



UN/SA COLLECTION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOBHY (Egypt)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 73: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/34/3/Add.22, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/411)

AGENDA ITEM 86: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/499)

- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/34/18)
- (b) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (A/34/441, A/C.3/34/L.4)
- (c) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (A/34/442)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.4, relating to item 86 (b), had been issued and that two other draft resolutions, relating to the same subitem, would be issued shortly and introduced by the sponsors at the 12th meeting.

2. Mrs. de REYES (Colombia) said that her country, which had made its position on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid known on many occasions, both in the Committee and elsewhere, condemned all political doctrines that postulated inequality and thus violated the Charter of the United Nations.

3. Her delegation was glad that the Committee was starting its work by considering a problem that affected millions of people. The members of a body dealing with humanitarian and social questions had a special responsibility to work towards the implementation of rules of law and the taking of concrete action, instead of simply uttering pious hopes.

4. She regretted that the Director of the Division of Human Rights had not so far been able to participate in the Committee's work. It would be useful for the Committee to receive the studies on racism carried out by UNESCO and to establish contact with university circles with a view to entering into exchanges of views on those matters.

5. The documents before the Committee on the two items under consideration, some of which related to the work of other United Nations organs or agencies, did not represent a duplication of work; on the contrary, they played a very useful role by fostering awareness of the odious consequences of racial discrimination, racism and apartheid. Such instruments as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid were the very basis of the

(Mrs. de Reyes, Colombia)

United Nations, because their purpose was to enable the individual to embrace in freedom the noblest spiritual values, within the setting of diverse cultures and civilizations. The struggle against racial discrimination and against policies of apartheid derived directly from the principles set forth in the Declaration of Human Rights.

6. Referring to the concept of negritude, as defined by Aimé Césaire and admirably developed by President Senghor of Senegal, who was also a poet, she said that the poetry of the African peoples, their culture, their complex religious beliefs and their social organization commanded the admiration of specialists in all countries. The studies of Bachofen, dating from the beginning of the century, bore witness to the influence of black culture on the work of great western artists such as Pablo Picasso. The peoples of Europe could not, therefore, claim that only their works of art were of universal value. The Colombian Government was trying to preserve the history and cultural values of its indigenous peoples, who over the centuries had blended with the white and black races to form a special racial type, and a genuine revival of indigenous popular art and tribal forms of social organization was now taking place.

7. Where the suppression and punishment of apartheid was concerned, Governments which had introduced provisions penalizing that crime into their legislation should be commended. The very fact that racial discrimination had such deep causes, sometimes difficult to uncover, made it hard to combat. Among those causes was the psychological fear aroused in some races by the thought that they now had to reckon with rising and dynamic races. Another odious aspect of the problem was that the enslavement of a people for racial reasons provided a supply of cheap labour and made it possible to achieve "economic miracles".

7a. Could one speak of the progress of mankind and boast of the conquest of space as long as there were peoples still subjected to the abomination of racism and apartheid? Colombia proclaimed its solidarity with those peoples, who were struggling against an enemy that was the more powerful for being faceless. Racial prejudice manifested itself in many forms and must therefore be attacked at its roots. As articles 4 and 7 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination demonstrated, measures in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information were vitally important in that regard because of their multiplier effect.

8. The fact that the racist régimes of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa continued to disregard the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, to practise policies of apartheid and to occupy Namibia illegally was very disturbing. Policies of apartheid were contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, which proclaimed equal rights, a principle that was the very foundation of the United Nations. Countries flouting it should be outlawed by the international community until they recognized the gravity of their offence, which was a crime against humanity.

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9. The mere fact that the universal character of the problem had been recognized and that the international instruments which had been adopted were now accepted by a large number of countries meant, of course, that some progress had been achieved towards racial equality. Indeed, it was in that respect that the United Nations had made its greatest moral advances, and her delegation joined the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in calling upon Member States which had not yet done so to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

10. In conclusion, she quoted a passage from the statement of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the General Assembly pointing out that the progress of mankind could not be measured solely in terms of scientific and technical advances but that moral, spiritual and humanitarian advances must also be taken into account.

11. Mr. YELCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, despite the successes achieved during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, those evils had not yet been eliminated; southern Africa remained a bastion of racism, thanks to the help of the reactionary forces of imperialism, and the racist régimes of Salisbury and Pretoria were stepping up their acts of aggression against neighbouring independent States. The mission of the United Nations was to put an end at last to those crimes against humanity, which were a threat to peace and security not only in Africa but throughout the world.

12. The Economic and Social Council proposed for adoption by the Assembly the draft resolution (E/1979/3) reproduced in its report (A/34/3/Add.22). The Ukrainian SSR was a sponsor of the draft resolution and believed that its adoption would help to intensify the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. It was to be hoped that the preparation of the programme of activities referred to in operative paragraph 8 would be completed in the next few days. The activities under that programme should be calculated to achieve the objectives of the Decade and those established by the World Conference to Combat Racism, and the implementation of other relevant resolutions. Only the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations could ensure the attainment during the second half of the Decade of its main objective, namely, the complete and final elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

13. The Ukrainian SSR was pleased to see that activities in that field were intensifying, both in the United Nations and in other international organizations, including non-government organizations. The annual report of the Secretary-General (E/1979/13) gave a very full picture of the contribution made by those organizations to the Decade. An important role had been played by the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

14. Despite the successes achieved, it could not be overlooked that racism had not been entirely eliminated and was continuing to poison the international atmosphere. Above all, the racist colonial régimes in southern Africa, whose crimes were well known, must be eliminated as soon as possible. It was impossible to ignore the varied assistance which was provided to the rulers of South Africa and Namibia by

(Mr. Yelchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

some Western States and which gave foreign monopolies an incentive to join in the exploitation of the African population. That activity by Western States had been severely condemned by, for instance, the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Havana and the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries at its June meeting in Colombo (A/34/357, annex I, paras. 34 and 35). No one could be deceived by the "elections" in Namibia and Rhodesia, or by the "internal settlement" of which so much had been made in certain circles. His delegation firmly condemned all those who, although declaring their willingness to support an equitable settlement in southern Africa, were resorting to delaying tactics in an attempt to paralyse the decisions of the United Nations on the subject while thousands died, millions became refugees and immeasurable suffering was caused.

15. Experience had shown that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid were international legal instruments of great importance in the struggle against racism, discrimination and apartheid. The Ukrainian SSR had been one of the first countries to ratify them and, in fulfilment of its obligations under the Conventions, it had regularly submitted periodic reports to the United Nations. The fifth periodic report submitted under article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had been approved by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The report of the Ukrainian SSR to the Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had also been appreciated. The two reports showed that no manifestation of racism or racial discrimination was possible in the Ukrainian SSR.

16. In the view of his delegation, the report of the Group of Three (E/CN.4/1328), and particularly the conclusions and recommendations, was worthy of note. The adoption of those recommendations would lend support to the activities of the Group. Where the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/34/18) was concerned, his delegation would merely state, with regard to decision 1 (XX) concerning the holding of Committee sessions "in various regions", that in its view the Committee, by taking that decision, had exceeded the powers conferred on it under article 10, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

17. When discussing the elimination of racial discrimination, it was impossible to overlook the racist policy pursued by Israel towards the Arab population of the occupied territories. Israeli aggression against the Arab peoples, mass repression, the advancement of chauvinistic theories, and the close alliance between Israel and the racist régimes of southern Africa attested to the nature of Zionism, which the General Assembly had rightly defined as a form of racism and racial discrimination in its resolution 3379 (XXX). Racism and racial discrimination unfortunately persisted in various forms in other countries also, both against nationals of the countries concerned and against the many millions of migrant workers from countries in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. Whatever forms racial discrimination took, or whatever guises it assumed, nothing could justify it. It followed from the faith in fundamental human rights proclaimed in the United Nations Charter that concrete and decisive measures must be taken for the complete and final elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination.

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18. The Ukrainian SSR had always attached great importance to international co-operation in that field, as was evidenced, for instance, by the activities of the Ukrainian representative in the Special Committee against Apartheid. The active co-operation between representatives of the Ukrainian SSR and the participants in many international meetings also contributed to the adoption, either in the United Nations or in other international bodies, of measures aimed at liquidating the criminal systems of apartheid, racism and colonialism which still existed in southern Africa. Ukrainian workers, being well informed about the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa and the crimes of the racist régimes, maintained fruitful links with the international social organizations working for the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and apartheid and for the strengthening of solidarity with the struggling peoples of southern Africa. Now that the struggle for the complete elimination of racism was in its final phase, all the forces for progress in the world, and particularly the United Nations, must combine their efforts to implement the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

19. Miss OBAFLMI (Nigeria) said that the Government and people of Nigeria remained fully committed to the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, and in particular apartheid, and would not relent in their efforts until that goal had been achieved.

20. Her delegation commended the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the effective manner in which it carried out its mandate; the Committee's comments on the fifth periodic report of Nigeria had been carefully noted and would be responded to in the next report. Her delegation wished to state clearly that Nigeria had no problem of racism or racial discrimination. Although the population was composed of several ethnic groups, the problems of ethnic diversity had been obviated by the federal form of government, under which each State ensured equal rights for all citizens. Fundamental human rights were enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution, which prohibited any discrimination on the basis of sex, colour or creed. Nigeria was and had always been a secular State where the Constitution not only guaranteed freedom of religion but also included a clause which stipulated that no religion should have primacy over any others. Furthermore, that clause ensured that no religion should be deemed to be the State religion. Fully convinced of the equality of all human beings, Nigeria was committed to the struggle against racism and in that connexion had severed all relations with the racist régimes in southern Africa, where the obnoxious policy of apartheid had been institutionalized.

21. Her delegation supported CERD's proposals for the revision of the guidelines and other aspects of the reporting procedure under article 9 of the Convention, in view of the importance of the periodic reports. The working group established on the matter should therefore strive to simplify the reporting procedure. Decision 1 (XX), concerning the holding of Committee sessions in various regions at the invitation of States parties, was well advised, and the Secretary-General should give all necessary assistance to facilitate the holding of sessions in developing countries.

(Miss Obafemi, Nigeria)

22. Her delegation welcomed the four new States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and hoped that those States which had not yet ratified the Convention would soon do so. At the same time, it was very sad to note that 101 States had yet to become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, even though apartheid had been condemned by the entire membership of the United Nations. She wondered whether it was by accident or design that none of the European States whose kith and kin were responsible for the crime that apartheid perpetrated against black peoples, especially those in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, had ratified the Convention. It was unacceptable that those countries should pretend to abhor apartheid but continue to advance spurious legalistic excuses for not joining with other members of the international community in effectively suppressing it. Nigeria, for its part, was combating apartheid and punishing all those who benefited from it. The Government and people of Nigeria would not rest until the perpetrators of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid had been persuaded to re-examine their present policies and join hands with the international community to uphold the dignity of the human person.

23. In accordance with its position on that issue, Nigeria was playing an active role in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Committee must carefully plan a programme of activities for the rest of the Decade, taking into account document E/1979/15, in order to achieve the objectives set for the Decade. Her delegation appealed to all members of the Committee to co-operate fully in drawing up a programme of activities which would contribute to the elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

24. Mrs. SHERMAN-PETER (Bahamas) said that in a world where very few countries were composed of a single ethnic group, all States should deem it vital to create societies where everyone could live together harmoniously.

25. One of the aims of the United Nations was to create a world devoid of racism and racial discrimination. Indeed, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination proclaimed that any doctrine of racial differentiation or superiority was scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous. The international community was striving to put an end to racism and all forms of racial discrimination, including colonialism, alien domination and segregation, as was evidenced in particular by the proclamation in 1973 of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Unfortunately, six years later, one could scarcely deny that very little had been achieved.

26. The persistence of apartheid, racism and racial discrimination in southern Africa and the atrocities inflicted on the black majority by the racist minority were a source of profound distress for her delegation, as for many others, and it was alarming to note that the racist régimes remained unmoved in the face of growing international pressure and continued to consolidate their power by legislative, administrative and other means. Since no man was an island, she was

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(Mrs. Sherman-Peter, Bahamas)

forced to conclude that the Governments of the racist countries were supported by those very countries which condemned apartheid and racism. One should not be surprised, therefore, at the difficulty of reaching a consensus and at the selective and discriminatory way in which those questions were being approached in the second half of the Decade.

27. The position of her country was stated clearly in its second periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Government of the Bahamas believed firmly in the principles of justice and equality for all and strongly opposed régimes which fostered racial discrimination and racial segregation. Accordingly, it had never contemplated establishing diplomatic relations with the racist régimes of southern Africa, nor had it ever engaged in economic or other relationships with them. In conformity with that position, the Bahamas had in 1973 become a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and it welcomed the fact that 104 countries, constituting more than two thirds of the membership of the United Nations, had ratified it.

28. Her country had achieved its independence without any racial incidents, and, as indicated in its second periodic report, no case of racial discrimination had thus far come before the courts. Her Government welcomed the positive efforts made by the Commonwealth Heads of Government to eradicate the vestiges of racism and racial prejudice resulting from colonialism and had taken an active interest in the drafting of the Lusaka Declaration on racism and racial discrimination adopted in August 1979.

29. At the national level, the Bahamas had established a committee responsible for educating the public on the evils of racism and racial discrimination, particularly apartheid, and members of the Special Committee against Apartheid had been invited to address that committee. Representatives of the national committee would be present at the special meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid to be held on 11 October 1979.

30. Her delegation hoped that the constant condemnation of racism and racial discrimination would help to bring about their demise. The Bahamas, for its part, would continue not only to speak out against all forms of discrimination but also to implement a policy aimed at ensuring that all individuals had a right to live in a world of equality and justice.

31. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) observed that the question of the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid once again occupied a central place in the work of the Third Committee. Those countries which were genuinely concerned at the threat which those evils posed to world peace and security must go beyond mere verbal condemnation and begin to take concrete action. It was in that light that he wished to comment briefly on the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/34/18), after first recalling the circumstances which had led to the adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of

(Mr. Bekele, Ethiopia)

All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the creation of a committee to monitor its implementation.

32. The United Nations had been established in the days following a war in which racism had played an important part, in a world with colonialism still well entrenched, international imperialism spreading its tentacles and the racist régime of Pretoria rushing unhindered towards the creation of a system later to become apartheid. Conscious of the dangers inherent in the situation and believing that racism and racial discrimination might be eliminated if Governments were held accountable, the United Nations had drafted an international convention. If, several years after the entry into force of that convention, racism and racial discrimination still had not been eliminated, that was because the international community had failed to see the inescapable connexion between racism and profit. Racism and racial discrimination were still entrenched in southern Africa because the racist régimes enjoyed considerable support from certain Western countries.

33. Returning to the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, his delegation wondered whether the Committee had not been mistaken in giving preference to legalistic details, rather than focussing on the essential point - the elimination of racial discrimination - and tackling those who were really responsible, namely, the racist régimes of southern Africa, the Powers which supported them, and neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organizations. His delegation found with regret that, even after carefully studying that Committee's report, it was still unable to judge which country was doing a better job of eliminating racism and racial discrimination internally or had best fulfilled its international responsibilities in that area. His delegation also failed to see the basic reason for the various questions put by that Committee to Governments submitting their periodic reports. Of course, the existence or non-existence of a constitution in a given country, the right of citizens to travel freely and the question of marriages between nationals and non-nationals were important issues, but they had little to do with the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. By dwelling too much on details, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ran the risk of overlooking the essentials.

34. His delegation wished to make some suggestions for the consideration of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which would enable it to adopt a more systematic approach. That Committee should study its mandate thoroughly to see whether it was not putting too much stress on legalistic details rather than on action aimed at the elimination of racism. It should also establish a list of priorities and study the reasons for the failure to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. It could also consider taking into account the de facto racial situation in each country. Furthermore, it would be useful to study carefully the differences between the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Human Rights Committee, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, and other similar bodies. Lastly, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should reformulate the questionnaire sent to States Parties to the Convention, so that their periodic reports could reflect more accurately the economic, diplomatic, commercial, military and other contacts which they might have with the racist régimes in southern Africa.

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(Mr. Bekele, Ethiopia)

35. Those suggestions were offered in a spirit of dialogue and co-operation. His delegation had complete confidence in the integrity, dedication and efforts of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It particularly welcomed the increased co-operation between that Committee and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to which the Director-General of UNESCO had drawn attention in his statement, which was contained in the annex to that Committee's report.

36. The position of his country with regard to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was well known. His Government had always strongly supported the Programme and had also provided direct support to the liberation movements in southern Africa. In conclusion, his delegation wished to state that it would support the resolutions relating to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid that had been recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly.

37. Mrs. DUNG (Viet Nam) reaffirmed her Government's full support for the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which were to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons without distinction of any kind. She also paid tribute to the efforts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the activities undertaken by many countries in the context of the Decade.

38. It was most deplorable that 10 years after the entry into force of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination millions of persons still suffered from that scourge. In many regions of the world the indigenous population had been plundered and persecuted and, despite its extremely valuable cultural heritage, was reduced to confinement in ghettos, living in ignorance and poverty, deprived of their most basic human rights. In the Middle East it was clear that the tragic situation of millions of Palestinian Arabs was caused by the racist policy of Israel towards them. In southern Africa the racist régimes were, despite world public opinion, subjecting the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa to the most hateful forms of aggression, oppression and exploitation.

39. Her Government wished to reaffirm its unswerving support for the brave fighters of the national liberation movements of southern Africa and salute the heroic peoples of Angola, Mozambique and Zambia, which, by their victories over the armed forces of the racist régimes of Pretoria and Salisbury, had dealt a stunning blow to the imperialist forces in southern Africa. Her Government vigorously condemned, on the one hand, the military and technological assistance and, on the other, the economic, political and diplomatic support which the imperialists and reactionaries were giving the racist régimes. It was significant that it was those very countries that pretended to be defenders of human rights and yet persisted in providing the racist régimes with the means for manufacturing nuclear weapons and resorted to all kinds of manoeuvres to impede the implementation of the economic sanctions imposed against Southern Rhodesia in pursuance of the United Nations Charter. Her Government welcomed the triumph of the revolution of the Iranian

(Mrs. Dung, Viet Nam)

people, which, rejecting such manoeuvres dictated by economic interest, had taken courageous measures to impose an embargo on the shipment of oil to the racist régimes in southern Africa.

40. Needless to say, the theory of racial superiority had no scientific basis. History showed that the theory had been conceived by colonialism and imperialism in order to justify their alleged right of domination over other peoples. That concept of alleged racial superiority had been cultivated among the peoples of certain large nations to incite them to take up plunder, exploitation, war and even genocide against other peoples. Therefore the struggle against racism, apartheid and racial discrimination was an integral part of the struggle waged by the peoples of the world against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, hegemonism, expansionism and zionism.

41. Viet Nam was a multinational country whose population included more than 60 ethnic groups. Before the 1945 revolution those groups had lived in atrocious conditions. The political programme of the Viet Minh resistance front and the first Constitution of 1946, based on the principle of human equality and respect for human dignity, had decreed the equality of all Vietnamese citizens with regard to their rights and duties, irrespective of race, sex or social or religious condition, National minorities received assistance in order to enable them to reach the living standard of the population as a whole as quickly as possible.

42. That policy of union, equality and mutual assistance had been the basis for the massive participation by the national minorities in the revolutionary effort of the entire Vietnamese people. That union had been strengthened in the struggle for the common homeland. The bloody tribal struggles inherited from a century of colonial domination had now practically disappeared. Enormous efforts had been made by the people's Government to eliminate famine, poverty, illiteracy and superstition. On the cultural level, the people's Government had done everything possible, despite the war, to restore and develop the spiritual, moral and cultural values of the minorities. In the new stage following the war, when the country had regained its independence and unity, the national minorities were playing a meritorious role in the building of the socialist homeland and the defense of a reunited Viet Nam.

43. Miss NICOLAIDOU (Greece) said that racial discrimination was incompatible with the Greek people's long-standing tradition of freedom and equality and with Greece's Constitution and legislation. Greece had always favoured non-discrimination and self-determination for all oppressed peoples, and it fully supported the struggle of those peoples against apartheid, colonialism and racial discrimination.

44. Greece had been a sponsor of resolution 2544 (XXIV), by which the General Assembly had unanimously approved the Programme for the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, it was a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, whose provisions formed an integral part of her country's new legislation, in accordance with article 28 of the Constitution. The Greek Parliament had recently adopted an act which punished with imprisonment all persons who practiced racial discrimination or incited others to it.

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(Miss Nicolaidou, Greece)

45. The most abhorrent example of racial discrimination was apartheid. Unfortunately, the measures adopted by the international community to combat apartheid had remained without effect. Greece was proud of the fact that it had never collaborated with the South African Government. The fight against intolerance should not be only a matter of official policies. It must also be a struggle waged by peoples, and one of the most effective ways of ensuring the participation of the people was education, in the broadest sense of the word, which must be carried out by the schools and the information media. Greece was convinced, perhaps because of its culture and traditions, that a systematic campaign would quickly produce results.

46. Mr. SABUSHIMIKE (Burundi) said that his delegation welcomed the very considerable increase in the number of States signatories to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. His country had already ratified the first Convention and had acceded to the second. It was to be regretted that thousands of human beings were denied any freedom and any dignity because of their race or their religion or on any other grounds. Before attaining independence his country had been subjected to a discriminatory ideology which it had valiantly fought and overcome.

47. His country's Criminal Code provided for severe penalties for all propaganda promoting racial discrimination, in conformity with article 4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. All levels of his country's population participated in political life and thus determined the policy of the Government, which had taken steps to guarantee the equality of all citizens with regard to justice and education, irrespective of their ethnic origin or their religion. At a time when all the peoples of the world must co-operate to end poverty, hunger and ignorance, it was incomprehensible that millions of human beings should be sacrificed to short-term strategic and economic interests. That was why the Member States which maintained relations with the racist and colonialist régimes of southern Africa must review their policy, which was in flagrant contradiction with their statements in the United Nations. The contempt shown by the racist régimes for the resolutions adopted by the international community was a grave threat to international peace and security. His Government, which had always condemned apartheid, racism and racial discrimination, reiterated its firm support for the national liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa.

48. Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba) said that since the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination a certain degree of progress had been achieved, but it was evident that racism, racial discrimination and apartheid continued to exist. The situation in southern Africa was deteriorating, especially because the struggle of the national liberation movements in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa was intensifying. The racist régimes could only survive by means of the support and the political, economic and military co-operation they received from the United States, Israel and certain countries of Western Europe. Her delegation hoped that at its current session the General Assembly would take more

(Mrs. Florez, Cuba)

effective measures against racism and racial discrimination, since the majority of the States Members of the Organization, which belonged to the non-aligned movement, had recently taken strongly-worded decisions in that respect at Havana.

49. At their meeting in Havana the Heads of State and Government had reaffirmed that racism, including zionism, racial discrimination and apartheid, were crimes against humanity. In their final Declaration the countries participating in the Conference had expressed their support for the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

50. Having established that the African peoples struggling for their emancipation had made some progress, the participants in the Havana Conference had declared that it was a matter of urgency to eliminate colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, which survived only by virtue of the military, technological, political, diplomatic and other assistance provided by the imperialists. They had reiterated their support for the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa and had welcomed the decision of the Government of Iran to suspend the sale of oil to South Africa and the decision of the Governments of Iran, Grenada and Nicaragua to sever their relations with South Africa. They had urged all States not to recognize the puppet, racist and illegal Muzorewa régime, in conformity with the decisions of the Security Council and the resolutions of OAU, and had expressed their complete support for the Patriotic Front as the sole legitimate representative of Zimbabwe. As for Namibia, the Heads of State and Government of the non-aligned countries had reaffirmed that the continued illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist régime of South Africa constituted aggression, not only against the people of Namibia, but also against all the independent and sovereign peoples of Africa, and also posed a threat to international peace and security. They had denounced the establishment in Namibia by the apartheid régime of an illegal and arbitrary "national assembly" which was simply a means of imposing the internal solution, and they had categorically declared that they would not recognize the puppet régime which South Africa might set up in Namibia. The participants in the Conference had also reaffirmed their solidarity with the front-line States, which were subject to South African aggression merely because they were applying the sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

51. With regard to the Middle East, the participants in the Conference had condemned the racist policy of Israel, which was maintaining its military occupation by means of a reign of terror and brutal oppression of the Palestinian people.

52. The declarations of the Heads of State and Government of the non-aligned countries assumed all the more importance by virtue of the fact that, at the mid-point of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the international community must take effective steps to achieve the objectives laid down in the Programme of Action. Attention should also be drawn to the situation of the Indians, Chicanos and Puerto Ricans as minority groups which were subject to discriminatory treatment in the United States.

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(Mrs. Florez, Cuba)

53. Her country had always strictly observed the obligations incumbent upon it as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In 1979 her country had submitted its fourth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It had been congratulated for having fulfilled its obligations under article 9 of the Convention and for having answered in its report the questions asked during the consideration of the third periodic report and also the questions asked by a number of experts. In that respect, her country considered that the Committee must adhere to the mandate given to it, which was to evaluate the implementation by all the States parties of the provisions of the Convention. Similarly, her country had fulfilled its obligations as a State party to the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and was also actively participating in the work of the Group of three members established by the Commission on Human Rights. In 1979 her country had again been appointed, together with Bulgaria and Senegal, as a member of the Group, which was to consider the reports of the States parties and draw up a list of individuals, organizations, institutions and representatives of States alleged to be responsible for the crimes enumerated in article II of the Convention. Finally, her delegation supported Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/3.

54. Mr. WASILEWSKI (Poland) said that his country's position with regard to racism and racial discrimination was well known to the international community. Its condemnation of all barbarous and inhuman practices and its unreserved support of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination were inspired by its socialist ideals and by its ideology, as reflected in its Constitution, its legislation, and the daily life of the country.

55. In the International Year of the Child particular attention should be paid to the sufferings of children living under the yoke of racism and apartheid. A World Conference for a Peaceful and Secure Future for Children had recently been held at Moscow, at which attention had been devoted to children who were victims of war and to the part which international solidarity must play in furthering the interests of children deprived of their rights, as was the case in southern Africa. Humanitarian aid, however worthwhile, was not enough to improve the lot of those children; it was also necessary to get to the root of the evil, i.e. to eradicate the apartheid régime. It was in that spirit that his country had tried, at the international level, to draft and have adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was currently before the Commission on Human Rights. His country had proposed a draft article stipulating clearly that every child, without any exception whatsoever, should be entitled to the rights set forth in the Convention, without distinction or discrimination of any kind. His delegation therefore welcomed the inclusion in the Programme of Action for the Decade of special studies on the situation of children in southern Africa and in the occupied Arab territories.

56. His delegation was convinced that the international community should intensify its struggle against racism and apartheid during the second half of the Decade, and believed that the Programme of Action would contribute greatly to that end. It was firmly convinced also that the racist régimes must be further isolated and that United Nations sanctions against those régimes must be implemented strictly by all States.

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(Mr. Wasilewski, Poland)

57. The continued existence of racism and apartheid was a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter; it jeopardized international peace and security, and was an obstacle to the establishment of the new international economic order. It was all the more necessary to intensify the international struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid because the third United Nations Development Decade was approaching, and there could be no real development and social progress on a world-wide scale while those unjust practices persisted. The most important step in hastening their abolition was for more countries to accede to the relevant legal instruments and to apply them strictly. Poland was a party to the two Conventions concerned, and also to both the International Covenants on Human Rights.

58. His delegation believed that particular attention should be paid, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, to educating young people about the evils of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. In that connexion he referred to General Assembly resolution 33/73, submitted by Poland, which stated, inter alia, that every State had the duty to discourage all manifestations and practices of colonialism, as well as racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, and that it also had the duty to discourage advocacy of hatred and prejudices against other peoples.

59. Poland had always supported and implemented the United Nations resolutions against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and given political, material and moral support to the national liberation movements of peoples fighting for independence, and it would continue to do so to the end.

60. Mr. RIGIN (Indonesia) said that he had carefully studied the Secretary-General's reports on the items under consideration (E/1979/13 and Add.1 and 2, E/1979/15 and Add.1) and General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII), 33/99 and 33/100, together with the Secretary-General's report on activities that could be undertaken during the second half of the Decade (E/1979/15, sect. B). His delegation looked forward to the report of the working group established to evaluate the activities for the Decade, which would meet during the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1980; that report would make it possible to adopt a five-year programme of activities designed to accelerate progress in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade.

61. His delegation was pleased to note that some progress had been made by the continuous and concerted efforts of all countries both within their own borders and within the United Nations system, and also through non-governmental organizations and through the specific measures adopted at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

62. Despite the untiring efforts of the international community, the activities of the national liberation fronts in southern Africa and in other African countries, and the many appeals to the South African Government made by the international community, the situation in southern Africa had not improved. The time had come to seek new ways of remedying the situation. Member States should support the complete isolation of the Pretoria régime by any means, including the continuation of United Nations sanctions.

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(Mr. Rigin, Indonesia)

63. His delegation had taken note of the decision on Zimbabwe and would continue to support the relevant United Nations resolutions.

64. Indonesia had always stood firm in its opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, all of which were practices strictly forbidden by its legal and moral code. Indonesia would continue to provide political and other support for the struggling peoples and national liberation movements in southern Africa and to refuse to have any relations with the racist régimes in that region. His Government had adopted a Presidential decree stating that Indonesia would not participate in any cultural or sports activities attended by representatives of the racist régimes.

65. In view of the persistence of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid in southern Africa in particular, it was imperative that the international community should intensify its pressure on those régimes and that the Security Council should seriously consider imposing mandatory economic and other sanctions against South Africa.

66. On the question of Palestine, the Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated in the plenary meeting on 26 September 1979 that a settlement of the Middle East question could not be achieved through partial solutions. Any just and lasting solution must lead to the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab lands, the return of Jerusalem to the Arabs, and the exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

67. Mr. LAEMMERZAH (German Democratic Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had resorted to lies and slander in order to divert the attention of the international community, in which the overwhelming majority had denounced the State of Israel as an aggressive régime permanently violating human rights. His delegation resolutely rejected those lies and defamations.

68. The German Democratic Republic was led by a man who had been incarcerated from 1935 to 1945 by the German fascists because of his struggle against fascism. The States Members of the United Nations had repeatedly paid a tribute to the German Democratic Republic for its fight against fascism and racism. The Government of the German Democratic Republic furnished support for national liberation movements. On the occasion of the country's thirtieth anniversary, the Vice-President of the Association of Jewish Congregations had stated that the survivors of the sinister time of Nazi fascism and concentration camps had succeeded in building a State where Jews could live in freedom and peace and where anti-Semitism and racial hatred were severely punishable offences. New synagogues had been built with funds provided by the State. The Vice-President had also stated that the Jewish community in the German Democratic Republic enjoyed security, equal rights and a sheltered life in freedom.

69. Mr. CAHANA (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement by the representative of the German Democratic Republic confirmed what the Israeli delegation had said at the preceding meeting. He had not replied

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(Mr. Cahana, Israel)

to the specific accusations that related directly to the item under consideration, and had not denied that some members of the current Government of the German Democratic Republic were former Nazis, who shared responsibility for the crimes perpetrated against the Jews. He had not referred to the moral and legal obligation that history imposed on the Germans in that country to compensate for the crimes committed against the Jews. He had not denied that his Government had supported terrorist organizations that assassinated Jews simply because they were Jews. He added that the German Democratic Republic exported experts who trained police forces in certain countries to violate human rights.

70. It was well known that the German Democratic Republic was responsible for flagrant violations of human rights, as testified by the thousands of refugees who fled its repression. Only two weeks earlier a newspaper had reported that a family from the German Democratic Republic had fled that country in a home-made balloon. Those facts could not be refuted either by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic or any of their allies, and they testified to the crimes perpetrated not only against Jews but also against other peoples in the world. The real facts could not be denied by any resolution that might be adopted by the Third Committee, which unfortunately was monopolized by certain groups.

71. Mr. LAEMMERZAHN (German Democratic Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the repetition of slanders by the representative of Israel only confirmed what he himself had said in his original statement, and that his delegation had no intention of engaging in a dialogue with Israel in the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.