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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY OF THE 19th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRAJ (Thailand)

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

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/460)

AGENDA ITEM 85: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/54 (A/C.3/38/4)
- (b) NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING FAR-REACHING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SOCIAL PROGRESS: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/63, A/38/64 and Add.1)
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AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/506)

1. Mr. BROWN (Director, General Analysis and Policies Division) said that he wished to provide the Committee with background information on the three sub-items of agenda item 85, entitled "World Social Situation".

2. With regard to sub-item (a), he reminded members that following the Committee's preliminary consideration of the 1982 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1983/3), the General Assembly had decided that the discussion of the subject should be resumed after the Commission for Social Development had had an opportunity to examine the report. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 37/54 the General Assembly had requested the Commission to give high priority to the examination and discussion of the report and to submit its views and observations to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session through the Economic and Social Council. As indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/38/4), the conclusions reached by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session, endorsed by the Council, were now before the Committee.

3. The Commission's report contained paragraphs on the world social situation, comments on the 1982 report and guidelines for the preparation of the 1985 report. In connection with the 1985 report, he drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/10 on social aspects of rural development, 1983/11 on the interrelationship of social and economic development policies, 1983/12 on social policy and the distribution of national income and 1983/18 on the adverse effects

(Mr. Brown)

of the arms race on social progress and development. He also drew attention to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 37/54, which invited Member States to send their comments on the 1982 report to the Secretary-General, so as to facilitate preparation of the 1985 report. Six Governments had done so in response to the Secretary-General's note verbale of 31 March 1983.

4. In connection with sub-item (b) on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/38/64 and Add.1, which, as requested in General Assembly resolution 36/19, had been submitted to the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council and which was based on contributions from Member States, 17 Governments having forwarded information in response to a note verbale from the Secretary-General dated 5 March 1982.

5. Regarding sub-item (c), on popular information, he drew attention to the report in document A/38/338 and Corr.1 and Add.1, prepared in response to resolution 37/55, which the General Assembly had adopted after considering a report on the results of the International Seminar on Popular Participation held at Ljubljana in May 1982 (A/37/442). The report, which had been prepared by the Centre for Human Rights, contained a survey of suggestions made and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-ninth session and summaries of replies received from Governments and from other United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

6. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany), referring to agenda items 84 and 88, said that his country attached great importance to the active participation of youth in the political, economic and social development of modern society. Young people were more sensitive to the problems of society than their adult fellow citizens and gave priority to such issues as securing peace, preserving the environment, avoiding undesirable technological development and relieving unemployment. The problems of the younger generation were in fact part of the problems of society as a whole; all citizens should work together in endeavouring to accomplish the tasks of the present day and the future and to integrate coming generations into society with a view to fostering peace and justice.

7. In his own country, successive post-war generations of young people had learned the importance of gaining the confidence and co-operation of young people in other countries. International co-operation and communication among the young, as a means of overcoming tensions and prejudices, ranked high in his Government's priorities.

8. His country was an active supporter of the International Youth Year, being a member of the Advisory Committee and having taken an active part in the European regional meeting at Costinesti, Romania. Bearing in mind the emphasis on participation in the slogan for the International Youth Year, his delegation felt that youth organizations in the States Members of the United Nations should be given an opportunity to join in the discussions and activities prior to and during

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic of Germany)

the Year and that governmental agencies and youth organizations should co-operate as partners. The International Youth Year should help to promote international contacts, the exchange of information, educational programmes and joint activities and should foster mutual understanding. Activities should be focused on improving the situation of youth in the various countries and should therefore consist mainly of programmes at the national level. In general, experience showed that international events, although often spectacular, had little tangible effect in solving the problems of youth. In his Government's opinion, the establishment of new administrative structures and new organizations at the international level was no guarantee of success. Better and more effective use should be made of existing structures and organizations for international co-operation. For that reason, his Government had opposed the idea of a Decade to follow the International Youth Year - an idea already rejected by the Advisory Committee - which would merely increase international activities instead of improving the situation of young people. It was confident, however, that the International Youth Year 1985 would initiate an international exchange of experience at the regional and national levels on the concept of youth policy and related problems. His Government had appointed a National Commission for the International Youth Year, embracing all organizations involved in youth work.

9. Mr. EHRLICH-ADAM (Austria) said that his delegation welcomed the progress made in 1983 in preparing for the International Youth Year, including in particular the five regional preparatory meetings convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 37/48 with the collaboration of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which had identified the action to be undertaken before, during and after the International Youth Year with a view to achieving its objectives. In the light of the importance many countries attached to the International Youth Year and of the high priority accorded to the present agenda items in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 37/48, his delegation regretted that the General Assembly at its present session had not been given more detailed information on the results of the regional preparatory meetings. The five regional reports could have been included in the documents under agenda item 84 or attached to the report of the Secretary-General in document A/38/460 as being directly related to chapter VIII.

10. Austria had participated in the European regional preparatory meeting for the International Youth Year and regarded the Continesti regional programme of measures and activities for the International Youth Year 1985 as a landmark on the way to a successful celebration of the Year. It was essential for all relevant activities to concentrate on the national level, which was the only one to offer young people all over the world ample opportunity to express their ideas on the meaning of the International Youth Year.

11. With regard to future procedure, it was his understanding that the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year would be working out a global draft plan of action in the field of youth on the basis of the results of the five regional preparatory meetings. In case the matter should arise again, he wished to state his delegation's position on the proposed draft declaration on the rights and responsibilities of youth, a matter of particular interest to his country, which

(Mr. Ehrlich-Adam, Austria)

was mentioned in the report of the Advisory Committee on its second session (A/37/348). His delegation, which like other delegations, had reservations concerning the proposed draft declaration, regarding it as a departure from a well-established pattern of the United Nations in codifying human rights. Hitherto, United Nations human-rights instruments had stipulated only the rights of individuals and groups and meticulously avoided specifying the obligations and duties of individuals and groups to the rest of society. His Government firmly believed that that practice should be preserved. It feared that abuses might arise from an internationally binding legal instrument setting out in detail the obligations of youth, which could be used as a pretext for further restraining young people's human rights. In his delegation's view, difficulties encountered by youth in their search for equality and participation could be overcome nationally and internationally by respect for the human rights set forth in existing instruments.

12. His Government believed that the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year, despite its general ability and its special knowledge and competence on youth questions, perhaps lacked the necessary experience for drafting a new international human-rights instrument which went beyond the normal scope of human rights and involved responsibilities, duties and obligations. If a majority favoured drafting a declaration on the duties of youth, his Government believed that the Commission on Human Rights was the appropriate body and, as a first step, should be requested to undertake a study on the feasibility of a declaration of the rights and duties of youth. If, after careful examination of all the pros and cons, the Commission concluded that a declaration including the responsibilities of a group of society was desirable, the question should be raised again in the forums dealing with youth issues in the United Nations system.

13. With regard to channels of communication, he congratulated the World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows on the success of its seminar on modalities for strengthening channels of communication between the United Nations and youth, particularly youth from and within developing countries. The results of the discussions constituted a valuable contribution to the improvement of channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and to the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

14. Mrs. POC YANINE (Democratic Kampuchea), speaking on agenda items 84, 88, 89 and 90, said that the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea had always shown concern for youth, who represented a nation's present and future, and for aging and disabled persons, who were the nation's weakest and most deprived sector.

15. Her delegation welcomed the General Assembly's continued recognition of the importance of the role of youth in the present-day world and, in particular, the proclamation of 1985 as the International Youth Year. It also welcomed the efforts to draw up a convention on the rights of the child. However, her delegation noted with concern that although General Assembly resolutions relating to the agenda items now being considered had been adopted by consensus, some States continued to ignore and violate them, as evidenced by the foreign aggression in Kampuchea, Afghanistan and other countries.

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(Mrs. POC Yanine, Democratic Kampuchea)

16. Her Government recognized the importance of youth in building the country's future and made every effort to concentrate on youth issues. Despite the war of aggression waged by the Hanoi authorities, achievements had been made in the establishment of centres for orphans, in integrating youth into society, in education, and in special care for children. However, since the invasion of Kampuchea by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in 1978, youth and children had been the first target, and so long as the army of occupation remained, there could be no full or effective implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Although efforts to force young Kampucheans to enlist in the occupation army and participate in the destruction of their own people and country had failed, and although defections from the occupation army were on the increase, the aggressors were determined to eradicate the culture, national identity and history of Kampuchea. History and geography were being rewritten to show Kampuchea, Laos and Viet Nam as one country; mixed marriages were being forced, the offspring being automatically Vietnamese; and young Kampucheans were being sent to Viet Nam for political indoctrination, to be used as agents against their own nation.

17. Her delegation welcomed the high priority that the United Nations and the specialized agencies were giving to the elderly and to disabled persons - the latter continually increasing in number as a result of the war - who were particularly at risk under the Vietnamese invasion and occupation. Old people had a vital role in the family and in society, in maintaining the spiritual and material stability of the family, including the younger generations, and in preserving the national traditions, culture and identity. Despite the difficult wartime conditions, the Government had done its best to provide old and disabled people with spiritual, moral and material support and to integrate them into society on an equal footing. The measures adopted related to education, handicraft training, participation in local social activities, centres for disabled persons, workshops for prostheses, handicraft workshops where elderly persons could use their skills and knowledge and help the younger generation to preserve national traditions and art, and special medical and paramedical care for old and disabled persons.

18. There was growing evidence that young and old were joining the resistance against the invaders. If the Kampuchean people, particularly youth, were to take an active part in the observance of 1985 as the International Youth Year, it was imperative that peace, security and tranquillity should be restored to Kampuchea. That could be achieved only by implementing the relevant United Nations resolutions demanding total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. The international community must take immediate steps to compel the Vietnamese leaders to implement those resolutions.

19. Mrs. TAVARES (Dominican Republic) said that rehabilitation services for disabled persons had developed in many countries, particularly in developing countries, because the need for them had been felt by groups of the community, some of whose members had been affected and who desperately sought assistance that was non-existent. The Dominican Republic had created in 1963 the Dominican

(Mrs. Tavares, Dominican Republic)

Rehabilitation Association, which, in co-operation with the Secretariat of State for Public Health and Social Welfare, had helped thousands of disabled persons throughout the country. It provided an example of what could be accomplished through harmonious efforts carried out by the State and by charitable and voluntary organizations. The Dominican Republic had done its utmost to promote the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons and to implement the recommendations of the World Programme of Action. In that connection, the Dominican Rehabilitation Association had succeeded in achieving far-reaching changes, so that the disabled could participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the nation.

20. With respect to agenda items 84 and 88, she said that the International Youth Year was an opportunity to disseminate information on the needs and aspirations of youth throughout the world and to promote concrete programmes on their behalf. It was young people themselves that should participate in studies of and solutions to their problems at the national, regional and international levels. Youth represented the wealth and future of each nation, and hence of mankind. The Dominican Republic had, at the national level, established intersectoral machinery to prepare for the observance of IYY. At the international level, the Dominican Republic had contributed to the trust fund for IYY, had sponsored relevant resolutions on that subject and had recently participated in the Latin American regional meeting. For developing countries, in which youth represented the greatest percentage of the total population, the solution of the problems of youth was a national priority, particularly, because rural and marginal urban youth began to work, on the average, at 10 years of age, a situation in which childhood was abruptly cut short by economic and social responsibilities.

21. For that reason, the Dominican Republic's National Youth Council had established an assistance programme for children entitled "Help Me to Be a Child". That programme was intended, firstly, to protect the rights of the child, providing basic needs for physical and mental development and, secondly, to prepare the child to develop within the economic, social and cultural reality of the country, thus enabling the child not only to participate in the development process but also to be a recipient of the fruits of that development.

22. Another problem affecting youth was delinquency in all its aspects. Her delegation believed that efforts to combat delinquency were the responsibility of everyone. Most important, however, the origins of delinquency should be determined, so that machinery could be set up to eradicate it. The International Youth Year should not only provide for the incorporation of already skilled youth into the development process of their country but also seek to rescue those who would not participate in that process because of their marginal status or for economic, social, educational, moral and other reasons. In order to prevent and deal with delinquency, the President of the Dominican Republic had recently convened the country's first symposium on delinquency with the co-operation of the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. At the close of the symposium, the President had received the conclusions and recommendations of the participants and had stated that the

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(Mrs. Tavares, Dominican Republic)

Government would put them into practice so far as it was able. Lastly, she said that the Dominican Republic would support IYY to ensure its success and the conversion of the nation's youth into a true national treasure.

23. Mr. VELLA (Malta) said that the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging (A/38/470) seemed to lack an analytical examination of the information compiled by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Lack of information was certainly not one of the Centre's problems; however, rapid analysis of that information was required in order to make it usable. While the Plan of Action contemplated the collection and dissemination of information, that should be done judiciously and in the best way possible to achieve results. His delegation noted with satisfaction the convening of an Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Aging for the purpose of establishing a mechanism for joint action in that field. While that Meeting had underscored the importance of an inter-agency team approach in a number of areas, his delegation was not sure that the mechanism for joint action had in fact been established. That mechanism was essential for co-ordination and for preventing duplication of effort, and his delegation urged its early establishment.

24. His delegation was gratified to note that the provisions of the Plan of Action, in so far as they addressed themselves to the Secretary-General, were being dutifully implemented. However, the prime movers in the implementation of the Plan of Action must be Governments themselves; that was not only logical but a stated part of the Plan itself.

25. The report gave an encouraging picture of Governments' response in their efforts to make use of the Trust Fund for projects intended to benefit the elderly. Indeed, the report reflected a widespread interest among developing countries, attesting to the growing awareness among developing countries of the problems of the aging and to their willingness to utilize the assistance available for alleviating those problems. Accordingly, he hoped that more significant contributions to the Trust Fund would be forthcoming and that greater efforts would be made to attract donations. However, he believed that a more detailed breakdown of the expenditures involved would be useful and would make it easy to calculate the operational costs and to determine how the various agencies contributed to the effective use of a substantive portion of expenditures.

26. In the coming years, there would be three events that would have a bearing on the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging: the International Conference on Population, to be held at Mexico City in 1984; the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, in 1985; and the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, in 1985. It was therefore of the utmost importance that the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year should consider the relations between the young and the elderly and make the necessary positive recommendations for IYY. The 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women would be another occasion on which the recommendations of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging should be given due importance.

27. Mr. HOGUE (Australia) said that the 1982 report on the world social situation had shown a better understanding than its predecessors of the complex nature of different societies and of how they operated. For example, Australia was pleased to note that the report had contained a chapter on trade unions and that it had taken into account the activities of non-governmental organizations. The activities of such groups underscored the relationship between popular participation and human rights. His Government considered it important to ensure that all sectors of the community should be fully informed of the factors underlying Government decisions and should be able to have an influence in their formulation. Popular participation could not be said to exist in a real sense if the ordinary people did not have the opportunity to participate in regular, free and fair elections at the various levels of government. Not only must the populace be able to make its voice heard, but Governments must respond to that voice and must be prepared to stand aside as soon as it was clear that they had lost the confidence of the people by whose will they existed.

28. Australia particularly welcomed chapter XV of the report, which recognized the responsibility of Governments to protect civil and political rights and the clear link between the observance of those rights and social progress. The 1982 report, in short, provided an excellent model for the future. Since its publication, it had been considered by the Commission for Social Development, but the Commission's conclusions were depressingly platitudinous and could largely have been written without reference to the report. In addition, it appeared that the Economic and Social Council had endorsed those conclusions without debate or reflection. His delegation hoped that the lowest-common-denominator approach which the Commission's conclusions reflected would be recognized as such and would not inhibit the authors of future reports from seeking to sustain and build upon the excellent standard set in 1982. The basic format and organization of the 1982 report should be retained, and his delegation hoped that subsequent reports would avoid the vague, superficial jargon of past reports and would, instead, maintain a frank and stimulating style. The 1982 report listed Australia as one of the countries that had introduced significant improvements and benefits for the disabled. Australia was proud of that and would continue to work for the rights of disabled people throughout the course of the Decade of Disabled Persons.

29. Ms. SCHIJVENAARS (Netherlands) said that as a youth representative, she was one of the very few young people able to take an inside look at the decision-making process in the United Nations and participate in that process. The inclusion of a youth representative in a national delegation was useful because it could enrich the deliberations of the General Assembly and lead to better understanding and integration of the needs and aspirations of youth and because youth representatives, from their own experience, could inform the young people of their countries about the actual work and proceedings of the United Nations.

30. Today's adults had grown up in a world that differed from that of the present - a world in which microelectronics, audio-visual material and related communications techniques had not been so widely used, problems connected with poverty, urbanization and environmental degradation had not been as prevalent, and the risks involved in the use of nuclear power and the threat of nuclear war

(Ms. Schijvenaars, Netherlands)

had been less generally recognized and discussed. That sometimes made it difficult for the older generation to understand youth. Young people tried to find their own values and to develop and put into practice their own ideas about society. Like adults, they had the right to participate in the world on their own terms. Governments should adopt all the necessary measures, both legislatively and in practice, to ensure the full enjoyment of that right. That meant that adequate social and economic conditions had to be created to enable young people to become full-fledged members of society.

31. It was necessary to accelerate the efforts to reach a more just and equitable distribution of wealth in the world. A real and effective new international economic order was extremely important for young people, especially in the developing countries; those in the industrialized countries should live up to their responsibility of co-operating and sharing with them. She therefore welcomed the fact that the specific European programme of measures and activities included a special paragraph containing suggestions to encourage young people and their organizations to support development activities in the developing countries.

32. While work was being done to elaborate a convention on the rights of the child, those rights continued to be violated. Her delegation hoped that the work on the convention would soon lead to a text which met the needs and aspirations of the children of the 1980s.

33. The present and future trends of increasing unemployment, under-employment and technological development and change were more disastrous for women, especially young women, than for men, for they imperilled women's chances to participate in society on an equal footing. Governments should promote attitudes and policies which would facilitate equality, and ensuring the welfare and advancement of women should be a matter of constant concern to them.

34. Young members of minorities and young migrant workers suffered as a result of their special position in society. They lived in a world of several different cultures and often had difficulty adapting to it. Special provisions had to be taken to assist them. More than equal access to education, employment, housing and vocational training was necessary; attention should also be given to measures enabling them to develop their own ways of expression, including the promotion of their knowledge of their mother tongue.

35. She valued the extensive and thorough communication taking place in the United Nations because meeting, talking and learning from one another's views and background were basic prerequisites for achieving peace and mutual understanding. All of the representatives at the United Nations were adults, however, and the vast majority of young people would never participate in the debates or benefit from the United Nations in the way that she did. She therefore stressed the need to establish and promote the free flow of information and of people. Young people should be encouraged to exchange information and learn to understand one another's background and thinking. A number of valuable suggestions to that end had been made in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and

(Ms. Schijvenaars, Netherlands)

inserted in the specific European programme. Her delegation viewed youth exchanges and educational programmes, especially between young people from East and West, as a step forward on the road to peace.

36. The Netherlands was preparing for the International Youth Year by introducing a platform for international youth work that would stimulate and co-ordinate the non-governmental input and by appointing a minister for the co-ordination of youth policy. The preparations would involve youth organizations to the largest extent possible and would contribute to improving the channels of communication and interaction between the governmental and non-governmental levels. Her country viewed those channels of communication as the most essential tool for the full and effective participation of young people in the development of society and the achievement of peace and held that Governments should fully implement the guidelines which the General Assembly had adopted for improving them.

37. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) said that none of the main components of United Nations involvement in international relations could be adequately evaluated without taking into account their links with the overall social situation and their implications for social development and social progress. The 1982 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1983/3) was praiseworthy, yet it had not scrutinized systematically the methods for implementing the objectives set out in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development at either the national or the international level. It had failed to provide answers to numerous questions about social development, such as what new programmes to prevent unemployment, poverty and social inequality had been started recently in various countries and what new action had been undertaken at the international level to accomplish the Declaration's objectives. The report did not mention the distinct trend in numerous developed countries towards the reduction of social programmes. The world-wide recession had made it impossible to provide security for large segments of society or to alleviate the sense of alienation and frustration felt by many people who had been ignored by the main thrust of economic and social development. There was much debate about the economic and social viability and vulnerability of the welfare state under the present adverse conditions. The report largely ignored those fundamental issues and tended to minimize the problems encountered by the countries involved.

38. In general, the report took too broad an approach to the subject it covered. In many places it referred to "groups of countries", even though it was well known that the situation within those groups differed greatly from country to country. A statistical annex should have been included to help break down the overall picture offered in the main text. Last, the report should also have taken due account of available national sources and specialized publications.

39. The world social situation was now being adversely affected by increased tension, uncertainty and economic recession. His delegation wished to propose that the 1985 report should focus on evaluating those new factors and trends. For example, the effect of external debt on the social situation had suddenly become significant. Many countries were still in the process of cutting back in imports,

(Mr. Freyberg, Poland)

investment and development activity. How all those cuts and adjustments would affect the immediate and mid-term prospects for social development in those countries and what social policies were used by the various groups of countries to minimize the social cost of retrenchments and adjustments were very pertinent issues which should be thoroughly examined in the 1985 report.

40. Recovery was expected, but it could not be viewed as a cure for all social development problems. Future growth must be specially oriented to help alleviate the world social situation. There were no grounds for assuming that a recovery would be translated into more output and more jobs, and it was also uncertain whether the recovery would be powerful and lasting enough to benefit all countries, especially the developing countries.

41. The recovery must be so oriented as to ensure improved economic efficiency. Free markets did not operate with enough economic efficiency to meet the aspirations of the broad masses. Efforts to improve efficiency should be coupled with broadening the social bases of the incipient recovery: the narrow interests of the various sectors and small social groups should be prevented from diverting economic growth from the path required by the social situation.

42. The recovery must also furnish directions for new technology. Technology was biased, and technological innovations alone did not ensure adequate employment opportunities, the humanization of working conditions or new prospects for the purposeful participation of broad segments of society in shaping the course of human development. The international community must play a useful role in that process. The debate on the recovery and the immediate action that was required could be broadened to include a more balanced sharing of the social costs inherent in the balance-of-payment adjustments resulting from high indebtedness; improved consultation about social and economic policy goals and measures which would reduce the arbitrariness of international economic relations and help to extend confidence could contribute to meeting that objective.

43. International action in the field of employment must be reviewed. In that context, he wondered what had happened to the World Employment Programme. What were its achievements or failures and its present orientation? Was there a United Nations strategy to combat unemployment in developing countries?

44. The international community seemed unprepared or unwilling to meet the challenge of the present complex world social situation; it seemed compartmentalized and tended to focus on a single dimension of the social problems. The 1985 report should bring out the crucial linkage and interweaving of the economic, social and political factors now at work. Detailed information on the social situation of specific groups of the population, notably children and youth, should also be included. The social situation of children living under the inhuman, criminal apartheid régime of South Africa should not be left out of the report: the cruel impact of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid on children needed to be clearly exposed.

(Mr. Freyberg, Poland)

45. The report should be viewed as an important contribution to achieving the social objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, thus serving the fundamental purposes, principles and ends set out in the Charter.

46. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that the report on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/38/506) stressed the need to intensify actions designed to implement fully the plan and recommendations worked out in connection with the International Year of Disabled Persons. Urgent efforts were needed to prevent disability and promote the re-education of the disabled and their integration into society; the exchange of information and the transfer of technology and knowledge took on special importance in that connection.

47. In Romania, many both temporary and long-term measures had been taken with a view to preventing absence from work because of sickness or accidents, and social, medical, educational and vocational training activities aimed at the integration in society of the physically or mentally disabled had been begun.

48. Efforts to implement the recommendations of the World Assembly on Aging must be continued and intensified, so that the numerous problems confronting the aged throughout the world could be solved under the best possible circumstances. Actions to benefit the aging must meet the specific social and economic needs of that large and important demographic group, while giving special attention to the situation of the aging in the developing countries. The entire Plan of Action should be in line with the objectives of the new international economic order and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. It was especially important to devise governmental, medical and social security programmes which embodied general principles and specific targets in order to meet the specific needs of the aged. The health and illnesses of the aged must also be studied in order to work out appropriate therapeutic and preventive measures.

49. In 1982, his country had proposed the intensification of international co-operation in making the problems of the aged a constant concern. The United Nations must evaluate systematically what had been achieved, the World Health Organization must expand its activities in the fields of gerontology and geriatrics, and the International Labour Organisation must pursue its activities relating to the working potential of the aged.

50. His delegation hoped that the concerns he had just expressed would be duly reflected in the resolutions to be adopted on the relevant items and in the activities to be undertaken by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

51. It had been proposed that higher priority should be given to actions designed to accelerate the dissemination of information and background documents concerning youth. Such a step was certainly appropriate at the current session of the General

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(Mr. Voicu, Romania)

Assembly, since that forum was now called upon to take note of the results of the five regional meetings devoted to the International Youth Year. The regional meeting for Europe had been held at Costinesti, Romania, from 5 to 9 September 1983. He hoped that the Secretariat would take the necessary steps to ensure that the documents produced at the regional meetings were distributed to members of the Committee in good time.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.