



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

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

ELECTION OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN AND THE RAPPORTEUR

1. Ms. RICHTER (Argentina) nominated Mr. Komissarov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) for the office of Rapporteur.
2. Mr. Komissarov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.
3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the election of the remaining officers should be deferred to the next meeting.
4. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.3/34/L.1)

5. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the two notes he had prepared and circulated informally. One of those documents contained guidelines for the organization of the Committee's work, together with the amendments proposed at the informal meeting. The other document contained a suggested schedule for the consideration of the items allocated to the Committee. As agreed, the agenda items allocated to the Third Committee should be considered in accordance with the Committee's own priorities and, where appropriate, items which were closely interrelated should be considered together.
6. Greater importance should be attached to consultations than in the past. Statements in the general debate on each item should be limited to 15 minutes, except in special cases.
7. The two Vice-Chairmen would be responsible for co-ordination and supplementary activities relating to draft resolutions and consultations on draft resolutions. The Chairman would keep the Committee informed of the progress of consultations and of work on draft resolutions. All possible facilities would be made available to enable delegations to hold such consultations as they considered necessary for the preparation of draft resolutions.
8. With regard to the weekly programme of work, a notice would be posted next to the documents distribution window setting forth the projected programme of work one week in advance. The notice would contain the date and time of meetings, the items to be discussed at each meeting and, where possible, the list of speakers for each meeting. The schedule would be kept constantly up to date.
9. A time-limit would be set for the submission of draft resolutions. The time-limit would be applied with flexibility, taking into account the progress of consultations and work on the preparation of texts. A table of draft resolutions submitted under each item would also be posted near the documents distribution window. The table would also be updated as necessary.

10. In accordance with the guidelines, two formal working groups would be established at the outset of the session and should begin their work immediately. Each working group would hold one meeting weekly, and no meeting of the Committee would be scheduled for that time. The officers of each working group should be elected after consultations among the delegations. It might be necessary for the working groups to hold evening or Saturday meetings, but that would depend on the availability of conference rooms.

11. Delegations should not express congratulations to the officers of the Committee (rule 110 of the General Assembly's rules of procedure), with the exception of the representative of the Philippines (Chairman of the Committee at the thirty-third session), who could, on behalf of the Committee, express congratulations to the Bureau after all the officers had been elected.

12. As a general rule, the Committee should be flexible in applying its agreed procedures and programme of work. For his part, he would, in accordance with rule 107, consult constantly with the Committee with regard to all relevant matters.

13. He stressed that his suggestions were intended solely as guidelines and therefore were not mandatory. Since the goal of the guidelines was to facilitate the work of the Committee, their flexibility would make it possible to include any other arrangement intended to promote the same goal. He hoped that his proposals would be acceptable to the Committee.

14. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) asked whether, taking into account the flexibility referred to by the Chairman, the note presented to the Committee was for information or was a reference document.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, since the note contained proposals which were highly flexible, it would not be issued as an official document. Accordingly, he did not intend to refer formally to the note but would, instead, refer informally to the ideas contained in it. If the Committee had no objection, he would take it that the proposed guidelines were acceptable.

15a. It was so decided.

16. Mr. OZADOVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said his delegation noted with satisfaction that the guidelines proposed by the Chairman reflected the suggestions made at the first informal meeting. In order for the guidelines to be useful in organizing the work of the Committee, bearing in mind the fact that they were not formal proposals, his delegation believed that the 15-minute time-limit on statements in the general debate should be more flexible and that the relevant paragraph should include the idea of not limiting the length of statements. He read out rule 114 of the rules of procedure and said that perhaps there was a consensus in favour of introducing into the guidelines the idea embodied in that rule. The Committee should hold general debates on each agenda item, and

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statements should be as brief as possible. He reserved the right to comment at a later stage on the order of priority to be assigned to the items.

17. The CHAIRMAN emphasized that the utmost flexibility should be applied, since his proposals were merely guidelines. In that connexion, he had no intention of interrupting speakers who exceeded the time-limit in question. The length of statements would depend on delegations themselves, but that did not rule out a future decision by the Committee establishing some time-limit. He appealed to the Ukrainian delegation not to press its suggestion, since, in view of the clarification he had just provided, no problems would arise in that respect.

18. With regard to the criteria he had used to determine the order in which the various agenda items should be taken up, he felt that it was logical to discuss related items one after the other, and in drawing up his proposals, he had taken into account the suggestions made during the informal meeting by the former Chairman of the Committee. Another consideration was that some items were the responsibility of specific divisions of the Organization or specific intergovernmental bodies. In his opinion, items that were the responsibility of a single division or a single intergovernmental body should be taken up successively. It should also be pointed out that, for the first time, almost all the sections of the Secretariat which serviced the Committee were based away from Headquarters. Taking into account both the practical and the economic aspects, as well as ideas he had discussed with Secretariat officials at all levels, he believed that such items should be taken up successively.

19. Subitem (e) of item 80 had not been included with the rest of the subitems because Mrs. Mair, Secretary-General of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, would be required to attend various meetings in Asia, in Latin America and elsewhere and had accordingly expressed the wish that that subitem should be taken up in the latter part of October.

20. Lastly, he outlined the criteria he had used to group the various items. First, items 73 and 86, relating to racism and the elimination of racial discrimination, were closely interrelated. He had felt that items 87 and 85 should be taken up together, since the Commission on Human Rights had reported on those items in a single document.

21. In proposing that the Committee should also take up together items 76 and 77, and items 72 and 81, he had been guided by the wish expressed by various delegations and regional groups in the consultations held in recent weeks.

22. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) reported on the status of the documentation to be considered by the Committee in connexion with the items allocated to it by the General Assembly.

23. With regard to item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council), he

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said that, contrary to the practice of previous years, the report (A/34/3 and Add.) was not contained in a single document; instead, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee, each chapter had been issued in a separate document. All the chapters which were to be considered by the Committee had already been issued and were available to delegations at their missions. Documents A/34/345 (Assistance to South African student refugees) and A/34/359 (Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights) had already been issued in all the working languages.

24. The report of the Secretary-General concerning a draft convention on the rights of migrant workers had not yet been submitted because of technical problems at the Geneva Office; it was expected that it would be ready during the course of the week. The report concerning the establishment of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile (General Assembly resolution 33/174) had not yet been issued.

25. With regard to the report to be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chile, during the following week the Special Rapporteur was to meet at Geneva with the two individual experts responsible for investigating the fate of missing persons or persons whose whereabouts were unknown in Chile, so that he was not able to indicate precisely on what date the Special Rapporteur and the two experts would submit their reports. Document A/34/499, concerning violations of human rights in southern Africa, had been available to delegations in all the working languages for some time. In connexion with that item, the Committee would also consider document A/34/357, which contained the documents of the Ministerial Meeting of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries, and document A/34/389 and Corr.1, containing the report of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Both those documents had already been issued in all the working languages.

26. At a later stage, the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries would submit a document on the Sixth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana in 1979. Document A/34/385 (letter dated 24 July 1979 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General) had also been issued in all the working languages.

27. Turning to item 72 (International Youth Year), he said that the publication of the report (A/34/468) to be submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/7 had been delayed because delegations were attempting to reach agreement on a document which would be more acceptable to the Committee.

28. In connexion with item 73 (Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), the documents to be considered by the Committee, A/34/411, Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and A/34/357 and A/34/389 and Corr.1, which he had referred to earlier had already been issued in all the working languages.

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29. With regard to item 74 (Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance), the relevant note by the Secretary-General had been issued in all the working languages as document A/34/303.

30. As to item 75 (Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group of the Whole on the Drafting of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been issued in all the working languages as document A/34/60 and Corr.1 and 2. Document A/34/60/Corr.1 had been issued in English only, since it applied only to that language. Document A/34/357, which he had already mentioned, also related to that item.

31. In connexion with item 76 (World social situation), the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/557 and Add.1-3) and the report of the tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/34/389 and Corr.1) had been issued in all the working languages.

32. On item 77 (Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development), the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/563) had been issued in all the working languages and was available to delegations.

33. With regard to item 78 (Question of the elderly and the aged), the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/562) was available to delegations in all the working languages.

34. On item 79 (International Year for Disabled Persons), the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/34/158) had been issued in all the working languages except Chinese, but document A/34/158/Corr.1 had been issued in Arabic, English and French only. The note by the Secretary-General concerning the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons (A/34/309) and the note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/290) were available to delegations in all the working languages.

35. As to the various reports of the Secretary-General on item 80, "United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace", he requested the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to provide information on the subject. The note verbale from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/321) had been issued in all the working languages except Chinese. The other documents which the Committee was to consider in connexion with that item (two letters from the Permanent Representative of Angola issued as documents A/34/391 and A/34/113) and the documents of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries (A/34/357) had already been issued in all the working languages.

36. The reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/575 and A/34/199) on item 81 (Policies and programmes relating to youth) had already been issued in all the working languages.

37. In connexion with item 82 (Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights), the relevant report of the Secretary-General had been issued in all the working languages as document A/34/367. That document did not contain the replies received from certain Governments after its issuance, and those would be issued shortly as addenda to it. The Committee would also consider the note by the Secretary-General on violations of human rights in southern Africa (A/34/499), as well as the documents of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries (A/34/357) and the report of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/34/389 and Corr.1), which had been issued in all the working languages.

38. The report (A/34/12) of the High Commissioner on item 83 (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), which had been submitted rather late, was expected to be issued on 4 October. The High Commissioner had suggested that the Committee should consider the item on 12, 13 and 14 November. The report would have an addendum which would be prepared after the conclusion of the thirtieth session of the Executive Committee, which was to be held from 8 to 10 October 1979. The notes verbales from Democratic Kampuchea (A/34/58) and Lebanon (A/34/385) had been issued in all the working languages.

39. On the same item, the Committee would have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Geneva Conference held on 20 and 21 July 1979 and the report of the Secretary-General on supplementary measures of that conference. It was expected that both reports would be submitted during the following week. The report of the Tenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/34/389 and Corr.1) would also be considered by the Committee in connexion with that item.

40. The report of the Human Rights Committee on item 84 (International Covenants on Human Rights), which was to be issued as document A/34/40) would be ready about 10 October. The report of the Secretary-General on the status of the two Covenants (A/34/440) had already been issued in all the working languages.

41. With respect to item 85 (Review and co-ordination of human rights programmes of organizations in the United Nations system and co-operation with other international programmes in the field of human rights), the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its thirty-fifth session (under the double symbol E/1979/36 and E/CN.4/1347) had not yet been issued.

42. As to item 86 (Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination), if expectations were fulfilled the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to be issued as document A/34/18, would appear before the end of the day in all the working languages except Arabic. The Arabic version was expected to be issued towards the end of the week.

43. The Secretary-General's report on the status of the International Convention

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on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/34/441) had already been issued in all the working languages. Document A/34/442 (Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid) had also been issued in all the working languages except Arabic. The Committee would also have before it documents A/34/499, A/34/357 and A/34/389 and Corr.1, which had been referred to earlier.

44. In connexion with item 87 (Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms), the Committee would have before it the following documents A/34/398 (Report of the Secretary-General on the status of international conventions in the field of human rights in respect of which the Secretary-General performs depositary functions) and A/34/196 (Note by the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights), which had already been issued in all the working languages, as well as A/34/357 and A/34/389 and Corr.1, which had been referred to earlier.

45. With respect to item 88 (Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment), the Secretary-General's report on the replies of Governments to the questionnaire on the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/34/144) would be issued around 5 October. The Secretary-General's report on unilateral declarations by Member States against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/34/145) had already been issued. Unilateral declarations received after the deadline would be issued in an addendum to document A/34/145.

46. The draft body of principles for the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment, requested by the General Assembly in resolution 3453 (XXX), would be issued on 12 October. The document on the development of codes of medical ethics, requested for submission at the current session by the Assembly three years earlier, had already been issued under the symbol A/34/273. In considering the draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Committee and the relevant working group would have before them the documents prepared for the previous session (A/33/215 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1).

47. The status of documentation was better than at previous sessions; most documents had already been issued, and information had been given concerning the approximate date of publication of the others. He hoped that would facilitate the work of the Committee.

48. The CHAIRMAN drew to the Committee's attention the recommendations concerning the organization of the session adopted by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee (sect. II of document A/34/250), which the President of the Assembly had brought to the Committee's attention in the letter referred to in document A/C.3/34/L.1. He referred specifically to the recommendation concerning the duration of explanations of vote; the recommendation that a delegation should explain its vote on each item only once, either in the

relevant Committee or in plenary, unless its votes were different; the recommendation concerning the duration and number of interventions in exercise of the right of reply, and the recommendation that such interventions should be made at the end of the last meeting of the day dealing with the item in question.

49. With respect to item 86 (a) (Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination), paragraph 6 of the Chairman's note contained in document A/C.3/34/L.1 suggested that the Committee should consider the subitem independently. However, since, according to the information given to the Committee, that report had already been issued, the Committee could take up item 86 as a whole, without considering the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination independently. In view of the importance of the item, which deserved very special attention, that was a commendable procedure.

50. As to the closing date for the work of the Committee, he drew attention to paragraph 10 of document A/C.3/34/L.1 and the General Assembly's decision that draft resolutions with financial implications should be submitted before 1 December. That time-limit should be borne in mind in the adoption of any decision concerning the closing date for the work of the Third Committee.

51. Mrs. SIIPIA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that all the documents for item 75 (Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) were already available, since they were mostly documents issued for previous sessions. On the other hand, the documents for item 80 (United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace) would be behind schedule, since several of them were based on a very wide range of data or had to be prepared after the work of other organs or meetings was completed. The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) would be issued within a few days. The Secretary-General's report on the status and role of women in education and in the economic and social fields, requested in General Assembly resolution 33/184, required the analysis of a considerable amount of documentation, which had been done partly in New York and partly in Vienna. There would be some delay in publication. The report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women could be issued only after the meeting of the Institute's Board of Trustees at the end of October, so that the Board's recommendations could be included in the report. The report on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women would be issued within a few weeks, since it had to include the conclusions of the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Fund, held in mid-September, the report of which had just been prepared.

52. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that his delegation had no objections to the programme of work suggested by the Chairman. As to the documents for the various items, it would be useful for delegations to have that information in writing, though not necessarily in an official document.

53. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) said that most of the documents

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had already been issued; he had doubts as to the usefulness of preparing a detailed written report on the status of each document.

54. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that the Chairman's efforts to organize the work of the Committee represented a proper application of the criteria for the rationalization of the work of the General Assembly, a question which had been under consideration in the United Nations for some time.

55. The way in which the items allocated to the Third Committee were dealt with in document A/C.3/34/L.1 reflected a logical and legal order derived from the relevant legislative authority, the General Assembly. He did not object to the Chairman's proposal that certain items should be considered jointly because of the natural link between them, as in the case of items 72 (International Youth Year) and 81 (Policies and programmes relating to youth) or the various items concerning racism and racial discrimination. However, the order could be determined only on the basis of the General Assembly resolutions indicating the priority to be given to the respective items. For example, in resolution 33/7, on International Youth Year, the Assembly had decided to grant the item "the highest priority". In resolution 33/99 (sect. III, para. 11), the Assembly had decided that the item entitled "Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" should be considered "as a matter of high priority". In other resolutions, in deciding to include items in its agenda, the Assembly had used various wordings which also indicated the degree of priority to be given to the items. Accordingly, the order in which the items appeared in document A/C.3/34/L.1 should, as a rule, be followed.

56. He agreed that the Committee should request that information about the status of documents being prepared for the Committee should be provided in writing. It would be sufficient to furnish a list of those documents not yet published and an approximate publication date. He pointed out that General Assembly resolutions should also be borne in mind in the drafting of documents. In particular, he noted with surprise that the documentation on item 72 (International Youth Year) had not been issued and was not mentioned in paragraph 8 of document A/C.3/34/L.1, despite the fact that it was to be granted "the highest priority" in accordance with the relevant decision of the General Assembly (para. 6 of resolution 33/7).

57. He supported the suggestion of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs that item 75 (Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) should be discussed first in the appropriate working group.

58. The CHAIRMAN explained that document A/C.3/34/L.1 merely indicated the order of items, as established by the General Assembly; that order in no way prejudged the decisions the Committee might take in that regard.

59. Mr. NSAH LAI (United Republic of Cameroon) said that the suggestion of the United States representative concerning documentation was timely, since the Committee should have at its disposal a typed list of available documents

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indicating the publication dates of documents not yet issued. With regard to the order in which the items allocated to the Committee should be considered, members should be divided into several groups and each group should be assigned a number of items.

60. Mr. OZADOVSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, in general, his delegation agreed with the criteria the Chairman had used in determining the order in which the agenda items were to be considered. Since the agenda was so long - it included 18 items - the Committee's work must be organized in a rational manner, taking due account of resolutions already adopted by the General Assembly, including those adopted the previous year, which set forth specific guidelines regarding the priority to be given the different items. In that connexion, the items on implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (73), elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (86) and the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights (82) were of particular interest and should receive the highest priority in view of their importance and timeliness; they also had a bearing on the situation in southern Africa, which was a cause of grave concern to the international community. It was understandable that some delegations felt that other items, such as the world social situation (76) and implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (77), deserved equal priority.

61. The report of the Economic and Social Council (item 12) encompassed a wide variety of questions and could perhaps be considered midway through the session after the five items just mentioned had been dealt with. At a later stage, the Committee could discuss items 84 (International Covenants on Human Rights), 80 (United Nations Decade for Women) and others; the order of consideration of those items could be determined on the basis of the views expressed during the debate.

62. He pointed out that, if the debate was to be productive, documents must be issued on time. In that connexion, his delegation regarded as timely the United States proposal that members of the Committee should be provided with a written list not only of the documents referred to in document A/C.3/34/L.1 but also of the other documents required for the debate to which the Secretary of the Committee had referred. He hoped that the Secretariat would try to reduce the volume and improve the quality of documentation and would make an effort to issue it in sufficient time.

63. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that the Committee should apply practical criteria in determining the order in which items would be considered. His delegation would prefer to have the Committee take up certain items first, e.g. the item on self-determination, but, in the final analysis, the decisive factor would be the availability of the relevant documents.

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64. Mr. TINOCO (Costa Rica) said that no agreement could be reached regarding the order of consideration of items unless the Committee had some indication of what documents were available and when the others would be issued. His delegation agreed with the representative of Ghana that it was important to respect the decisions of the General Assembly but also to establish a logical order; it might be possible to reconcile those two criteria. The world social situation (item 76) and implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (item 77) should be discussed first; that would give the Committee an over-all picture of the world social situation. However, the most practical course of action would be to set up a working group to prepare, in co-operation with the officers of the Committee, a programme of work that took account of the availability of documents.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee traditionally began its work by taking up the question of racial discrimination and went on to consider the item on the right of self-determination and the observance of human rights. The previous year, because of the dates on which various documents had been issued, it had not been possible to follow that order, but that should merely be viewed as the exception that proved the rule. Accordingly, he suggested that the Committee should begin by taking up items 73, 86 and 82, since that would be helpful in settling the question of consideration of the other items.

66. As for the suggestion of the representative of Costa Rica, he did not feel that it was necessary to set up a working group to determine the order of consideration of items, since that could be decided on the basis of the suggestions of delegations.

67. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that the informal document submitted by the Chairman could serve as a practical guide for the future work of the Committee. Her delegation was pleased to note that that method of work was consistent with the Secretary-General's desire to rationalize the work of the General Assembly. With regard to the order of priority suggested by the Chairman, her delegation welcomed the fact that, again in 1979, the priority of the struggle against racism and of the question of self-determination had been respected. However, she regretted the fact that there was no assurance that item 86 would be discussed together with item 73, since joint consideration of those items would make it possible to take comprehensive measures to combat racism and racial discrimination.

68. In view of the practical considerations cited by the Secretary of the Committee, it would be difficult to reject the proposed order of consideration of the various items. However, her delegation did reject the notion that the Committee should not feel bound to comply with the General Assembly resolutions concerning priority. Although certain cases might be regarded as exceptional in nature, her delegation believed that the Assembly's authority must not be compromised for purely practical reasons. Her delegation was prepared to accept, as a compromise solution for the current session, the programme of work contained in the informal document submitted by the Chairman.

69. The CHAIRMAN explained that all the documentation on agenda item 86 (Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination) had already been distributed, with the exception of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the distribution of that report was under way and would be completed shortly. The Committee could therefore proceed to take up item 73 (Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) and item 86.

70. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) believed that, in view of the fact that previously the Committee had criticized the Secretariat for the lack of, or late submission of, documentation, it should at that point congratulate the Secretariat for the marked improvement noted during the current session. The explanations given by the Committee Secretary were logical and worthy of attention. The priority accorded to items did not necessarily indicate the order in which they should be considered and, given the different cultural traditions of the members of the Committee, the definition of priority could be different for each of them. He felt, for his part, that an item was given priority when it was ensured that it would receive full attention and ample time for its consideration. He considered that the Chairman had adopted a prudent approach towards the organization of work and he therefore supported the proposal put forward by the representative of Algeria that the Chairman's suggestions should be adopted. He recalled that the General Assembly had not given any instructions in that respect and had left that matter to the discretion of the Committee. He was in favour of items 73 and 86 being considered first, followed by item 82 (Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights).

71. The CHAIRMAN agreed that the Secretariat should be congratulated on its efforts to submit the documentation on time and extend all the co-operation necessary for success in the Committee's work. In his dealings with Secretariat officials he had always encountered the most resolute co-operation. He also agreed with the representative of Ireland that the priority accorded to a question did not necessarily indicate the order in which the various items should be considered.

72. Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) observed that it was necessary to take into account the high priority that the Committee and the General Assembly accorded to the various items, as well as preparation and availability of documentation and financial aspects that had implications for the Committee's work. The members of the Committee would recall that there had been a time when a date had been set for the presentation of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who, at the time, was the only person who had to go from Geneva to Headquarters in order to present his report. Then, when the Division of Human Rights had been transferred to Geneva, the Committee had received its report at the time when it was most convenient for the officials of the Division to present it at Headquarters. Also in contrast to the previous year, the current session was the first time that only one of the units that provided the Committee with services, namely, part of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, was located at Headquarters. The Office of the UNHCR and the Division of Human Rights sent their

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(Mrs. Sipila)

representatives from Geneva, while the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the Fund for Drug Abuse Control sent theirs from Vienna.

73. She assured the members of the Committee that the various units did not have sufficient resources for the officials who were dealing with the various items to appear before the Committee on different occasions. The Centre that she headed, itself, did not have sufficient resources to finance its officials' journeys from Vienna, where it had been located since the 15th of September. In those exceptional circumstances, the Third Committee must comply with the Fifth Committee's recommendations regarding financial implications, taking into account that during its plenary meetings the General Assembly always adopted the Fifth Committee's recommendations.

74. Mr. RIOS (Panama) said that it would be desirable for the Committee to have the supplement containing the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly during its thirty-third session. He understood that the above-mentioned document had not yet been issued and he would therefore be grateful if the Secretary would supply him with information in that regard.

75. He welcomed the fact that, in keeping with a well-established tradition in the Committee and the Commission of Human Rights, the Committee was starting its work with consideration of the items relating to the fight against racism and racial discrimination, and to self-determination and human rights, items that were closely interrelated.

76. Mrs. HOUNGAVOU (Benin) proposed that, following consideration of the items relating to racism, racial discrimination, self-determination and human rights, the Committee should consider items 76 and 77, relating to the world social situation and social progress and development, which were items to which the non-aligned countries attached particular importance. She suggested that the Committee should then examine items 72 and 81, relating to youth.

77. Mr. ARBOLEYA (Cuba) said that the situation regarding documentation was better than during previous sessions. However, it was desirable that the Secretariat should circulate its written report on that question.

78. Although he agreed with those who had pointed out that the order of the items could not be established simply on the basis of their level of priority, he felt that priority was a factor that could not be ignored in establishing the order of consideration. In his view, there appeared to be a consensus in the Committee that it should adopt the Chairman's proposal that work should start with consideration of items 73 (Implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination), 86 (Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination) and 82 (Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights). A majority preference had emerged for consideration, following that of the above-mentioned items, of items 76 (World social situation) and 77 (Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development).

(Mr. Arboleya, Cuba)

79. He thought that item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council) was scheduled too late in the programme proposed by the Chairman and should be included at an earlier stage. He agreed with the representative of Romania that it was necessary to bring forward items 72 (International Youth Year) and 81 (Policies and programmes relating to youth), which could be considered concurrently, particularly with a view to holding the International Youth Year. Following those items, item 80 (United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace) could be considered. That order would fit in with the Secretariat's movements, to which the Committee Secretary and the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had drawn attention.

80. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the proposals that the Committee should start its work with questions relating to racism and racial discrimination (items 73 and 86) and continue with items 76 (World social situation) and 77 (Implementation of the Declaration of Social Progress and Development). The report on the world social situation was examined only once every four years and that item merited particular attention. Preparation of a draft resolution in that regard would require much effort. The last resolution adopted by the General Assembly on that question had had considerable impact and when the question was dealt with it would be necessary to hear delegations' opinions concerning the report of the Secretary-General. On the other hand, it should be borne in mind that all the documentation relating to the item had already been issued.

81. After the item on the world social situation, the Committee could consider questions relating to youth (items 72 and 81), in accordance with the proposal put forward by the representative of Romania.

82. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) stated that the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during its thirty-third session had already been published as document A/33/45. The competent services of the United Nations were examining the possibility of publishing a complete edition of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly during all its sessions to date.

83. Referring to the proposed paper on the availability of the documents on the items referred to the Third Committee, he pointed out that the summary record of the meeting would be at the disposal of delegations, were the oral explanations insufficient. The summary record would be issued before any special document could be prepared, and such a solution would allow both documentation and expenses to be kept to the minimum.

84. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that his delegation agreed that the information about documentation should appear in the summary record, provided that it was issued promptly.

85. The programme of work suggested by the Chairman reflected a logical and practical approach to the Committee's priorities. The discussion showed that each delegation had a different viewpoint. The United States delegation was no exception, but was willing to be guided by the Chairman's good sense as evidenced in his suggestions, and he urged the other delegations to do likewise.

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86. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that, after listening to the explanations offered by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, his delegation considered the Chairman's note both practical and the best manner of approaching the Committee's work. In common with other delegations he would have liked items 76, 77, 72 and 81 to have been discussed immediately after the items relating to racial discrimination and self-determination.

87. The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of the broad support for his suggestions, he would ask the Committee to accept them in the light of the explanations he and the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had given. It was understood that they were being adopted for purely practical reasons, and would in no way influence the priority or importance given to any item.

88. Mr. TINOCO (Costa Rica) said that the summary record would indicate which documents were missing, and thus remove the grounds for his objection. He therefore accepted the Chairman's suggestion, and congratulated him on the skill with which he had prepared the programme.

89. The CHAIRMAN asked the Committee if it would agree to take up at least the first three items, in that order. Delegates should be aware of the order to be followed so that they could prepare their statements and not waste time. If there were no objections, he would assume it was the Committee's decision to begin examining items 73 and 86 together, and then to continue with item 82.

90. It was so decided.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

91. Mrs. OBAFENI (Nigeria) nominated Mrs. Nina Sibal (India) for the office of Chairman of the Working Group on the Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (item 75).

92. Mrs. Sibal (India) was elected Chairman of the Working Group by acclamation.

93. Mr. VERKERCKE (Belgium) nominated Mr. Nordenfelt (Sweden) for the office of Chairman of the Working Group on the Draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (item 88 (c)).

94. Mr. Nordenfelt (Sweden) was elected Chairman of the Working Group by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.