



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 72: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORTS OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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

AGENDA ITEM 72: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/33/193; A/33/257, Add.1 and Corr.1; A/33/261; A/C.3/33/L.5 to L.9)

1. Mrs. SIIPIA (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to a question asked by the representative of Cyprus a few days earlier concerning the possibility of adopting a declaration on the rights and duties of young people, said that the question had been considered by the Committee in 1969 but had not been referred to since. Moreover, it was not for the Secretariat to propose the adoption of a declaration, but for Governments which would be interested in such a declaration. Only when a proposal of that nature had met with fairly wide support was it submitted to the relevant intergovernmental organ, in that particular case the Commission for Social Development which considered questions relating to youth.

2. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom), speaking in exercise of the right of reply concerning a statement made in the general debate on item 72 to the effect that United Kingdom colonialism had deliberately maintained peoples in ignorance and was responsible for the lack of training of the young people in a certain country, said he wondered whether the speaker had been trying to hold the United Kingdom Government responsible for the illiteracy of the present generation of young people in that country when they had still been in the cradle at the time of the country's accession to independence. Whatever might be said about the colonial past of the United Kingdom, it could hardly be accused of having neglected education, as a large number of present-day leaders of developing countries, and perhaps even some members of the Committee, could testify.

3. Mrs. BROMLEY (Honduras) said that her delegation attached great importance to policies and programmes relating to youth and that Honduras, as a developing country, regarded young people as one of its most precious resources. For that reason she felt it was very useful to proclaim an international youth year, which could not fail to make a contribution towards preparing and helping young people to build a better world. She noted with regret that the Secretary-General had suggested that a final decision on the subject should be deferred to the thirty-sixth session. Although enough time must be allowed to evaluate the results of the International Year of the Child, which Honduras considered of primary importance, and to harmonize the programmes planned for the international youth year with those of the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and Governments, it was nevertheless essential not to let too much time go by between the International Year of the Child and the international youth year since the problems of the two groups were linked.

4. She did not consider it unprofitable to devote a separate international year to each major world problem; quite the reverse, it was the best guarantee of effectiveness and, if international years were not so costly and did not need so much preparation, it would be a good idea to devote each year to a different subject.

5. The human spirit was ready to denounce injustices in youth but inclined to

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(Mrs. Bromley, Honduras)

routine in adult life; in order to create a better society, it was important to develop the whole individual, and the best time of life for that to be done was during youth.

6. Her delegation had carefully studied the Secretary-General's reports (A/33/261, A/33/193 and A/33/257). She considered it essential to organize seminars, activities and programmes which encouraged meetings between young people from all over the world, because such meetings promoted tolerance and understanding. At the national level, it was important to adopt a social and educational policy which gave an appropriate place to sports and to provide information on the rights and duties of young people and on the serious problem of drugs.

7. The proposal by the President of Costa Rica regarding the establishment of a university for peace, linked to the United Nations University system, was extremely interesting.

8. Over the past 10 years, the rejection by young people of modern social structures had become more constructive and she would like to think that the interest taken in young people and the programmes adopted for their benefit had contributed to that change. She hoped that the following year the Committee could decide as a matter of priority on the most suitable date for the proclamation of the international youth year.

9. Mrs. BEAGLE (New Zealand) said that she wished to explain the position of her Government - which had already been set forth in document A/33/257/Add.1 - on the two main questions covered by the item under consideration, namely the further development of guidelines for improved co-operation between the organizations in the United Nations system and national and international youth organizations and the proposal concerning the proclamation of an international youth year.

10. On the question of channels of communication with youth, her delegation regretted that only 13 Governments had sent their comments to the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/135. The paucity of replies therefore precluded the Secretary-General from making new recommendations on the fuller development of the guidelines contained in the annex to that resolution. It was to be hoped that other Member States would send their comments and that those comments would reflect the views of young people themselves and not merely those of government agencies.

11. New Zealand was conscious of the need to formulate policies and activities in that field with the involvement of Government, voluntary agencies, local bodies and youth organizations. New Zealand's response had therefore been prepared jointly by the Government department responsible and the National Youth Council. The Council, which had been designated the non-governmental correspondent for all United Nations matters relating to youth, had 34 organizations affiliated to it and communicated with the Government on all matters affecting youth. It participated in national and regional youth activities through the World Assembly of Youth, the South Pacific Commission and the Commonwealth Youth Programme, all of which aimed to increase the involvement of young people in the process of national development; it also supplied information to the United Nations quarterly Youth Information Bulletin. Both the New Zealand Government and the National Youth Council endorsed the guidelines circulated by the Secretary-General and hoped that they would result in improved channels of communication between young people and the United Nations.

(Mrs. Beagle, New Zealand)

12. With regard to the proposal for an international youth year, her delegation was again disappointed that barely one quarter of the States Members of the United Nations had responded to the Secretary-General's note. Although the New Zealand reply was reproduced in document A/33/257/Add.1, she wished to explain a few points.

13. In general, any proposal relating to the observance of international years should be approached with caution. Without questioning the worthiness of the subjects chosen, her delegation must express its concern that the proliferation of international years might reduce their effectiveness in the final analysis. The current decade was both the Decade for Women and the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Three of the past four years had been designated international years and preparations were under way for the observance of two more years, in 1979 and 1981. Furthermore, five proposals were already under consideration concerning the proclamation of years for youth, the aging, science and technology, international organizations and world communications. If all those proposals were adopted, there was a possibility that an international year would be held every year for a rather long period. Too frequent recourse to such a device could only diminish its impact. That was why New Zealand delegations to the Economic and Social Council had been actively involved, since 1973, in efforts to limit such proliferation. In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1978/47, of which her delegation had been a sponsor, she suggested that the Committee should await the report requested of the Secretary-General on that question before taking a decision on the subject of the proclamation of an international youth year. In his report on the proposal (A/33/257), the Secretary-General expressed the view that further study was required before a decision was taken on the advisability of such a proclamation. The aims sought could be achieved by other means, in particular at the national level, where it was easier to identify problem areas such as youth unemployment, the social and recreational needs of young people and their participation in national development planning.

14. If the General Assembly decided to proceed with the proclamation of an international youth year, due consideration should be given to the question of dates and organization. Indeed, the proclamation of successive international years devoted to social issues created practical problems, in the case of New Zealand as well as many other countries, for the same government department had to deal with the preparation, organization and evaluation of the proposed activities. On the basis of its experience, the New Zealand Ministry of Social Welfare thought that the preparation of an international year required 12 months of preliminary work and 12 months of post-year consolidation; it therefore recommended a gap of at least six years between years having a social issue as their theme.

15. New Zealand's support for any new initiative in that field would naturally depend on those considerations.

16. Mr. BOUH (Djibouti) said he was happy to be able to state that young people in his country had participated actively in the national liberation struggle waged by his people to regain their inalienable rights to independence and freedom. They were still fighting today against ignorance and social injustice. His delegation was prepared to support any proposal which gave absolute priority to the problems of youth and considered that countries should formulate principles aimed at remedying the injustice of the situation of young people.

17. In his opinion, it was essential to study all measures which might free youth from the spectre of unemployment, ignorance and disease.

18. His delegation considered that a well-conceived national policy could help young people, who were the leaders of tomorrow, to prepare for the future with optimism. It was time to have done with statements of intentions by certain Member States which thus sought to have a clear conscience vis-à-vis young people while pursuing a policy of systematic repression in their regard.

19. His delegation considered it essential that young people should be able to use all available means to become integrated in a society which was more humane and more responsive to the fundamental needs of the youth of the world.

20. Mr. AZIZ (International Labour Organisation) said that he wished to deal with some practical problems relating to youth and employment which were of direct concern to ILO.

21. The situation of young people with regard to employment, which had been far from satisfactory in most countries in 1960, as had been brought out in the discussions which the General Conference of ILO had devoted that year to the theme "Youth and Employment", had clearly become worse during the past few years.

22. In the industrialized countries, various problems which were due, inter alia, to the insufficient number of jobs for young persons of working age, to the gap between the aspirations of young workers and the working conditions to which they were subjected, and to the fact that they did not participate in the adoption of decisions affecting them, explained the uneasy situation prevailing in that area. It was therefore essential to establish a new relationship between education, training and employment, to work out measures aimed at making it easier for young people to obtain employment, and to improve the working conditions and the situation of young people in business concerns.

23. In the developing countries, the situation was perhaps even more serious because of an even greater shortage of jobs, the continuing practice of employing very young persons in the worst possible conditions, and the lack or inadequacy of educational and training systems, combined with the precarious nature of living conditions. More than three quarters of the young people in the world lived in such countries, one third of them in rural areas.

24. To meet those problems, ILO was endeavouring to ensure the welfare of young workers through vocational training, and the welfare of unemployed young persons by facilitating their participation in economically active life. Until about 1960, ILO had sought primarily to ensure the welfare of adolescents so that they would not be obliged to work at too early an age in very difficult conditions which might impede their physical and mental development. A set of international standards, whose application was monitored by ILO, had therefore been adopted.

25. Since 1960, priority attention had been given within the framework of the measures taken during the Second Development Decade, to the preparation of young

(Mr. Aziz, ILO)

people for economically active life through the development of their capacity to work, in order to ensure a broader participation of young people in the process of national development. That activity had focused exclusively on the developing countries.

26. In recent years, ILO had endeavoured, in particular, to facilitate the participation of young people in economically active life and to improve their working conditions by enabling them to obtain vocational training and protecting them against abusive practices. Those objectives derived from the decisions taken recently by the General Conference (in the form of instruments concerning the age of entry into employment, the development of human resources, employment policy and paid study leave), guidelines developed by regional conferences or business committees and suggestions made by United Nations organs or organizations within the United Nations system.

27. For its part, the International Labour Office had sought, during the past 20 years, to ensure that the activities involving young people were integrated into the programmes of the various substantive departments and services so that the problems which concerned them were dealt with in a sufficiently broad framework and not isolated in a separate category. Nevertheless, ILO had organized activities of specific interest to young people. Although they had been expanded to some extent, their scope was modest in the light of the numerically important place which young people occupied in the population of countries and the seriousness of the problems which they had to face from the standpoint of employment. There were serious gaps in the understanding of the problems of young people in that field and the activities undertaken inevitably suffered as a result. There was a danger that the integrated approach which had been adopted might conceal the real needs and prevent a correct evaluation of the scope of certain activities.

28. The medium-term objectives of ILO for the coming years could be summarized in the following way: implementation of the youth programme coupled with efforts to ensure better co-ordination of the supplementary activities of the International Labour Office of concern to both the industrialized and the developing countries; action to foster the smooth transition of young people to an economically active life through the promotion of employment and the improvement of training either before or after the transition; measures to improve the working conditions of young persons (such as adaptation of employment to the workers and not vice versa, time off and participation in decision-making), while providing them with protection, especially against any discrimination in earnings, social security or trade union participation.

29. With regard to the objectives set for 1980-1981, there would be a continuation of the main projects prepared for the biennium 1978-1979 (assessment of efforts to rectify the hiatus between school and work, the system of youth training, child labour practices, the production of educational materials for workers); projects might also be undertaken to deal with current labour problems, taking into account the difficulties peculiar to certain disadvantaged groups of young persons, such as girls and young women, rural and unemployed youth, young home workers, migrants and sailors.

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30. Mrs. WYNTER (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the objectives of the work undertaken by UNESCO in the past few years among young people centred on respect for human rights, the promotion of youth education as part of lifelong education, the development of youth's role in educational, social and cultural activities, the working out of concerted approaches to the problems of social disharmony and the involvement of youth in the development process.

31. The approach of UNESCO to the achievement of those objectives was based on two factors: the numerically important place occupied by youth in most societies and the failure of those societies to make adequate use of the creative powers and energies of youth and to permit them to make a dynamic contribution to social life. Furthermore, although the diversity of the problems of young people was a function of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the societies in which they lived, they nevertheless shared common aspirations, as had been borne out in the current debate.

32. Against that background, and conscious of the feeling of young people that their role in the affairs of their country and of the world had continued too long to be marginal, UNESCO had sought to involve them in its work. It held consultations every year with youth non-governmental organizations on the preparation of its biennial programme and on the implementation of its current programme. The next such consultation was scheduled to take place from 11 to 14 December 1978. In addition, UNESCO participated regularly in the informal meetings held with youth representatives at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

33. Thus, an honest effort had been made to respond to the needs of youth as youth saw them. Hence, the priority work of UNESCO among disadvantaged youth - youth in rural areas, the unemployed and the inadequately schooled - was conducted with the support of youth organizations and often through their agency.

34. One important new trend in the organization's work was directed principally towards young people. At its nineteenth session, held at Nairobi in 1976, the General Conference of UNESCO, by resolution 1.153, had invited the Director-General to take steps to prepare the draft statutes of a permanent intergovernmental body and an international fund for the development of physical education and sport.

35. That resolution had also authorized certain interim measures, including the setting up of an interim intergovernmental committee and a provisional fund. The interim Committee, consisting of 30 member States, had already held two meetings and had produced the draft statutes for a permanent intergovernmental body and for the international fund. The Director-General had already received contributions to the provisional fund. Before the end of the current year, both the permanent intergovernmental committee and the international fund that it would administer would be in existence.

36. At meetings of the interim intergovernmental committee, a consensus had emerged on the role of UNESCO in the following areas: first, to obtain for physical education and sport a larger share in all educational systems and curricula and in cultural programmes; secondly, to develop research and disseminate information in particular regarding the relationship of sports to international understanding and peace, the environmental, cultural and medical aspects of sport and the role of

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(Mrs. Wynter, UNESCO)

sport in combating drug abuse and delinquency; with the collaboration of non-governmental organizations, two publications on those questions were expected to be produced; thirdly, to promote the allocation of resources to enhance the knowledge and use of sports techniques for the sake of human betterment and closer international communion; and fourthly, the propagation of true sportsmanship.

37. The non-governmental organizations recognized the assistance of UNESCO in overcoming their difficulties, and it was indeed in collaboration with those organizations and with intergovernmental organizations that UNESCO would seek to utilize the potential of sport for achieving international harmony.

38. Within its own structures, UNESCO had created a larger place for physical education and sport by setting up a special unit consisting of two specialists of the Division of Structures, Content, Methods and Techniques of Education. The budget allocation for physical education and sport had increased by 272 per cent over the previous biennium, in other words from \$163,200 in 1977-1978 to \$445,000 in 1979-1980.

39. In conclusion, she welcomed the initiative taken by delegations which had sponsored a draft resolution seeking to promote sports exchanges among young persons; such activities could not but foster co-operation among peoples.

40. Sister RICHARDSON (Observer for the Holy See) said that the Holy See had repeatedly expressed its support for the principles of the United Nations. It believed that some of the recommendations proposed in document A/33/261 would make it possible for young people to grow in knowledge of those principles. Specifically, the internship programme could contribute substantially to the personal and professional growth of young people. Suitable young persons from developing countries could be chosen so that they might return to enrich their peers with the fruits of their experience.

41. The Holy See welcomed the ways suggested in document A/33/261 for disseminating information, such as the Youth Information Bulletin and the publications of the joint United Nations Information Committee, and suggested that other media, such as radio and television, might also be utilized.

42. Her delegation wished to join in the cautions expressed by the Secretary-General concerning the repetition of clichés and generalities in policies and programmes of youth which young persons disliked and distrusted. It hoped that those policies and programmes would be imbued with the highest ideals and aspirations characteristic of youth and would reflect the finest spiritual and religious traditions which young persons had a right to inherit.

Draft resolutions A/C.3/33/L.5, L.6 and L.7

43. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had to take a decision on draft resolutions A/C.3/33/L.5, L.6 and L.7. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 entitled "Channels of communication with youth and youth organizations", she recalled that the representative of India had orally proposed certain amendments,

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which had been accepted by the sponsors. The following countries were sponsors of the draft resolution in its present form: Bhutan, Bolivia, Djibouti, India, the Ivory Coast, Jordan, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, the Sudan and Zaire. Document A/C.3/33/L.8 contained certain additional amendments proposed by Egypt, and the Committee should first take a decision on those.

Amendments A/C.3/33/L.8 to draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5

44. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt), presenting the amendments, said that consultations had taken place between his delegation and the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5. The latter had considered Egypt's amendments consistent with General Assembly resolution 32/135, which emphasized the need for further development of the guidelines contained in the annex to that resolution, concerning the improvement of the channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations. That was in fact the purpose of the paragraph proposed by Egypt, in which the General Assembly would invite the Commission for Social Development to make appropriate recommendations on the guidelines, taking into account the debate on the subject during the thirty-third session. His delegation hoped that the Committee would adopt the amendments without a vote, in which case Egypt would join in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

45. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) thanked the representative of Egypt for the amendments and suggested that if there was no objection from other delegations, they should be incorporated in the draft resolution.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to approve the insertion of the amendments proposed by Egypt without a vote.

47. Amendments A/C.3/33/L.8 to draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 were adopted.

48. The CHAIRMAN announced that Egypt had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5, as amended. If there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

49. Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 was adopted by consensus.

50. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), in explanation of his vote on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.5 and with particular reference to the fourth preambular paragraph, concerning the contribution that youth could make "in the implementation of the new international economic order", said that his delegation had expressed its views on the matter on a number of occasions, specifically in the Second Committee. It had some doubts about the substantive validity of the provisions, since guidelines for the improvement of the channels of communication with youth did not offer the latter an effective means of influencing major decisions taken at the world level. The same was true of the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6.

Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6

51. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) proposed amending the preamble of draft resolution

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(Mr. Sobhy, Egypt)

A/C.3/33/L.6 by the insertion, in the fourth paragraph, after the words "to the tasks of nation building", of the words "the struggle for national independence and self-determination and against foreign dominations and occupations". If that amendment was adopted by the Committee, Egypt would join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 as orally amended.

52. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria), Mr. SHERIFIS (Cyprus), Mr. AL-HADAWI (Iraq) and Mr. VOICU (Romania) thanked the representative of Egypt for his proposed amendment, which they endorsed.

53. Mr. TAWHEEL (Jordan) and Mr. YUSUF (Somalia) joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 as amended by Egypt.

54. Mrs. SHAHKAR (Iran) said that she fully supported the draft amendment proposed orally by the representative of Egypt. Her delegation wished to propose two amendments to the draft resolution before the Committee. The first concerned its form: the sixth preambular paragraph, beginning with the words "Convinced of the necessity of meeting the legitimate needs", should be inserted before the fourth preambular paragraph, beginning with the words "Convinced of the imperative need to harness the energies," leaving the fifth preambular paragraph in its present place. Her delegation had proposed the amendment out of respect for young people, believing that satisfaction of the needs and aspirations of youth should be placed before the desire to motivate its energies, enthusiasms and creative abilities.

55. Her Government was fully in agreement with the proposal to proclaim an international youth year. However, such a project should be prepared with the utmost care if it was to produce the desired results. In that respect, decision 1978/47 of the Economic and Social Council on international years and anniversaries should form the basis of any decision on the proclamation of such a year. She recalled, in particular, subparagraph (b) of that decision, requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report which could form the basis for establishing uniform criteria and procedures to be applied to the proclamation of all future international years. She therefore proposed inserting in draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 a new paragraph 2, reading: "Decides also that, in its examination of the question, the General Assembly will take full account of the report of the Secretary-General, to be prepared on the basis of decision 1978/47 of the Economic and Social Council". If the two amendments proposed by Iran were adopted by the Committee, her delegation would be able to join in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 as amended.

56. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendments proposed orally by Iran. The paragraph which the representative of Iran proposed inserting could be incorporated in the operative part, which would then comprise six paragraphs. The proposal to alter the order of the preambular paragraphs presented no difficulty, since it involved no substantive change. He therefore proposed that the officers of the Committee should prepare a revised text of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6, incorporating the amendment proposed by Egypt and the two amendments proposed by Iran.

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57. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would withdraw the draft amendment (A/C.3/33/L.9) that it had submitted, since it was identical in content to the new paragraph proposed by Iran.

58. The CHAIRMAN took note of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom draft amendment (A/C.3/33/L.9).

59. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), suggested that, in view of the proliferation of items which appeared each year on the agenda of the General Assembly, paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 should be reworded so as to link the question of the proclamation of an international youth year with the item on policies and programmes relating to youth. In that connexion, he referred to annex V, paragraph 21, of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in which the Special Committee on the Rationalization of the Procedures and Organization of the General Assembly "recommended to the General Assembly that, as far as possible and appropriate, related items should be grouped under the same title".

60. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that the proliferation of items merely reflected the multiplicity of problems which existed in international life. The question of the proclamation of an international youth year had acquired particular significance because of the discussions it had provoked, in which a large number of delegations had participated. The 32 delegations which were sponsors of the draft resolution considered it a separate item. From the methodological point of view, it would therefore be preferable to retain paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 as it stood, and he called on the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany not to insist on his suggestion, particularly as, in practice, items were grouped automatically.

61. Miss BOA (Ivory Coast) endorsed the views of the representative of Romania.

62. Mrs. FRASER-DAVIES (Sierra Leone) said that her delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution as amended by Egypt.

63. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) said that the suggestion made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany was valid and that the Committee should consider the possibility of redrafting the text of paragraph 5 in the manner suggested.

64. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) said that paragraph 5 should be retained as it stood.

65. The CHAIRMAN said that the grouping of items was a question for the Bureau to consider.

66. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) suggested that, as a compromise, in paragraph 5, the words "in the context of policies and programmes relating to youth" should be inserted after the word "decides".

67. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) suggested that, in the amendment proposed by Egypt, the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)" should be inserted after the word "self-determination".

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68. Mr. YUSUF (Somalia) suggested that, as a subamendment to the Ethiopian amendment, the words "and subsequent resolutions" should be added after the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)".

69. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that he had listened closely to the statements made by representatives concerning the drafting of paragraph 5. Since, in his view, the discussion on that matter should not be prolonged, he felt that the compromise formula proposed by the representative of Morocco could be accepted. On the question of the preamble, however, he had the impression that the amendment proposed by Egypt had already been adopted.

70. Mr. KOUYATE (Guinea) pointed out that, under the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, once a decision had been taken on a question, it was not possible to revert to that question. Since the Egyptian amendment had been adopted, it could not be modified.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that although the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the Egyptian amendment to the preamble, the Committee had not yet voted on the draft resolution as a whole.

72. Mr. ABDUL-AZIZ (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) welcomed the amendment put forward by the representative of Egypt and suggested that the draft resolution should be put to the vote.

73. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) asked the representative of Ethiopia not to insist on his suggestion; the sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the amendment proposed by his delegation, and the concept of self-determination did not need to be made explicit. He suggested that the draft resolution should be put to the vote or adopted by consensus.

74. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) assured the Chairman of the full co-operation of his delegation but said that he did not see why the very slight change he wished to make should cause such difficulty.

75. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) said that he could not accept either the Ethiopian amendment or the Somali subamendment.

76. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) appealed to the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia not to change the Egyptian amendment in order to speed up the adoption of the draft resolution.

77. Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) associated himself with the appeal made by the representative of Ghana. If the Committee's aim was to reach a consensus, the representatives of Ethiopia and Somalia could perhaps accept the Egyptian amendment, particularly as they would be able to revert to the question of self-determination in the course of the consideration of other items.

78. Mr. RAHANTALLA (Sudan) and Mr. RIOS (Panama) associated themselves with the appeal made by the representatives of Ghana and Senegal.

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79. Mr. BEKELE (Ethiopia) said that he had already expressed his desire to co-operate, but found it strange that some delegations could not agree to a reference to a document as important as General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).
80. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in order to close the debate, the Ethiopian amendment and Somali subamendment should be put to the vote.
81. Mr. YUSUF (Somalia) said he wished it to be mentioned in the summary record, for the benefit of the work of the Committee, that Somalia would withdraw its amendment if Ethiopia withdrew its amendment too. He therefore called on the representative of Ethiopia not to insist on his amendment and proposed that the draft resolution, as amended by Egypt, should be adopted by consensus.
82. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Ghana) reiterated his appeal to Ethiopia in the interests of the group.
83. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the meeting should be suspended for a few minutes in order to allow the sponsors of the draft resolution to consider the problem.
84. The meeting was suspended at 5.15 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.
85. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany had agreed that operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution should remain unchanged.
86. Mr. DJIGO (Senegal) said that a compromise formula had been found for the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6, namely to insert the phrase "the struggle for national independence and self-determination, pursuant to the Charter, and against foreign domination and occupation" between the words "nation building" and "the economic ...".
87. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Ethiopian, Somali and Egyptian delegations for the spirit of co-operation they had displayed and suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.
88. Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 was adopted by consensus.
89. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community, expressed the view that the adoption of the resolution on International Youth Year did not mean that a final decision had been taken on that subject. Where the general question of international years was concerned, he hoped that the Secretary-General, pursuant to decision 1978/47 of the Economic and Social Council, would prepare a study on the expenses incurred for previous international years and the results achieved at the international and national levels, with a view to establishing criteria to be applied in future to the proclamation, organization and evaluation of all international years.

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90. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) said that, although his delegation had joined in the consensus that had emerged in favour of the draft resolution, it wished to express a reservation with regard to the wording of the text which had become the sixth preambular paragraph in the revised version. That paragraph could be interpreted as meaning that young people could be used by the State for political ends; that was something which his delegation could not possibly support. In addition, it should be noted, as operative paragraph 1 of the resolution made clear, that the decision to proclaim an international youth year had been postponed until the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

91. Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that the consensus that had been reached on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.6 was evidence of the constructive spirit which had prevailed in the debates and of the fact that the proclamation of an international youth year enjoyed valuable political and practical support. He hoped that that would be a good precedent for future consideration of the problems of youth in the contemporary world.

92. Mr. FAURIS (France) stated that his country attached the greatest importance to problems of concern to young people and was endeavouring to fulfil their expectations by finding solutions to those problems. Because of its interest in the matter, and its concern for efficiency, his delegation wished to stress that the proclamation of an international youth year should be preceded by a period of maturation and preparation. It therefore appreciated the spirit of co-operation shown by the sponsors of the draft resolution in accepting the Iranian amendment and hoped that due account would be taken, in that regard, of decision 1978/47 of the Economic and Social Council.

93. Mr. JÖDAHL (Sweden) said he wished to make it clear that when the matter was considered further his delegation would take full account of the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the subject of international years.

94. Mrs. HUANG Kuo (China) said that she thought the amendment proposed by the Egyptian delegation was most constructive and an improvement on the original text.

Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7

95. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Federal Republic of Germany, Djibouti, Bolivia and Senegal had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7.

96. Mr. PETRELLA (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7, announced that, in a spirit of compromise, they had accepted the amendments submitted by the Somali delegation, consisting of the addition of a new final preambular paragraph to read "Convinced also that participation in sports exchanges with teams selected on the basis of apartheid violates the fundamental human rights of the great majority of the people of South Africa", and the insertion of a new paragraph 2 in the operative part of the resolution to read "Calls on all States to take appropriate action to bring about the total cessation of sporting contacts with any country practising apartheid and to refrain from official sponsorship, assistance or encouragement of such contacts".

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(Mr. Petrella, Argentina)

The subsequent operative paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly. He hoped that the draft resolution, as amended, could be adopted by consensus.

97. Mr. YUSUF (Somalia) thanked the sponsors for accepting the amendments proposed by his delegation to the draft resolution, of which it wished to become a sponsor.

98. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Upper Volta) and Mr. AYENI (Nigeria) announced that their delegations wished to join the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7.

99. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft resolution should be adopted by consensus.

100. Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7 was adopted by consensus.

101. Mr. CARDWELL (United States of America) explained that although his delegation had joined the consensus on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.7 it would have abstained on operative paragraph 2 if it had been put to a separate vote. While the United States was firmly opposed to apartheid in sports and supported the Olympic principle which forbade any discrimination based on race, religion or political affiliation in sporting events, its legislation did not permit it to impose restrictions on sporting contacts with individuals or groups from other countries.

102. Mrs. SEMICHI (Algeria) said that the amendment introduced by Somalia met the concerns of the non-aligned countries. After taking note of the report of the meeting of experts held in Algiers in May 1978, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries, meeting at Belgrade, with Cuba and Algeria as co-ordinating countries for the question of sport, had affirmed the need to continue efforts even more energetically in the various sports organizations to promote their democratization and to eliminate apartheid and racial discrimination from sport. In that regard, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the non-aligned countries had declared that they attached particular importance to the adoption of an international convention on the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination in sports.

STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY-DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

103. Mr. SANON* (Deputy-Director, Division of Human Rights) said that before reporting on activities concerning human rights, he wished to remind the Committee that during the discussion of the organization of its work the question had arisen, in regard to item 74, of whether the Secretary-General's report on the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should be considered by the Committee or submitted in the first instance to the Economic and Social Council. That report had already been placed on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, but paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 32/129 requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the work of the Conference. It was therefore clear that the Secretary-General had a mandate to report directly to the Third Committee.

* The full text of this statement will be issued as a document in accordance with a decision subsequently taken by the Committee.

(Mr. Sanon)

104. Turning to the human rights question itself, he noted that 30 years earlier the Committee had played a very important part in putting the finishing touches on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights before its adoption by the General Assembly. Since that time many other instruments had passed through the hands of the Committee. Indeed, in the current year the Committee was working on a draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women.

105. As the Committee began its work, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it seemed appropriate to pause to consider the current status of human rights in the world.

106. The International Bill of Human Rights was now a reality. Furthermore, by means of conventions, declarations and other instruments a large number of universally accepted standards had been adopted. The various implementation methods currently being used included periodic reports, complaint procedures, the study of allegations of human rights violations, inquiries, the good offices of the Secretary-General, studies and research, education, teaching and the dissemination of information.

107. Although great progress had clearly been made, the efforts of the international community were tarnished by human rights violations which, unfortunately, were each day assuming such disquieting proportions that they were continuously giving rise to concern on the part of public opinion. It was impossible to ignore the fact that there was a widening gap between principles and practice, between declarations of intent and the sad reality of every day. It would be illusory to attempt by means of diplomatic artifice to avoid seeing the facts or to suppress the concern of human beings who, in too many parts of the world, were wondering what human rights could mean and what could be their true value if those rights were violated so often. What, then, had been the United Nations response to that situation?

108. In recent years there had been many attempts to identify the underlying causes of human rights violations and to eliminate those causes. It should be pointed out that one of those causes was under-development. In that connexion, mention should be made of resolution 32/130 adopted by the General Assembly at its previous session: in that resolution the Assembly had expressed its deep concern at the continuing existence of an unjust international economic order which constituted a major obstacle to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries. In that same resolution the General Assembly had requested that priority should be accorded to the realization of the new international economic order. The concept of human rights had thus been enlarged and enriched, so that it now covered both economic, social and cultural development on the one hand and the concept of basic needs and economic questions on the other.

109. In that connexion, it should be noted that the Division of Human Rights, at the request of the Commission on Human Rights, had undertaken the preparation of a study on the right to development. At its thirty-first session the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled "The New International Economic Order and Human Rights".

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110. Another sector where some progress had been made was that of the elimination of the causes of human rights violations, in particular with regard to racism and racial discrimination. At the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1978, the principle of non-discrimination had been reaffirmed as an imperative norm of the international community and various other measures had been included in the Final Act of the Conference.

111. It was increasingly recognized that efforts aimed at eliminating the causes of human rights violations should go hand in hand with efforts aimed at preventing those violations from occurring. Recent developments in the activities of United Nations bodies concerned with human rights matters were encouraging in that connexion.

112. Thus at its thirty-fourth session the Commission on Human Rights had announced for the first time that it had adopted decisions on the human rights situation in certain countries, in conformity with the procedure established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1503 (XLVIII). At its most recent session the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had studied a list of multinational corporations whose business relations with South Africa appeared to encourage and support the southern African régimes. With regard to southern Africa, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the human rights situation in that region had undertaken a mission to gather information from witnesses. It had begun its mission with a Symposium on the Exploitation of the Blacks in South Africa and Namibia and on Prison Conditions in South African Jails, held from 14 to 25 July 1978 at Maseru, Lesotho.

113. Furthermore, early in 1978 the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Situation of Human Rights in Chile had paid a visit to that country to study the human rights situation on the spot. A report on that mission would be submitted to the Committee during the current session. In addition, a seminar on national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights had been held on 18-29 September at Geneva in the framework of efforts aimed at promoting human rights at the lowest level, namely that of the community. The seminar had adopted some important conclusions and recommendations which would be submitted to the Committee and the General Assembly during the session.

114. However, it must be recognized that the efforts made so far had not gone beyond the stage of seeking solutions to problems and that there remained the equally important question of what role the United Nations had played and could play in dealing with the current human rights situation in the world. That question itself raised problems at both the institutional and practical levels. The Committee would study the institutional and political framework of the matter at its current session and he would at that time deal more specifically with the matter. However, at the current stage he wished to mention some practical aspects which, in his view, warranted attention. It was an irrefutable fact that the effective implementation of United Nations standards, on which Member States had agreed until the present, was of the greatest importance.

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(Mr. Sanon)

115. Unfortunately, it was in that area that the most serious difficulties were encountered and, in some cases, those difficulties had almost attained crisis proportions. During the past two years, the International Covenants and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had entered into force. There had also been some further ratifications of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. At present, the number of ratifications of those various instruments was as follows: Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 100 States parties; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 50 States parties; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 52 States parties; Optional Protocol, 20 State parties; International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 46 States parties. It was to be hoped that, in connexion with the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, States Members of the United Nations which had not yet done so would consider ratifying those instruments.

116. It would thus be appreciated that the bodies responsible for overseeing the implementation of those instruments expected assistance from the Secretariat to facilitate their work. However, the Secretariat was faced with a problem, namely, lack of staff and resources, and was increasingly unable to respond adequately to the requests made to it. The need to establish ad hoc committees or working groups was becoming increasingly felt, and that naturally meant an enormous increase in the number of meetings of human rights bodies or working groups so that the calendar of meetings now covered the entire year. Legislative bodies were also requiring more and more additional sessions for longer and longer durations.

117. That was certainly a welcome development, and it was to be hoped that the trend would continue. However, to be able to respond satisfactorily to the demands made by those various bodies the Secretariat would have to be given the necessary facilities and staff. Another area which also presented major problems was the field of advisory services. There was no doubt that teaching, education and the dissemination of information in the field of human rights were essential to the campaign to eradicate the underlying causes of human rights violations. That was one area of the United Nations work programme which especially deserved to receive encouragement. However, the funds available for advisory services had steadily diminished in recent years, to the point that the programme had been cut down to a bare minimum. Consequently at its thirty-fourth session, held in February/March 1978, the Commission on Human Rights had expressed its deep concern at the lack of funds which had led to a curtailment of the programme of advisory services.

118. On its recommendation, the Economic and Social Council had requested that, starting in 1980-1981, the financing of the advisory services programme in the field of human rights should be arranged as a part of the budget of the Human Rights Division. Lastly, the Economic and Social Council had reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to organize at least two seminars and one training course annually and to grant at least 25 fellowships each year, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries. In the course of the year, the

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(Mr. Sanon)

Division had received nine requests for seminars from States Members of the United Nations but had unfortunately been unable to organize any, for want of funds. In addition 105 requests for fellowships had been received from 92 Member States. However, it had only been possible to grant 15 fellowships, although provision had been made for 25.

119. It was certainly not a matter of restoring the programme of advisory services to its former level but simply of improving the dissemination of information on human rights. The dissemination throughout the world of information on the basic international instruments dealing with human rights, in local languages, was a need that required absolute priority. Some efforts had been made in that regard in co-operation with the Office of Public Information, but it was essential to carry out a complete plan of action in that field.

120. While not wishing to press the point unduly, he nevertheless felt obliged to call attention to a dichotomy which existed: at a time when there was growing concern throughout the world about human rights, less than 1 per cent of the total United Nations budget (to be precise, 0.77 per cent) was allocated to human rights-related activities - activities which lay at the very heart of, and constituted the very raison d'être of the Organization. At its last session the Economic and Social Council, at the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights, had expressed concern over the lack of adequate resources for the implementation of human rights programmes and had invited the General Assembly to consider, at its thirty-third session, taking appropriate action to increase the budget of the human rights programme within the limits of available resources. He expressed the hope that when the Assembly considered that request by the Economic and Social Council, concrete results would ensue from its debate. He wished to give his assurance that it was by no means a matter of prestige or bureaucratic self-satisfaction, but simply a matter of real need. The activities of the Human Rights Division covered the whole world. It provided full or partial secretariat services for six United Nations organs, namely, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It also provided secretariat services for many subsidiary organs, ad hoc committees and working groups. Many of those bodies held more than one meeting a year. To mention an example, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered reports from 100 States Parties - reports which had to be prepared and distributed by the Division. The Human Rights Committee considered reports from 50 States Parties, not counting complaints, which were often voluminous, from 20 States Parties. From 1979 onwards, the Economic and Social Council would have to consider reports from 52 States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The agenda of the Commission on Human Rights, at its previous session, had contained 30 items and the agenda of the Sub-Commission had consisted of 23 items. Every year the Division also had to produce a considerable number of reports and studies and thousands of pages of documentation.

121. In conclusion, he said that the Division considered it an honour to serve the international community and would have liked to do more. It would also have liked

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(Mr. Sanon)

to have been able to improve the quality of its work. It would have wished to be in a position to reach the man in the street in the towns and villages, and the fields and factories of the world. It would have liked the United Nations to have had a human rights presence in the different regions of the world, for example by stationing human rights officers in those different regions, but that would have required a larger staff and more resources. The thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would seem to provide an opportunity for the United Nations and for each of its Member States to renew their pledge to protect and promote human rights.

122. The obligation of Member States to observe the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as the General Assembly had stated in its resolution 32/130, was fundamental for the promotion and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and for the realization of the full dignity and worth of the human person.

123. He expressed the hope that, at the current session, specific measures would be taken and that the United Nations would prove truly equal to its task and able to meet the challenge confronting it.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.