



VERBATIM RECORD (PARTIAL) OF THE 46th MEETING**

Chairman: Mr. PIZA-ESCALANTE (Costa Rica)
later: Mr. ORTNER (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 32: POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued)

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ENGLISH

AGENDA ITEM 32 (continued)POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA (A/SPC/33/5)

Mr. CHANDRA (World Peace Council): I would like to express the gratitude of the World Peace Council to the President of the General Assembly and to the Special Political Committee for permitting us to take part in the debate on this vital question of the apartheid policies of the South African racist régime.

We are at this moment approaching the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, and I would like to begin my statement by recalling the words which were uttered some 17 years ago, on 10 December 1962, by two men whose outstanding roles in the cause of peace, against racism and for equality and justice are well known. Those two men were Chief Albert Luthuli, President of the African National Congress of South Africa, and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. On 10 December 1962 they appealed against apartheid. This is what they said:

"We ask all men of goodwill to take action against apartheid in the following manner. Hold meetings and demonstrations. Urge your Government to support economic sanctions. Write to your mission to the United Nations urging adoption of a resolution calling for international isolation of South Africa. Don't buy South Africa's products. Don't trade or invest in South Africa. Translate public opinion into public action by explaining facts to all peoples, to groups to which you belong, and to countries of which you are citizens, until an effective international quarantine of apartheid is established."

These words have a special meaning when we are on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., 15 January 1979, a day that will be observed in all parts of the world by peace movements and by all movements which stand for the things for which Martin Luther King stood - peace, equality, justice, national independence - as a day for rededication to the causes for which he stood. And yet today and during this session of the General Assembly one can look back and say that for all these years and many more the call has been made by men like Martin Luther King and by the thousands who have followed him in all

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the countries of the world for the isolation and quarantine of the racist régime of South Africa, and above all for mandatory economic sanctions.

I have particularly quoted this to point out that the call which is being made today by all who stand for justice and for peace, the call which is made by the World Peace Council and by national movements in more than 130 countries of the world which are associated with the World Peace Council and represented in it, is a call to which the United Nations has yet to respond. I wish to state categorically that the reason we ask for this meeting is so that we may be able to convey to all member delegations and to the United Nations as a whole the deep dissatisfaction of world public opinion at the failure of us all to impose what is required and what is wanted by the vast majority of Governments represented here: and that is mandatory economic sanctions against the apartheid régime of South Africa.

The World Peace Council, which is the largest mass movement of the peoples, which supports the United Nations and which builds public opinion in support of the United Nations and of its resolutions, looks with concern at the failure to impose the sanctions provided for in the Charter of the United Nations against a régime which has violated every resolution pertaining to apartheid adopted by the United Nations and which is today engaged in the most serious forms of these violations and in activities aimed at perpetuating this racism in a new way. Therefore we wish again to urge strongly that the United Nations take all possible steps in the interest of its own dignity, in the interest of its own credibility, to see that these mandatory economic sanctions are imposed.

The World Peace Council would like to commend very strongly the report of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the work done by that Committee and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid. The work done this year, the International Anti-Apartheid Year, has done a great deal to build up and to widen the public opinion in favour of mandatory economic sanctions, public opinion which is against apartheid.

Today, unfortunately, although there are many who declare themselves to be opposed to apartheid - for who could be in favour of that abominable system of discrimination, of domination, of oppression, that system which all the time brings thousands to their deaths - it is not enough to state that one is against

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apartheid. It is necessary to understand that we have been against apartheid for years and years and yet apartheid continues and it is today making new plans to survive and live, perhaps under new labels, but nevertheless to survive in a new way. Today it is not only the question of Namibia, of which the Security Council has been seized and of which the General Assembly is now seized, not only the defiance of the United Nations in regard to Namibia, that has caused world-wide concern: it is equally the fact that the South African racist régime has now become a nuclear Power and that there is every danger that this militarization of the apartheid régime will be a serious threat not only to neighbouring countries but to the peace of the world, and particularly to the countries of the Indian Ocean and the south Atlantic.

Who is responsible for the continuing violations of United Nations resolutions and violations of the Declaration of Human Rights, the thirtieth anniversary of which we are now about to observe?

The apartheid régime exists and lives primarily because it continues to receive the collaboration of financial and economic interests, big transnational corporations and monopolies and certain Governments which have repeatedly been pilloried by the United Nations itself. Collaboration with the South African racist régime has become a factor of the very greatest significance during this International Anti-Apartheid Year. The World Peace Council has held numerous meetings, international, regional and national, dedicated to the struggle against apartheid. The last such meeting was that of the now very well known International Conference for the Liberation of Southern Africa and against Apartheid held in New Delhi, India, from 28 September to 2 October. That Conference ended on the anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, who was one of the pioneers in the struggle for liberation in South Africa and the struggle against apartheid. That Conference, which was attended by representatives from more than 60 countries and several international organizations, called for full support for the proposal for the international mobilization of Governments and public organizations, of all forces which stand for peace, independence and justice, against apartheid. And this they defined to mean international mobilization against all collaboration with the apartheid régime and international mobilization for unconditional support for the liberation movement of South Africa.

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That was the culmination of a series of meetings which began International Anti-Apartheid Year with a meeting of the leadership of the World Peace Council in Helsinki in March, and continued with a series of continental and regional meetings, on to the Conference to which I have just referred.

The World Peace Council also has the honour of being Chairman of the Sub-Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Apartheid and Decolonization. And this year, at the end of August, a major international non-governmental organization Conference against apartheid was held in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid. And that again called similarly for international mobilization against collaboration with the racist régime. We are sometimes asked, "Why is it that you want mandatory economic sanctions?" We believe that at this time it is the only method which can effectively help the United Nations to achieve its aims and make real any declarations or proclamations we might make against apartheid. As far as we in the World Peace Council are concerned, we represent hundreds of millions of peoples in all continents. We believe that at this moment there is every reason for the peoples of the world to extend their full co-operation to the liberation movement of South Africa, which is now at the stage of its final assault. We believe that it is important to tell the peoples of the world that in ending apartheid we are not seeking the replacement of apartheid by something that does not call itself apartheid but continues the domination of South Africa. We believe that at this moment there are serious conspiracies by precisely those forces which are responsible for the continuation of the apartheid régime to bring about a new form of domination of South Africa. New plans are put across each time, plans which I believe seek to evade the resolutions of the United Nations; plans which seek to replace the United Nations by putting forward solutions which are supposed to bring about an end to apartheid but which in reality seek to impose what are rightly described as neo-colonial solutions; new plans for the continued economic, military and political domination of the people of South Africa by the same forces as, through apartheid, are dominating it today.

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Therefore, in each of the various events during International Anti-Apartheid Year the peoples of the world, the non-governmental organizations, the peace movements, the Churches, the trade unions, the women's and youth organizations, have rejected these neo-colonial solutions and have extended their full support to the positions taken by the United Nations and have urged immediate action by the United Nations as provided for in the Charter.

What will happen in South Africa if such sanctions are imposed, we are sometimes asked. What will happen is that we shall do our duty and we shall prepare the way for the taking-over of power by those to whom it rightfully belongs, and that is the liberation movement which represents the entire people of South Africa, the liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity, recognized by the United Nations. It is this that we seek to place before everyone in the campaigns we have undertaken at this time.

We are therefore calling for the widest international mobilization against collaboration and in support of the liberation movements. Next year a number of events are being organized by the World Peace Council for the purpose of reviewing the results of Anti-Apartheid Year, taking new steps on the basis of the resolutions that will be adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at this session, resolutions which we hope will carry the world a little further along the road to final victory over apartheid. Therefore they must be resolutions that give unconditional support to the liberation movements.

The World Peace Council itself is holding a major session at the beginning of February. Among the most important items on its agenda will be the discussion of new steps for international mobilization against collaboration with the racist régime.

I would mention here that the non-governmental organizations Sub-Committee on racism, racial discrimination, apartheid and decolonization has proposed that it collaborate with the Special Committee against Apartheid and the British anti-apartheid movement in organizing a special seminar dealing specifically with the question of the nuclearization and militarization of South Africa.

We look upon the entire question of the struggle against apartheid as being a vital part of the struggle for disarmament and the building of a new world economic order. We believe that concrete measures, and in the first place

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mandatory economic sanctions, against the apartheid régime would be a major contribution towards preventing the nuclearization and militarization of South Africa, and therefore a major contribution towards the ending of the arms race which threatens the world at this time. We must look at the whole question not in the old context but in the new context of today, with the spiralling arms race, with new decisions taken to increase the military budgets of precisely those countries which are hand in glove with the apartheid régime. The United Nations has rightly named the Governments of the United States of America, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and France, and, with them, Israel, Iran and Japan, as those which continue to collaborate with the racist régime. In our opinion it is not an accident that those Governments are among those that have decided to increase armaments to new levels in the recent period. At its recent meetings the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has taken decisions to increase armaments, and at the same time those Governments are participating in the further militarization and nuclearization of South Africa. We believe that the threat which South Africa poses to peace and security in Africa and in the world makes this question of apartheid a vital part of today's main struggle for the building of a new world and to defend the world from the dangers of a nuclear catastrophe.

We would like to express the hope that the end of International Anti-Apartheid Year will not mean any lessening of the activities of Governments and non-governmental organizations against apartheid but that, on the contrary, as March comes and the year ends, we shall be able to work out new plans for a great intensification of our activities to build up public opinion in regard to this matter. Therefore the goal set by the Special Committee's Chairman, Ambassador Harriman, and endorsed at meetings of non-governmental organizations everywhere, of international mobilization against apartheid, to take the movement into a new phase in which Governments and peoples can work together to end the apartheid régime and bring about the liberation of South Africa will be nearer to attainment.

Next year has been declared International Year of the Child, and we strongly support the proposal of the Special Committee against Apartheid that that year be marked by various actions against apartheid and in favour of the children of South Africa.

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Who does not remember the killings in Soweto, the murders of children in Soweto? We have often stated that Soweto marks not only those killings and assassinations - the fascist régimes find it easiest to kill children because their flesh is more tender - but also, and perhaps more particularly, the determination of the people of South Africa, seen through their children, to resist and fight back against all the terror which is there. Soweto marks the declaration by the entire people of South Africa of their decision not to rest until South Africa is free.

The International Year of the Child, therefore, will mark not only the sufferings of children, but also the struggles which the children of the world are waging and, in the first place, the children of Soweto, representing the children of South Africa.

I am glad that the Special Committee against Apartheid has announced that it will be holding a meeting to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King. I began this statement by referring to Martin Luther King's declarations against apartheid. It seems to me more than appropriate that the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid should hold a meeting to pay homage to this great man of the United States of America, and indeed of the world, who gave his whole life for the cause of peace, for the struggle against racism and for the cause of equality and justice everywhere. The World Peace Council, and, I hope, many other non-governmental organizations dedicated to the cause of the struggle against apartheid, will be present also, with the many who stand for peace in this country at this commemoration of Martin Luther King.

All over the world the World Peace Council is organizing meetings on 15 January to pay homage to Martin Luther King and what he stood for. We have also declared 1979 a year to be dedicated to Martin Luther King's great causes, the causes which to him were one, the causes of peace, of justice, of equality and of liberation. For Martin Luther King there was no distinction and no separation into compartments of the struggle for peace and the struggle against racism and it is entirely in that spirit that the World Peace Council, with the national organizations and over 130 countries of the world represented in it, today carries on its entire work. When we collect signatures to stop the arms race,

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at the same time we point out the vital need for the ending of apartheid; when we collect signatures and hold demonstrations against apartheid, we believe that at the same time it is necessary to show how the struggle against apartheid is part and parcel of the world-wide struggle for liberation and the world-wide struggle for peace.

Martin Luther King showed the unity of the world's struggle to defend mankind from a nuclear war, and at the same time of mankind's struggle to build a new world. The World Peace Council is dedicated to saving the world from a nuclear catastrophe, but we do not believe that we can save the world unless at the same time we change the world. We save the world in order to change it and we seek to change the world in order to save it. Therefore the struggle for liberation, the struggle for peace, the struggle for disarmament, the struggle for development and for a New International Economic Order and the struggle against apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism in all their forms are the common struggle of all peoples.

I commend very strongly the very important report of the Special Committee against Apartheid and would urge the General Assembly of the United Nations to heed the voice of world public opinion, which is indeed the same thing as the voice of the vast majority of the Governments of the world, and take every possible step to see that this session is marked by a decision which will help to ensure that no one and no veto will block the one way in which we can march towards liberation in South Africa: that is, by the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. That is what is demanded by the liberation movements, that is what is demanded by the peoples of the world. The United Nations, I am convinced, will respond to that call.