



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland)

later: Mr. NOGUES (Paraguay)

later: Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland)

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

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (A/43/557, 558, 559, 560, 608, 609, 636, 694) (continued)

1. Mr. AYUB (Pakistan) said that the Palestinian uprising was a response to 21 years of oppressive occupation, during which the Palestinian people had had no recognized political identity, no personal or political freedom and little hope and had endured endless suffering and humiliation.
2. The Israeli authorities had tried to suppress the uprising with their usual brutality; the details had been documented in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/43/694) and corroborated by the international news media. Since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987, 278 Palestinians had been shot to death by Israeli armed forces or had died from beatings, tear gas and other causes. Thousands of others had been wounded by Israeli soldiers in implementation of the policy of "force, power and blows".
3. In addition to the direct use of force, the Israeli authorities had resorted to mass arrests, administrative detention and deportations. They had also begun an escalation of their policy of collective punishment which included curfews, preventing the delivery of foodstuffs and other essential items, uprooting trees and bulldozing crops, and the random destruction of property in raids on Palestinian homes.
4. The measures to suppress the uprising had been taken against a backdrop of intensified annexation of the occupied territories. By May 1988, the total land area confiscated by Israel since 1967 had amounted to more than half the area of the occupied Palestinian lands.
5. Israel's policies and practices were in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949. As reaffirmed by Security Council resolutions 605 (1987), 607 (1988) and 608 (1988) and recently by General Assembly resolution 43/21, that Convention, which prohibited deportations for any reason, was applicable to the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel.
6. Israel should understand that the uprising had brought about a new political realism on the part of the Palestinian leadership, as shown by its acceptance of all the relevant United Nations resolutions. Israel's only option now was to recognize the independent Palestinian State.
7. His delegation, while calling for the extension of the Special Committee's mandate, reiterated the necessity for the international community to assume its responsibilities in order to provide adequate safeguards of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the civilians in the occupied territories.

8. Mr. TEKAYA (Tunisia) said that the report of the Special Committee contained abundant testimony to the inhumane and repressive nature of Israeli practices and the deterioration of the situation since the beginning of the uprising of the Palestinian population against the occupation. The harassment and physical maltreatment inflicted on the defenceless Palestinian population were fully documented in the report. Among the illegal practices it described were the imposition of various collective punishments, including the destruction of property and the cut-off of supplies; the deportation of Palestinians to southern Lebanon, despite the protests of the Lebanese Government and in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention; military trials of civilians and discrimination against Arabs in the administration of justice; a large increase in the number of arrests and detention centres; violations of the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of expression and freedom of religion and the desecration of Muslim and Christian holy places. Moreover, the Israeli authorities had pursued a policy of expropriating and annexing Palestinian Arab lands for the establishment of Jewish settlements.

9. Despite repeated calls by the Security Council for Israel to comply with the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention and to discontinue its illegal practices, Israel had rejected all peace initiatives by the international community. For their part, the Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had often reiterated their willingness to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict on the basis of international legality, as represented by the United Nations resolutions. The recent decisions taken by the Palestine National Council had unambiguously reaffirmed the sincere desire of the Palestinian people to arrive at a peaceful, just and lasting settlement which would guarantee the exercise of its inalienable rights.

10. Mr. VIKIS (Cyprus) drew attention to the letter by the Chairman of the Special Committee transmitting the Committee's report. The Palestinian uprising had been marked by a heavy toll of lives lost among the population of the occupied territories, as well as by violations of fundamental rights and freedoms. In confronting the uprising, the Israeli forces had resorted to methods strongly and repeatedly condemned by the international community. The final documents adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia in September 1988 contained a new section devoted to the Palestinian uprising, in which the Ministers had condemned the criminal practices of the occupation forces, recognized the legitimacy of the Palestinian struggle and appealed to all members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the international community to extend additional support, including financial and material assistance, for the relief of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

11. His country, together with the other members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, had consistently supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative, for the liberation of its homeland. The deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories indicated the urgency with which the international community should address the problem. A comprehensive, just and lasting solution could not be achieved without the total and unconditional

(Mr. Vikis, Cyprus)

withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the recovery and exercise by the Palestinian people of its legitimate and inalienable rights, including the right to establish a sovereign, independent State in Palestine, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions.

12. Recent developments, relating particularly to the meeting of the Palestine National Council at Algiers, were very positive and could pave the way for peace in the region.

13. Mr. NUÑEZ MOSQUERA (Cuba) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) reflected the general situation in the occupied territories resulting from Israel's expansionist policy based on torture, collective punishment, the demolition of houses, the deportation of inhabitants and other repressive measures which constituted an affront to human dignity. The flagrant violations of human rights and the deterioration in the living conditions in the occupied territories had led to the Palestinian national uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities.

14. The situation in the Middle East was very complex and urgent and involved major responsibilities on the part of the United Nations. It was of paramount importance for the political, economic and military stability of the region and of the entire international community. As long as the causes of violence and aggression continued to exist, the future of mankind would be in jeopardy.

15. The developments in the occupied territories during the past year fully justified those concerns. The situation which was a serious threat to international peace and security, urgently called for a just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis and the question of Palestine. He reiterated that such a solution could only be achieved within the framework of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation, on an equal footing, of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the heroic Palestinian people, whose will to negotiate had been shown anew in the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council in Algiers.

16. True to its tradition of unshakable solidarity with the Palestinian people, Cuba had been among the first countries to recognize the recently declared independent Palestinian State. It strongly welcomed the growing number of States which recognized that important initiative, their recognition was a genuine contribution to the search for peace in the Middle East, based on respect, independence and self-determination.

17. Mr. Nogues (Paraguay) took the Chair.

18. Mr. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) clearly demonstrated the dramatic deterioration of the human rights situation in the occupied territories resulting from the Zionist reign of terror and violence imposed on the Palestinian people. The Zionist usurpers had continued to take administrative and economic measures to strengthen their control over occupied Palestine. Those measures, together with the policy of establishing "Zionist settlements", were aimed at altering the political, religious, cultural and demographic features of Palestine. All those factors had contributed to the deterioration of the situation, leading to the glorious uprising of the Palestinian people against Zionist occupation.

19. In order to quell the uprising of the Palestinians, the Zionists had resorted to various acts of repression which had caused a large number of casualties. Hundreds of Palestinian civilians had been martyred by the security forces and Zionist settlers. The crimes committed by settlers against Palestinians had reached an unprecedented level. The usurpation of Palestine was the root cause of the plight of the Palestinian people.

20. The Zionists had been able to continue their policy of repression and occupation because of the unlimited economic, financial, military and technological support provided by certain Powers. They bore the primary responsibility for the existence of the régime occupying Al-Quds (Jerusalem), which was a factor endangering international peace and security. As long as the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State within the entire land of Palestine were denied, bloodshed and war would continue. His country, like the entire Islamic Ummah, supported the holy struggle of the Palestinians for the liberation of their land.

21. Mr. CENKO (Albania) said that the successive reports of the Special Committee, together with information provided by representatives of the Palestinian people and the news media throughout the world, had clearly demonstrated the inhuman character of the Israeli practices in the occupied territories. The Zionists continued to carry out an arrogant and aggressive policy aimed at annexing those territories. The Palestinian people had never accepted Zionist occupation and had expressed in various ways its firm opposition to Israeli policies. Through their struggle, the Palestinians were proving that a people, regardless of its size, was invincible when its cause was just. The popular uprising of the Palestinian people was the clearest expression of its resolute opposition to Zionist and imperialist domination.

22. The Israeli aggressors had intensified their violent measures, carrying out massacres and terrorist acts to suppress the uprising and maintain their domination. The monstrous crimes committed against the civilian population and the statements and threats made by Israeli leaders proved that terror and violence were still the basis of the Zionist policy aimed at the physical elimination of the Palestinian people. Israel's criminal policies were also reflected in its efforts to change the demographic characteristics of the occupied territories and maintain a constantly increasing number of Jewish settlements.

(Mr. Cenko, Albania)

23. The criminal practices of Israel were the consequences of Zionist and imperialist aggression and objectives in the Middle East. Israel's aggressive and terrorist policies were fully supported by its strategic ally, United States imperialism. Israel also benefited from the rivalry and collaboration of the two super-Powers, struggling to gain zones of influence in the strategic Middle East. That ran counter to the vital interests of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples and to efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian question, which was the core of the problem in the region. A just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question would not be possible until Israel was forced to withdraw from the occupied territories and until Israeli aggression and super-Power interference were halted. The Palestinian people had already showed the way to achieve a solution, through the exercise of its legitimate right to self-determination and to live freely in its sovereign and independent homeland. The recent proclamation of the Palestinian State was an affirmation of that legitimate right, which was supported by the fraternal Arab peoples and all freedom-loving peoples in the world. The Albanian people and Government would always support the Palestinian people in its struggle to ensure the exercise of its inalienable rights.

24. Mr. BAALI (Algeria) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) provided a vivid picture of the horrors of Israeli occupation and the repressive measures taken against the local population. The report once again provided irrefutable proof that the Zionist leaders, far from renouncing their settlement policy, were continuing to carry out their plans to take over fully the occupied territories. According to recent statistics, there were 21,000 more Jewish settlers than there had been in 1984. Many settlements had been established in the past four years, and others had been modernized or expanded. The objective of that settlement policy was to make irreversible the process of appropriation of land and integrate the occupied territories into "Eretz Yisrael".

25. The occupying Power continued to reject the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Arab territories because it considered them a part of its "historic land". For the Israeli leaders, the expulsion of the local population from the occupied Palestinian territories and the establishment of settlements were mere administrative procedures. Under the fourth Geneva Convention, whose applicability to the occupied territories had been repeatedly reaffirmed in General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, military occupation was considered a temporary, de facto situation which did not give the occupying Power any right affecting the territorial integrity of the occupied territory. Therefore, the establishment of settlements, the dispossession of Arab landowners and the appropriation of their water resources were illegal.

26. Through its heroic uprising, the Palestinian people had demonstrated its resolute determination to establish itself as a free people in its historic land. The uprising symbolized the overwhelming desire for freedom on the part of peoples subjected to colonial occupation and the determination of thousands of men and women to recover their national rights and establish a free and independent State. After the historic meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, an independent Palestinian State existed and Algeria was proud to have been the first

(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

country to recognize it. Everything must be done now to ensure the speedy convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

27. Mr. MUSTAPHA (Malaysia) said that the Special Committee had successfully carried out its work despite the problems it had encountered with the Israeli authorities. However, the report would have been even more objective had those authorities co-operated with it. The Secretary-General's report reaffirmed the developments and observations contained in the Special Committee's report. Malaysia was compelled to condemn Israel's total disregard of the relevant United Nations resolutions. One of Israel's most deplorable practices in the occupied territories was the annexation of territory and the establishment of permanent Jewish settlements through the arbitrary confiscation of Palestinian land. The increasing number of such settlements was a dangerous trend which, if allowed to develop unchecked, would have far-reaching effects on the demographic structure of the territories. The settlements policy complicated the already complex situation in the region and would hinder future efforts towards a solution of the Middle East problem. Israel's continued occupation of the land seized following 1967 violated not only the fourth Geneva Convention, to which it was a party, but also the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions.

28. The mass uprising in the occupied territories was the most important development reported. The broad participation of civilians was the most significant aspect of that uprising, reflecting the determination of the younger generation of Palestinians to reject the continued Israeli occupation and rule. The brutal and violent measures carried out by the Israeli troops under the "iron-fist policy" had threatened the lives and security of the civilian population, had caused the Palestinians untold suffering and were a direct violation of human rights. However, they did not dampen the heroic spirit of the Palestinian people. The uprising was not merely against repressive Israel's rule. It demonstrated the endless struggle of the new generation of Palestinians to achieve freedom and an independent State and pointed to the need for an urgent solution to the Middle East problem.

29. Malaysia welcomed and supported the declaration of the the independent State of Palestine by the Palestine National Council as a milestone in the Middle East peace process. It urgently called for the early convening of a United Nations International Peace Conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

30. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq) said that the report of the Special Committee for the current year was of unique importance in view of the fact that the information it contained reflected the dramatic deterioration of the human rights situation in the occupied territories since the beginning of the uprising of the Palestinian population against the occupation. Despite the fact that most of that information was derived from the Israeli press, which had from the outset given a superficial analysis of the reasons that had impelled the Palestinians to confront the armed

(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

forces of the occupier with stones, it reflected the enormity of the plight of the Palestinian people in its valiant struggle for freedom and self-determination.

31. The international community could not, particularly in the light of the oral testimony contained in the report, remain content with the adoption of resolutions condemning Israeli practices, and the provisions of the Charter relating to aggression and occupation must be applied. It was impossible to remain inactive when confronted with such evidence as that of hospitals being invaded and patients arrested while they still had the intravenous drip attached to their arms.

32. The continued refusal of the Zionist entity to accept the mandate of the Special Committee and to recognize the applicability of the provisions of the third and fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949, The Hague Conventions of 1899, 1907 and 1954, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights confirmed the pressing need for the Security Council to assume responsibility for the protection of Palestinian rights in accordance with the principles laid down in the Charter.

33. The crime of which the Palestinian people was accused was succinctly stated in paragraph 253 of the Special Committee's report. According to the testimony of Mr. Walid Mahmoud, he had been tried and sentenced in the Hebrew language without being informed of the charge brought against him. He had finally discovered that his offence was "resistance to the occupation". That was the great crime that had motivated the leaders of the Zionist entity to issue orders to their armed forces to open fire on defenceless citizens and to break the bones of demonstrators, as well as to demolish houses, burn crops, close schools and universities, prevent ambulances from entering hospitals and urge settlers to commit armed aggression against the lawful owners of the land.

34. The report of the Special Committee was replete with evidence that belied the statement that Israel was the only democracy in the Middle East. The racist entity in Palestine had assiduously exploited the crimes of the Nazis in order to justify its usurpation of the land of Palestine and the establishment of a State based on religious and racist principles that permitted any Jew in the world to acquire citizenship. In the concentration camps, the Nazis had used bulldozers to bury the dead, but the Zionists had gone one step further and had used bulldozers to bury young Palestinians while still alive. Israeli democracy had made amends by sentencing the soldiers who had committed that crime to short periods of imprisonment.

35. The report of the Special Committee had revealed a new manifestation of Zionist policy; breaking into hospitals with the use of tear gas, which had caused the deaths of patients and hundreds of miscarriages. A team of United States physicians which had visited hospitals in the territories in February 1988 had stated that it had found medical evidence of an uncontrolled epidemic of violence by the army and the police in the West Bank and Gaza. According to an Israeli report of June 1988, some 50 infants under the age of 12 months had died after exposure to tear gas.



(Mr. Hussain, Iraq)

36. If the Zionists sought to ignore or to falsify history, they should remember that the Crusaders before them had failed over a 200-year period to usurp the land of Palestine. The Palestinian people had now proclaimed its independent State, and all should rally to it and support it with all the strength at their disposal.

37. Mr. Noworyta (Poland) resumed the Chair.

38. Mr. IDRIS (Sudan) said that, despite the fact that the Zionist State in Palestine continued to withhold its co-operation from the Special Committee, the report of that Committee nevertheless represented a comprehensive survey of policies and practices that were unmatched save by those of the racist Pretoria régime.

39. Although a spirit of conciliation had prevailed in international relations over the past year, the situation in the Middle East continued to require the more active participation of the international community in overcoming Israeli intransigence towards the Palestinian people. The most important of the developments that had taken place was the Palestinian uprising, now entering its second year. All forms of occupation and Zionist hegemony had been rejected, and the latest official figures showed that the number of Palestinians who had died as a result of shooting, beating and asphyxiation had reached 386.

40. While Israel's policies and practices had violated all the relevant international instruments, its violations of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 had been the most serious. It was not only the occupation forces and the civil administration that had been responsible for practices affecting the human rights of the local inhabitants but also the Zionist settlers brought from all parts of the world and implanted in the occupied territories, including the Syrian Arab Golan. The figures showed that 23 of the Palestinians who had died in the course of the uprising thus far had been killed by armed settlers.

41. It had become clear that the Zionist authorities attached no value whatever to United Nations resolutions, and it was therefore not surprising that the entire world should be experiencing a climate of conciliation and peace except for the Middle East region. Israeli policies had enjoyed the political, moral and military support of certain Western States, which made them the sole opponents of the comprehensive peace for which the remainder of the international community was striving.

42. With the acceptance by the PLO of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), there was no longer any impediment to the immediate convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, particularly the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, or to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in the land of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

43. Mr. AL-NASSER (Qatar) said that, instead of heeding the voice of the international community and that of truth and justice, Israel was persisting in its practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories and stepping up its violations of the international conventions governing the conduct of occupying Powers. The uprising of the Palestinian people had now provided it with the opportunity further to refine its practices of intimidation and torture.

44. The uprising had not been a random occurrence but was the direct result of the life of humiliation and oppression endured by the Palestinian people at the hands of the occupation authorities over many years. Israel had met the uprising with an intensification of the "iron-fist policy" that it had practised previously, in complete disregard of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. It had likewise persisted in ignoring the will of the international community as embodied in the resolutions of the General Assembly. The Israeli authorities had tolerated the actions of Israeli settlers, had allowed them to bear arms and had encouraged them to commit acts of aggression against the Arab population of the occupied territories.

45. The occupation authorities had silenced the information media and prevented them from giving full coverage to the uprising on the grounds that media attention was one reason for its continuation. That the uprising had continued despite the information blackout was a reminder that rebellion against oppression was a phenomenon much older than media coverage.

46. Israel had tried to distort the facts of the situation and to justify its conduct on various pretexts. The uprising had, however, revealed Israel's true policy of emptying the occupied territories of their Arab inhabitants and establishing new settlements on land confiscated from its Arab proprietors.

47. The international community must redouble its efforts for the solution of the Palestinian problem and must bring the plight of the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories to an end so that the Palestinian people could exercise its inalienable rights in the same manner as other independent peoples.

48. Mrs. DIALLO (Senegal) said that the question of human rights in the Palestinian occupied territories warranted increased attention. Senegal was convinced that the United Nations could play a considerable role in achieving a broader convergence of views on action to be taken against the persistent worsening of the situation in the territories. Her delegation wished to reaffirm its readiness, commitment and determination to help to attain that goal.

49. The recommendations made at the International Conference on the Question of Palestine in 1983 required greater mobilization in order to put an end to the ongoing situation of tension and conflict and to establish genuine peace in the Middle East. Mankind as a whole was concerned with the persistent deterioration of that situation, as reflected in the Special Committee's report.

(Mrs. Diallo, Senegal)

50. The Jewish settlers in the occupied territories exercised their full rights as Israeli citizens, while the Palestinian majority was deprived of such rights and lived in unacceptable, precarious conditions under an occupation army. Israeli practices defied the international conscience and hindered the chances of establishing peace in the region. The Israeli policy of hegemony and domination as a system of government was contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and to the fundamental principles of international law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention. Those factors explained the Palestinian uprising, which challenged the unjust order from within and aimed to cast off the yoke of oppression and injustice. It was a call to the international community from a people determined no longer to accept the triumph of force over law on the eve of the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

51. With a view to restoring human rights in the occupied territories, the Special Committee recommended that Israel should implement the relevant provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention, that the Israeli authorities should co-operate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and that Member States should fully support the actions of ICRC and of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Senegal reiterated its urgent call to all the parties concerned strictly to implement those recommendations.

52. Senegal, which was a member of the Special Committee and chaired the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, gave ongoing support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people and wished to reaffirm its commitment to spare no effort in seeking ways and means to promote peace in the Middle East. Like the Special Committee, it was convinced that peace and stability in the region could be established only on the basis of the just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, within the framework of a Middle East peace conference.

53. As a result of all the actions taken by the international community, Senegal was optimistic about the chances for a Middle East settlement. Her delegation called on all countries to form a common front for the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Senegal had welcomed the declaration of an independent Palestinian State, which was the crowning achievement in the struggle of the Palestinian people. It had officially recognized that State on 18 November 1988.

54. Mr. AL-MASRI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the importance attached by the international community to the work of the Special Committee stemmed from its deep concern at the daily violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. The reports of the Special Committee had come to represent a repeated international condemnation of Israel and a strong and unequivocal indictment of its racist, Fascist character. Israel's continued refusal to allow the Special Committee to conduct its investigations inside the occupied territories was proof positive of its determination to conceal the facts. Its practices in the occupied Arab territories constituted war crimes and crimes of genocide under the terms of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab Republic)

55. Article 147 of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 contained a characterization of grave breaches committed against persons or property protected by the Convention. They included wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments, unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement of a protected person, extensive destruction and appropriation of property and other such acts as were perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities on a daily basis against the population of the occupied Arab territories.

56. Israel had escalated its repressive operations against the occupied territories in an attempt to suppress the valiant uprising of the Palestinian Arab people and to perpetuate its occupation and settlement of those territories. In order to achieve those ends, it had made use of barbarous methods such as those proscribed by the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. The international community was urged to adopt effective measures to ensure the application of that Convention to the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. The Security Council had, moreover, repeatedly emphasized its applicability to those territories, most recently in its resolution 607 (1988).

57. The situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was becoming worse in that its Syrian Arab inhabitants were confronted with daily violations of their basic human rights by the Israeli occupation forces. Israeli strategy had been aimed at the Judaization of the area, the obliteration of the national identity of its inhabitants, the destruction of its economic infrastructure, the appropriation of its water resources and the alteration of its cultural and social structure.

58. The intimidation practised by the Zionist occupation forces in the Syrian Arab Golan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the other occupied Arab territories brought to mind the savage acts perpetrated by the racist régime in Pretoria against the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and the crimes committed by the Nazis against the civilian population of Europe during the Second World War.

59. Since the occupation of the Syrian Arab Golan began in 1967, Israel had introduced measures aimed at its ultimate annexation and the encouragement of Jewish settlement there. In December 1981, an Act had been promulgated bringing the area under Israeli judicial and administrative control. Israeli identity had been imposed on its Syrian Arab inhabitants and those who refused to accept that situation had been subjected to the most severe measures. The Israeli occupation authorities had expropriated the land of Syrian Arab inhabitants and had transformed such land into military zones and settlements. Water resources had been seized, and the Syrian Arab inhabitants had been forbidden to travel, to work and to market their agricultural produce. They had been forbidden to dig new wells or to exploit existing wells without prior permission from the military Government, which, in practice, refused to grant such permission. In the mean time, Israeli settlers exploited newly dug wells in order to irrigate the land they had seized.

60. Stringent measures had been imposed on all economic activities, thereby forcing tens of thousands of Syrian Arab workers into the Israeli labour market. The economic situation of the inhabitants was worsening as a result of the Israeli

(Mr. Al-Masri, Syrian Arab Republic)

policy of making the occupied territories subservient to the Israeli economy and using them as a major consumer market for Israeli products. Syrian Arab workers were subjected to discrimination and exploitation without access to social security of any kind. The situation with respect to education was becoming more serious as a result of the insistence of the occupation authorities on the obliteration of the national character of the inhabitants in the Syrian Arab Golan as well as the deterioration of standards. Health standards had continued to decline as a result of the inability of the few Arab health institutes to function and the low level of the preventive services provided by them.

61. The international community must take effective and determined measures, including the application of the sanctions laid down in Chapter VII of the Charter, in order to compel Israel to abide by the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Under article 1 of that Convention, the parties thereto undertook to respect and to ensure respect for the Convention in all circumstances. The parties were also obliged, under article 146 of the Convention, to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches which it defined.

62. Occupation was, in itself, a flagrant violation of human rights. The international community had a major responsibility to take action to bring the occupation to a speedy end and to enable the peoples under occupation to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

63. In order to defuse the explosive situation in the Middle East, the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the parties directly involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the permanent members of the Security Council, had become essential. The uprising of the Palestinian Arab people and the valiant resistance in the Syrian Arab Golan and southern Lebanon were the strongest possible expression of the rejection of occupation and of a firm determination to remove it by all possible means.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.