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ON CIVIL AND
POLITICAL RIGHTS**



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**UN/SA COLLECTION
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Twentieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 469th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 27 October 1983, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. MAVROMMATIS

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 40 OF THE COVENANT (agenda item 6) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that the Working Group had decided unanimously that the report of Guinea would be considered, as planned, on 2 November, even if no representative of that country were present, and that Guinea would be informed immediately, by telegram, of that decision.

El Salvador (CCPR/C/14/Add.5) (continued)

2. Mr. OPSAHL welcomed the decision taken by the Committee, in consultation with the representative of El Salvador, not to postpone consideration of the situation in El Salvador. The large amount of useful information provided on El Salvador should be thoroughly examined. However, the Committee had notified the Salvadorian Government that it would appreciate a supplementary report giving a detailed account of the difficulties encountered in the application of the Covenant and dealing not only with legal but also with non-legal questions. In that connection, he too believed that, for the reasons given in paragraph 52 of the report of the Special Representative designated by the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1983/20), it would be preferable, when examining the information received, to classify violations in accordance with the actual circumstances in which they occurred. Given the spirit of co-operation shown by the Salvadorian Government, that procedure should not pose any problems for the Committee.

3. In order to examine the measures taken by the Government, more information was needed concerning the number of civilians killed in armed conflicts and also with regard to disappearances, torture, political prisoners and pressure brought to bear on defenders of human rights. The Committee should also be informed of the measures taken to ensure freedom of the press and religion and respect for the political rights set forth in article 25 of the Covenant. With regard to the present state of the judicial system in El Salvador, a fact-finding mission dispatched by the Bar Association of the City of New York had stated that the system of penal justice in El Salvador was in general disarray and that senior members of the judiciary were corrupt. Such statements compelled the Committee to raise certain questions, especially concerning the intimidation of judges, jurors and witnesses etc. He pointed out that insufficient resources were allocated to education and training in the legal profession which, consequently, left much to be desired. He shared the concerns of the members of the Committee and hoped that the current discussions would serve to clarify the replies provided by El Salvador.

4. Mr. BOUZIRI also welcomed the fact that the report of El Salvador was being examined at the Committee's present session, and he thanked the representative of El Salvador for the extremely clear account he had given of the critical situation in his country. The civil war in El Salvador was a tragedy to which no one could remain indifferent since the number of victims amounted to several thousand and 6,000 soldiers had been killed during the current year. However, he hoped for more exact details on the number of civilian victims and the circumstances in which they had died, as well as on the existence of torture. He would also appreciate information on the assassinations carried out by groups independent of the Government and by rightist extremists, on measures taken to punish those responsible, and on the groups that were controlling them and providing them with

weapons. He wished to know what sanctions were being taken against officials and other persons responsible for acts of torture, if such acts were really being committed. Further details were also needed concerning violations and abuses in the form of murders, torture, brutality, bombardments, etc. While welcoming the existence of a Commission on Human Rights in El Salvador, he wished to know to what extent human rights were being respected by the authorities and which freedoms had been restricted or suspended.

5. With regard to article 4, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, which stipulated that "no derogation from articles 6, 7, 8 ... may be made", he pointed out that the violent death of thousands of persons under torture or as a result of the war in effect constituted a violation of article 6, which declared the right to life. Although it was obvious that abuses were inevitable in any civil war, he wished to know what firm measures the Salvadorian Government had taken to restrict the infringement of public freedoms and the rights laid down in the Covenant. Another frequently mentioned aspect was the use of firearms by the security forces and it would be interesting to find out whether El Salvador was applying strict regulations on the use of such arms and whether, in spite of the state of emergency, punishment was inflicted on members of the police force who abused their authority. He shared the concern expressed by the members of the Committee with regard to problems relating to the civil war, individual security, rights and freedoms and hoped that a peaceful settlement would be achieved in the interests of the Salvadorian people and of the region as a whole.

6. The representative of El Salvador had indicated that, following its ratification by the Salvadorian national authorities, the Covenant had been incorporated in that country's internal law. However, paragraph (b) on page 3 of the report of El Salvador stated: "The provisions of the Covenant can therefore not be invoked directly before the judicial or administrative authorities". He wished to know whether that implied that internal law rather than the Covenant should be invoked.

7. He was glad that, unlike other governments, the Salvadorian Government had not regarded the first article of the Covenant as a mere preamble on which detailed information was not required. With regard to article 1, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, the report of El Salvador stated that Decree No. 207 of 28 April 1980 provided for the transfer of agricultural land to those who cultivated it, but that the application of that Decree had been provisionally suspended during the cotton and sugar-cane harvests. He wished to know why that agrarian reform had been blocked in that manner. According to certain sources of information, peasants had been given governmental authorization to organize a demonstration in the capital of El Salvador in order to demand the application of that agrarian reform, which was important and had a direct bearing on the civil and political rights of the population.

8. He was surprised that the report contained only two lines concerning article 1, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, for under the terms of that paragraph, all States had obligations with regard to colonized countries and the Committee should be informed of the measures taken by El Salvador to facilitate Namibia's achievement of independence and of the Salvadorian Government's position regarding the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

9. In his opinion, article 3 of the Covenant, concerning equality between men and women, related to one of the most important current issues. He was surprised, therefore, that the report devoted only a few lines to that matter. He would have liked to know how the absence of distinction on the basis of sex, as mentioned in the report, was reflected in actual practice; for example, it would be helpful to know the number of women working as members of Parliament, ministers, ambassadors, judges, lawyers and doctors and the percentage of women who had attended school. On page 32, the authors of the report had admitted that, in connection with the dissolution of marriage on grounds of adultery, there was no genuine equality between men and women. That was an important matter on which it would be useful to have further information since the absence of equality between the two basic components of the population of a country undermined the entire structure of the State.
10. With regard to article 6 of the Covenant, concerning the right to life, he noted that, as in the case of a large number of countries in the third world, El Salvador had an extremely high birth rate. He wondered whether the infant mortality rate was also high, and wished to know what the State was doing to prevent children from dying of hunger or malnutrition, for that also formed part of the obligation to guarantee the fundamental right to life. Since the Constitution of El Salvador stipulated that legal existence began at birth, it would be interesting to know the extent to which women had a right to abortion.
11. Finally, with regard to minorities, he wished to know the manner in which the country's minorities - which, although few in number, nevertheless existed in the sense understood in article 27 of the Covenant - were being encouraged by the Government to preserve their identity through the maintenance of their culture, customs and language.
12. In conclusion, he noted that the Human Rights Committee was not a tribunal and was not, therefore, entitled to pass judgement. Its task was to collaborate with Governments with a view to furthering the cause of human rights in States parties, particularly in the case of countries which were being torn apart by civil war, as was happening in El Salvador. He hoped that the Salvadorian Government would be taking the measures needed to put an end to acts of violence.
13. Mr. LOVO CASTELA (El Salvador) acknowledged that some points had not been clearly explained in the report. That was the case with regard to the status of the Covenant in the internal legislation of El Salvador. The provisions of the Covenant could not be invoked directly before the judicial or administrative authorities because, being incorporated in the country's internal legislation, they could be invoked only within the context of the latter.
14. Although it was true that there was no constitutional provision exempting pregnant women from the death penalty, that penalty had never been applied to any pregnant woman nor, moreover, to any woman since the mere fact of being a woman was regarded as a mitigating circumstance under Salvadorian legislation.
15. Divorce was governed by the provisions of the Civil Code which was of an earlier date than the Constitution. Since the latter had established the equality of men and women, the provisions of the Civil Code in that respect were in effect no longer applicable, and could be challenged on the grounds of their unconstitutionality.

16. Lastly, refusal to maintain relations with South Africa was a principle of Salvadorian policy. In 1979, El Salvador had withdrawn its honorary consulate and, since that time, had consistently condemned that regime and declared its solidarity with the Namibian people. His country had adopted a similar attitude with regard to the Palestinian people, whose inalienable rights it believed must be protected without, however, denying Israel the right to exist. It had been for that reason that El Salvador had recently participated in the International Conference on the Question of Palestine at Geneva.

17. Mr. TOMUSCHAT noted the Salvadorian Government's desire to promote peace and justice in the country, but observed that there was a wide gap between that noble ideal and the distressing reality. Recalling the provisions of the first paragraph of the preamble to the Covenant, he said that, without peace, the enjoyment of human rights was meaningless.

18. In his opinion, the references that had been made to foreign intervention in El Salvador did not reflect the real situation; it was incorrect to speak of foreign intervention unless that intervention took place against the will of the Government in power. It would be more correct, therefore, to speak of foreign aid, which every legitimate Government had the right to request. However, even if account were taken of a diligent propaganda campaign aimed at disparaging the action of the government forces, a large amount of reliable evidence indicated a highly alarming situation which presaged a total collapse of the country's political and social structures. In his view, the only way to put a stop to the fatal process of violence on which the country had embarked was through dialogue and in that connection he wondered whether the Government would accept the offer made by its opponents to begin negotiations without prior conditions.

19. In spite of the exceptional nature of the situation at present prevailing in El Salvador, the United Nations had apparently not been informed, as required under article 4, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, of measures derogating from some of the obligations of States parties to the Covenant. He emphasized that requirement because it was no mere formality: the very fact of being obliged to give notification of any derogation from the provisions of the Covenant, together with the reasons for such derogation, could lead Governments to abandon their plans with respect to certain derogations because, all things considered, they did not find them absolutely essential.

20. With regard to the derogations listed on page 11 of the report, he noted that no mention had been made of those relating to articles 9 and 14 of the Covenant and, in that connection, he pointed out that Decree No. 507 was hardly consistent with the provisions of the Covenant. For example, the decree stated that arrested persons could be held by the military forces during the first 15 days following their arrest, whereas the Covenant required such persons to be brought promptly before a judge, so as to ensure that their rights were not prejudiced during that critical period. Furthermore, the decree in question provided for a secret investigation procedure that was absolutely contrary to the provisions of article 14, paragraph 3 (b), of the Covenant, under which accused persons enjoyed the right to remain in contact with the outside world, which was essential to their defence. The same could be said of other provisions of the said decree which, for example, denied the right of the accused to examine, or have examined, the witnesses against him, as stipulated in article 14, paragraph 3 (e), of the Covenant. In his view, that was a flaw which opened the door to all kinds of abuses, including torture.

Although article 4 of the Covenant permitted measures derogating from some of the provisions of article 14, such measures must not go beyond "the extent strictly required by the exigences of the situation".

21. Turning to article 6 of the Covenant, he reiterated the questions already put in that connection and asked what practical steps had been taken to ensure that the law was respected by military and paramilitary forces. Although the representative of El Salvador had indicated that disciplinary action had been taken against members of the police force, he wondered whether there had been a single conviction for murder, given the fact that thousands of civilians had died as a result of the violence prevailing in the country.

22. The Salvadorian Government would have to make an enormous effort if it wanted to prevent the structures of the State from collapsing. However, he did not believe that the restoration of peace and so of the rule of law would be possible without a dialogue between the various parties concerned.

23. Mr. ERRERA stressed the extremely serious nature of the measures taken against persons belonging to various organizations endeavouring to defend and protect human rights and freedoms. The coincidence and the precision of the information received from a variety of sources could not but raise questions. Measures such as arbitrary arrest, sequestration, torture, assassination and enforced disappearance violated the fundamental provisions of the Covenant, and in particular articles 6 and 7, from which no derogation was permitted under any circumstances. It might well be asked why more attention should be paid to members of such organizations than to all the thousands of other persons who had died, disappeared or been tortured. The reason was that the efforts of those persons were directed towards ensuring that the public authorities respected the rights enjoyed by citizens under the provisions of the Covenant. To that end they collected and disseminated information on violations of human rights, a vital contribution which served as the basis for subsequent action by national and international organizations in providing material and moral assistance to victims of persecution and their families and endeavouring to safeguard human dignity under all circumstances and to emphasize the value of law and the human spirit as the only weapons with which to resist oppression. The work that they were accomplishing was equivalent to a moral and spiritual testimony.

24. As an example of torture and abduction followed by assassination, he quoted the cases of Mrs. Garcia Villas, President of the Salvadorian Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Henriquez, press attachée to the Commission and Mr. Valladares, who had also worked for that Commission. Persons working for Socorro Juridico, the Commission and the Archbishopric had also disappeared as a result of arbitrary arrest or abduction by police officers in plain clothes.

25. Those facts provided food for thought. It was impossible to consider them as an unfortunate series of accidents, isolated incidents or events attributable to particular local circumstances. It might well be wondered, therefore, if they were not the result of an official policy which had been deliberately conceived and knowingly carried out at all levels. That question called for an unequivocal and unambiguous reply. The presence in the Committee of representatives of the Salvadorian Government provided an opportunity to undertake with respect to that fundamental issue the dialogue to which the Committee attached such great importance.

26. Mr. LOVO CASTELA (El Salvador) said that he was greatly distressed at the statement of the previous speaker suggesting that it was the official policy of the Salvadorian Government to violate human rights. He rejected such an insinuation and drew attention to the evidence he had already given of the Salvadorian Government's concern for human rights, of the measures it had taken and of the efforts it was making to remedy a grave and exceptional situation. The Salvadorian Government could hardly be accused of persecuting its own agents. It was true that the Director-General of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been abducted for several days, and that a number of mayors and diplomats had been assassinated. The Government attributed those crimes largely to small clandestine groups of the extreme right, some of whose members had been prosecuted, although it was very difficult for the public authorities to combat terrorism. Moreover, delays in the administration of justice were due to the numerous possibilities for appeal under Salvadorian law, the heavy workload of the judiciary, the difficulty of gathering evidence when people were afraid to give legal testimony, and the terrorist attacks that had been made against the judicial authorities. It took great courage to be a judge in present circumstances in El Salvador.

27. He undertook to bring to the notice of the Salvadorian Government the observations made by several members of the Committee in connection with Decree No. 507 which had been promulgated as an exceptional measure to deal with an emergency situation and which, it was to be hoped would be repealed as soon as the new constitution had been adopted.

28. Mr. GRAEFRATH said that everyone was aware of the difficult situation in which the Salvadorian people were plunged, struggling as they were for their self-determination against military and paramilitary units and against the police whose actions had caused thousands of victims, especially among the civilian population.

29. If the provisions of the Covenant could be invoked before the courts, he wondered whether complaints relating to violations of the Covenant had already been brought before the courts since such a procedure would seem to be fully justified.

30. For the first time, apparently, the Committee found itself faced with a report which, after stating that human rights were enshrined in the Constitution, went on to list the provisions allowing for the possibility of the suspension of human rights in a state of emergency. The manner in which the facts were presented reflected the actual situation. The Constitution had in fact been replaced, for some years past by the regulations applicable in a state of emergency. It might well be wondered, then, why, contrary to the provisions of article 4, paragraph 3, of the Covenant, the Salvadorian Government had failed to inform the other States parties of the provisions from which it had derogated and of the reasons for that derogation. In addition, the report unfortunately contained little information on the consequences that a state of emergency entailed for human rights. The authors of the report had confined themselves to giving an indication, on page 11, of the rights affected by the state of emergency, without specifying its effects under the appropriate headings. Despite the assertion, on page 11, that "At no time do basic human rights ... go unprotected", nothing was known about the measures taken to curb violations and acts of terrorism. Furthermore, although the state of emergency had been suspended for a period of four days prior to the "free elections", it had nevertheless been reintroduced immediately after the elections.

31. He found it difficult to understand why mention of Decree No. 507 had been made between the comments on article 6 and those on article 7, rather than in connection with article 4 of the Covenant. The information provided with regard to articles 9, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21 and 22 made no reference to the restrictions imposed on the enjoyment of various rights under the state of emergency. A mere description of the constitutional provisions which would be applicable in the absence of a state of emergency shed no light on the real situation in the country with respect to human rights. Such information even in a sense contradicted that provided in connection with Decree No. 507.

32. Even more important was the situation regarding basic human rights which, according to the report, were at no time unprotected. The report implied that the rights guaranteed under articles 6 and 7 of the Covenant in particular were not being violated. Yet everyone had heard tell of organized crime - the representative of El Salvador himself had just given several examples of it - of arbitrary arrests, disappearances, torture, acts of terrorism committed against members of the medical profession, aerial bombardments of the civilian population and attacks on refugee camps. The report made no attempt to show that the Government was taking action against the persons responsible for those acts in cases where such persons were members of the paramilitary forces. It seemed that the authorities were not really opposed to those crimes. The Committee should be provided with explanations, at least in connection with the effective protection of the rights guaranteed under articles 6 and 7.

33. El Salvador would appear to be not in a state of emergency but rather in one of civil war, to which rules such as those of article 3 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War should apply. It was clear that the violations of human rights were connected with the political crisis and that the conflict had economic and social causes, which he would not go into. So long as it remained official policy to protect the power of some and to ensure the exploitation of the Salvadorian people, the violations of basic human rights would continue. The East-West conflict had nothing to do with the matter. The root of the problem lay in Salvadorian society itself. It was thus necessary to seek a political solution, and that required a determination to resolve the crisis and not merely to find another way of repressing a people struggling to secure respect for their rights.

34. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIC expressed the view that the unusual report before the Committee reflected a situation which was itself unusual. He was reluctant to engage in a discussion of the matter because not all the parties involved in the events in El Salvador were represented before the Committee, whose interlocutors were the representatives of a Government which was not the only element influencing the turn of events. Given the fact that, under the circumstances, the constitutional and legislative provisions were of no great interest, he welcomed the co-operativeness shown by the Government which appeared willing to reply to specific questions put by the Committee. In fact, rather than dwelling on the legal provisions, it would have been more useful if the report had explained the difficulties encountered in the application of the Covenant. The report was written as if the situation were absolutely normal, whereas in fact the country was struggling with a tragic situation which could not be ignored and in which it was impossible to speak of the primacy of law. The Committee should do its utmost to help improve the situation.

35. He shared the hopes expressed by other members of the Committee of seeing the beginning, in El Salvador, of the process of the creation of a new society, based on a national consensus and genuine legal reform, without any foreign intervention. He would confine his remarks to the articles of the Covenant from which derogation was not permitted in states of emergency, disregarding El Salvador's failure to provide notification of the state of emergency.

36. Since the representative of El Salvador had indicated that the Covenant formed part of the country's internal law, he would be interested to learn whether the provisions of the Covenant remained intact in spite of the adoption of decrees suspending various rights and freedoms and, in that connection, whether any persons had already invoked the Covenant before the courts or other judicial authorities and, if so, with what results.

37. With regard to article 6 of the Covenant, he wondered what supervision the public authorities were exercising over those who were helping them to combat the opposition and, in particular, over the five auxiliary services listed on page 14 of the report. Such supervision was particularly important in view of the fact that those five services were empowered to make arrests without a warrant, something which, in the situation prevailing, could rapidly degenerate into disappearances and assassinations. He would also like to know the exact number of persons who had disappeared and whether there was a governmental body to which the families of missing persons could apply for information. He was disturbed to note in the paragraph concerning temporary restrictions or limitations imposed by law on the enjoyment of rights (page 13 of the report), that "New and more effective procedures have therefore been established. Under the new procedures, persons under 16 years of age may also be tried for such crimes". He wondered whether that meant that the death sentence could be imposed on minors under 16 years of age and whether there had been any such case or if minors had always been granted a reprieve.

38. With regard to torture, although the representative of El Salvador had stated that sanctions had been imposed on some members of the police and related organizations, that affirmation seemed to be contradicted by information that had been brought to his attention. He therefore wished to know the exact number of police officers who had been tried and sentenced for acts of torture.

39. Concerning article 15, it would be useful to know whether the acts of terrorism, sabotage and subversion to which reference was frequently made in the report had always been designated as punishable offences under the Salvadorian Penal Code, i.e. before the proclamation of the state of emergency, or whether they had been so designated only recently, under the emergency decrees and, in particular, under Decree No. 507. In that connection, it should be noted that prolonged detention, which the authors of the report had declared to be possible in certain specific conditions, was equivalent to the infliction of a severe penalty. Even if there was no doubt as to the responsibility of the accused for the acts attributed to them, it was important to know whether persons could be convicted on the grounds of acts described in violent political terms but which were not designated as punishable acts under the Penal Code. It would also be useful to know what supervision the public authorities exercised over the officials empowered to arrest such persons.

40. With regard to article 18 of the Covenant, he inquired whether the information that he had received concerning the disappearance or death of a large number of university professors was correct and, if so, whether those acts were attributable to terrorist opposition forces or to governmental or pro-governmental forces, and whether the only fault of those professors had been that of expressing their views, which was a normal and desirable thing in university circles. He would also like to know whether those professors all held the same kinds of views, and if so, what those views were and why persons who held them were subject to persecution.

41. Mr. COORAY wished to know more about the instruction on the subject of human rights that was given not only to schoolchildren but also, and more particularly, to military personnel and prison staff, for that question was very important in view of the military situation in the country. For example, he wished to know whether the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials had been brought to their knowledge, and whether the abuses, which the representative of El Salvador had acknowledged with commendable frankness, had been committed through ignorance of those norms. In the context of public awareness of the problem of human rights, he wondered whether the Salvadorian authorities had informed the population of the country, through the media, that the Committee was about to consider their report.

42. The drafting of the new Constitution by the Legislative Assembly raised questions concerning the role of the media. In particular, he wished to know whether all the political parties had been able to hold meetings and campaign freely, how many newspapers had been suspended at the time of the elections, and whether such suspension had since been lifted.

43. Noting from the report (page 13) that new and more effective procedures had been established, he wondered as to the exact nature of those new procedures, the sanctions that they entailed, the safeguards provided in spite of the suspension of constitutional guarantees, and the possibility of appeal by convicted persons. He also sought further details on the role of the courts in guaranteeing the exercise of such rights of appeal and wondered whether detainees could receive visits from their families and lawyers with a view to taking the necessary steps to lodge an appeal.

44. Mr. HANGA welcomed the fact that the representative of El Salvador had been able to explain the situation in his country since the report submitted (CCPR/C/14/Add.5) was rather theoretical and could give the impression that the country was not facing any problems, which was not the case. The political parties had a major role to play in furthering the negotiating process which had begun in El Salvador with a view to the restoration of social peace and the establishment of a democratic system of government. However, he had noted from the report (page 11) that constitutional guarantees had been suspended "except in the case of political parties which were authorized to seek electoral support and carry out election propaganda without being subject to the restrictions imposed by the suspension of constitutional guarantees", which prompted questions concerning the criteria applied to decide that some parties might continue to enjoy their rights and not others.

45. The representative of El Salvador had explained how the culture of indigenous populations was protected in his country. Although such measures were highly commendable, it would be interesting to know to what extent those populations participated in political life and, for example, whether they were represented in parliament. The same question could be asked on the subject of women who sometimes played an influential role in the consolidation of peace. Recalling that the

United Nations had proclaimed 1985 as International Youth Year, he wondered whether the Salvadorian Government was taking any steps to ensure active participation in the life of the country by that important section of the population.

46. Emphasizing the cardinal importance of a real separation of powers with a view to precluding the negative aspects such as assassinations, disappearances, etc., to which reference had been made, he wondered whether there were any constitutional provisions to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and the legislature and administrative flexibility. In that connection, it would be useful to have information on the exact legal nature of the Salvadorian Commission on Human Rights and its legal links with the authorities in order to ascertain whether it came under the jurisdiction of the administration or the legislature.

47. The right to life, guaranteed under article 6 of the Covenant included the not unimportant matter of public health. It would be interesting to know whether the same public health facilities were provided in rural and urban districts since the economic difficulties facing El Salvador could easily lead to discrimination in that respect.

48. With regard to the freedom of thought and conscience enshrined in articles 18 and 19 of the Covenant, he requested clarification of the legal and practical significance of the expression "anarchical doctrines" (page 29) which could be interpreted in a variety of ways. He also requested information concerning the legislative provisions governing the fourth power in the State, namely the press, and wondered whether all newspapers really enjoyed the same rights. With regard to article 20 of the Covenant, the current legislation did not appear to contain any relevant provisions.

49. In conclusion, he wondered whether, in the new Constitution that was being drawn up, the provisions of the Covenant would be considered as forming part of the country's internal law or whether they would be regarded as constitutional rights, thereby ensuring their application in a highly effective manner.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.