the duty of the international community to intervene by all means at its disposal to put a stop forthwith to any further abuse of their human rights and dignity.

6. Mr. NAGAITCHOUK (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Special Committee's report (A/37/485) indicated the extent of Israeli repression in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem, and showed that Israel had ignored nearly all General Assembly resolutions relating to the violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

7. It was clear that the Israeli authorities, despite the will of the international community, persisted in their intention of colonizing the conquered Arab lands and enjoying the fruits of their aggression in the region through the systematic expulsion of the population, destruction of homes, confiscation of lands, and the like. Israel had clearly expressed its intentions in that regard, and even Mr. Begin had indicated that, henceforth, in any peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbours, any proposal for dismantling the Jewish colonies would be rejected. The Israeli authorities were methodically taking control of the natural resources and exploiting them, and were making the local economy subservient to the Israeli economy. Many facts testified to the repressive and annexationist character of Israel. The situation under the occupation régime was characterized by terror and oppression of the Arab population. Israel also persisted in its intention to impose its laws and civil administration on the occupied territories. In its systematic violation of human rights, Israel defied the international community and undermined the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

8. When considering the issue, one could not fail to mention the situation that had arisen in Lebanon as a result of Israel's attacks on that country. Israel was occupying a large part of Lebanese territory and, during its aggression against Lebanon, Israeli soldiers had again violated human rights, perpetrating acts which, at the international level, were described as war crimes and genocide. Those crimes included military activities against the civilian population, the use of barbaric weapons, having indiscriminate effects, bombing of hospitals and other actions. All those acts of aggression demonstrated that the Israeli leaders had perpetrated genocide of the Arab people of Palestine, the principal aim being to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian people. The world would not forget the criminal attacks of 17 and 18 September on the refugee

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(Mr. Nagaitchouk, Ukrainian SSR)

camps of Sabra and Shatila which had resulted in more than 3,300 casualties, among them women, children and old people. In the southern part of the conquered territory, most Palestinian men between the ages of 16 and 60 had been sent to concentration camps.

9. There was no doubt that responsibility for those violations of human rights lay not only with Israel's governing circles but also with those who placed the latest weapons in their hands, those who gave them financial assistance and provided them with political and diplomatic cover. The Ukrainian SSR strongly condemned the hostile attitude towards the Arabs, demanded that an end be put to Israeli activities in the occupied territories and condemned those countries which assisted Tel Aviv and encouraged its expansionism. Clearly, without the assistance of the United States, Israeli governing circles would not be in a position to pursue their criminal policy in the occupied territories and thus prevent the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

10. His delegation expressed its solidarity with those who were fighting for their lawful rights, it believed that the Palestinian people and its legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, would eventually triumph and it was convinced that an end must be put to those violations of human rights in the occupied territories. The only way of achieving that was through the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops and the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The United Nations must use all its influence and strive to ensure that Israel complied with the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, as that would create conditions favourable to an overall solution of the Middle East conflict.

11. Mr. XHAFA (Albania) said that during the time which had gone by since the last session, Israeli practices in the occupied territories and Israel's barbaric, aggressive, anti-Palestine and anti-Arab policy had been extended and intensified. Israeli Zionists had launched a new campaign of terror in the occupied Arab territories and the process of colonization and establishment of settlements was continued and even intensified. The Israeli chiefs declared openly that they intended to perpetuate their rule over the Arab lands, that they would never allow the foundation of a Palestinian State in those lands and that the occupied lands were part of Israel. With such a chauvinist and anti-Arab attitude Israel sought to deny publicly and forever the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to have their own homeland and to live in their lands as a free and independent people. Israel's crimes had culminated in the bloody Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Lebanese people; that aggression had caused and continued to cause thousands of dead and wounded, the clear objective and intention being the complete destruction of the Palestine movement, the occupation of Lebanon and the realization of Israel's expansionist aims.

12. With the greatest impudence, Israeli officials had called the occupation of Lebanon and the destruction of the PLO a step towards peace and stability in the region. But the "peace" which Israel sought was one which forever denied the Palestine people the right to a homeland. That "peace" also meant that other Arab

(Mr. Xhafa, Albania)

peoples would have to accept the occupation of their own land, accept Israel's role of gendarme and accept, further, the anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian Camp David Accord as well.

13. The crimes committed in Lebanon were enormous. The cruel attack undertaken by the Israeli occupation troops, the reactionary forces and the agents of imperialism on the Palestinian camps in West Beirut was a new unsettling and revolting tragedy. The aggression against Lebanon was part of the general plan that the United States and other imperialist countries had long been trying to implement in the Middle East in order to bring the region under their control, to divide the Arab peoples and to exploit their natural resources. Faced with the imminent failure of their earlier plots owing to the struggle of the Palestinian and Arab peoples, the imperialists, in order to translate their plans into reality, had turned to force and were using their tool, Israel, to reach their goal.

14. The events in Lebanon proved more clearly than ever that the Israelis were directed by the United States imperialists. It was ridiculous to see the United States imperialists, on the one hand, openly supporting and inciting Israel to exterminate the Palestinian martyr people, calling them "the cradle of terrorism" and a real obstacle to peace, and, on the other hand, trying to show themselves to be against the conflict and in favour of a cease-fire. After every escalation of aggressive activities, the United States, on the pretext of trying to mediate, to arrange a cease-fire and to find a so-called political solution, had done its best to help the aggressor to impose even harsher conditions on the victims and to extract other benefits.

15. The events in Lebanon also showed that the aggression against Lebanon was a harmful consequence of the rivalry and co-operation that existed simultaneously between the imperialist super-Powers. The United States and the Soviet Union had never intended to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the recognition of the undeniable right of the Palestinians to their own homeland. The sole aim of the super-Powers had been to divide the zones of influence in the Middle East between themselves.

16. The aggression against Lebanon had shown that the Soviet imperialists were the enemies of the Arab and Palestinian peoples. By placing the aggressor and victim on the same level, the Soviet Union was approving the conduct of the aggressor and once again betraying peoples which it had earlier defended with its words.

17. The people and Government of Albania condemned the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories and the intrigues of the super-Powers in that region. At the eighth Party Congress Enver Hoxha, the leader of the Albanian people, had referred to the ties of friendship that linked the Albanian people with the Arab peoples and had stated that Albania supported, and would continue to support to the end, the just struggle of the Arab peoples and the cause of the Palestinian people and the PLO, its sole lawful representative.

(Mr. Khafa, Albania)

18. The Israeli zionists must be forced to withdraw from all the occupied territories and to put an end to zionist-imperialist acts of aggression and super-Power interference in order to settle the question of Palestine, which was the core of all the region's problems.

19. Mr. ALI (Oman) said that the most recent report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories provided specific proof of the persistent Israeli policy of oppression directed against the civilian Arab population of those territories, which had been the victim of military occupation for the past 15 years. Human rights violations had become more frequent, and there was evidence of a general deterioration in the situation. The international community must therefore take steps to put an end to such acts of aggression and to ensure that the relevant United Nations resolutions were implemented.

20. In 1947, when the international community had decided to divide Palestine into two States, in order to demonstrate its solidarity with the Jews because of the way they had suffered at the hands of the Nazis, it had violated the rights of the Palestinian people. The Israeli policy of expansion and annexation, whose most recent manifestation had been the annexation of Lebanese territory, was by no means new, since it had been one of the Jewish leaders' aspirations prior to the establishment of the State of Israel. In a letter referring to a conversation he had had with Weizmann, Churchill said that Weizmann had explained that he believed it was possible to find a satisfactory form of partition, since a small area would be sufficient for the Jews at the beginning because subsequent generations would be able to expand in one way or another. Upon learning of the decision to partition Palestine, Begin had said that the homeland had not been liberated but, rather, mutilated and that the people of Israel would regain Eretz Israel in its entirety and definitively.

21. The Government of Israel was refusing, in defiance of public opinion, to stop its programme to establish settlements in the occupied territories, since that programme meant that it would be likely to be able to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As pointed out by Anthony Lewis in The New York Times, Israeli policy in the occupied territories was similar to the policy with respect to the Arab population that had remained in Israel after 1948, which was aimed at the annexation of Arab lands and the extermination of the Arab population living in the region in question. The spokesman for the Israeli settlement programme had said that his country intended to resettle 400,000 Jews in the West Bank before the end of the century and 1 million subsequently.

22. A report prepared by the Israeli Ministry of Defence in 1979 indicated that a large proportion of the land in the West Bank and Gaza had not been registered and that there was no proper record of the owners of the land in question. The Government of Israel had left the Palestinians 200,000 dunams in the West Bank and 300,000 in Gaza. Israeli practices in the Golan Heights were equally brutal. Most of the population had fled from the occupied territories following the 1967 war, and Israel had expropriated the land and constructed 30 settlements.

(Mr. Ali, Oman)

23. The economic future of the occupied territories depended on their political future, and until the Palestinian people had the right to self-determination their economy would be at the mercy of their oppressor. Israel's most recent strategy, combined with economic dependence, expropriation of land, expulsion of the population and the establishment of settlements, consisted in controlling water use in the occupied territories, whose population depended on agriculture for its livelihood. An Israeli law stipulated that no one could establish or use an institution without first obtaining the appropriate permit from the military commander of the area. Palestinians therefore had to apply to the commander of the area for a permit to use drinking water or water for irrigation that they had been using until 1967. The commander had the right to refuse authorization without giving any reason and thus hinder agricultural production at any time.

24. The rights of the population of the occupied territories were based on two fundamental elements: first, on an inalienable human right, which was defined in Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967 and, secondly, the right to statehood under international law, as laid down in the 1949 Geneva Convention on that question. The human rights of the population of the occupied territories had been usurped and violated. Palestinians were being killed merely because they had demonstrated against the oppressors in the West Bank. The Israeli settlers were themselves participating in the repression, as indicated by Rafael Eytan, Israeli Chief of Staff, in a lecture at Tel Aviv University in 1980, when he had said that the settlements in the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights formed part of the Israeli military forces and were regarded as a regular army and that the settlers had modern weapons and had received good training so that they could take action in the event of war. He had also said that some settlers had anti-tank rockets.

25. The Israelis were violating the very principles of their religion, as laid down in the Torah, which prohibited bloodshed. Israel would not achieve security through killings and further expropriation of land, and it would have neither stability nor peace as long as it refused to acknowledge the presence of the Palestinian people.

26. The Jewish writer Stone had said that only conciliation could guarantee the existence of Israel, a State that was the product of wars, and that Israel could only continue to exist by respecting the spirit of justice and brotherhood advocated by the prophets. According to Stone, everything was negotiable provided that the Palestinians' right to self-determination was recognized, and Israel could not lay claim to human rights itself while denying them to the Palestinians. There could be no peace without justice.

27. Mr. NOWAK (Poland) said that the report of the Special Committee proved that the 15 years of Israeli occupation had been used in order to impose an illegal infrastructure aimed at the eventual expulsion of the Palestinians and Syrians from their territories in the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

(Mr. Nowak, Poland)

28. Despite the numerous resolutions on the subject adopted by the United Nations, Israel persisted in its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and had taken illegal steps to annex East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and intensify its settlements policy aimed at evicting the Arab inhabitants, as well as to introduce a policy of de facto annexation of the occupied territories. His delegation joined the international community in condemning that policy.

29. Poland had stated its position in United Nations bodies on many occasions: practical efforts must be undertaken to restore to the Palestinians their homeland and right to self-determination, to enable the Syrians to return to the occupied territory in the Golan Heights and to achieve the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon; efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, which was the core of the Middle East conflict, must be intensified; and an international conference, with the full participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization, must be held, first, in order to reach a solution based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and to achieve recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to create their own independent State, and second, to ensure the independence of all States in the region and contribute to the lessening of international tensions. In his delegation's view, the United Nations had an important role to play and could constitute a framework for convening such an international conference.

30. To conclude, he said that the Committee's deliberations were an important contribution to improving the situation in the occupied territories and formed part of more comprehensive efforts aimed at elaborating a general political solution for the Middle East conflict.

31. Mr. GHAFFAR (Bahrain) said that the report of the Special Committee illustrated the daily sufferings of the Palestinian people. Israel was using all means of physical and psychological torture, in contravention of the 1949 Geneva Convention and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That was not surprising, since Israel's political and social struggle had its methodological basis in the Zionist philosophy, which was racist and violent. In 1924, the Hagana terrorist group had assassinated a Jewish orthodox leader, Israel Abu Ahan, because he had strongly opposed that philosophy. The Zionist literature was ridden with examples of the central role of violence. Exodus, by Leon Uris, indicated that the Zionist presence was intimately linked to violence against the indigenous inhabitants, who had been evicted in 1948.

32. Another proof of the close relationship between zionism and violence was contained in "The Soldiers Speak", published after the 1967 conflict, in which two soldiers named Yuri and Najman exchanged their recollections of that war. The character named Yuri said things such as: "Especially on the Egyptian front, we had to kill in order to frighten them. But I'm afraid that many became accustomed to a life of killing and assassinating; assassination is a common thing for us. We are going to create a society of assassins." Najman, who was apparently a political leader of the kibbutz movement, replied: "When we came to these lands,

(Mr. Ghaffar, Bahrain)

we knew that there was another people living here and that we could not expect it to abandon its farms and homes willingly. That was why we had to kill, in order to take possession of houses and fields after scaring the inhabitants and inducing them to run away and leave everything. That is the law of war. Killing is our destiny. And we cannot renounce our destiny without renouncing the idea of zionism."

33. The large-scale massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps and the Israeli leaders' collusion in that massacre had caused thousands of people who sympathized with the Zionist State to speak of the decadence of Israel's moral example. Such people had undoubtedly forgotten that, in the tragedy of the dispersed and homeless Palestinian people, murders perpetrated by Zionist bands in Palestine abounded. The annals of history could not be wiped clean, however; they included pages on massacres such as that of Deir Yassin, committed in April 1948, when the Irgum terrorist band, led by the current Prime Minister Menachem Begin, had joined another terrorist group and killed 250 people, including 25 pregnant women, 52 children aged less than 10 years and another 60 women. The village of Kibia, located two kilometres to the north of occupied Jerusalem, had been attacked in November 1953 with dynamite and cannons; its houses had been destroyed and its inhabitants killed. That had been done with the assistance of General Sharon. On 28 October 1956, Israeli troops had killed 57 Arab peasants who had been returning to their land, and when news of that massacre had appeared in the world press, the Israeli authorities had denounced the act, just as they had done with Deir Yassin and with Sabra and Shatila, simply to deceive public opinion.

34. A recent and important study financed by New York University and carried out by Mr. Bembenisti, former assistant to the mayor of Jerusalem, indicated Israel's true intentions in stating that it would not be long before the occupied territories had reached a critical point with Israeli annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The study added that 50 or 60 per cent of the land in the West Bank had been expropriated to establish large urban centres, which would be inhabited by 100,000 Israeli colonists by 1987. Thus, it was not simply a matter of small farming settlements.

35. With regard to the usurpation of Arab land, on 18 November an article had appeared in the Jerusalem newspaper Al Fajr entitled "Israel Cuts Through the West Bank Easily", in which it had been stated that "The practical intention is to intensify action. The authorities are establishing 30 new settlements in this area, in addition to the 20 planned for 1983-1984 and an additional 10 for 1985-1986. In all, 60 settlements will be established during the four-year period". In the same article, the Israeli Vice-Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Dekel, had been reported as saying that a "hundred thousand Jews on the West Bank are part of the great Jewish majority that will guarantee Israeli supremacy, preventing any 'Jordanian option' and the implementation of the Reagan plan".

36. As the studies and the reports drawn up by the United Nations and certain academic institutions clearly demonstrated, Israel was attempting to destroy the

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(Mr. Ghaffar, Bahrain)

infrastructure in the occupied territories and for that purpose was impeding in every way the functioning of the educational institutions and sought to prevent the health centres from acquiring the medical equipment which they needed. The Israeli authorities also intended to change by force the nature of the culture and civilization of the Arabs in the occupied territories, including their towns and villages. In his book "The Silent Villages", which provided impressive evidence of the Arab villages destroyed by the Zionist terrorists, the Israeli writer Milanski had written: "Several years ago there was a place here which had its own name. Now the place has disappeared and what remains is a name without a place. Very soon even the name will disappear and nothing will remain but a field under cultivation. Sometimes I think that these fields are not going to forget." That revealing paragraph had appeared in an article entitled "The Arabs in Hebrew Literature" published by a magazine in Tel Aviv in 1964.

37. Mr. DJALAL (Indonesia) said that, in considering the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, the Special Political Committee should bear in mind that the illegal Israeli acts, whether they took place in the occupied territories themselves or in the territory of neighbouring States, were ultimately designed to reinforce and perpetuate Israel's occupation policy.

38. In spite of the fact that the report had had to be prepared without the slightest co-operation from Israel, it contained an impressive array of information which established beyond any doubt that Israel was continuing and had even intensified its oppressive policies against the civilian population of the occupied territories. The report also provided a tragic picture which included the total blockade of the entire population of the Golan Heights, the forcible expropriation of lands, the dismissal of elected mayors and the establishment of "village leagues". All of that had led to the establishment of a de facto new régime with the very real possibility that in the near future Israel might proclaim the annexation of the occupied territories, which would increase the possibility of a new conflagration in the area.

39. In view of those developments, it was imperative that the Organization should directly address that threatening policy of Israel. Even Israel's closest allies had recognized that it was a destabilizing policy and could only increase the tension in the region, and therefore, had demanded an immediate end to the construction of new settlements and the consolidation of existing ones. Israel could no longer hide behind claims that its security interests would be threatened by the suspension and removal of settlements in the occupied territories.

40. The so-called "village leagues", which had been imposed after the establishment of the civilian administration in the occupied territories, lacked any popular support and were clearly part of the Israeli policy which through those methods was designed to create the illusion of legitimacy and consent on the part of the Arab population and consolidate authority in order to bring about annexation. In that regard, the resignations of the Arab mayors who had refused to collaborate with Israel and the protests which had followed those resignations had demonstrated that the Arab population as a whole would never accept Israeli rule.

(Mr. Djalal, Indonesia)

41. His delegation fully agreed that the human rights situation in the occupied territories directly contributed to the escalation of violence in the region and, therefore, could not be ignored in the search for a just and lasting peace. It was equally important that Israel should desist from desecrating holy places and from taking any action which would change the legal status and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. Therefore, his delegation demanded that Israel should scrupulously observe all its international obligations which derived from the United Nations Charter and the Fourth Geneva Convention, to which it was a party.

42. Lastly, as the tragedy in Lebanon had demonstrated, continued inaction on the part of the international community might once again lead to a catastrophe. The question of the occupied territories was essential to the solution of the Middle East conflict and his delegation was firmly convinced that the United Nations had the solemn duty to prevent the continuing violation of the human rights of the Arab population in the occupied territories and intensify the search for a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in that region.

43. Mr. KASINA (Kenya) said that the Special Committee's report provided a long list of incidents and showed that the plight of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories was characterized almost daily by incidents involving serious injuries or the loss of human life. Those incidents were the direct result of the military occupation which the civilian population of those territories had endured for the past 14 years.

44. The problem was not so much the clear denial of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories, but rather a well-planned Israeli policy to expel the indigenous population, annex those territories and eventually make them part of Israel. Thus, the policy of establishing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and replacing Arab residents with Jewish settlers would continue after annexation. In 1980, East Jerusalem had been formally annexed and in 1981 the Syrian Golan Heights had been annexed. Israel had declared its intention to extend fully its sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza in spite of the fact that international law such as articles 47 and 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention expressly prohibited the annexation, transfer or deportation of residents from occupied territory and the creation of settlements, the Government of Israel had expelled thousands of Palestinians from the occupied territories and was putting pressure on thousands more to leave, thus failing to comply with the obligations incumbent on it as a party to that Convention. The United Nations had repeatedly condemned the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

45. Over the years, humanitarian assistance had been given to the inhabitants of the occupied territories, especially through UNRWA, but the problem of those territories could not be treated purely as a humanitarian issue. It was fundamentally a political issue which could be dealt with only by taking fully into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to a homeland.

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(Mr. Kasina, Kenya)

46. His delegation believed that the root cause of the Middle East problem was the question of the occupied Palestinian land, and it had stated time and again that peace could prevail in the area only if the following conditions were met:

(1) withdrawal by Israel from all the Palestinian land occupied since 1967, bearing in mind that the international community and international law were strongly opposed to acquisition of land by use of force; (2) recognition of the rights of the Palestinians as a people, including the right to self-determination and nationhood; (3) participation by the Palestinian people, on an equal footing with other parties, in all negotiations designed to solve the problem of the region. It was his country's view that the problem of the Middle East would remain unresolved as long as the Palestinians were denied their right to self-determination, and that withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories was the most important condition for a peaceful settlement of the problem. It had been stated repeatedly over the years that the occupying Power needed those territories for its security. However, that was a very disturbing theory of security, which had led Israel, in contravention of all the norms of international law, to invade the independent State of Lebanon. That invasion, with all its shocking consequences in terms of massacres, had caused the world community to wonder how far aggression would be pursued in the search for so-called additional security. In such circumstances, the international community had a historical duty to take urgent action to promote the recognition and creation of an independent Palestinian State. His delegation accordingly urged the international community, and in particular the friends of Israel, to recognize the importance of that element for a durable peace in the Middle East. Those who supported Israel should persuade it to reverse its policies of Jewish settlement and annexation of Palestinian land. Israel must be told in no uncertain terms that withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the rights of the Palestinians was the only way to achieve lasting peace for all the nations of the region.

47. Mr. LEVIN (Israel) said that the report of the Special Committee was, as usual, replete with material justifying the Special Committee's self-perpetuation as one of the anti-Israel pillars of the United Nations. The Special Committee had become a forum for propaganda and vilification against Israel, and the fact that it represented a concerted effort of subversion directed against a Member State from inside the United Nations was perhaps a clear indication of the extent to which the Organization was destroying itself from within.

48. The views of the Government of Israel regarding the Special Committee were well known. General Assembly resolution 2443 (XXIII) had ignored Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967, and that had resulted in the establishment of the Special Committee, a highly irregular procedure in itself, but even more irregular when the mandate of the Special Committee, as formulated in its title, prejudged from the beginning the tone and nature of its functions. Directed by three Members from countries which had no diplomatic relations with Israel, and which had repeatedly demonstrated a marked hostility towards Israel, the Committee had issued and disseminated material invariably composed of collections of innuendos, half truths and often outright lies. Year after year, the Special

(Mr. Levin, Israel)

Committee's reports had deliberately and methodically fed the Arab propaganda machine, thereby placing the United Nations in the forefront of Arab political warfare against the State of Israel.

49. If investigating practices affecting human rights were a genuine concern of the United Nations, as well they should be, then the United Nations ought to have investigated the plight of quite a few peoples, such as the Kurds of Iraq and the non-Alawite population of Syria. The hundreds of thousands killed and injured in Iran and Iraq, in Yemen and Democratic Yemen, in Ethiopia and Somalia, in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East had been forgotten, victims of a double moral and political standard. Within the last two years, nearly 5 million people had been uprooted and made refugees as a result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iraqi invasion of Iran. Nevertheless, the United Nations had not established so much as a small study group to look into the human rights situation of the Afghans or Kampuchians, Iraqi Kurds or Assyrians or the Lebanese under the Syrians and the PLO.

50. The Government of Israel objected to the use of United Nations machinery and funds to perpetuate a source of anti-Israel activity which did no more than create additional international tension in the Arab-Israel conflict. Rather than acknowledging the substantial progress made in many fields, the Special Committee continued to use its reports as vehicles for unfounded allegations against Israel. Above all, the Special Committee had consistently avoided any mention of the reasons which had brought about the present situation, and it thus perpetuated the misrepresentation of the whole issue.

51. After the armistice agreements of 1949 and until June 1967, the territories of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District had been bases of terror and harassment organized by some of the neighbouring States against the towns and villages of Israel. On 6 June 1967, King Hussein of Jordan had launched a totally unprovoked attack on Israel. Jordan had ruled over the territories of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District for 19 years as the result of another, earlier, war that the same country, then called Transjordan, had launched against Israel in May 1948, just after Israel had declared its independence and had extended its hand to its neighbours in an offer of peace, appealing to them to establish bonds of co-operation and mutual help. It should not be forgotten that Jordan's presence in those areas during the 19 years following the 1949 armistice agreements had been unlawful and that the annexation of Judea and Samaria had been recognized only by the United Kingdom and Pakistan. During the Jordanian occupation, the Hashemite Kingdom had never concerned itself with autonomy, independence or human rights for the population of Judea and Samaria. There had been no clamour for a separate Palestinian entity anywhere in the Arab world, and the "liberation of Palestine" had become a long-term goal. In 1965, after the convening of the meeting of the first Palestine National Council, King Hussein had declared that the organizations seeking to separate Palestinians from Jordanians would be regarded as traitors. It had become much easier for Jordan to talk about the Palestinians after June 1967.

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(Mr. Levin, Israel)

52. Paragraph 296 of document A/37/485 contained a falsehood that was repeated in every report of the Special Committee: "Since the individual in the occupied territories is deprived of all protection, juridical or otherwise, he usually becomes the victim of the draconian legislation based on the so-called 'security' considerations". The claim in paragraph 297 that the articles of the Fourth Geneva Convention continued to be contravened was also false. Israel's official position had always been that the designated areas had never been "enemy territory". They had never been lawfully under the sovereignty of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which was why Israel did not consider the Fourth Geneva Convention to be applicable de jure and was applying its humanitarian provisions on a de facto basis. Capital punishment was allowed under the Convention but Israel did not apply it, despite the murders and other outrages committed by PLO terrorists. Similarly, Israel provided access to its courts and even to its High Court of Justice to any resident of the administered areas, although such a right was not mentioned in the Convention. Israel also had an "open bridges" policy which had enabled nearly 10 million people to cross the Jordan River in both directions over the past 15 years. It was the declared policy of the State of Israel that its military and civil organs in the administered areas abided by the humanitarian provisions of the Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention as if they were binding and applicable. All the norms and principles of natural justice were implemented in the territories administered by Israel, even though they might not have found expression in international law.

53. He refuted the statement in paragraph 51 of the report that Israeli military orders and regulations had altered the Jordanian law in force in the West Bank to the effect that Israel had in fact been acting within that territory as a fully sovereign government. The law in force in Judea and Samaria when Israel first took over their administration in 1967 had remained in effect. In view of the many social and economic developments in the region, however, there had been an urgent and logical need to amend existing legislation and adapt it to changing circumstances. Thus, in its administration of the territory, Israel had acted in accordance with the rules of international law. Any amendments to local law made in the form of military orders were not arbitrary but selective, at times following legislative amendments effected in Jordan and at times consequent upon Israeli legislation aimed at according additional social rights to the local population.

54. With regard to the court system in the region; although international law allowed an occupying Power to establish military courts in place of local courts, especially in matters of criminal law, Israel had not done so. From the beginning, the military government had maintained a policy of non-interference in the local judicial system. That policy had been applied to other spheres of life in the region, where the small number of Israeli personnel serving in the civil administration limited themselves to professional supervision and the vast majority of local officials continued to act as they had under Jordanian administration. There were only five Israelis in the entire judicial system in the region and the military government had not dismissed a single judge. Article 72 of the Fourth Geneva Convention gave detainees the right to counsel but did not oblige the occupying Power to allow communication with a lawyer if the offender was suspected

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of grave and hostile security offences. Nevertheless, the military government permitted all detainees to meet with the counsel of their choice. On the initiative of the Israeli authorities, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visited security detainees during the period of their investigation. In addition, doctors approved by ICRC were permitted to examine any detainee who complained of improper treatment. Their reports were investigated by boards of enquiry whose findings were reported to ICRC, under what was a unique and unprecedented arrangement. Since the establishment of the Israeli administration in 1967, residents of the region had been able to bring before Israeli courts claims against the State of Israel and the administering authorities concerning alleged violations of their rights. That system and the authority and impartiality of the Israeli High Court of Justice guaranteed the maintenance of the rule of law.

55. With regard to settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, his country did not recognize the formal applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to those areas. He wished to point out, however, that article 49 of the Convention, on deportations, transfers and evacuations, did not prohibit the establishment of settlements. Under that article, the movement of people into a territory was prohibited only when it involved the displacement of the local population. The emigration of Arabs from the administered areas had in fact slowed down appreciably compared to the period before 1967. Since Judea, Samaria and Gaza had never been independent economic units, prior to 1967 their residents had had to seek employment outside the region. The settlements had been set up by volunteers without any forcible transfer of population or negative impact on local agriculture. In fact, not only had agricultural production in the region doubled between 1970 and 1980 but in Judea and Samaria the area under irrigation by Arab farmers had increased by 60 per cent since 1968.

56. With regard to economic development in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, Israel had never controlled the local economy or restricted commercial ties with Jordan but rather had encouraged and facilitated industrial development and free trade. Since 1967, the region's economy had expanded at a pace which was among the fastest in the Middle East. The purchasing power of workers had increased impressively and unemployment and underemployment had been virtually eliminated. Expenditure for private consumption had grown at an average annual rate of 7.4 per cent over the preceding decade. Exports had increased at an average annual rate of 12.6 per cent while the gross domestic product had increased at an average annual rate of 7.9 per cent and the gross national product at a rate of 10.5 per cent. The quality of life in the territories had improved dramatically and many new social services had been introduced over the past 14 years, including the provision of a minimum income to those in need of public assistance.

57. There had also been a marked improvement in education in the region. Since 1968, more than 47,000 youths from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District had learned trades through vocational training sponsored by the Government. The number of educational institutions had increased by a third. Although the population had increased by 20 per cent, the number of pupils had gone up by 80 per cent, bringing

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the total to over 270,000 in 1981 as opposed to 140,000 in 1967. There were now five universities in the administered areas and seven additional institutions of higher learning. As a result, fewer residents of the region felt obliged to leave for neighbouring Arab countries for their higher education and many students from the region had enrolled in universities in Israel. However, as in any academic system in the free world, academic freedom did not embrace the right to disrupt public order by violence, incitement and threats. So long as student activity did not imperil public safety, the administration avoided interfering with educational or cultural activities in the educational establishments, despite the fact that international law gave it power to do so.

58. As to the subject of basic freedoms, he said that basic democratic rights were concomitant to the existence of a situation of peace. Nevertheless, Israel had tried throughout the last 15 years to ensure normal day-to-day life for the residents of the region, who enjoyed a degree of freedom previously unknown under any military administration. The authorities had ensured freedom of assembly, expression and movement, freedom of the press, the right to strike and academic freedom, with only minimal limitations when such activities threatened to disrupt public order or safety. Many false allegations had been injected into the Special Committee's reports on the subject of security measures, most of which were based upon local Jordanian legislation. The Special Committee and the members of the Special Political Committee were not unaware of the prevailing political and security conditions in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. Hostile Arab Governments, their friends and the PLO terrorists sought to destabilize the region through concerted and individual acts of subversion, terror and constant turmoil, obliging Israel to fulfil its international duty to restore and maintain order and, to that end, occasionally apply lawful measures of security.

59. In 35 years, only one Arab country had helped to further peace in the Middle East. At inter-Arab conferences, any association with Israel had been regarded with dread. The Arab leaders spent their energies on the promotion of hate-filled propaganda, inside and outside the United Nations, and it seemed that the Special Committee had become a party to the perpetuation of lies. The time had come to devote energies to an equitable, peaceful and far-reaching solution of the conflict in the Middle East, to face the facts of 1982 and to start working for the peace which everyone cherished and deserved.

60. Mr. VIKIS (Cyprus) said that his Government had repeatedly condemned the brutal Israeli repression in the occupied territories and had strongly denounced in the United Nations and in other international forums Israel's ongoing policy of colonization and annexation. The international community could not remain an impassive spectator to violations of those rights which protected the dignity of the individual. The perpetrator of such violations, whether Israel or any other country, must be made to understand that such acts were unacceptable and could not be condoned, and that the perpetrator must suffer the consequences of its crimes. Over the past 15 years the relentless oppression to which the Palestinians and the inhabitants of the occupied territories had been subjected, coupled with the colonization of the occupied territories, had caused untold human suffering.

(Mr. Vikis, Cyprus)

Cyprus had experienced similar conditions since the Turkish military invasion in 1974, and for that reason it perhaps understood the tragedy of the Palestinians and the Arabs of the occupied territories even better. The colonization of the occupied territories by Israel and of the occupied areas of Cyprus by Turkey corresponded to the same patterns and revealed the same objective: the intention of the occupying Powers not to relinquish the spoils of their military adventures, and to bring about such demographic changes as would allow them to perpetuate their rule over lands which did not belong to them.

61. Pressure must be brought to bear upon those countries to respect the verdict of the international community as expressed by the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, and to understand that their defiance of the international community was not without repercussions. It had been proved that moral isolation through international condemnation was not enough. It was time to take resolute action within the context of the Charter and adopt and apply such measures as would force the violators of human rights, the colonizers of occupied lands, to comply with the will of the international community.

62. Mr. SAFIULLAH (Bangladesh) noted that the Chairman of the Special Committee, in his letter of transmittal to the Secretary-General, stated that during the period covered by the report (A/37/485) "The situation of the human rights of civilians in the occupied territories ... has perhaps been at its worst in comparison with other years. Indeed, this report shows that the level of violence and brutality of repression is unprecedented". Despite deliberations at the United Nations and the near-unanimous resolutions adopted every year, the Israeli occupying forces continued to carry on with impunity their ruthless policies in the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

63. Moreover, the report referred to numerous instances of flagrant violation of the human rights of the Palestinian and Syrian peoples now under Israeli occupation. That persistent violation of human rights derived from the fact that for the last 15 years Israel had maintained its military occupation and pursued a policy of colonization and annexation of the occupied territories. The report stated that the situation in the occupied territories had taken a distinct turn for the worse following the imposition of the so-called "civilian administration". The Israeli authorities had continued to consolidate the settlements that had already been established and, in their efforts to eliminate the popular base of the municipalities, had undertaken the establishment of "village leagues" in various areas. Thus, the articles of the fourth Geneva Convention, which applied to the occupied territories, continued to be contravened by the Israeli authorities.

64. His delegation endorsed the conclusion drawn in the report of the Special Committee that Israeli occupation was having an adverse effect on the situation of the civilian population from every point of view. It was also correct that the policy of annexation and establishing settlements could not be justified by security factors.

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(Mr. Safiullah, Bangladesh)

65. His country condemned the Israeli decision to deny the Special Committee the opportunity to carry out the mandate given to it by the General Assembly and to prevent the persons invited by that Committee from supplying relevant information in their possession. The General Assembly should take steps to put an end to that obstructionist policy.

66. The reports of the Secretary-General in documents A/37/162, A/37/541 and A/37/525 substantiated the Special Committee's findings. It was therefore high time that the international community recognized that the human rights violations in question would cease only when the right of self-determination was restored to the Palestinian people. Similarly, the Syrians living in the Golan Heights would not fully enjoy their rights until that territory was returned to Syria.

67. His country strongly condemned any attempt to change the demographic and geographical nature of the occupied territories. It also condemned the confiscation and expropriation of public and private Arab property and the deportation, evacuation and displacement of the inhabitants of the region.

68. Israel must comply with the relevant international provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949 relating to the treatment of civilians in time of war and of the resolutions of the United Nations. It should desist from its illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the occupied territories, its oppression of their population, and its pillaging of their archaeological and cultural property.

69. The Special Committee was to be commended for performing its responsibilities effectively and impartially, but steps should be taken to ensure that the content of that Committee's report was disseminated as widely as possible. In that connection, greater attention should be paid to the non-governmental organizations of the Western countries.

70. Every year the report of the Special Committee depicted a worse situation, which would appear to indicate that the international community was unable to cope with Israel's defiance. Steps should therefore be taken to control Israeli policy in the occupied territories, as suggested by the Chairman of the Special Committee.

71. His country urged all delegations that had so far remained on the periphery to exert pressure on Israel to fulfil its international commitments. Otherwise that situation could become a threat to peace and security not only in the Middle East but throughout the world.

72. Mr. KUBBA (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel had attacked the Special Committee for the way in which it was performing its responsibilities but was forgetting that that Committee was continuing its work because Israel was still implementing a policy of oppression in the occupied territories. Israel was violating all the provisions and resolutions of the United Nations, and in perpetrating its acts of aggression it had the support of the United States, which was a Power that had placed itself at the service of the Zionist entity's goals and whose policy was a threat to the United Nations, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report for the current year.

(Mr. Kubba, Iraq)

73. The representative of Israel had no right to speak of human rights when his country was constantly committing human rights violations. There was no need to mention the killings and genocidal acts in Lebanon, which had been invaded in order to divert attention from the basic issues under consideration in the Committee.

74. With regard to the Kurdish question, he did not know what the representative of Israel meant by his statement. Almost all Member States represented in the Committee had embassies in Iraq, and neither they nor the journalists who frequently visited the country had spoken of violations of the Kurdish population's human rights.

75. Reference should also be made to the fact that Israel was supplying weapons to Iran. On 20 November of the current year an article had appeared in The New York Times in which the Department of State admitted that Israel was supplying arms and equipment to Iran so that it could pursue its war against Iraq.

76. The representative of Israel had resorted to lies in an attempt to justify the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories, claiming that the settlements in question were on land that did not belong to anybody. Israel intended to change the demographic and geographical nature of the region and was implementing a policy of usurpation and oppression that had been taken so far as to deprive Arab farmers of their water sources. The Iraqi delegation had submitted a detailed report in that connection the previous year. The artificial economic development of the occupied territories should be seen only in the context of Israel's intention to make the economy of those territories dependent on Israel and to do everything within its power to expel the Palestinians from their land with a view to appropriating it.

77. Moreover, the existence of freedom of education to which the representative of Israel had referred was also disproved by the data on the expulsion and deportation of teachers set forth in the report of the Special Committee. In short, the fact that the Zionist entity did not wish to co-operate with the Special Committee was a clear indication that it feared that its crimes would be revealed to the international community.

78. Mr. HUSSAINI (Observer for the Palestine Liberation Organization) said that each time facts based on reports and investigations resulting from many months of work were presented in the Committee the Zionist representative's only response was to dismiss them as lies. That representative had repeated the word "lies" so frequently in the Committee that it had finally lost any veracity.

79. However, the Committee did not have to restrict itself to the report of the Special Committee to find out what was happening in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, but could also refer to United States sources. On 28 November 1982, for example, the Washington Post had published an editorial in which were described the measures taken by a civilian administrator responsible to the Minister of Defence, Ariel Sharon, to dismiss all PLO elements, which evidently meant all elements that in the opinion of the Israelis supported Palestinian nationalism.

(Mr. Hussaini, Observer, PLO)

Those measures had included the dissolution of municipal councils, the dismissal of mayors, the strengthening of censorship and the implementation of Military Order No. 854, under which foreign teachers, whose presence was of great importance to the population of the West Bank, had to swear that they would not assist the PLO. So much for what the Washington Post editorial had said. In addition, it was well known that a large number of United States and European sources which could not be said to be pro-Arab or pro-Palestinian were giving documented information daily on the torture, persecution and oppression being suffered by some million and a half Palestinians in the occupied territories.

80. Turning to the subject of mass deportations, he said that since June 1967, the Israeli military authorities had illegally expelled and deported more than 1,800 Palestinian teachers, engineers, physicians, housewives, students and spiritual leaders. In fact, the first deportee in 1967 had been the President of the Islamic Council of Jerusalem and the last of those expelled to date had been the Rector of Al Najah University.

81. With reference to the allegedly "liberal policy" to which the representative of Israel had alluded, it should be remembered that Moshe Dayan, too, had talked about a "benevolent occupation". However, the crux of the issue was not whether the occupation was benevolent or not, it was rather a matter of denouncing the presence of Israeli tanks, troops and bullets which were killing and injuring the Arab population in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; it was a matter of recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to an independent Palestinian State, its right to live in freedom and not under Israeli guns. As for freedom of expression in the occupied territories, the Committee itself had been able to witness that very day, in that same room, the effort made by the Zionist representative to prevent the exiled Mayor of Hebron from addressing its members.

82. Finally, it was worth pointing out that the Zionist representative had spoken at length in his statement about events which had occurred before 1948 or in that year, but he had taken good care not to speak about the current situation in the occupied territories. However, he should know that the Palestinian people, after 17 years of Israeli military occupation, continued to have the right to freedom, independence and human dignity and that, when it obtained them, it would be able to hold out its hand in friendship to the Jewish people to live and coexist with equal rights.

83. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the attacks made on the Special Committee by the representative of Israel were neither new nor surprising, since that representative pursued a systematic policy of depriving the United Nations of its dignity and creating an atmosphere of demagoguery that served to distort the real facts and silence the truth by a new kind of blackmail and political terrorism. But however much he tried, he would not succeed in obliterating the memory of Israel's conduct and its criminal policy and practices against the Arab people as well as against the African peoples through Tel Aviv's close relationship with the racist régime of Pretoria.

(Mr. Abouchaer, Syrian Arab Republic)

84. The reality of Israel's policy was now recognized even by those who had been responsible for creating it. Thus, the late Naum Goldman, President of the World Jewish Congress, in an interview on French television in 1982, had said that Israel would have no future if it continued along its current course. It might be wondered what Goldman would have said if he had witnessed the latest Israeli crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the Sabra and Shatila massacres. As far as his delegation was concerned, the ever-increasing intransigence shown by Menachem Begin made it possible to assert that zionism was a carbon copy of nazism and that the terrorist Begin was the Jewish führer personified.

85. What was more, not one of Israel's representatives in the various bodies of the United Nations had ever said where Israel's frontiers began and ended, which gave rise to serious fears about the objectives of Israeli expansionism. Also, Israel's representative in the Committee should be asked what reply his Government gave to what the world had said about the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and he should be asked to give just one valid reason for denying to the Palestinians what the Israelis claimed for themselves, namely, the right to a homeland of their own. The Tel Aviv authorities insisted that they wished to negotiate with the Arabs, but, at the same time, they were adamant in their total opposition to the establishment of an Arab State in Palestine, thus denying a right whose recognition was the only chance of achieving a just and durable peace in accordance with United Nations resolutions. For Arabs, as for all peace-loving peoples, Israel's hostile nature and brutal acts of aggression were more convincing than words.

86. Mr. HAMADNEH (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement to the Committee by the representative of Israel was full of lies and distortions of the facts; his delegation therefore reserved its right to make a reply at the Committee's next meeting.

87. Mr. LEVIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had tried to present the truth about the legal situation in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. Reference had also been made to education and to the important economic and social improvements in those areas. As had been pointed out, 10 million Arabs had freely visited the area in the last 10 years. That information therefore contradicted the imaginary facts which appeared in document A/37/485.

88. He was surprised that the delegation of Iraq, a country which had launched an attack on a Moslem neighbour, claimed to be unaware of the problem of the Kurds, who had been forced to abandon their homes and had been replaced by Arabs from the southern region. On the other hand, his own country was not supplying arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran but knew from a statement in a radio broadcast by the commander of that country's land forces that arms captured from the enemy were its principal source of weapons.

89. Mr. KUBBA (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, pointed out that although the representative of Israel had demonstrated an interest in the fate of Moslems, the fact was that the Zionist entity was occupying Islam's holiest place in Jerusalem.

90. With reference to the Kurds, he said his delegation did not deny awareness of the problem but affirmed that it had been resolved by peaceful means. As to the weapons from Israel supplied to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the source of that information had been the United States information media. Sharon himself had also declared recently in Washington that Israel was supplying arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

91. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would begin consideration of item 66, "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees" at its morning meeting on Wednesday, 1 December 1982, and would devote three meetings to it. At the afternoon meeting on the same day, draft resolutions would be submitted on item 65, "United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East", and item 61, "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories". At its morning meeting on Thursday, 2 December 1982, the Committee would take decisions on the two draft resolutions appearing in documents A/SPC/37/L.15 and L.16 relating to item 67, "Questions Relating to Information". He drew the attention of Committee members to document A/SPC/37/L.35 setting out the administrative and financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/37/L.15.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.