



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland)

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AGENDA ITEM 77: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 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
(continued) (A/43/557, 558, 559, 560, 608, 609, 636, 694)

1. Mr. MAJID (Afghanistan) said that, after more than four decades, the Middle East was still a hotbed of tension in the world because of the expansionist Zionist policies of Israel. Those policies, which were in violation of the fourth Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations, were a source of deep concern to the world community. The Israeli Government, had not only impeded the efforts of the world community to bring about a peaceful solution to the problem, but had also intensified its acts of repression against the Arab people in the occupied territories. According to a recent report, in the past few months there had been hundreds of cases of murder, torture, cruel punishment and deportation. From December 1987 to August 1988, 386 people had been killed by the Israeli authorities. The time had come for the world community to redouble its efforts to provide full support to the victims of the repressive policies of Israel.

2. The Government of Afghanistan, from the very beginning, had supported all the relevant United Nations resolutions on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. It recognized the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to participate on an equal footing in all initiatives and deliberations concerning the Middle East. A comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East could not be achieved without observance of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Lastly, his Government strongly supported the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East, which would settle the conflict that had persisted for more than 40 years and recognize the rights of the Palestinian people.

3. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) showed that, in spite of repeated condemnation by the world community and the United Nations, the violent policy of repression continued to be implemented in the occupied territories. That policy had been one of the main causes of the mass popular uprising, which represented an appeal to the entire international community to take urgent measures ensuring the basic human rights and national rights of the Arab population. In that connection, it was gratifying to note that that appeal had been heeded by the Organization in the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/21, which dealt exclusively with the question of the uprising (intifadah) of the Palestinian people.

4. Czechoslovakia, which had been a sponsor of that resolution, reaffirmed its support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people and called for the immediate implementation of the resolution. Through the active support of the world community and effective measures by the United Nations, it would be possible to convince the Israeli leaders to agree to a realistic and non-violent approach to resolve that situation. Such an approach was recommended in paragraph 621 of the report of the Special Committee and had the support of his delegation.

/...

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

5. Czechoslovakia, which believed that only a comprehensive settlement would be effective, supported the convening of an international conference, which should ensure the implementation of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine as one of the basic conditions for achieving a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the situation in that region. In that connection he welcomed the conclusions adopted at the nineteenth extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council, including the adoption of the Declaration of Independence of 15 November 1988. Lastly, he assured the Palestinian people of his Government's constant support for its heroic struggle.

6. Mr. JAYA (Brunei Darussalam) said that it was outrageous that, in defiance of international opinion, Israel continued its "iron-fist" rule, imposing its authority against the wishes of the Palestinian people. His delegation had always maintained that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories was illegal and a violation of the principles of the Charter. In an effort to legitimize its illegal occupation, Israel pursued an aggressive policy of annexation and settlement, of repression and intimidation. Furthermore, since 1987 there had been a noticeable increase in the number of attacks by armed Israeli settlers against unarmed Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. The gravity of the situation required urgent measures. The Palestinians not only had to endure life under Israeli occupation, but were often provoked to acts of retaliation, in response to which the Israeli authorities carried out further repressive measures, including arrest, detention and maltreatment.

7. The Israeli authorities must understand that the legitimate resistance of the local population in the occupied territories could not be suppressed even by the most violent means. As long as Israel remained in the occupied territories against the wishes of the Palestinian people, the United Nations had a moral responsibility to speak out against the injustices which Israel committed. His delegation, like the majority of the international community, looked forward to the day when Israel would leave the occupied territories so that peace and stability could be restored. Brunei Darussalam supported the Declaration of Independence issued by the Palestine National Council.

8. Mr. DIMITROV (Bulgaria) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) provided comprehensive information on the human rights situation in the occupied territories. Bulgaria fully shared the Special Committee's concern at the deteriorating situation of the population in those territories. The report clearly showed the effects of the continuing policies aimed at changing the physical and demographic character and legal status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967. Israel's policies in the occupied territories were in violation of the universally recognized norms of international law, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention, the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions. For that reason, the overwhelming majority of Member States urgently demanded the immediate halting of the illegal practices carried out by the Israeli authorities.

(Mr. Dimitrov, Bulgaria)

9. The Arab countries had demonstrated their willingness to settle the conflicts on the basis of the principles adopted in Fez in 1982 and at the recent high-level meeting in Algiers. His country's position on the issue of the Middle East was based on its consistent policy of resolving international problems by political means and negotiations and the solidarity of the Bulgarian people with peoples struggling for independence and social progress. Bulgaria had always given full support to the just cause of the Arab peoples and maintained friendly economic contacts with the countries of the Middle East.

10. The time had come to find a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, which was the main reason for the continued conflict in the Middle East. The Israeli occupation of Arab territories must be halted and practical steps must be taken to implement the United Nations resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East. The only forum which could bring about such a solution was an international conference on the Middle East held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Bulgaria would continue to provide active support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

11. Mr. HIELSCHER (German Democratic Republic) said that the heroic popular uprising in the occupied territories clearly demonstrated that the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people could no longer be denied. By adopting General Assembly resolution 43/21, the great majority of Member States had showed their support for the Palestinian people and condemned Israeli practices and human rights violations in the occupied territories. The report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) provided further proof that the occupation authorities were escalating their repressive policies to quell the uprising. Hundreds of Palestinians had been killed and thousands had been deprived of their liberty. The international community must take resolute action against the repressive policies conducted by the occupation authorities, put an end to the untold sufferings of the Palestinian people and halt the annexation of the occupied territories. It was clear from the Special Committee's report that nothing could defeat the courageous resistance against the occupiers.

12. The conflict must be settled on the basis of the interests of the Palestinian people. The decisions taken at the nineteenth extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council offered a historic chance to bring peace to the region. A crucial element was the explicit readiness to recognize all relevant United Nations resolutions on the Middle East and the right of every State in the region, including Israel, to live in peace and security.

13. Israel should accept all the relevant United Nations resolutions and recognize the PLO as a party to negotiations. Owing to the flexibility of the Palestinians, there was now a chance for peace. The Israeli side should demonstrate the same attitude and take advantage of the opportunities for a peaceful settlement that met the interests of both the Palestinian people and Israel. Current international circumstances favoured the search for just solutions to regional conflicts provided that all parties displayed the necessary political realism. A settlement of the

(Mr. Hielscher, German
Democratic Republic)

conflict in the Middle East could be achieved through the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing. His Government recognized the proclaimed independent Palestinian State and reaffirmed its unqualified solidarity with the Palestinian people in its struggle for the implementation of its inalienable rights under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative.

14. Mr. ADEYEMI (Nigeria) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) clearly revealed the repressive measures carried out by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories. The situation in those territories was a classic case of brutal colonial rule. The double standard in the application of laws to Jews and Arabs constituted a grave form of discrimination that was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international agreements.

15. The report of the Special Committee underscored the tragic plight of the Palestinian people and the impending tragedy in the region. Nigeria reaffirmed its condemnation of Israeli occupation and all the measures taken by Israel to change the character of the occupied territories. The uprising of the Palestinian people had demonstrated its determination to end Israel's occupation. It was to be hoped that the Israeli leaders would listen to the voices calling for freedom in the occupied territories and to the appeal by the international community to put an end to its occupation. Nigeria called upon Israel to adhere fully to the fourth Geneva Convention and respect all other relevant international agreements. Continued refusal to do so would only perpetuate the prevailing cycle of violence in the occupied territories.

16. Through its many resolutions, the United Nations had pointed to the way to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement. He noted with deep regret Israel's rejection of the convening of an International Peace Conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Those who genuinely sought peace must begin a dialogue. The Palestine National Council had taken a significant step towards peace through its Declaration of Independence and its acceptance of Security Council resolution 242 (1967). Nigeria urged all parties concerned to take advantage of that new situation to bring about a durable political settlement putting an end to the violence in the region.

17. Mr. TSYMBALOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, on the one hand, there was growing recognition in the world of the fact that security and economic prosperity could be ensured only by taking into account the interests of neighbouring countries and peoples and through active participation in efforts to improve international relations. On the other hand, there was the old, out-moded political thinking which stirred up chauvanism and hatred for other peoples in various regions of the world. One such region was the land of Palestine, where Israel continued its blatant violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

(Mr. Tsymbalov, Byelorussian SSR)

18. The tragedy of the situation was reflected in the fact that Israel, which constantly alluded to the sufferings of the Jewish people throughout their history, failed to recognize the grief and suffering of the Arab people of Palestine. The reason for that was the stubborn refusal of the Israeli Government to evaluate soberly the political situation in the region and its attempts to resolve complex social and economic problems through force. That policy was particularly evident in 1988 in Israel's attempts to suppress the popular uprising of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation.

19. The comprehensive and factual material contained in the report of the Special Committee (A/43/694) showed that the Arab people of Palestine was being subjected to mass terror and violence. In the past year hundreds of Arabs had been killed and thousands thrown into prison. Such actions were blatant violations of the fourth Geneva Convention. The report of the Special Committee provided ample information on the methods used by the Israeli occupation authorities to suppress the struggle of the Arabs for their rights. Confirmation of the violent acts carried out against the Arab population could also be found in many other sources, including the Israeli press.

20. The Arab people of Palestine had demonstrated its desire to exercise its inalienable right to establish its own State. The leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization had showed its good will concerning the search for a peaceful settlement of the conflict through its recognition of Security Council resolutions and the proclamation of an independent Arab Palestinian State. It was encouraging to note that several dozen States, including the Soviet Union, had recognized the proclamation of the Palestinian State and that that step taken by the leadership of the PLO was viewed as a major contribution to efforts to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East. Human rights could be ensured in the occupied Arab territories through a comprehensive political settlement in the Middle East that took account of the interests of all parties concerned and provided guarantees for the security of all countries in the region. Such a settlement could be achieved through an international conference with the participation of the PLO. The five permanent members of the Security Council could make up a preparatory committee for such a conference. His delegation reaffirmed its unswerving support for the struggle of the Arab peoples in the occupied territories for independence and hoped that the United Nations would provide effective assistance to settle that protracted conflict.

21. Mr. SHARHAN (United Arab Emirates) said that the report of the Special Committee showed that the Israeli authorities were continuing to violate all of the rights of the civilian population of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, in flagrant violation of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations.

22. At the current session, the representatives of one of the great Powers were attempting to defend zionism despite the fact that the General Assembly had determined, in its resolution 3379 (XXX), that zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination. The representatives of that Power were denying the objective historical facts on which that resolution had been based.

(Mr. Sharhan, United Arab Emirates)

23. The report of the Special Committee was yet another indication of the true nature of Zionist theory and of the racist practices to which it gave rise. Israel's record in the occupied territories corresponded in both theory and practice to that of the most hateful form of fanaticism known to history, namely nazism and fascism. Just as the Nazis had sought to change the map of Europe in order to expand the geographical basis of the so-called Aryan race, zionism had acted in a similar manner in the Middle East. The programme of the Israeli new right, which was about to form the new Government of Israel, was fully in keeping with the Nazi principle of Lebensraum. Just as Hitler had sought territorial expansion, the leaders of Israel sought the same objective under the guise of a so-called "exchange of populations".
24. In the same way that the Nazis had linked their territorial ambitions with a belief in the superiority of the Aryan race, Zionist thought and practice linked military expansionism with the idea of religious superiority. The Nazis had slaughtered the Jews because they considered that they belonged to a biologically inferior race, and the Zionist leadership were slaughtering Palestinians in the occupied territories while their leaders were referring to them with such terms as "grasshoppers" and "cockroaches". Since the beginning of the uprising, the Israeli army had killed more than 300 Palestinian civilians, wounded more than 800, arrested some 20,000 and expelled about 60.
25. The Zionist leadership justified the expulsion of the Palestinian people from its land on grounds of preserving the so-called "purity" of the Jewish State. In calling for the "purity of the Aryan race", the Nazis had used the same logic and had reviled the Jews and other ethnic and religious groups.
26. The report of the Special Committee contained lists of the names of the victims of Zionist crimes, including those of detainees at the Ansar 3 camp. Ansar 3 was not a detention centre but a concentration camp; it was a carbon copy of the Nazi camps and of the ghettos of the apartheid Government. Its purpose was to ensure religious and racial separateness, and it made use of torture, murder and political extermination. The Nazis had opposed pluralism in thought and action since it was incompatible with their ideas of Aryan superiority, and the Zionists likewise opposed pluralism because they sought to establish a purely Jewish State in Palestine.
27. The Zionists had established a State in the name of Jewish nationalism at the expense of another nationalism, namely that of the Palestinian Arab people. Then, just as the Nazis had expanded into neighbouring countries, the Zionists had gone beyond the borders of Palestine for purposes of annexation, expansion and Judaization.
28. Israel had ignored all General Assembly resolutions affirming the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and had done so with the unreserved military, political and moral support of one of the great Powers. That Power, out of internal as well as imperialist considerations, had chosen to overlook its own liberal values based on respect for individual rights and property rights.

(Mr. Sharhan, United Arab Emirates)

29. Just as the forces of nazism were overthrown, zionism would also be defeated since it was likewise based on racism, expansionism and disdain for human rights.

30. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) said that the report of the Special Committee reflected a distressing deterioration in the human rights situation in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israel's continued implementation and intensification of the so-called "iron-fist" policy. Its objective was to promote the concept that the occupied territories were a part of Israel, in violation of its international obligations as a party to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

31. The period covered by the report had witnessed the valiant uprising of Palestinian people. That uprising had, for the past year, been the basic fact of the Palestinian struggle and of the situation in the Middle East, and had once again placed the question of Palestine at the top of the agenda before the international community.

32. The uprising had demonstrated the consensus of the Palestinian people that the problem was a political one requiring a political solution. It followed that, whatever measures were taken with a view to alleviating the suffering of the civilian population, such measures should not become a substitute for a prompt solution to the underlying political problem. The situation prevailing before the uprising had begun could not be restored. There was a pressing need for a peaceful solution to the entire issue, and the uprising had destroyed the status quo and created a new reality that had not been envisaged by Israel. Israel continued to seek a means of bringing the uprising under control, ignoring the fact that the only solution lay in ending its occupation.

33. The uprising had brought home to the international community the illegality of the Israeli occupation, its detestable nature and the injustices from which the Palestinian people had been suffering for more than 40 years. It had also highlighted the dangers involved in tolerating the violations of basic principles of international law by successive Israeli Governments, which had involved not only the administrative measures taken in the occupied territories but also flagrant violations of the national, human, cultural, political, economic and civil rights of the Palestinian people.

34. Israel's customary arrogance and shamelessness were evident in its seeking to justify its practices in the occupied territories on the grounds that it was merely restoring law and order and endeavouring to return to the situation prevailing before the uprising had begun. That situation had, however, been characterized by the abuse of law as it related to Palestinian rights, and arbitrary arrests, detention without charge or trial, collective punishments, the demolition of houses, forced confessions, expulsion, the disruption of electricity and water services and the imposition of curfews had been everyday occurrences. Clearly, a return to such a situation could not represent a return to law and order.

(Mr. Al-Sabah, Kuwait)

35. The long struggle of the Palestinian people for its legitimate national rights had now borne fruit in the decision of the Palestine National Council to declare the establishment of an independent Palestinian State based on international legitimacy, democracy, peace and good-neighbourliness. That historic decision clearly showed that the Palestinian party to the conflict was prepared to participate in a negotiating process aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement to the Palestine issue. At the same time, it could be seen that Israel continued obstinately to reject the outstretched hand of the Palestinians. Kuwait had recognized the independent State of Palestine on 15 November 1988, immediately upon the declaration of its establishment.

36. The establishment of the State of Palestine was a crucial step on the way to a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis on the basis of international legitimacy. Following the proclamation of the State, all peace-loving countries should strive more assiduously than ever before for the speedy convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties to the conflict on an equal footing, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.