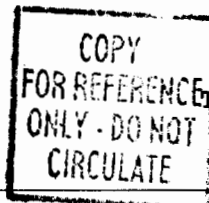


*United Nations*  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**  
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
*Official Records\**



THIRD COMMITTEE  
22nd meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 27 October 1983  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 22nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. CHAVANAVIRJAJ (Thailand)

later: Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

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- (a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)
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1. Mr. GERSHMAN (United States of America), explaining his vote, said that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 because it had reservations concerning the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

2. His delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.4 even though the draft resolution referred to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The United States had not taken part in the activities of that Decade since the adoption in 1975 of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) in which zionism compared with racism.

3. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.3, which had been adopted by consensus, for the document dealt in a democratic and universal manner with the problem of self-determination and clearly applied to the situation in Afghanistan and in Kampuchea where the right to self-determination could not be exercised because of foreign occupation.

4. However, it had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 which was not universal and democratic. The wording it contained concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict should be rejected for it was not possible to support the right to self-determination of one people at the expense of that of another. His Government also opposed the granting of assistance to so-called liberation movements and it was reducing its contribution by an amount proportional to the share of United Nations programmes which supported those organizations.

5. Mrs. ZOGRAFOU (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 10 members of the European Economic Community, said that those States had abstained from the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 because they were not convinced that the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid was a useful contribution to international measures to eliminate apartheid. That Convention contained numerous legal flaws and its definition of the violations it dealt with were very vague. It was applicable only to States which had ratified it and to their respective citizens. Any measure adopted under that Convention could be examined only by the States Parties.
6. Mrs. KUROKOCHI (Japan) said that her delegation had abstained from the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 because the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid contained ambiguous legal provisions concerning the very concept and definition of apartheid.
7. Her delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8 notwithstanding the reservations expressed by the Japanese Government on the Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted following the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Those reservations could be found in annex VII to document A/CONF.119/26.
8. Mr. GEZER (Turkey) said that although his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 it nevertheless reaffirmed that the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid posed important legal problems for Turkey since some of its provisions were contrary to Turkey's legislation.
9. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 but it regretted the selective reference to Western countries contained in paragraph 19.
10. Mr. SWE (Burma) said that his delegation fully supported the main elements and principles of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 and it had voted in favour of that draft resolution. However, if paragraphs 19, 29 and 30 had been put to the vote separately, his delegation would have abstained on those paragraphs since it had reservations concerning their wording.
11. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8 but that it maintained the reservations it had expressed at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It did not agree either with the wording of the Declaration adopted at the close of that Conference.
12. Mrs. OOANE (Lesotho) reaffirmed the position of her Government regarding the adoption of economic sanctions against South Africa. That position was without prejudice to her Government's resolute support for the principle of self-determination and its commitment to the total eradication of racism and all forms of racial discrimination, particularly apartheid.

13. Mrs. ZOGRAFOU (Greece) said that her delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/Rev.1 because of the wording of paragraph 19.
14. Mrs. FRANCO (Portugal) said that her country had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 because the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid contained provisions contrary to Portuguese law.
15. Her delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8, but she wished to remind members of the reservations it had expressed in relation to the Programme of Action of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/CONF.119/26).
16. She had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, having reservations about some paragraphs of the draft. Recourse to armed struggle could not be considered either as the only or the best way of remedying unjust situations. As for paragraph 5, members would recall the reservations entered by Portugal at the conferences on Namibia and Palestine. Her country wished to point out that it had not taken part in the conferences referred to in paragraphs 18 and 21. Condemning South Africa to isolation could not be considered a good way of settling the problems of Namibia or apartheid; a peaceful solution would be preferable.
17. Mr. PHIRI (Malawi) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolutions A/C.3/38/L.5 and A/C.13/38/L.10/Rev.1 owing to its reservations on a number of paragraphs in those documents.
18. Mr. RATHORE (India) said that his delegation had not objected to the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.3 without a vote, but that in no way modified his delegation's position on the first article of the International Covenants on Human Rights or the related resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights.
19. Mr. PERUGINI (Italy) said that his country had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8. Nevertheless, it found some provisions of the draft to be unacceptable, and its reservations appeared in the report of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/CONF.119/26).
20. Miss CARTA (France) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8. That fact did not modify her country's reservations on the subject, which were to be found in document A/CONF.119/26.
21. Mr. ZURITA (Spain) said that his country had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 because it disapproved of the reference to armed struggle in paragraph 2 of the text.
22. Mrs. KOLAROVA (Bulgaria) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1. The recent invasion of Grenada by the United States emphasized the need to strengthen the application of United Nations resolutions on the right to self-determination.

23. Mr. GERSHMAN (United States), speaking on a point of order, said that representatives should refrain from lengthy political attacks under an item which should be discussed in the Security Council, not the Third Committee.

24. Miss KOLAROVA (Bulgaria), continuing her statement, said that the United States committed acts of international terrorism and sought to establish its domination over the world in defiance of the right of peoples to self-determination.

25. Mr. NGUYEN LUONG (Viet Nam) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.3, which was in line with his Government's position of supporting the struggle by the peoples of the world to realize their right to self-determination and protect their true independence, and opposing the imperialist, hegemonist manoeuvres of large nations that sought to interfere in the domestic affairs of sovereign independent States, as illustrated by the cases of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Democratic Kampuchea and, just recently, by the invasion of Grenada by the United States.

26. Mr. BUTALE (Botswana) said that his country's position on racism and racial discrimination was clearly defined in the national constitution. His country would continue to discourage and condemn those evil practices, being a living example of the fact that individuals of all races could live together in harmony irrespective of their colour or creed. The difficulties Botswana faced in implementing the resolutions on those matters were known to the Committee, and explained why its position remained unchanged.

27. Mr. HIRUBALAN (Singapore) said that his delegation had reservations about some terms used in paragraph 19 of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, which introduced to the Committee the notion of selective condemnation.

28. Mrs. BORGES (Uruguay) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5. For domestic legal reasons her country nevertheless had objections concerning the ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. The Convention gave only an imprecise definition of the crime of apartheid, and article 9 attributed the power to enforce the convention to a United Nations body several of whose members were not parties to the convention.

29. Her delegation had reservations to a number of paragraphs in draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1. The reference to armed struggle in paragraph 2 violated the very principles and purposes of the Charter. Her country did not approve of the selective wording of paragraph 19 and believed that maintaining diplomatic relations with a country did not imply approval of the principles governing its domestic or international policy. Her delegation would have preferred a more careful and balanced wording of paragraphs 29 and 30. Paragraph 30 should have referred to the need to withdraw foreign forces from Lebanon. In connection with paragraph 32, she believed that the Palestinian people would select their representatives when they could freely exercise their right to self-determination.

30. Mrs. FLOREZ (Cuba) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, whose forthright, militant wording matched her Government's position on the right of peoples to decide their own fates. The provisions should be extended still further in the future so that the draft would apply to analogous situations in other parts of the world - notably Latin America, where the Puerto Rican people were still subject to colonial dominion and serious violations of the right of peoples to determine their own fate still occurred. Reference could be made in that connection to the attack on 25 October 1983, in the course of which United States forces had invaded Grenada, a small, independent, sovereign, non-aligned country and a Member of the Organization to boot, preventing it from either determining its own fate or dealing with its own problems without outside interference. For what principles had the United States trampled under foot the Grenadian people's right to autonomy and independence? Such unjustifiable armed aggression violated the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and cast the very principles the Organization stood for to the winds. Neither the Charter nor any other international document allowed a State or group of States to interfere in the internal politics of another State on the pretext - cited by the United States in justification of its invasion - of a power vacuum threatening the security of other States in the region. In that connection she referred to Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter and stressed that the United States had used similar pretexts to invade the Dominican Republic, overthrow the Government in Guatemala and assassinate President Allende in Chile. Such moves were, of course, in keeping with the traditional policy of the United States, which used force to violate the principle that people should determine their own fates.

31. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining his delegation's vote on draft resolutions A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 and A/C.3/38/L.3, said that his country had already stated its position on agenda item 86 in its statement of 18 October 1983. It had supported the adoption of the two draft resolutions because the full exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and the granting of swift independence to colonial countries and peoples were of great importance for human rights as a whole. Consideration of those issues over the years had shown that international public opinion favoured the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, one of whose early proponents had been the Soviet Union. As his country had always spoken out in favour of eradicating colonialism and neo-colonialism and for the freedom and equality of peoples, it had unconditionally supported draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, which took the same line.

32. Although it contained a number of omissions, draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.3 could and should serve to repulse the forces of colonialism, hegemonism and imperialism which, while flouting the right of peoples to self-determination, freedom and social progress, were carrying out a policy of diktat and force vis-à-vis sovereign peoples and States and holding various parts of the world under the yoke of colonialism.

33. Some States continued to occupy other countries, interfere in their internal affairs, attempt to suppress the national liberation movements of subjugated peoples, and launch attacks and acts of provocation and aggression against other

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

sovereign States, never hesitating to use mercenaries to achieve their goals, as the cases of Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Kampuchea made clear.

34. The United States had seriously violated the rights of peoples to self-determination and the principles of the Charter by its armed aggression against Grenada, a small country which threatened no one. It was also trying to intimidate other peace-loving Latin American countries, was currently threatening Nicaragua and had a fleet of warships cruising in Central American waters. Its objective was obviously to stifle popular resistance and interfere in the internal affairs of independent States. The Soviet Union resolutely condemned the aggression perpetrated against Grenada, which it considered a crime against peace, and believed that all peace-loving people must make their voices heard in support of the right to self-determination of the Grenadian people and other sovereign peoples against whom the United States was waging undeclared war. That was indeed the thrust of draft resolutions A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 and A/C.3/38/L.3.

35. Mr. CERMAK (Austria) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 for reasons of domestic law. Austria was unable to give its support to measures that might undermine the rights guaranteed to individuals under the Austrian Constitution. His delegation nevertheless wished to restate its position on apartheid, which it considered to be the negation of human equality and dignity.

36. Austria had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 because it could not endorse some of its provisions, such as the legitimacy of all available means of struggle, including armed struggle.

37. Mrs. BELLORINI PARRALES (Nicaragua) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 because it agreed with the principles contained in it; she was referring to the inalienable right of the Namibian people, whose territory continued to be subjected to illegal occupation by South Africa, and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the people of Western Sahara, whose lands were also occupied by expansionist régimes. Her delegation would welcome the adoption of similar draft resolutions dealing with the case of Puerto Rico, which was being denied its right to decide its future. Those who were preventing Puerto Rico from exercising that right were doing the same to Grenada, which was heroically fighting the invasion launched against it in violation of the most elemental rules of international law. Nicaragua wished to advise the United States that the countries of Latin America would steadfastly oppose its policy in the region.

38. Mr. LILLO (Chile) said that although his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev. 1 in order to reaffirm Chile's traditional support for the right of peoples to self-determination, it had some reservations with regard to those paragraphs which encouraged the utilization of unacceptable means for settling conflicts, condemned certain countries in a selective fashion while ignoring other situations in which the right to self-determination had been violated, singled out certain Member States (such as Israel) in a discriminatory



(Mr. Lillo, Chile)

manner, or had been drafted in extreme and highly subjective language. If each paragraph of the draft resolution had been put to the vote separately, his delegation would have voted against paragraphs 2, 19, 30 and 32. As far as his delegation was concerned the national liberation movements referred to in the draft resolution included only those which were recognized by regional organizations. Likewise, his delegation considered that implicit in the wording "Endorses the Declaration and Programmes of Action on Namibia and Palestine" was the condition "in the form in which they were approved at the various international conferences", i.e., taking into account the reservations expressed at those conferences.

39. With regard to the situation in the Middle East, to which much of the draft resolution referred, his delegation called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon as a prerequisite to a solution that would allow that country to exercise fully its right to self-determination. However, it would be difficult to reach a lasting solution so long as terrorist acts like those which had recently been perpetrated against the multinational peace-keeping forces continued to occur.

40. In response to the allusions made by certain delegations to the situation in his country, it should be recalled that the process which began in Chile in 1973 was a perfect example of the exercise by a people of its right to self-determination without any foreign interference.

41. His delegation had supported draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 in order to demonstrate Chile's determination to fight for the total elimination of the odious practice of apartheid. He was pleased to note that draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8 had been adopted by consensus, as had been hoped; however, he could not endorse the Programme referred to in paragraph 3 except in the form in which it had originally been adopted.

42. Mr. HOGUE (Australia) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.8. It had been led to do so by a desire to associate itself with international efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination and to contribute to the proclamation on as broad a basis as possible of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. If the draft resolution had been put to a vote, his delegation would have voted in favour, just as it had voted in favour of the Programme of Action adopted at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The fact that his delegation supported the draft resolution and the proclamation of the Second Decade did nothing to alter the difficulties which some parts of the Declaration adopted at the Second World Conference had created for Australia and which his delegation had clearly identified when the Declaration had been put to a vote.

43. As had been stated on many occasions, his delegation supported the general objective of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.5 but could not, for legal and constitutional reasons, implement certain provisions of the Convention; however, that had no effect on Australia's desire to work for the elimination of apartheid.

44. Miss ABAS (Indonesia) said that her delegation had associated itself with the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.3 because it supported both the content and the spirit of that document. However, she wished to express reservations regarding the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, which referred to the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-ninth session. Her delegation believed that one of those resolutions constituted unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Indonesia.

45. Mr. RUIZ-CABAÑAS (Mexico) said his delegation had been extremely happy to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1. However, he had certain reservations with regard to paragraphs 5 and 18 of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Question of Palestine.

46. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his Government's position on the right to self-determination, particularly of the South African, Namibian and Palestinian peoples, was well known. In voting in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, his delegation had expressed its faith in the principles embodied in it and especially in their implementation.

47. The United States invasion of Grenada, a Member State of the United Nations which had never threatened anyone and was incapable of threatening anyone, underscored the urgent need for strict respect for the right of peoples to self-determination.

48. Mr. GEORGES (Haiti) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1 but had strong reservations with regard to paragraph 29.

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 (continued) (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 (continued) (A/38/63, A/38/64 and Add.1)
- (c) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE REALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/338 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

AGENDA ITEM 88: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/339)

AGENDA ITEM 89: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/470)

AGENDA ITEM 90: WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/506)

49. Mr. ARONSSON (Sweden), speaking on agenda items 84 and 88, said that the very theme of International Youth Year - Participation, Development, Peace - was an excellent summary of the current interests of young people. International Youth Year gave young people the opportunity to highlight both their problems and their potential in different national and international bodies.

50. His country was firmly convinced that young people wanted to be active participants in society and that they were willing to assume the responsibilities entailed by that participation. His country had become a highly industrialized society with a relatively equal distribution of wealth. Young people therefore had a reasonably good standard of living and had been spared the harsh childhoods that had been the lot of their ancestors. They had fewer duties to carry out and consequently more leisure time. Moreover, regardless of their social class, their education was guaranteed. If, in the past, young people had often had too much responsibility because they had had to work hard in the fields or in the factories as well as at home, the opposite was now true since society did not give them enough responsibility and did not always need them, which meant that they were obliged to spend several years waiting for a role to play in society or a job. It was extremely important that those years, which were so often crucial for the future orientation of the lives of young people, should become active and positive.

51. In its domestic policies, his Government had accorded high priority to reducing unemployment. During the autumn, it had proposed a new law guaranteeing young people under 20 years of age the right to a job or to a free education. At the local level, enthusiasm, creativity and optimism, all characteristics of youth organizations, were necessary to give young people the stimulating environment that they required. In Sweden, such organizations, which were entirely independent and had a membership of some 3 million persons, were part of a system of active popular movements based on one ideology or another. Some were purely political, others were based on religious creeds, others focused on such issues as educational policy, or combating alcohol or drug abuse. Still others engaged in less public but equally important activities, for example, study groups or amateur artistic groups. It was especially important to involve young immigrants in those activities.

52. His country considered that young people had the right to express their ideas on peace and disarmament, issues which were of great concern to them and to which they devoted their efforts. Peace was not simply the absence of war but assumed the existence of confidence among peoples and nations and the absence of fear. As young people were entirely aware, the advent of peace would lead to a respect for fundamental human rights and for international law.

53. In line with the activities planned by the Swedish National Committee for the International Youth Year, 1985 would be a "Year of Action" during which the environment and the general living conditions of young people would be accorded special attention. The Committee's Chairman was the Minister of Education; the Minister of Health served as Vice-Chairman. The 10 other members were mainly representatives of youth organizations. It was clear that the composition of the National Committee reflected the desire of young people to plan and implement themselves the programmes to be undertaken in 1985.

(Mr. Aronsson, Sweden)

54. His Government looked forward to the implementation of the activities planned for 1985 and was convinced that, with the close co-operation of young people and their organizations, those activities would be successful.

55. Mr. EHRLICH-ADAM (Austria), referring to agenda item 89, said that the item concerning the elderly and the aged had been on the agenda of the General Assembly for more than 12 years. At the World Assembly on Aging held in Austria in 1982, it had been agreed that a solution to the problems of the elderly and the aged could be found only in an atmosphere of mutual understanding among nations and, in particular, among different age groups of society. The outcome of the World Assembly on Aging had been the unanimous adoption (a rather rare and noteworthy phenomenon) of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging.

56. To maintain the momentum generated by the World Assembly, follow-up action must be ensured through suitable mechanisms at the national level and also at the regional and international levels. If that momentum was not maintained, the credibility of the United Nations would be at stake since it could be accused of being much more concerned with organizing high-level meetings than with ensuring the follow-up of the debates and the implementation of the recommendations. Moreover, the concentration on less political issues of concern to the Governments of all regions of the world would constitute a new, and particularly welcome, starting point for international co-operation and would counteract the disturbingly slow progress towards mutual understanding in international relations.

57. An example which could well be followed was the international seminar organized shortly before Easter 1983 in Paris by the French State Secretariat for the Elderly, at which a thorough discussion had taken place on the implementation of the Vienna International Plan of Action. The Plan itself provided for a first review in 1985 by the Economic and Social Council, acting through the Commission for Social Development. The United Nations programme of work for 1985 was of great concern to his Government, which feared that, in the midst of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the observance of International Youth Year, which threatened to monopolize the interests of those concerned with social issues, the question of aging might fade into the background since the elderly and the aged did not constitute a sufficiently strong pressure group. Nevertheless, it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would comply fully with the letter and especially with the spirit of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 37/51, which had been unanimously adopted in December 1982.

58. His Government would also like the Secretariat to draw up guidelines identifying the problems on which Member States should concentrate in reporting on the implementation of the International Plan of Action. That would certainly facilitate the task of countries with limited financial and administrative resources, and would also ensure some uniformity in the responses, which would make them easier to compare. For there to be an objective assessment of the measures taken by the Member States in pursuance of the Plan of Action, his delegation considered that some agreement should be reached on the specific terms of reference of the body responsible for analysing the reports.

/...

(Mr. Ehrlich-Adam, Austria)

59. The preparations for the first review of the implementation of the Plan of Action would clearly entail additional work for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, but there was no doubt that given its efficiency and competence, the Centre would be able to perform the task. His delegation called upon all Member States which had adopted the Plan of Action to co-operate fully with the Secretariat in preparing for and carrying out the first review.

60. Concerning the Trust Fund for Aging, which had been established during the preparations for the World Assembly on Aging and whose activities had been continued in accordance with General Assembly resolution 37/51, his delegation noted with satisfaction that, thanks to the generosity of donors, the Fund still had resources available to fund projects. His Government would make a contribution for 1984 and hoped that it would not be alone in doing so. His delegation was pleased to note that during the first six months of 1983, the Fund had approved project proposals totalling \$US 344,000. Since those proposals had been examined competently and expeditiously by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, his delegation was convinced that the decision adopted at the World Assembly on Aging and endorsed by the General Assembly to entrust the Centre with the administration of the Fund had been entirely appropriate.

61. Turning to item 90, his delegation noted with satisfaction that, following the proclamation in 1981 of the International Year of Disabled Persons, the international community and public opinion had continued to focus on promoting the realization of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of their societies through the implementation of the General Assembly's World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (resolution 37/52). The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, which had been launched in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 37/53, was helping to mobilize public opinion in support of the objectives set by the Assembly. Similarly, the role played by the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons was critical. The Secretary-General's report (A/38/506) offered an impressive account of the Fund's activities, which warranted its continuation. Austria was one of the countries which had pleaded in favour of continuing the Fund's activities throughout the Decade. On the basis of the results attained, his delegation thought that the Fund should continue to be administered by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

62. He recalled that three days earlier, when speaking on agenda items 84 and 88, he had asked the Secretariat why the documents relating to the results of the five preparatory regional meetings for the International Youth Year had not been circulated and why delegations had not even received a summary of them. No reply had been forthcoming. He was taken aback by the attitude of the Secretariat, which had not even had the courtesy to provide an explanation. He wished to be informed in writing of the results of the five regional meetings. He also wished to know whether there was any reason which prevented the Secretariat from replying to his request and, if there were, what it was, and, assuming that the documentation would be provided eventually, when it would be made available.

63. Mrs. PAPAJORGJI (Albania) said that the problems of young people were of importance for all societies since they concerned their very future. The life, place and role of young people in society could not be understood in isolation from the economic and social orders of their respective countries, while the difficulties which they encountered could not be analysed independently of the international situation and the struggle of peoples against the super-Powers and reactionary forces. It was thus erroneous and sterile to present the problems of young people devoid of their political content. Young people were the first victims of the crisis afflicting the capitalist-revisionist world: they made up half of the unemployed of the world and were affected by crime, alcoholism and drug abuse.

64. Apologists for the capitalist-revisionist system claimed that such phenomena were the inevitable product of industrial development. But objective reality belied that pseudo-theory: those social afflictions were the product of the capitalist order, which reduced man and his values to the level of goods and promoted the physical and moral degeneration of young people by offering them, under the guise of "freedom" and "human rights", decadent culture and art, as well as drugs to break their spirit.

65. Young people were the first victims not only of the armed conflicts fanned by the super-Powers but also of ideological aggression, the aim of which was to brutalize young people and distance them from national traditions by promoting universalism, and to divert them from the struggle against oppression and injustice thus depriving the working class and the oppressed of a major ally in their struggle for a better world.

66. Some bourgeois theoreticians attempted to explain young people's dissatisfaction by a so-called "generation gap", which was merely a means of diverting attention from the true causes of their rebellion.

67. In socialist Albania, young people occupied a privileged place and enjoyed all the conditions which were necessary to work and live happily, surrounded by the attentive care of society as a whole. In exchange, young people struggled and worked for the building of socialism, and demonstrated a great sense of responsibility so as to merit the confidence placed in them by the Labour Party. Almost 40 per cent of the Albanian population were under 15 years of age, and more than 40 per cent were between 15 and 40 years of age, so that the mean age of the Albanian population was 26. Young people accounted for 40 per cent of the working class and 50 per cent of workers in co-operatives. The population would increase by 210,000 people by 1985. Nevertheless, unemployment was unknown in Albania.

68. The younger generation was growing up healthy and pure, educated to love their work, people and homeland, and prepared to take up the torch and make Albania a strong and prosperous country progressing along the road of genuine socialism. Young Albanians were educated in a vast education system which offered eight years of compulsory education and the opportunity to attend Tirana University and other tertiary institutions located in the main Albanian towns. At such institutions, they learned to preserve and develop Albanian cultural traditions and to appreciate

(Mrs. Papajorgji, Albania)

progressive world culture. In contrast to what happened in certain countries, young Albanians did not find themselves without work at the end of their studies. Socialist society needed educated, capable people willing to place their knowledge at the service of the people and of socialism, wherever their homeland needed them.

69. Young Albanians closely followed world events, and the super-Powers' preparations for war and, while studying and working, prepared to defend their homeland. They firmly supported the struggle for national and social liberation of Palestinian young people against Zionist-imperialist aggression, that of Namibian and Azanian young people against colonial oppression, racial discrimination and apartheid, that of Afghan young people against the Soviet occupation forces, that of Salvadorian and Nicaraguan young people against North American intervention and that of European young people against the arms race provoked by the super-Powers. Albanian young people fully supported the Albanian people, led by the Labour Party, in its effort to construct a genuine socialist society in Albania.

70. Mr. GEZER (Turkey), speaking on agenda item 84, said that at present young people were seriously affected by increasing unemployment, inadequate vocational training and growing crime, violence, terrorism and drug abuse. Young people in rural areas in developing countries and young migrant workers also had specific problems. Young people were, moreover, becoming increasingly numerous. In Europe, that group, which had more than trebled in 20 years, had attained 125 millions by 1980. That demonstrated the size of a problem which required an urgent and effective solution if serious repercussions on development, economic growth and the social situation of the countries of the region were to be avoided. He emphasized in that regard that it was for each country to formulate and implement its own strategy to overcome the particular difficulties which its young people faced. States would thus be able to make an active contribution to efforts at the regional and international levels.

71. His Government, for its part, had adopted the goal of combating illiteracy and promoting education. In so doing it sought to strengthen the role of the family, teachers and all elements of society in eradicating the problems which led to violence, crime and terrorism among young people. He hoped that young people would then be able to make an active contribution to the life of society, with that sense of responsibility and courage which, 60 years earlier, the founder of modern Turkey, Atatürk, had acknowledged in his speech to young people.

72. His delegation had fully supported the United Nations decision to proclaim the International Youth Year in 1985. He welcomed the progress made by the Advisory Committee for the Year, together with the growing interest of Member States, specialized agencies and youth organizations in that important project. A national committee had been established within the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sports to provide a link between the United Nations and the Turkish authorities. The committee had already prepared a programme of action involving active participation in the celebration of the Year. He noted that the European regional meeting for the International Year had allowed the participating countries to exchange views on policies and programmes serving the interests of young people and had encouraged countries to formulate realistic objectives and appropriate measures in that sphere.

73. Mr. PEDERSEN (Denmark), speaking on agenda items 84 and 88, said that young people were currently facing a very difficult situation: they were severely affected by the economic recession and the young unemployed were legion (approximately 300 million in the developing countries, where population growth was making their situation even more serious). In addition to unemployment, young people were encountering difficulties in the fields of education, housing and social problems in general which made them feel rejected by society and sometimes led them to commit acts of violence. It was clearly necessary to undertake concrete initiatives to deal with that situation.

74. His Government, for its part, had taken a number of special measures to create jobs, particularly for young people under the age of 25. By an act promulgated in 1983, local authorities and private organizations could start work on projects for young people which would otherwise not have been realized. The Minister for Education intended to offer the possibility of continuing their training to all young people who had completed primary education, to liberalize the conditions for admission to most educational establishments and to intensify information services on educational possibilities.

75. It was essential for youth to participate in decision-making at all levels. Establishing policies which prepared a future for youth to inherit without taking account of the new ideas which youth had to offer, however unacceptable they sometimes were, would risk building a society which fitted neither the needs nor the interests of young people. His Government considered that the young and their organizations must have the possibility of expressing their views both at the national and international levels. Since the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly, a representative of the Danish Youth Council, which was a non-governmental "umbrella" organization for almost all Danish youth organizations, had participated in the Danish delegation. The establishment of effective channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations was a pre-condition for the active participation of youth in the activities of the Organization. It would be desirable to improve existing channels of information, especially those provided by the Geneva informal meetings, in the framework of preparations for International Youth Year. In that connection, he recalled that those informal meetings reflected all tendencies alike, for which reason many Governments had supported them both politically and financially. The United Nations should approve those meetings as the main channel of communication with youth and youth organizations and lend them support so that they could successfully fulfil their tasks.

76. The activities which would take place during International Youth Year on the theme of development should promote better understanding of the problems faced by young people in the developing countries and strengthen solidarity with and among the young, especially with those struggling for independence in the framework of national liberation movements and for social justice and a more equitable international economic order.

77. To work for peace, détente and disarmament was a primary task for young people and their organizations. The nuclear arms race especially worried the young. The



(Mr. Pedersen, Denmark)

prospect of seeing increasing numbers of nuclear missiles deployed in Europe induced many young Danes to take an active part in peace movements. Instead of pursuing the arms race, it would be better to work for the abolition of economic, social and human injustices which all too often gave rise to oppression and violations of human rights and were particularly harmful to the young, whether they were their victims or their instruments.

78. His Government had established a co-ordinating committee which brought together the Ministries of Labour, Social Affairs, Culture and Foreign Affairs as well as the Danish Youth Council under the leadership of the Ministry of Education to prepare for the activities to be undertaken during International Youth Year. The Danish Youth Council was to serve as the national secretariat for the Year. His country had always wanted the main activities of the International Year to be undertaken at the national and local levels, believing that it was at those levels that young people could engage most actively in preparing for those activities. His Government had appointed a governmental youth committee three years previously to analyse the current situation of young people, i.e. their social situation, employment, education, housing problems and leisure activities, and to make recommendations for the formulation of policies for youth, especially during International Youth Year.

79. Mr. ZADOR (Hungary), speaking on agenda item 85, said that the world social system had grown even gloomier and was still characterized by stagnation or even a reduction in real income in the majority of developing countries and by budgetary austerity and unemployment in market economy countries. The causes of the crisis were bound up with social injustice, colonial and neo-colonial domination and war, and with the fact that Governments gave priority to military expenditures in allocating their resources, to the detriment of social tasks such as the struggle against disease, illiteracy and hunger. That order of priorities was in contradiction to the aims of the United Nations as laid down in Article 55 of the Charter.

80. In an appeal which had unfortunately remained unanswered, States parties to the Warsaw Treaty had proposed to member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that they should join in searching for an agreement which would make it possible to freeze and subsequently to reduce military expenditures, and that resources freed in that way should be allocated to economic and social development, especially in the developing countries. His country supported the efforts being made to accord to newly independent countries equitable treatment in international economic relations and to implement the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order.

81. Despite definite difficulties attributable to the world economic situation and to the fact that it was heavily dependent on international trade for supplies of raw materials, his country had reason to be proud of its achievements. Prior to the Second World War it had been a poor and backward country whose economy, in some respects capitalist and in others feudal, had been characterized by a per capita

(Mr. Zador, Hungary)

income which was a quarter of the United Kingdom's and a third of Germany's. By the 1970s, however, it had made up the greater part of its backwardness with respect to the industrialized countries, thanks to its socialist economic system. Unemployment was unknown to Hungarian society which, in accordance with the Constitution, was founded on the right to work and ensured the well-being of the whole population.

82. His country had supported General Assembly resolution 36/18 and was convinced that the United Nations had much to learn from national experience in the co-operative movement. In his country, the establishment of agricultural co-operatives had been accompanied by agrarian reform, mechanization of agricultural production and an improvement in the standard of living. The co-operatives not only assured food production and supply, but were also concerned with the provision of social services to the population and served to expand the construction and building materials industries.

83. After the reorganization of agriculture between 1959 and 1962, 94 per cent of the cultivated land had been given over to management by large socialist farms, of which 33 per cent were State farms and 61 per cent co-operative farms. Those co-operatives had gradually assumed the character of enterprises and had been placed on an equal footing with State enterprises, with the result that there had been a considerable expansion in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Co-operative farms currently had almost 900,000 members and accounted for 64 per cent of the total agricultural output. They provided a frame-work for the social organization of the peasants who, by practising co-operative democracy, learnt to manage their own affairs. They oriented and integrated the farming of independent household plots, which used their own equipment or that of the co-operative farms while taking advantage of the services and technical resources as well as of the equipment which co-operatives offered.

84. During its 30 years of existence, the co-operative movement had succeeded in combining individual and public interest and in broadening popular participation in public activities. It therefore constituted one of the most promising forms of socialist democracy. It had also made Hungary self-sufficient in food and had contributed to substantial earnings from the export of food products. The co-operative movement therefore had a significant role to play in shaping a basic socio-economic structure necessary for social development, raising the living standards of the population, ensuring full employment and enabling citizens to develop a creative personality.

85. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on agenda items 84, 85 and 88, said that, in view of the current deterioration in the international situation, the observance of an International Youth Year should, above all, enable young people to be mobilized with a view to accomplishing the most urgent task facing humanity, which was to safeguard and consolidate peace by removing the risks of a nuclear catastrophe which would wipe out civilization and life on the earth. There were sound reasons for fearing a nuclear war. An increase in stockpiles of weapons and military budgets was accompanied by

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

intensified activities on the part of the imperialist forces, which were extending existing conflicts and creating new hotbeds of tension by interfering in the internal affairs of States. The most recent example of such interference was the invasion of Grenada by the United States. Moreover, colossal resources were being expended in the arms race, while hunger and poverty were still rampant throughout the world, and the escalation of the arms race was only exacerbating the socio-economic situation in the world. According to United States economists, for each billion dollars which the Pentagon currently spent on increasing its military strength, 11,600 jobs could be created.

86. In contrast to imperialism's policy of aggression, the Soviet Union pursued a policy designed to preserve and strengthen peace, achieve disarmament and put the international situation back on a sound footing. Soviet youth were resolved to do all in their power to remove the danger of a nuclear war and to ensure that future generations would enjoy peace. The declaration of the 19th Annual Congress of the Leninist Young Communist League of the USSR, stressed the responsibility of young people in that respect. The "March of Soviet Youth for Peace", like the demonstration organized in observance of Soviet Youth Day, which had as its slogan "I vote for peace", clearly illustrated the strength of the movement of Soviet youth in favour of peace and against nuclear war. The vast movement against nuclear weapons in Europe and elsewhere was also an indication of the aspirations of young people for peace.

87. The Soviet Government attached great importance to the observance of the International Youth Year. It welcomed the valuable contribution to international co-operation made by major non-governmental organizations such as the World Peace Council, the World Federation of Democratic Youth and many others in connection with preparations for the Year. It felt, however, that emphasis should be placed mainly on activities undertaken at the national level with a view to achieving the goals of the Year.

88. Turning to the problems facing young people, he said that Governments bore the primary responsibility for creating conditions that would enable young people to exercise their rights and to pursue their goals. The Soviet Union gave young people every opportunity for full and harmonious development. A set of rights, which formed the very basis of the training of young people, was enshrined in the 1977 Constitution. Those included the right to choose an occupation, the right to education and employment, as well as the right to rest, to health and to social security. Soviet youth participated actively in the development of the country. Young people were well represented in the mechanical engineering industry (40 per cent of the labour force) and in the fields of transport and communications (30 per cent). One third of the specialists who had a secondary school or university diploma were under 30 years of age.

89. Soviet youth were steadily increasing their participation in the political life of the country. Of the 1,500 deputies in the Supreme Soviet, the highest body in the USSR, 317 were under 30 years of age. Currently, one third of the representatives in local and regional soviets were young people, and their number

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had doubled in 15 years. The fact that the Constitution empowered the Leninist Young Communist League of the USSR to participate in the decision-making process in government organs within their spheres of competence could only give added impetus to the active participation of Soviet youth in all aspects of the life of society.

90. Turning to the social situation in the world, he recalled that, according to United Nations estimates, general disarmament, whether complete or partial, would enable the rate of economic growth to increase by 1 to 2 per cent a year, and create the necessary conditions to satisfy basic needs in food, housing, training and health. According to some estimates, 8 to 10 per cent of the resources used for military purposes, would be enough to eliminate hunger and illiteracy from the world by the year 2000. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade highlighted the link between disarmament and development. In that respect, the USSR subscribed to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/18. It had repeatedly proposed that military spending should be reduced and that part of the resources thus released should be spent on the development of newly independent countries.

91. Colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and foreign occupation and domination also constituted major obstacles to economic and social progress. Those obstacles could be removed by making radical social and economic changes and by instituting international co-operation based on equality and mutual advantage. That was precisely the kind of co-operation relations which the Soviet Union had established with developing countries. The Soviet Government hoped that there could be a broad exchange of views within the United Nations on the experience of countries regarding major social and economic changes aimed at achieving social progress. The USSR, a country which 65 years ago had still been backward in many respects, particularly in the area of training, culture and medical services, had become an industrialized Power whose development was geared to satisfying the social and economic needs of its population, as demonstrated by the new directives proposed by the twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

92. The Soviet delegation hoped that the Third Committee would adopt resolutions that would make a useful contribution to social development, and was ready to co-operate fully with all delegations to that end.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.