



**THIRD COMMITTEE**  
**10th meeting**  
**held on**  
**Monday, 17 October 1988**  
**at 10 a.m.**  
**New York**

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait)**

**later: Mr. GALAL (Egypt)**

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**Distr. GENERAL**  
**A/C.3/43/SR.10**  
**19 October 1988**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 87: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/43/3, A/43/370, A/43/491, A/43/631, A/43/637, A/43/644 and A/C.3/43/CRP.1)

AGENDA ITEM 88: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued) (A/43/207-S/19588, A/43/370, A/43/491 and A/43/646)

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AGENDA ITEM 96: 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 (continued) (A/43/163 and Corr.1, A/43/235-S/19674, A/43/370, A/43/384-S/19915, A/43/491, A/43/538, A/43/632 and A/43/633)

1. Mr. TANASIE (Romania), speaking on agenda item 96, said that the problem of the right to self-determination must be viewed within the context of the international situation as a whole, particularly the need for further progress in achieving disarmament and defending peace so as to secure the supreme right of all people to a free and dignified life. The United Nations had, since its very inception, clearly reaffirmed the notion that the right to self-determination, national sovereignty and territorial integrity was essential to the enjoyment and exercise of all human rights and freedoms. The struggle for liberation from colonial oppression, which was an essential feature of international life, had the full support of the Romanian people not only because of Romania's own experience with foreign oppression but also because, if the international atmosphere was to be improved and conflicts prevented, all States must abide by international law and respect the right of every people to determine its own destiny. Flouting the right of peoples to self-determination endangered their existence, violated international legality and threatened world peace, and the United Nations had therefore recognized the right of peoples to combat foreign domination by all means, including armed struggle.

2. His country joined the international community in condemning South Africa for persistently flouting the United Nations and the principles of international law by pursuing its vicious policy of apartheid and aggression. The international community must make a more determined effort to ensure the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. Romania also supported the call for Namibian independence, as well as all initiatives for the peaceful settlement of other problems in southern and western Africa and other regions. Consistent with that stand, his country had supported General Assembly resolution 42/96 because mercenarism, which was used to undermine national liberation movements, was a

(Mr. Tănăsie, Romania)

flagrant denial of the right to self-determination. The elimination of that serious international crime would undoubtedly be well served by the speedy drafting and adoption of an international convention against mercenarism, and his delegation welcomed the progress that had been made to that end.

3. His own country had achieved national liberation by struggling against invaders and empires that coveted its wealth. His people was imbued with the ideal of national freedom and was prepared to struggle to achieve unity in spite of the unnatural and artificial boundaries traced by the great empires on its territory. Romania's achievement of self-determination had not been the result of accident, negotiation or gifts offered by the great Powers. It had been the outcome of a long struggle and, with such a heritage, the Romanian people strongly supported United Nations efforts to end colonial domination everywhere. Respect for sovereignty and independence could not be limited to any one region of the globe. International law was universal in scope and could not be fragmented in its implementation.

4. Mrs. KAUR (India) said that, on the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and despite the clearly expressed condemnation of the international community, the racist régime of South Africa still persisted in flouting the principles embodied in the Declaration by imposing draconian legislation and stepping up its repression of the country's non-white population. If persuasion failed to convince South Africa to end its brutal policy of apartheid and oppression, then compulsion was the only alternative. South Africa could persist in its intransigence only because it had the powerful backing of those who maintain links with it because of the profit motive, as Mr. Khalifa's report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/6 and Add.1) demonstrated. In view of the report's conclusion that South Africa, although militarily secure, was economically vulnerable, comprehensive and mandatory sanctions were the only way to force it to accept reform.

5. India too had waged a struggle for independence that was inextricably linked to the struggle against racism, and it had broken off ties with South Africa as early as 1946. Her country supported the many United Nations activities to combat racism. It believed that wider publicity should be given to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and that efforts should be made to persuade those States that had not yet done so to ratify the relevant international instruments against racism and racial discrimination, as her own country had done.

6. Her delegation had read with interest the report on the global compilation of national legislation against racial discrimination (A/43/637). India had enacted appropriate legislation providing severe penalties for the crime of apartheid.

7. Her delegation was deeply concerned at the financial crisis facing CERD and appealed to States parties to meet their financial obligations under the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination so as to enable CERD to continue its work. India had already paid its

(Mrs. Kaur, India)

contributions for 1988 and regretted the cancellation of one session of CERD in 1988 and the curtailment of another.

8. Her delegation appreciated the work done by the Group of Three established under the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and endorsed its appeal for speedy and full implementation by all States of the decisions of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies aimed at the prevention, suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid in accordance with article VI of the Convention. She shared its concern over the activities of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and Namibia and supported its efforts to examine the extent and nature of the responsibility of those corporations for the persistence of apartheid. Her delegation also welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/43/632) and looked forward to the Special Rapporteur's presentation of his preliminary report on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.

9. Racial discrimination existed in many places and the international community should guard against any attempt to undermine the harmony of multiracial societies by introducing discriminatory measures against an ethnic community on any pretext. Peoples everywhere should respect the culture, customs and traditions of others.

10. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to conference room paper A/C.3/43/CRP.1 and to the letter in document A/C.3/43/L.4, which had been distributed to all delegations. He drew attention to the last paragraph of the letter and suggested in that connection that in order to comply with the request of the Fifth Committee, the Third Committee should devote one of its meetings on 24 October to deal with that. He further suggested that regional groups should try to find a unified approach to the issues involved.

11. Ms. ALTURAIHI (Iraq) expressed regret that the international community had been unable to eliminate racial discrimination, despite broad support for the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. As the United Nations prepared to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the latter half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination drew to a close, the time had come to ensure full compliance with obligations and to put an end to the phenomenon of racial discrimination, which had emerged as a result of colonialism and the industrial revolution in Europe.

12. Although documents A/43/631 and A/43/637 were useful, her delegation did not feel that they provided sufficient information to guide studies during the coming decade. It also hoped that any forthcoming studies on the origins of racism would be realistic and relevant, and wished to stress the importance of the role played by UNESCO and the information media in publicizing racism. It should not be forgotten that school and the home were the first places in which children could be educated in the principles of tolerance and equality.

(Ms. Alturaihi, Iraq)

13. It was to be hoped that all Member States would eventually adhere to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Her country, as one of the first to do so, had always fulfilled its commitments under the Convention, including its financial obligations, and intended to pay its contribution for 1988. It urged other countries to do likewise and to submit periodic reports as requested, with a view to avoiding any disruption of the 1989 session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). It also requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals on how CERD might be enabled to continue its work, and to advise the Third Committee whether it would be possible to provide funds temporarily from the regular budget until CERD's financial crisis was resolved.

14. It was extremely disheartening to note the persistence of apartheid, which violated the most basic principles of the international community. Winnie Mandela, in a description of the 1976 Soweto uprising, had told how young children found it impossible to express their anger against oppression by the South African régime other than by throwing stones. While the Third Committee discussed apartheid year after year, Nelson Mandela, the Sharpeville Six and thousands of other South Africans, of whom 40 per cent were reported to be under the age of 18, remained in Pretoria's prisons. The institution of apartheid was not susceptible to reform: it must be eliminated. Nelson Mandela himself had written that to accept his freedom on South Africa's terms would be to sell his birthright. Meanwhile, the establishment of a democratic society in South Africa was being held up by the economic interests of certain States and transnational corporations. Her delegation believed that comprehensive and mandatory sanctions were the only means of bringing the Pretoria régime to its senses. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination also had an important role to play in informing public opinion about acts of oppression and aggression in southern Africa, as an expression of the international community's determination to eliminate racial discrimination and apartheid.

15. Mrs. VARGAS (Nicaragua) said that millions of people world-wide continued to struggle to free themselves from new forms of colonialism, zionism, imperialism and racism. The adoption over the past 20 years of important international instruments for the protection of human rights and the elimination of racism and racial discrimination had represented considerable progress, but had not succeeded in eliminating violence and bloodshed in South Africa and elsewhere. Her delegation was convinced that freedom, independence and democracy could not exist in Africa until racial discrimination had been eliminated.

16. Nicaragua had played an active role in urging States to accede to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and to implement the decisions of the Security Council and other United Nations bodies in that connection. On 19 July 1988, her Government had demonstrated its solidarity with the people of South Africa by awarding the Augusto Cesar Sandino medal, its highest decoration, to Nelson Mandela in recognition of his courage and his indomitable struggle against apartheid. Her Government also welcomed the report of Mr. Khalifa on the adverse consequences for

(Mrs. Vargas, Nicaragua)

the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the colonial and racist régime in South Africa.

17. As a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Nicaragua had submitted its fourth report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) which had considered it at its August 1988 session. CERD continued to make a valuable contribution to international efforts to advance the effective enjoyment of human rights and she therefore appealed to those States whose contributions were in arrears to bring those contributions up to date. Such action was essential for the efficient functioning of that Committee.

18. Immediately following the triumph of the Revolution, Nicaragua had incorporated all the provisions of international human rights instruments into article 3 of its Fundamental Statute of Rights. The Autonomy Law adopted in September 1987 represented an example not only for Latin America but for all peoples striving to solve their ethnic problems. Basically, autonomy had meant an end to the discriminatory policies pursued in Nicaragua's colonial past against the country's indigenous population, recognition of the country's multilingual, multi-ethnic, and multicultural character and the strengthening of its unity in defence of its sovereignty and its right to self-determination and territorial integrity.

19. The struggle of the Palestinian people to break the chains of dependency and attain freedom and independence had been met by brutal repression and the deportation of Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories in defiance of Security Council resolutions. The only result, however, had been to unify the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Nicaragua supported unconditionally the just struggles of the Palestinian people, the Frente POLISARIO, the peoples of Cyprus, Namibia and Panama and all peoples struggling for their right to self-determination and peace.

20. It was because Nicaragua had broken the chains of dependency and won the right to freedom and to forge its own destiny, and because its example would live on in the history of Latin America's struggle for independence, that it had been the target of brutal aggression and bloodshed. Despite the millions spent on it, however, that aggression had failed and the revolution was there to stay. The struggle of the heroic people of Nicaragua was the struggle of the peoples of Latin America who were demanding peace in Central America and respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

21. Mr. HENNESSY (Ireland), speaking on item 96, said that self-determination was a compelling concept because it reflected the need for growth and change inherent in the human personality. It had a relevance beyond its own intrinsic merit in that its exercise created a context in which the attainment of human rights and freedoms in the broadest sense could effectively be pursued. A number of current situations demonstrated the unhappy concurrence of the denial of the right to self-determination and the violation of other basic human rights, including the

(Mr. Hennessy, Ireland)

right to life itself. In that connection, his delegation associated itself fully with the statement by the representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the member States of the European community.

22. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission on Human Rights had adopted resolutions on five separate situations involving the right to self-determination of peoples still suffering under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation.

23. In the case of Afghanistan, the Geneva accords were an important step forward. A comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan required the withdrawal of all Soviet troops in accordance with the agreed timetable, the unimpeded return of refugees, the establishment of a fully representative Government through a genuine act of self-determination, and the re-establishment of a genuinely independent and non-aligned Afghanistan. His delegation trusted that the new era which beckoned for Afghanistan would be characterized by respect for the full range of internationally recognized human rights.

24. In the Middle East, his delegation had watched with mounting concern the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories. The denial of the right to self-determination had spawned, on the part of the Israeli authorities, policies and practices deeply injurious to the human rights of the local population. The situation would be resolved only by means of a comprehensive, just and lasting political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The principle on which Irish policy rested had been clearly stated by the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the plenary, namely, the right of all States in the region, including Israel, to exist within secure borders and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to an independent State if they so wished.

25. His delegation hoped that the Jakarta informal meeting would be a starting point for a peace process that would lead to the restoration of a sovereign, independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea. That could be achieved only by the total withdrawal of all Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, accompanied by effective steps to prevent any armed groups from seizing power by force or resorting to the threat of force to intimidate the Kampuchean people and thereby deprive them of their right freely to choose their own destiny.

26. Important progress had been made towards the attainment of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara with the recent agreement on a referendum and the authorization given by the Security Council to the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to the area.

27. His delegation had noted recent indications that South Africa might at last be willing to end its relentless obstruction of the will of the international community and that the implementation of resolution 435 (1978) might finally be in sight. Namibia must be permitted to proceed to independence forthwith; the introduction of further obstacles was unacceptable and should be vigorously resisted. Only the ending of South African occupation would remove the root cause of human rights abuses in the Territory. South Africa's withdrawal must be delayed no further.

(Mr. Hennessy, Ireland)

28. The situation within South Africa itself showed no sign of improvement. No case of denial of the right to self-determination was so intrinsically destructive to the enjoyment of human rights as the apartheid system, which was designed to maintain political power in the hands of a small minority and which encompassed every aspect of economic, social and political life. The inspirational leadership of Nelson Mandela had been a major factor in sustaining the black population. His Government called for the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and all other unjustly detained political prisoners. His delegation believed that further concerted international action could be taken, and would support the adoption by the Security Council of a set of mandatory sanctions against South Africa. The international community must continue to show both the South African Government and the black majority that it remained steadfast in its commitment to the total abolition of apartheid.

29. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary) said that respect for and the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms was not only a prerequisite for the life of individuals but also an indispensable element of relations among States and, in the final analysis, of international security. The international community was therefore fully entitled to call its members to account for their human rights record.

30. One of the most serious challenges to the international community was the continuing violation of the rights of the Palestinian people. The uprising in the occupied territories underlined once again the urgent need for a just solution to the Palestinian problem, within the framework of a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis. Such a comprehensive settlement should be based on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to establish their own State, and recognition of all States in the region, as well as guarantees for their sovereignty and territorial integrity. An international conference under United Nations auspices with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO, was the only way to achieve a genuine settlement.

31. His country was committed to the struggle against all forms of discrimination and attached particular importance to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Hungary had co-operated consistently with CERD by faithfully meeting all its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and expected all other States parties to do likewise.

32. The people and Government of Hungary had taken a firm and consistent stand against apartheid, which was one of the most serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms mankind had ever faced. That system could not be reformed; it must be abolished.



(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

33. His delegation hoped that the ongoing multilateral negotiations on Namibia would soon permit the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978); once a just settlement acceptable to all the parties was reached, a step would have been taken which would have beneficial effects on other outstanding issues in the region.

34. Discrimination and human rights violations existed in other parts of the world, including Europe. His Government and public opinion in Hungary were particularly concerned at human rights violations and discrimination against national minorities because Hungarians living in neighbouring countries constituted the largest national minority in Europe. His delegation felt strongly that the fundamental rights of national minorities must be codified at both the national and the international levels. In Hungary, work had begun on the drafting of a law on national minorities which would be reported to the United Nations once it had been enacted. The philosophy behind that law was that mere equality before the law and absence of discrimination were not enough and that provision should be made to overcome the problems deriving from the objectively disadvantageous situation of national minorities. Respect for the human rights of national minorities therefore called for an active and constructive State policy and practice, in keeping with international obligations. In that connection, Hungary was seeking a programme of action by the United Nations to create conditions whereby Governments would be under an international obligation to provide guarantees for the genuine equality of national minorities. Such a programme of action would be designed to protect the cultural autonomy of national minorities; guarantee the use and study of their mother tongue at every level; ensure their right to live in their homeland with States providing assistance and protection to that end; and protect their right to maintain free and unimpeded contacts with their relatives living in another country, including their right to family reunification. It was his hope that the expert study called for by General Assembly resolution 42/47 would contribute to a better understanding of the situation of national minorities as it would fit into the plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade.

35. Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan) said that the right to self-determination was one of the most important principles enshrined in the Charter and other major United Nations instruments and had always been relevant to the pursuit of a peaceful, just, stable and humane world order. Pakistan which had gained its independence and sovereignty through the exercise of the right to self-determination 41 years previously, considered it to be its sacred duty to fully support all efforts which would enable people still suffering under colonial or alien domination to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination.

36. The United Nations had done much to accelerate the process of decolonization. It was to be hoped that the forty-third session of the General Assembly would be a memorable one for the international community; the United Nations could take legitimate pride in its recent achievements.

(Mr. Shaukat, Pakistan)

37. The tragedy of the people of Palestine continued to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Although, in total disregard of repeated calls by the international community, Israel continued its illegal occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands and denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; it could never succeed in undermining the firm resolve of the Arab and Palestinian people to defend their independence and national rights. The latest phase of Palestinian uprising continued unabated; unless the relevant United Nations resolutions were honoured in letter and in spirit, peace in the Middle East would continue to be elusive.

38. Pakistan expressed its total solidarity with the Palestinian people, under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in their struggle for self-determination. A just solution of the Middle East problem was contingent on the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Al-Quds, and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent State in their homeland.

39. Independence for Namibia was closer to becoming a reality with the initiation of tripartite talks between Angola, Cuba and South Africa. The international community could not afford to lower its guard when dealing with South Africa, however; Pretoria's past behaviour did not inspire confidence in its pledged word. The Government and people of Pakistan saluted the heroism of the Namibian people, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and pledged their unswerving support to the cause of Namibian independence. Pakistan also firmly supported the people of South Africa in their struggle for dignity, freedom and justice.

40. The signing of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan was an important step towards the achievement of a comprehensive settlement; real and lasting peace would be achieved only after the complete withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based interim Government through a dialogue among Afghans. The refugees would then be able to return to their homes in dignity and honour and the people of Afghanistan would be able to exercise their right to self-determination, free from coercion and foreign presence.

41. Pakistan reiterated its support for the General Assembly's repeated calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea so as to enable the Kampuchean people to choose their own Government free from outside interference.

42. On the same subject, his delegation wished to draw attention to the unresolved question of Jammu and Kashmir. Its position on that issue was well known.

43. Miss FUNDAFUNDA (Zambia) said that racism and racial discrimination were among the most urgent problems facing mankind. Nowhere were those problems more acute than in South Africa; the eradication of apartheid must continue to be accorded highest priority in the struggle against racism. The brutal and dehumanizing effects of apartheid on the black population in South Africa had been extensively

(Miss Fundafunda, Zambia)

documented. The racist régime was determined to hold the black people in bondage by whatever means, in order to perpetuate its misguided notion of white superiority over the majority black population. State terrorism and repression spared no one: children, women and the elderly were all victimized. The régime had ignored international calls to create conditions for peaceful change in South Africa involving the leaders of all the different racial groups. Zambia continued to call for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and for the lifting of the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

44. In view of South Africa's continued intransigence, her delegation was convinced that only the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions would force the régime to abandon apartheid. The South African authorities had acknowledged evidence of the effect of the economic and financial sanctions imposed by various countries; her delegation therefore appealed to those countries that were still opposed to sanctions to exercise the necessary political will to enable the Security Council to impose them.

45. The United Nations played an indispensable role in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Increased resources should therefore be provided to ensure the implementation of all the activities planned under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa, should be enabled to continue updating annually the list of organisations that provided assistance to the South African régime; in that regard, her delegation supported Mr. Khalifa's request for additional staff.

46. Her delegation was deeply concerned that there were still countries whose people had not achieved the right to self-determination. South Africa continued to occupy Namibia and plunder its resources, in total disregard of international opinion and of the wishes of the Namibian people as expressed through SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was the only internationally accepted independence plan for Namibia; it must be implemented without pre-conditions.

47. South Africa's aggression against neighbouring independent States continued unabated. Angola and Mozambique had suffered most from South African-sponsored aggression by local bandits. Her delegation supported the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/43/632) that the reports of mercenary activities in Africa and Latin America should be studied further, and welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to continue the Special Rapporteur's mandate for another year.

48. Her delegation welcomed the ongoing negotiations involving Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States but remained cautious about South Africa's credibility in negotiations involving self-determination and the peaceful settlement of disputes, particularly in view of its failure to observe the Nkomati and Lusaka agreements. The diplomatic offensive recently mounted by South Africa was simply a ploy to buy time for apartheid and enhance South Africa's tarnished image in order

(Miss Fundafunda, Zambia)

to pre-empt further sanctions. The international community must not lose sight of the fact that the core of the problem in southern Africa was apartheid and that apartheid remained intact and its victims continued to suffer.

49. The need for the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence must be addressed urgently. Solving the question of Palestine remained the key to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. A just and comprehensive peace in the region could be achieved only through an international peace conference on the Middle East with the full participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel's security lay in negotiating peace with the genuine leaders of the Palestinian people; both peoples must be represented at the conference by their genuine leaders. The Palestinian people, like any other people, must be enabled to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence in their homeland.

50. Mr. AL-THANI (Qatar) said that racial discrimination was one of the worst social afflictions of modern times. It was unforgivable that individuals should be subjected to discrimination for reasons beyond their control at a time when the international community was preparing to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The General Assembly had on many occasions affirmed the existence of an indissoluble link between human rights and the right to self-determination, as well as the need to provide all possible assistance to peoples struggling to assert such rights. Infringements of those rights, as perpetrated by the racist régimes of South Africa and Israel, constituted flagrant violations of both the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

51. His country's Constitution and laws, based as they were on the teachings of Islam, prohibited all forms of racial discrimination. The Government abided by all pertinent United Nations resolutions and maintained no relations of any kind with South Africa. It was concerned at that country's continued refusal to comply with United Nations resolutions and urged that further pressure be applied, with a view to persuading the Pretoria régime to permit the black majority population to exercise their inalienable rights and to enable the people of Namibia to exercise their right to self-determination.

52. The uprising of the Palestinian people had demonstrated the inhumanity of the Zionist régime's practices in the occupied Arab territories. Those practices constituted a gross violation of human rights and affected the peace and security of the region. The whole world had seen for itself the brave resistance of young Palestinians and the repressive acts of retaliation carried out by the Zionist authorities. His country gave its unconditional support to the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people, endorsed that people's right to self-determination through the establishment of its own independent State and urged the international community to help that people attain the rights to which it was entitled under the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It called upon Member States to take the measures required to put an end to Israel's inhuman policies of repression and to compel the Israeli authorities to comply with United Nations resolutions.

(Mr. Al-Thani, Qatar)

53. His country also called for the withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Afghanistan in order to ensure genuine independence for that country, and for the creation of conditions such as to facilitate the repatriation of all Afghan refugees.

54. Mrs. BONDAREVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, throughout its existence, the United Nations had attached priority to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination as one of its most important tasks under the Charter. Its condemnation of racism and racial discrimination had been reiterated in General Assembly resolution 42/47.

55. There was no doubt that the most odious form of racism was the policy and practice of apartheid perpetrated by the Pretoria racist régime against the non-white population of South Africa and occupied Namibia. Millions of Africans were being denied the right to peace, self-determination and development. Extension of the state of emergency in South Africa, bannings of trade union and anti-racist organizations, mass arrests and other forms of repression were the Pretoria racists' response to the arguments and positions of those United Nations Member States which took comfort in the illusion that the apartheid system could be changed through reforms.

56. Apartheid could not be reformed; it must be abolished. The State policy of apartheid in southern Africa undermined peace and stability in the African region and posed a serious threat to international peace. It was to be hoped that recent diplomatic initiatives would lead to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). A determined and more co-ordinated position on the part of the international community was urgently needed in the struggle against apartheid. Her delegation was in favour of the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa and endorsed the comments of the representative of Canada on the need for a large number of countries, especially those with extensive economic ties to Pretoria, to introduce sanctions. Eloquent examples in Mr. Khalifa's updated report confirmed that view; the logic of the facts and figures in that report demonstrated clearly that the more assistance was provided to the apartheid régime, the longer its existence would be perpetuated.

57. Her country was implementing all United Nations resolutions aimed at totally isolating the South Africa racist régime and eliminating apartheid. It had no political, economic, military or other relations with the Pretoria authorities and was providing all possible political, moral and material assistance and support to the national liberation movements in southern Africa. Each year, on the initiative of public organizations in the Byelorussian SSR, public meetings, film shows and other activities were organized in connection with the struggle to eliminate the remnants of colonialism, racism and apartheid in southern Africa.

58. In the context of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the United Nations must continue to draw the attention of the world community to the situation in southern Africa, draw up lists of transnational corporations operating in South Africa and make every effort to secure the adoption

(Mrs. Bondareva, Byelorussian SSR)

and implementation of comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against the Pretoria régime. The success of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade would to a large extent depend on the willingness of Member States to participate in international co-operation on the basis of international instruments in the field of apartheid and racial discrimination. All States must recognize and observe those instruments as a necessary pre-condition for enhancing the effectiveness of United Nations action against racism.

59. The position of the Byelorussian SSR on questions of combating racism and racial discrimination derived from the very nature of its socialist system. Its 70 years of existence had confirmed the validity of article 34 of the Constitution granting equal rights to nationals of different races and different nationalities. Any limitation of those rights or establishment of direct or indirect privileges on racial or national grounds, and any propagation of racial or national exclusivity, hostility or contempt were punishable under the law. That approach to national issues, and to related political, economic, social and moral issues, permeated all aspects of the life of the Republic. The Byelorussian SSR was a party to all the international legal instruments against apartheid, genocide and racial discrimination and was implementing them strictly. It called on all States which had not yet done so, and in the first place permanent members of the Security Council, to become parties to those instruments.

60. It was regrettable that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was experiencing financial difficulties; her delegation called on States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to pay their arrears. It also believed that it was worth considering the proposal to defray the expenses of CERD from the regular budget of the United Nations.

61. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to Conference Room Paper A/C.3/43/CRP.1, containing the report of the Global Consultation on Racial Discrimination. He also drew attention to the last paragraph of the letter from the President of the General Assembly contained in document A/C.3/43/L.4, and suggested that the Committee should accordingly devote one of its meetings on 24 October to discussing the relevant revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 and the draft introduction to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. He further suggested that regional groups should try to adopt a unified approach to the issues involved.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.