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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:
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Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.7

1. Ms. RADIC (Yugoslavia) announced the drafting changes that had been agreed upon by the sponsors. In paragraph 6, the words "persons belonging to such minorities" should be inserted after "minorities", and the words "whenever such discrimination exists" after "populations". In paragraph 9, the words "in conformity with the Convention" should be inserted after "other measures", and the words "and persons belonging to such minorities" after "minorities".
2. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution had no financial implications and announced that Benin, Cape Verde and Yemen had become sponsors.

3. Mrs. ZOGRAFOU (Greece), speaking on behalf of the 10 member States of the European Community, said that they were ready to support the draft resolution, despite certain reservations. They vigorously condemned racism and racial discrimination and reaffirmed their commitment to combating those evils. They lent full support to the activities of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination but believed that if it was to perform its task effectively, it should not exceed its mandate, which was limited to the consideration of racial discrimination matters. It should not direct its work to particular situations in the way and to the extent that the resolution would enable it to do, nor was it entitled to impose on States parties any obligations not set out in the Convention. The Ten had reservations concerning the third preambular paragraph and paragraphs 3, 5 and 11. Their support for the draft resolution in no way implied a change in their attitude towards the resolutions on South Africa and Namibia referred to in paragraph 3 or to the United Nations Council on Namibia. They appealed to CERD not to become involved in matters extraneous to its work and to observe its mandate scrupulously.
4. Mr. RATHORE (India) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution because it fully supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Referring to paragraphs 6 and 9, however, he said that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination did not mention national or ethnic minorities, and the rights referred to must be understood strictly within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. Furthermore, the statement made by the representative of India during CERD's consideration of the Indian report had not been accurately reflected in the provisional summary record. Despite the fact that his delegation had submitted corrections, the Secretariat had not incorporated the necessary changes and he therefore requested that a suitable corrigendum should be issued.
5. The CHAIRMAN said that a separate vote on paragraphs 3 and 11 had been requested.
6. Paragraph 3 was adopted by 93 votes to none, with 20 abstentions.
7. Paragraph 11 was adopted by 88 votes to none, with 25 abstentions.
8. The CHAIRMAN said that if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution, as amended, without a vote.
9. It was so decided.
10. Mr. KAN (Malaysia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in the hope that it would contribute to eliminating apartheid, racism and racial discrimination throughout the world. Its support should not, however, be interpreted as prejudicial to its basic laws on the subject.
11. Mr. GERSHMAN (United States of America) said that his delegation had abstained during the voting on paragraph 3 because it had not wished to block the consensus on the draft resolution despite its reservations concerning paragraph 3, which

(Mr. Gershman, United States)

introduced political considerations outside the mandate of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The appeal to Member States to adopt effective political, economic and other measures to secure the elimination of apartheid was consistent with his country's position of promoting peaceful change in South Africa through political and positive steps. Such steps did not, however, include mandatory sanctions, which could be imposed only by the Security Council, nor did they include recourse to armed struggle. With regard to the references to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he recalled that his country had not participated in the activities related to the Decade, owing to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX), which had equated zionism with racism.

12. Mr. GEZER (Turkey) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, for it strongly condemned all forms of racism and racial discrimination. Some portions of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had been based on faulty, one-sided and irrelevant information provided by the Greek Cypriot authorities. His delegation had reservations on paragraphs 82 to 97 of the report and recalled that decision 127 had been declared null and void by the Turkish Cypriot authorities and his Government.

13. Mr. LILLO (Chile) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it attached great importance to the role of CERD in the struggle to eliminate racial discrimination. He hoped, however, that the politicized attitude of members of CERD, which threatened to distort its work, would be replaced by a more balanced approach.

14. Mrs. BORGES (Uruguay) said that her delegation's vote in favour of the draft resolution had been based on its position concerning the elimination of racial discrimination; however, it had reservations about paragraph 3 and had therefore abstained during the voting on it. South Africa's occupation of Namibia and its policy of apartheid were illegal, but a solution should be sought through peaceful means, in conformity with international law, and without prejudice to the competence of the United Nations.

15. Mr. RUSI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that they had consistently condemned all forms of racial discrimination and were parties to the Convention. They had joined in the consensus even though they had reservations concerning paragraphs 3 and 11. Neither the General Assembly nor the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination could impose obligations outside the terms of the Convention.

16. Mr. LERMAK (Austria) said his delegation welcomed the fact that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus, but it had reservations concerning the third preambular paragraph and paragraphs 3, 5 and 11, some elements of which were not consistent with the scope of the Convention and the Committee's mandate.

Draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1

17. Mrs. UMANA (Colombia) said that her delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/38/L.10/Rev.1, but with reservations. Colombia had always defended the right of every people to self-determination and had often pointed to the danger of using the most elemental human aspirations for political purposes that were in no way related to the people's desires. Many countries that were guilty of denying the people its rights nevertheless denounced human-rights violations in Latin America. Her delegation hoped that that fact would be kept in mind and that future resolutions would be more balanced.
18. Mr. GERSHMAN (United States), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that at the Committee's 22nd meeting, six States had criticized his country for the military action it had taken at the request of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and in co-operation with seven democratic States. The States which had voiced such criticism constituted an interesting collection of defenders of the right of self-determination: Viet Nam, which had invaded and still occupied Kampuchea; Laos, which was controlled by Viet Nam; Cuba, which specialized in the export of armed insurgency to other countries; Nicaragua, which openly declared its intention of extending its betrayed and repressive revolution to neighbouring States; Bulgaria, which was virtually an appendage of Moscow; and the Soviet Union itself, the godfather of that pleasant group, which held the distinction of maintaining, controlling through force and seeking to expand the world's last remaining empire. A decent group, whose members were all firmly committed to the principle of self-determination but gave it their own special meaning. Their definition presumably encompassed what had existed in Grenada after the so-called Revolutionary Military Council had seized power, murdered Prime Minister Bishop in cold blood and imposed a shoot-on-sight curfew which had constituted a clear and present danger to the lives of both United States citizens and Grenadians.
19. For the States he had mentioned, self-determination was compatible with terror, with the absorption of nations into the Soviet empire through force and with military build-ups which threatened neighbouring States: it was what served the interests of Soviet totalitarianism.
20. The United States had acted in Grenada in response to an urgent appeal from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, which, for its part, had been motivated by urgent security concerns stemming from recent events in Grenada and the build-up of Cuban and Soviet military forces there. Some might feel that Grenada's neighbours had had no reason to fear those developments, but the United States had felt otherwise. It had responded positively to the request for assistance because it had wished to rescue its own citizens, help restore peace and respect for human rights and assist in the re-establishment of free governmental institutions which would enable the Grenadian people to choose its own leadership and Government. The United States intended to withdraw its forces from Grenada as soon as possible.
21. And yet the Soviet Union, the destroyers of the Afghan nation and of so many others, had such contemptuous disregard for the truth as to speak about violations of the Charter and the overthrow of the "social system set up by the people of

(Mr. Gershman, United States)

Grenada". It had referred to the Afghan nation, which was resisting the Soviet Union's cruel domination, as professional murderers, but in fact the Soviet Union itself had been the murderer in Afghanistan ever since what it glowingly referred to as the Great Saur Revolution of April 1978. Almost immediately after the seizure of power by a Soviet-backed group, killing the President and his entire family, the Soviet Union had supervised an assault on Islam, with the arrest of Muslim clerics, a purge of devout officers and cadets and mass executions. The world might never know how many people had been executed during the first 18 months of the Great Saur Revolution.

22. Executions had not been the only form of Soviet-sponsored violence in Afghanistan during that period. Some 20 Soviet advisers had led Afghan troops in the massacre of an estimated 1,000 or more unarmed people in April 1979, and the slaughter was continuing. Several hundred men, women and children had reportedly been killed in fierce Soviet attacks on a village near Kabul in early October 1983. The Soviet policy of depopulation had not only caused thousands of deaths but also made Afghans the largest group of refugees in the world.

23. The people of Grenada would avoid the horrible fate of the Afghans: that was not a violation of the principle of self-determination but a vindication and defence of that principle.

24. Mrs. MARCOULLIS (Cyprus) reminded the representative of Turkey that the name of her country was the Republic of Cyprus, as recognized by all international and intergovernmental bodies. If Turkey insisted on using other names, it might very well hear itself called by other names than its own. With regard to the CERD decision on Cyprus, she said that that was not the only time Turkey had considered null and void the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, showing its flagrant violation of the principles and purposes of the Charter.

25. Mrs. FLOREZ PRIDA (Cuba) said that the words of the United States representative were slanderous and false. There had been many invasions by the United States of Caribbean and Central American countries during the past century, long before the Cuban revolution of 1959. Grenada was simply the latest link in a long chain of such violations of the self-determination of sovereign States. After the unfortunate events in Grenada leading to the assassination of the prestigious revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop and several of his praiseworthy collaborators, the Government of Cuba had issued an official communiqué on 20 October which gave a detailed explanation of what had happened, expounding the position of Cuba in relation to those events and warning of the possibility that imperialism would try to take maximum advantage of the tragedy. The communiqué had stressed above all Cuba's firm policy of abstaining absolutely from interference in the internal affairs of the party and people of Grenada. The communiqué also stated that the group of Cuban construction workers and other collaborators, including doctors, teachers, technicians and members of a small military mission who were advising the Grenadian armed forces, would be maintained in Grenada in order not to affect services which were indispensable to the people. Although Cuba's relations with the new Government had yet to be defined, from the moment when the advance of

(Mrs. Florez Prida, Cuba)

powerful United States naval forces towards Grenada had been announced, it had become morally impossible to consider the evacuation of Cuban personnel. The weapons in the hands of the Cuban construction personnel and collaborators in Grenada had been provided to them by Prime Minister Bishop and other leaders of the party and Government of Grenada to defend themselves in case of outside aggression against Grenada, which had in fact occurred. They were basically light infantry weapons. The tremendous resistance to the invasion showed the bravery of the Cuban people and their readiness to defend Cuba's national honour and its revolution. As the representative of Cuba had said in the Security Council on 26 October, the forces of imperialism currently being used against Grenada could be used in the same way in the future against Nicaragua, Cuba, or any other country. Should that occur, Cubans would know how to defend their land with the same heroism and tenacity as their compatriots who had died in Grenada.

26. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the United States had spoken of his country as being subject to control by another country. Such accusations were shopworn and ridiculous. After occupying his country for a considerable time and even bombing it with 3 million tons of bombs, the Government of the United States was now saying that his country was controlled by another. It was understandable that the United States was disappointed that it could no longer occupy his country, but he could not understand why the United States was not ashamed to voice that disappointment aloud in the Committee. With reference to the aggression against Grenada, he recalled that that country's representative, Mr. Jacobs, had said at the Security Council meeting held on Tuesday, 25 October, that it was well known that Grenada was a very small and poor country and could never be expected to be able to fight a country as big and as sophisticated as the United States. Therefore, it was not surprising that Grenada was suffering heavy casualties. But it was nevertheless continuing to fight and to resist the actions of the United States, and it looked to its friends and to the international community generally to examine carefully what was happening in Grenada and ask themselves whether that was a fair way in which to deal with international affairs in 1983. That statement proved that there had been criminal aggression on the part of the Government of the United States. What was difficult to understand was why the United States delegation was not ashamed to defend such a policy of aggression. He urged the United States to withdraw its troops immediately.

27. Mrs. BELLORINI PARALES (Nicaragua) said that the delegation of Yankee imperialism had attempted to justify the United States invasion of Grenada by quoting the Prime Minister of Dominica and by saying that it had been requested to intervene by a group of Caribbean countries, which were in fact a small group of puppet States. That was not the first time the United States had referred to "democracy" in justifying its over 200 acts of invasion in the Caribbean and Central America. But its true objectives were to impose a system of government that favoured United States strategic interests. Grenada was actually the victim of an unprovoked and unjustified attack in clear violation of international law. As for Nicaragua, it had never declared that it wished to export its revolution, but it could not prevent other peoples from seeing the good example of the Sandinista popular revolution.

28. Mrs. KOLAROVA (Bulgaria) said that the United States had carried out naked aggression, intervention and occupation of a sovereign, independent State Member of the Organization that did not pose any threat either to its neighbours or to the United States. That had been done in total violation of the principles of the Charter and all norms of conduct in international relations. Such intervention was part of the United States policy in Latin America, Central America and the Caribbean, a policy characterized by the attitude that Central America was the backyard of the United States. An article published in the magazine U.S. News and World Report had enumerated 32 cases of United States military intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, including the 1914 episode in Haiti, when, to force repayment of a loan, United States Marines had landed and had carried half the gold in Haitian bank vaults back to the United States. She wondered whether, to please the United States, delegations were expected to approve the actions of a country in whose history there were names such as Hiroshima, Tonkin, Batista and Somoza. Campaigns of slander against socialist countries were an integral part of the "crusade" against communism and were comparable to the years of McCarthyism; such distortions of the truth had become a characteristic of United States policy and the hallmark of the current Administration.

29. Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the representative of the United States had resorted to crude slander against sovereign States, including the Soviet Union. Those allegations were unworthy and shameful and had only one purpose: to divert world opinion from the crime. Grenada had been subjected to invasion on the pretext of ensuring the safety of United States citizens, mostly students. But there had been no threat to the students, who had themselves implored the United States Administration not to intervene. The attack was an attempt to drown in blood the right of a whole people to sovereign existence. It was direct armed aggression against a peace-loving people and an attempt to frighten other freedom-loving people in Latin America. The Government of the United States had demonstrated its complete disregard for international law and the principle of self-determination, dragging in the mud the principles of the Charter. The Soviet Union strongly condemned the United States aggression against Grenada, branding it a crime against peace and against mankind. It was the duty of all peoples to act resolutely against Washington's arbitrariness and aggression. The aggression against Grenada must be quickly ended, and Grenadians must be given their freedom to continue to live as they saw fit.

30. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan) said, in reply to the representative of the United States, that that country was interested in Afghanistan as a potential bridgehead on the southern frontiers of the Soviet Union. The April 1978 national-democratic, anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution had seriously hampered United States penetration of the region. During 1979 the scale of aggression had grown to such an extent that it not only posed a real danger to the country's territorial integrity but threatened a total loss of independence. A Swiss newspaper had reported an airborne troop-landing operation scheduled for early 1980, in which mercenary units based in Pakistan were to seize all major Afghan towns "to put a final end to the new régime". No national resistance existed in Afghanistan, and every day people's trust in the party and the Government was growing. But the United States was exporting armed bandits in violation of the right of self-determination of the Afghan people, and depriving that people of its right to

(Mr. Nabel, Afghanistan)

live in peace. The fall of the Daud régime in less than 24 hours had been a sign of his nation's complete support and trust for the revolution and its hatred of the oppressive Daud régime. He rejected utterly the false reports put forward by the representative of the United States about the district of Istalif. He was sure that people in Istalif were enjoying a peaceful life and would be surprised to hear such slanderous allegations. He cited a United States labour leader's statement that if the United States gave up its attempts to alter the existing system with the help of counter-revolutionary forces, Soviet troops would immediately leave Afghanistan. What the Soviet Union had done was not intervention but a security measure necessitated by a threat to its borders. Imperialism dreaded social revolution, and that was why it took such pains to ignore or distort and slander everything that had happened and was still happening in Afghanistan.

31. Mr. GERSHMAN (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he would not reply to the statements just made. He merely wished to draw to the attention of the Committee the following extract from a statement made on the evening of 26 October by the Prime Minister of Barbados to his people:

"The pros and cons of the actions of the Caribbean Governments will long be debated. So will those of President Reagan in coming to our aid. But I think that history will agree with the verdict of public opinion in the eastern Caribbean. There has seldom in these islands been such virtual unanimous support in the media and at the political and popular levels for an action so potentially divisive. West Indians have shown that we have a view of our future that is democratic, peace-loving, devoted to constitutional and not arbitrary government. We have shown that we can cut through the sometimes artificial controversies generated by today's media and go right to the heart of things - what is best for our people. The United States and President Reagan have, to their eternal credit, concurred in our views and have come to the same conclusion as we have."

32. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had now concluded its consideration of agenda items 82, 83, 86 and 87.

AGENDA ITEM 84: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/460; A/C.3/38/L.12)

AGENDA ITEM 85: WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION (continued)

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33. Mr. JHA (Nepal) said that the General Assembly's decision to observe the International Youth Year had been a major step in promoting the interests of young people all over the world, and the choice of 1985 made it possible to adopt a medium-term and long-term approach which would certainly increase its significance. Nepal supported that decision and believed that it offered a sound basis for integrated action, particularly at the national and local levels in the economic, social and cultural fields. Nepal was also pleased to learn that the five regional preparatory meetings had been successful and had resulted in the adoption of regional plans of action.

34. The strategy of IYY had rightly emphasized the importance of national and regional action for the successful implementation of United Nations resolutions and observance of the Year. His delegation believed that youth policies and programmes could not be successfully implemented unless they were based on long-term planning. In that connection, his delegation noted with satisfaction that all five regional meetings had strongly recommended that a long-term global plan of action should be adopted at the International Conference on Youth. Nepal had established a national co-ordinating committee for IYY which included youth representatives from all segments of society. That committee would be responsible for the planning and co-ordination of the activities of the Government and of non-governmental organizations and would serve as a liaison body in relations with the United Nations. Nepal believed that the action suggested in paragraphs 84 to 93 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/460) were of great significance and hoped that such action would facilitate the promotion of IYY and the improvement of the situation of youth all over the world. Nepal also believed that the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations should be constantly and consistently enlarged and improved in order to ensure widespread awareness of IYY and participation in its activities.

35. Mrs. SALZLER (German Democratic Republic) said that the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons represented support for all Governments striving to solve a number of social, economic and medical problems. Her delegation, which had supported the adoption of the World Programme, welcomed the exchange of experience that would be undertaken under the Programme, and it would participate actively in translating that Programme into action. In the German Democratic Republic, the almost 18 per cent of the population who were of retirement age enjoyed the assistance and support of the entire society. They received free health care, suitable dwellings, meals and cultural entertainment. In addition, those people still working were taught how to live an active and rich life in their old age.

(Mrs. Salzler, German
Democratic Republic)

36. In the German Democratic Republic, comprehensive care was provided for the disabled and special attention was paid to the education and training of disabled children in order to develop their physical and intellectual capabilities. Ninety per cent of those children and young people in need of care who could not be effectively educated or trained were looked after in special institutions of public health service and by the Church. Increasingly, possibilities were being created for the disabled to enjoy their leisure time, and in that connection, tours were offered by trade unions to about 13,000 disabled persons each year. In the German Democratic Republic, a central working group had been established to carry out activities throughout the entire Decade of Disabled Persons.

37. The German Democratic Republic believed that the problem of satisfying the urgent needs of people, whether aged, disabled or belonging to other groups, could not be regarded as separate from the problems which threatened mankind. Those who were honest about the protection of human life and the improvement of living conditions must make every effort to prevent the use of the most sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. The United Nations should therefore regard it as its foremost task to preserve mankind from the terror of war and put a stop to preparations for nuclear warfare.

38. Mr. POLOWCZYK (Poland) said that the most important question for young people and for their respective societies was that of peace. Preservation of world peace had today become the most pressing task of all mankind. In the nuclear era, with immense potential for destruction, any conflict that involved nuclear weapons could cause inconceivable losses and suffering to hundreds of millions of people and virtually put an end to civilization. The continued arms race posed the greatest menace to peace, and therefore the forces of confrontation must be contained. Contradictions between socialism and capitalism must be solved without war, for history proved that social progress was dependent on the preservation of peace. Peaceful economic, scientific and cultural co-operation was in the interest of all nations.

39. It was particularly noteworthy that the preparations for the International Youth Year coincided with an economic crisis of global dimensions. Young people as a social group were acutely affected by its effects. Inability to obtain employment or to continue one's education frequently led to frustration and alienation from society. His delegation believed that IYY should be a milestone in creating in the societies of developed and developing countries an increased awareness of the problems facing youth and the ways to solve them. His Government attached great importance to the development of youth and its participation in Polish society. It had developed active policies and programmes for youth and had resolved that the improvement of living conditions of young people and young families should be a fundamental precept of social policies. The implementation of virtually all components of the Government's programme had been in progress for more than a year and had led to the establishment of a legal and organizational infrastructure to be used in solving the problems of young people. Preparations for the establishment of the IYY Committee in Poland were under way and that would facilitate the observance and success of IYY both at home and abroad.

40. Mr. VEITIA (Venezuela) said that his country welcomed the designation of 1985 as International Youth Year and was a member of the Advisory Committee. The International Youth Year would provide a valuable opportunity for appraising national policies and for drawing up and carrying out new policies and programmes on youth, particularly in problem areas. The international and regional interest that the United Nations was promoting would facilitate mobilization of the necessary human and financial resources and the provision of technical co-operation; and the opening of channels of communication linking young people and youth organizations with Governments and international organizations would improve the exchange of information on the needs and aspirations of youth.

41. With regard to the three themes for International Youth Year, he said that his country was aware of the need to intensify participation so that young people, along with other groups of society, might help in promoting social, cultural and economic development. Development plans should therefore take account of the essential problems and requirements of the younger generation, including the need for structural changes and the provision of employment, income, education, health care, housing and social services. Special attention should be given to disadvantaged young people who had in the past gained little benefit from the processes of participation and development.

42. In the present troubled international situation, with conflicts between neighbouring countries in Central America, in the Middle East and elsewhere, it was vital to educate young people to work for the well-being of mankind, for peace and for the struggle for independence and self-determination. Young people should be enabled to use their knowledge, creative ability and inventiveness in efforts for international peace, prevention of war, an end to the arms race, general and complete disarmament, and the promotion of social progress and development. Participation, development and peace were closely linked.

43. In Venezuela an International Youth Year Committee had been established in September 1983, under the chairmanship of the Minister for Youth, to draw up a plan of activities for the International Youth Year, with the active participation of young people. That Committee was assisted by an Executive Commission, with national and international advisers from UNESCO, the Organization of American States, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for Youth.

44. Venezuela was a member of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year and had attended its two sessions. It had also participated as an observer in the seminar organized in June 1983 by the World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows, which had produced valuable recommendations for providing greater opportunity for young people of the third world to take advantage of fellowships and other training facilities under the United Nations youth programme.

45. At the regional level, Venezuela had assisted in the establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Centre for Youth, concerned with training young people and developing their character and with measures to ensure their full participation in national development. The Minister for Youth had conducted negotiations with

(Mr. Veitia, Venezuela)

the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay, and contacts had been established with UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies. At a meeting, held at Caracas in September 1983, of plenipotentiaries of the Latin American and Caribbean Governments which had supported the agreement establishing the Centre and had taken part in the first meeting of its Board, Venezuela had been chosen as the host country for the Centre and a representative of Venezuela had been elected Director-General.

46. Venezuela had been giving increasing attention to the problems of youth in the past 25 years, and the Ministry for Youth had been set up in 1977 to co-ordinate national policy on children, youth and the family and to ensure the participation of youth in the country's economic and social development. The Ministry's activities covered children, youth, the family, sports and recreation, with special emphasis on the creative use of leisure time. Efforts were being made to improve information services for youth on such matters as studies, employment, civic responsibilities and cultural activities, and experimental employment programmes were being established to facilitate the incorporation of youth into the active life of society. Venezuela was a young nation, 75 per cent of the total population being less than 29 years old. He appealed to everyone concerned to make every effort to publicize the International Youth Year, with a view to ensuring the participation of the large numbers of young people, particularly rural and unorganized young people, who were as yet unaware of it.

47. Mr. NABIEL (Afghanistan) said that the International Youth Year offered a valuable opportunity to review youth policies and programmes and adopt measures to ensure the integration of youth into the development process. Young people had enormous potential for solving the vital problems of strengthening international peace, and that potential should not be wasted in a world where peace and security faced an ever-growing threat through the escalation of the arms race and the aggravation of economic and moral crises. Unfortunately, young people in many class-based societies were victims of unemployment, drug addiction, injustice and discrimination. In that connection, he reminded members of the tens of thousands of young Namibians deprived of their fundamental human rights - even the right to life - and of the heroic young Palestinians, expelled from their homeland and deprived of their rights, and those young people who were still subjected to cruel Zionist oppression in the occupied Arab territories. Young people should be taught to love one another, to fight for peace, security, justice and national independence, and against injustice, war - especially nuclear war - prejudice, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism, neo-colonialism and intervention.

48. In the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, despite a disordered economy inherited from previous régimes and despite the undeclared war unleashed against the country by world imperialism and by reactionary forces in the region, due attention was being paid to young people, their problems and their future in accordance with article 26, paragraph 2, of the Fundamental Principles of the Republic. The Government had devoted a large proportion of its budget to the education of youth, and young people enjoyed free medical care and free school and university education. The Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, affiliated

(Mr. Nabel, Afghanistan)

with the World Federation of Democratic Youth, played an important role in mobilizing youth in the struggle for peace and other important causes at the national, regional and international levels, and the educational institutions and DYOA had initiated mass media campaigns to publicize that role. Young people were taking an active part in the campaign to abolish illiteracy; over a million people had learned to read and write since the Revolution.

49. The Afghan Government attached great importance to the education of youth and was building new schools, upgrading existing ones, increasing total enrolment, expanding teaching in the mother tongue of each region, and expanding higher education and teacher training. Importance was also attached to science and technology.

50. The Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan had received many youth delegations from different countries and had sent delegations to many international gatherings, including the World Assembly for Peace and Life, Against Nuclear War held at Prague in June 1983.

51. His country fully supported General Assembly resolution 37/50 on channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, resolution 37/49 on efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to education and to work, and especially resolution 37/16 declaring 1986 to be the International Year of Peace. In that connection, it endorsed the comment in paragraph 8 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/38/460): "It is essential to recognize that peace and the interests of youth are indivisible; that youth has the capacity to promote peace ... and that young people have an active role to play in the promotion of peace".

52. Mr. DARWISH (Egypt) said that the importance of the items under discussion stemmed from the close link of youth to peace and development. The energies of youth were being abused in wars at a time when they should be directed towards peace and development in order to create opportunities for work and better living conditions for present and future generations. Youth should be taught how to live in harmony in a destabilized world and should learn more about the evils of apartheid and racial discrimination and how to fight them.

53. His delegation noted with satisfaction that progress had been made at the regional level in strengthening the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations, and it believed that more efforts in that direction should be made, so as to ensure the success of the International Youth Year. Egypt attached great importance to the participation of youth in all aspects of life, particularly in the solving of social problems. Egyptian young people participated in programmes to eradicate illiteracy and those relating to family planning and birth control. They also played a basic role in reconstructing Egyptian cities and towns that had been destroyed in past wars. The Egyptian Higher Council for Youth and Sports organized exchange programmes, on an annual basis, between young Egyptians and young people from different parts of the world in order to promote better understanding among youth.

54. Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia), speaking on agenda items 84 and 88, said that Bolivia attached particular importance to the role of youth and had set up a special department for youth and sports with a view to enabling young people to play a greater part in discussing national problems and their solutions. A youth leadership institute had also been established to train leaders of co-operatives. The President of Bolivia had convened a national congress of democratic youth for November 1983, to deal with the activities of youth in the development process.

55. As a country with different ethnic population groups, including Aymará and Quechua, Bolivia attached great importance to educational and social training for its young people. A seminar on intercultural and bilingual education held in August 1983 to deal with the national literacy and popular education plan had recommended that Aymará and Quechua should be made official languages and that basic education should be bilingual. In connection with International Literacy Day, a national literacy department had been set up to prepare a plan for the active participation of youth in eradicating illiteracy. However, the success of such programmes required collaboration and participation by international organizations, such as UNESCO and the Organization of American States, and support and technical and economic assistance from the international community.

56. Plans under the programme for the International Youth Year included youth leadership courses, voluntary service programmes, road-building, afforestation, community service, measures to control the massive movement of young people from rural and peripheral areas to towns, artistic, cultural and craftwork activities, and the expansion of sports as an essential element in maintaining healthy and progressive youth. A youth shelter was to be built to provide food, clothing and technical and scientific training for needy young people migrating from rural to urban areas. Those activities were to be conducted under the supervision of the National Department for Youth and Sports.

57. Bolivia had always maintained close links with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) in organizing subregional meetings to expand channels of communication between youth organizations and the United Nations system, and it welcomed the World Health Organization's publications on youth, including information on drug abuse, smoking and alcohol. Her Government was making a particular effort to ensure that young rural and factory workers, miners and labourers should be assured better living conditions and greater participation in national affairs. Bolivia was one of the 72 Member States which were setting up International Youth Year committees.

58. Mr. TALVITIE (Finland), speaking on agenda item 85 (c), on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and his own country, said that the Nordic countries had unfortunately been unable to participate in the International Seminar on Popular Participation held at Ljubljuna in 1982. They recognized that popular participation was an important factor in development and in the realization of human rights and that the concept was a reflection of certain provisions of the International Covenants and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the rights to self-determination, education, freedom of association and the formation of trade unions. The notion of popular participation was aptly described in the summary of the debate in the Commission on Human Rights (paragraph 5 of document A/37/338) as taking on "many different forms in different societies, ranging from a

(Mr. Talvitie, Finland)

strategy to mobilize national human resources for development to a transfer of power to people by virtue of their involvement in all decision-making on matters affecting their well-being and their role in society". The Nordic countries appreciated the valuable work done thus far in finding a more precise definition of participation, although discussion had focused strongly on the participation of workers in management and, more generally, in economic and social development. The Nordic countries, as societies with a long-standing tradition of trade-union participation, acknowledged the importance of workers' participation in decisions and developments affecting their conditions and appreciated the important work in that field being done by the International Labour Organisation. However, they felt that it was necessary to broaden the scope of discussion on popular participation. From the standpoint of the Nordic concept of democracy and social responsibility, participation should include such activities and institutions as political life and community development, research and technological development, mass media and information, trade unions and other mass organizations. Participation should stem from people themselves, as a process starting and gaining its strength from the grass-roots level. Governments should not shirk their responsibilities in the development and practice of popular participation.

59. Discussions on popular participation should concentrate on specifically defined subjects. In that connection, the Nordic countries wished to draw special attention to the co-operative movement, which had been an integral part of their economic and social structure and development during the past century. Co-operatives had contributed successfully to the development process in the Nordic countries, both in their development from predominantly agrarian economies to industrial economies and also in the modernization of the agrarian sector. The success and expansion of co-operatives had also shown their adaptability to the economic needs of society at different stages of development. What had begun, before the turn of the century, as a local self-help movement had now grown into an integral part of the national economy in such fields as consumer service, agriculture, industrial production, housing credit and insurance, thereby helping to raise the standard of living and social welfare. The social and cultural aspects of the co-operatives had been particularly beneficial.

60. The Nordic countries supported the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movements (A/38/63), in particular the reference to movement-to-movement programmes as a means of fostering ties between developed and developing countries. The Nordic countries had contributed to the mobilization and support of co-operatives in the developing countries, bilaterally as well as through international organizations and jointly financed Nordic co-operative projects. They worked directly with the co-operative movements in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Kenya. They urged continued effort to support co-operatives as a particularly relevant means of achieving a pattern of development aimed at popular participation and programmes involving the poor. It was important to secure the broad and continuing interest of the United Nations in co-operative movements.

61. The Nordic countries would concentrate on the further definition of the concept of popular participation as a prerequisite for more sustained development and an important factor in the realization of human rights.

62. Mrs. KHAMISANI (Pakistan) expressed the whole-hearted support of her Government and people for the decision to designate 1985 as International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace. Her delegation was encouraged by the steps taken at the national, regional and international levels in connection with the Year, and it hoped that the deliberations of the Advisory Committee would provide added impetus for the Year's programmes and activities. Ensuring the proper development of young people was an enormous task because of an expected increase in the youth population by about 60 per cent between the years 1975 and 2000. A major effort on the part of the international community was required. The developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America had a particularly difficult task and deserved maximum co-operation from the international community.

63. Her own country had taken a number of steps to ensure the success of the Year. It had established a National Co-ordination Committee for the Year and adopted other measures to provide its young people with the necessary facilities in health, in education and training, and in recreation to promote their development and growth and to ensure that they fulfilled their role as responsible members of society. The Government was managing a number of training and job opportunity schemes for young people, and an all-Pakistan youth conference was planned for late November 1983. The Youth Affairs Ministry was compiling a directory of all youth organizations in Pakistan, and young Pakistanis were being encouraged to participate in international youth conferences in other countries.

64. Her Government fully supported the International Plan of Action on Aging and hoped that all necessary steps would be taken for its implementation. Statistics on the growth of the aging population world-wide underlined the necessity of co-ordinated measures by the international community to ensure that the aging could make their due contribution in the cultural, socio-economic and spiritual fields. Her delegation had taken note of the activities funded in various countries with the help of the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, and it hoped that Member States would continue to support the Fund.

65. The extended family system was an important source of economic and social security for the aging in her country. Her Government was, however, well aware of the need to take special measures for the welfare of the aging, since the number of people aged 60 or over in Pakistan was expected to reach about 16 million by the year 2000. A National Committee on Aging had been formed and had prepared a national plan of action aimed at enabling the aging population to enjoy a life of fulfilment, health, security and contentment in their own families and communities. All possible efforts were being made to ensure the implementation of that plan.

66. Her Government had participated enthusiastically in the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981. The Year had not only increased social awareness of the rights of the disabled to proper care, welfare, training and rehabilitation but had led to several steps by the Government to ensure the well-being of the disabled in Pakistan. Four model centres had been established in the capital, one for each of the major categories of disablement - the deaf, the blind, the physically disabled and the mentally retarded - to be replicated by provincial governments and voluntary agencies. A special fund for the welfare and rehabilitation of the

(Mrs. Khamisani, Pakistan)

mentally retarded and physically disabled had been established by the federal Government. A law establishing a 1 per cent compulsory quota for the employment of the disabled in governmental and non-governmental organizations had also been passed. The Government had declared the period from 1982-1991 as the "Decade of the Disabled Persons in Pakistan", and a 10-year National Programme for the Welfare and Development of the Disabled had been prepared and was being implemented.

67. She expressed her support for the continuation of the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons, which, she was convinced, would provide Governments with much-needed assistance in the implementation of the World Programme of Action.

68. The views expressed at the preceding session by her delegation concerning the world social situation remained valid. She wished, however, to draw attention to the continued stagnation of the world economy and to widening disparities between the developing and developed countries in various aspects of well-being. In 1982, output in the developing countries had failed to increase for the first time in the post-war period. Worsening economic conditions naturally led to worsening living conditions for large sections of most societies and reduced the resources available for improving the quality of life, leading to aggravated social tensions. The trend was especially alarming because of the weakening will to promote international co-operation in economic and social fields. She called for the early start of global negotiations to promote international economic co-operation and the establishment of an equitable international economic order. Only increased international co-operation could provide an assured basis for the sustained, evenly distributed growth that was a prerequisite for the economic and social well-being of the people. She also appealed for a drastic reduction in the wasteful expenditure on armaments so that resources could be released for development and progress, especially in the developing countries.

69. The primary responsibility for the social and economic progress of a country belonged to its people and Government. Her Government fully endorsed the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and had taken steps to improve social conditions, particularly in the areas of employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, and the welfare of young people, women and children. A comprehensive programme of social welfare was in operation at the federal and provincial levels. Increased emphasis was being placed on popular participation in social and economic development activities through the country's Community Development Programme. There were at present 197 community development projects in operation.

70. The international community was becoming increasingly aware of the need to improve the well-being of young people, the aging and the disabled, as well as that of people in general. The major obstacles in the developing countries were underdevelopment and a lack of resources. It was futile to expect improvements in the quality of life in those countries when they were faced with serious economic difficulties. The need for international co-operation to tackle the problems of both the developing and the developed countries was greater than ever before. Unless such co-operation was forthcoming, hopes of improving the quality of life for the majority of the world's people would remain unfulfilled.

71. Miss THOMPSON (United Kingdom) said that young people all over the world should be offered, and encouraged to take, the opportunity to participate in the International Youth Year, not just as audience or in bit parts but as the main actors and actresses. Older people had valuable experience, but they could not know what young people wanted. That participation should include the planning of the International Youth Year: young people did not want its content prescribed for them by their elders. They wanted the opportunity to play the active, practical, imaginative and fresh role so important to the success of the Year and of their own future. She wished, in passing, to remind her colleagues that "youth" included young women as well as young men.

72. Participation must be encouraged. People learned more from being thrown in at the deep end of the pool than by sitting on the side observing. The United Kingdom encouraged its youth to swim and was, in return, willing to dive in with assistance. Young people hoped that their International Year would demonstrate to youth everywhere that the United Nations too, was a practical body ready to listen to them and give them centre stage for the Year, and equipped to play an important role in their future and that of generations to come. Young people hoped that they made a valuable contribution to their societies, but sometimes they had to shout to be heard. Channels of communication were essential to participation.

73. Development, of course, meant evolution and growth, but young people wanted to be sure that it was positive evolution, positive growth, capable of giving future generations a foundation to build upon. They saw the International Youth Year as an important link in the chain of positive development, but the chain was endless. She hoped that the heightened attention given to the needs of youth during the Year would not be looked upon as an effort for some unique opportunity but would be continued. The achievements of the Year must be built upon, and the building must continue upwards and outwards for the benefit of all.

74. The great technical advances of recent years had provided unprecedented capabilities; unhappily, that included an increased capability for destruction. The older generation was largely responsible, but the younger generation had most to lose. Young people were rightly terrified by the legacy for self-destruction handed them by their elders. They did not wish to see their Year used by others for narrow political purposes; they wanted to use it themselves to promote international understanding, to diminish their sense of fear, and to find peace. Their three goals of the Year presented an exceptional challenge, but the young were optimistic.

75. One of her country's many traditions was active and positive participation by young people. It had a youth programme run by various volunteer organizations, many of which the Government helped to maintain. At the Government's invitation, co-ordinating committees had been established in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - a fact which, regrettably, was not recognized in the Secretary-General's report (A/38/460) although it had been drawn to the Secretariat's attention.

(Miss Thompson, United Kingdom)

76. Cash shortages did not plague individuals alone. Governments were, almost without exception, experiencing budgetary problems. Given those constraints, they could not pump limitless amounts into a bottomless coffer labelled "youth". Like individuals, government-funded organizations must be encouraged to work within their allocated budgets, cutting back on luxuries in order to be able to afford essentials. The youth of today could tell the difference between projects that had practical, useful results and those that were designed by bureaucrats for other bureaucrats. World conferences on youth, declarations on youth, decades for youth and the like might be fine-sounding concepts and would doubtless provide work and distraction for bureaucrats; however, they bore little, if any, relation to the practical needs and aspirations of young people. Young people wanted the resources available for their Year to be allocated to projects of benefit to them.

77. The youth of a nation were the trustees of posterity. They should be encouraged to show their talents in the best possible light during the International Year. That spirit would continue to guide her country's approach to IYY.

78. Mr. VOICU (Romania) repeated his request that when the documentation on regional activities associated with the International Youth Year was issued, he should be notified. A number of recommendations by regional meetings were not reflected in the documentation thus far before the Committee. Since discussion of the item would soon be concluded, delegations would have no opportunity to discuss such regional initiatives, whether they wished to or not.

79. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) assured the representative of Romania that his request would be given due attention by the department concerned.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.