



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 88: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/33/3/Add.1 (part II), A/33/214 and Corr.1, A/33/198 and Add.1/Rev.1, Add.2 and Corr.1, A/33/316, A/33/339 and Add.1, A/33/206, E/1978/106; A/C.3/33/3-6; A/C.3/33/L.29)

1. Mrs. STOLTENBERG (Norway), speaking on behalf of her own delegation and those of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden, said that she wished first of all to express satisfaction with the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. The agenda which had been agreed upon, with its emphasis on employment, health and education, as well as the proposed organization of the work of the Conference should ensure that the Conference was action-oriented and of great practical value. International Women's Year and the conference held in that connexion had been a landmark and had served to bring out the fact that women should be regarded as a separate group in development planning in order to achieve maximum, balanced growth. As the Administrator of UNDP had observed, through grossly inadequate attention to one half of the available human resources, a majority of the developing countries were accepting a slower pace of development than was necessary. Such statements showed that development planners were beginning to see the more active integration of women in development as a prerequisite to development itself. Until recently, the problems of women had been seen primarily as problems of social welfare which could only be solved through costly measures that most countries could not afford. However, much remained to be done at both the national and the international level.

2. Above all, it was essential that the role of women in development should be taken into account in all United Nations activities, particularly at such international gatherings as the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Most important of all, the 1980 World Conference must become a major input for translating the recommendations of the 1975 conference into operational terms and including them in the new international development strategy.

3. That meant concentrating on certain crucial issues, and, in that connexion, there was no contradiction between the subtheme chosen for the 1980 Conference - health, education and employment - and the major goals of the Decade - equality, development and peace - since improvements in health, education and employment for women were prerequisites for achieving the broader goals. She noted in that connexion that the delegations of the Nordic countries would join in sponsoring the draft resolution on the Conference that was to be introduced in the Committee.

4. The term "employment" must include the non-monetary sector as well as that of paid employment and must also include the value of women's work within the household. For example, ECA had calculated that nearly 70 per cent of all

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(Mrs. Stoltenberg, Norway)

agricultural work in the region was performed by women. It was now beginning to be realized that the fact that those women workers had little education and lacked access to technological improvements, co-operatives, etc. resulted in low productivity and a great deal of food wastage. It should also be recognized that between 30 and 40 per cent of all women were heads of families - a factor that must be taken into account in programmes directed at the poorest population groups, in which there were a great many households headed by women.

5. If seen in the context of economic productivity and development, improvements in women's education and health became important means, and not merely ends, of development. Education for girls and women must include equal access to schools at all levels, functional literacy training, vocational training and extension services. Health services must include activities for improving nutrition as well as gynecological and family planning services. In that connexion, the threat to the health of millions of young girls represented by the practice of female circumcision should be taken into account. The delegations of the Nordic countries supported the recommendation that the 1980 Conference should concentrate on in-depth studies of those issues and of their interrelationship with economic and social development.

6. With regard to the preparations for the Conference, she felt it was crucial that the proposed secretariat should be established as quickly as possible, i.e. at the very beginning of 1979. She also thought it essential to establish a separate secretariat to work in close co-operation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

7. Secondly, she endorsed the Preparatory Committee's view that the information programme for the Conference should address itself to all levels of society, taking account of the social, economic and cultural differences between various countries. The Conference should address itself to development planners and government administrators, but also to the groups of women and men whose lives it would seek to improve.

8. Thirdly, it was important that detailed documentation should be available. A very important result of International Women's Year was the body of research and data on women that had been obtained, much of which was still confined to research institutions and other groups of specialists. An important task of the Conference would be to assemble and analyse that information and make it available to development planners. To that end, the secretariat should avail itself of consultants and of the active participation of the United Nations specialized agencies, especially ILO, FAO, UNESCO and WHO, and it was important that there should be effective co-operation among all organizations of the United Nations system. The interagency programme for the Decade (E/1978/106) gave a clear picture of on-going and planned United Nations activities in that field. The programme should be further elaborated and implemented.

9. Fourthly, the regional conferences planned for 1979 could be as important as the main Conference itself in formulating practical, realistic measures. The Third Committee should make strong recommendations concerning the resources

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(Mrs. Stoltenberg, Norway)

required for the Conference and its preparations. In that connexion, she felt that the funds proposed for the use of consultants were inadequate, particularly since the type of documentation that was needed could be produced more effectively by expert consultants than by the Secretariat.

10. Lastly, she had certain reservations about the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations which seemed too restrictive. She hoped that the Preparatory Committee would reconsider its position, since the non-governmental organizations had played a crucial role in the field of women's affairs, would be able to make an important contribution and were indispensable links with the groups that the Conference would seek to reach. The importance of the Conference would be in direct proportion to the extent to which it was action-oriented and concentrated on practical, realistic, economically feasible measures.

11. Mrs. DJABIE (Togo) said that, since the dawn of history, men had played a predominant role and had enjoyed all the privileges in human societies, while women had been given a very secondary part to play. In black African societies, besides functioning as wives and mothers, women worked in the fields and had the task of selling farm produce; yet, they had not been granted any rights. Today, with decolonization and the advent of industry and new ideas, social structures had changed and women were admitted to all sectors of public and private life.

12. Her Government attached great importance to the United Nations Decade for Women and had taken the necessary steps to ensure that Togolese women had access to positions of responsibility at all levels. Women played a vital role as wives and mothers, but that must not serve as a pretext for preventing them from participating fully in the political, economic and social life of their country.

13. Both urban and rural women had shown that they could combine the role of mother with that of worker. It was encouraging to note that there had been some progress throughout the world in recognizing the rights of women, but the beneficiaries had often been a minority group of privileged women who had had the good fortune to receive an education. It was therefore extremely important that national and international activities should centre on rural women, who lacked schooling, in an effort to integrate them into the development process. The United Nations Decade for Women provided a unique opportunity to accomplish that.

14. Her delegation welcomed the initiatives taken in connexion with the Decade and attached particular importance to the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which she hoped would be adopted at the present session. Her delegation was also pleased at the decision of the Economic and Social Council to establish an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and at the establishment of a Voluntary Fund for the Decade, which would make it possible to carry out projects and programmes in keeping with the principles of the Mexico Plan of Action and of the Decade.

(Mrs. Djabie, Togo)

15. Since the assumption of power by General Eyadema, Togolese women in both urban and rural areas had been taking part on the basis of equality with men in the task of national construction. The Government of Togo had decided upon long-term planning (1965-1985) as a means of improving the living standards of the rural masses. In that connexion, the State gave particular attention to the training of rural women so that they could avail themselves along with men of the technical and financial resources made available by State agencies. For example, in order to ease the task of women, who sometimes had to travel great distances in order to obtain water during the dry season, the Government had had wells dug in nearly every village. In addition, dispensaries, maternity centres and centres for the sale of pharmaceutical products had been established in rural areas. In the matter of education, girls received the same schooling as boys, and education would soon be universal, compulsory and free up to the age of 15 years. As to employment, women had access to every type of employment without discrimination of any kind, and the principle of equal pay for equal work was strictly applied in all sectors.

16. For some time now, Togo had had government services responsible for the advancement of women and their integration in the development process. In 1977 a general office of social affairs had been established, as well as an office for the advancement of women, and, subsequently, a State Secretariat for social affairs and advancement of women had been created and had now been converted into a ministry, headed by a woman. The Ministry had devised a number of dynamic policies for the benefit of women, and suffice it to say that, during the current year, in co-operation with the National League of Women of Togo, regional seminars had been held throughout the territory to discuss the rights and duties of women, taking account of the Mexico Plan of Action and the objectives for the Decade. The seminars had aroused great interest since, for the first time, women in rural areas had had an opportunity to speak in their own language and gain a clear insight into traditions and customs relating to women's rights and duties in Togolese society. Recommendations had been prepared and submitted to the Government with a view to eliminating from society the detrimental traditional elements that prevented the advancement of women. The delegation of Togo would like the United Nations to provide assistance for the implementation of Togo's programmes.

17. At the political level women were playing an active part in decision-taking, and it could be said that at last they were playing their rightful role in the country's development. Thanks to national unity, women in Togo now had an opportunity to express their views in the Central Committee, which was one of the chief party organs, and in addition to participating in policy-making activities they were contributing to the task of strengthening international peace and eliminating racism and racial discrimination. Women in Togo were working together with women throughout the world in an effort to uphold common values and combat injustice. In that connexion, the Committee must not forget the women of southern Africa who were waging a fierce struggle against colonialism, imperialism, and racial discrimination and deserved special attention.

18. Mrs. HUDA (Bangladesh) said that 51 per cent of the 80 million inhabitants of

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(Mrs. Huda, Bangladesh)

Bangladesh were women, and their legal equality was guaranteed in all respects to the extent that 10 per cent of posts were reserved for women in all spheres of activity. In order to achieve that legal equality, the Government of Bangladesh had had to contend with deep-rooted constraints and surmount many difficulties due to the country's geographical features and the resulting problems of communication.

19. The basic problem of the majority of the population of Bangladesh was poverty. Therefore the obvious choice for all benefits was the male child, and the women of Bangladesh happened to be the poorest of the poor and the most disadvantaged of the disadvantaged. The elimination of inequalities and the integration of women in the development process thus constituted an essential component of Bangladesh's development strategy for the next decade.

20. The Constitution of Bangladesh prohibited any discrimination on the basis of sex and also allowed the State to adopt special measures in favour of women to eliminate existing inequalities. Primary education was thus free for girls, and 10 per cent of all vacancies in universities and higher educational institutions were reserved for women. Fifteen seats were reserved for women in a 315-member national Parliament, and women were encouraged to stand for election in general contexts. There was a Ministry for Women's Affairs, a Women's Political Front, a National Women's Organization and many other women's organizations. Under the law women were guaranteed the same property rights as men, even after they married, and the Government had recently initiated co-operatives for women in the rural areas to help them to become self-reliant.

21. The goals and programmes of the Decade for Women were being widely publicized by the Government, which had recognized women as a potential force for progress. However, there was still a long way to go before full equality between men and women was achieved in all spheres of life.

22. With regard to the report on the status and role of women in education (A/33/214), her delegation entirely agreed that the maximum participation of women in education and vocational training was necessary, and had noted with interest that at the World Conference to be held in 1980 special emphasis would be given to the elaboration of new strategies for the integration of women into the development process through the provision of adequate health and educational facilities. Her delegation also appreciated the Secretary-General's decision to resume consideration of the issue after the Conference. In Bangladesh there had recently been an intensification of literacy programmes in rural areas, and measures had been taken to facilitate women's participation in adult education programmes. The Government and various philanthropic organizations were trying to raise the literacy level by means of scholarships awarded without discrimination between the sexes.

23. Her delegation fully agreed with the priorities set out in the report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/33/316). It considered that research was essential for the evaluation of progress. It was indeed commendable that the Institute planned to act as a

(Mrs. Huda, Bangladesh)

co-ordinating body for training activities in the United Nations system, regional centres and educational institutions. To demonstrate its support for the ideology of the Institute, Bangladesh had made a token contribution to its budget.

24. The report on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (A/33/198) and the report on the work of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference (A/33/339) were of great interest and met with the unqualified approval of her delegation.

25. With regard to the report on the interagency programme for the Decade (E/1978/106), Bangladesh fully supported the idea of the inclusion in national development plans of programmes designed to ensure the full integration of women in activities at all levels and in all fields.

26. In the last few years it had been realized that an essential component in the process of improving living standards and promoting larger freedom for all was the betterment of the legal and social status of women, and that one of the most important means of achieving that goal was the dissemination of information, participation in collective efforts and the preparation of a strategy that could integrate the role of women into the entire national and international development processes. The women of Bangladesh were actively preparing to make their contribution to that task.

27. Mrs. BEN-AMI (Israel) said that she would like to confine her statement to women's education and training, which were closely connected with employment, since that was one of the basic means of achieving equality, development and peace.

28. In each country the status of women had to be seen against an individual's socio-cultural background, which was very largely responsible for keeping women in their position of inferiority or dependence and which hardly lent itself to the establishment of genuine equality of opportunity. The socio-cultural framework evolved more slowly than legislative and economic structures, and the social reality was too complex to be summed up by laws or statistics which could not truly reflect the picture of women's true role in society.

29. The development of nations was a continuous process and no one presumably expected that the second part of the Decade would mark some kind of dramatic change. However, it was the right moment to take stock of what had already been achieved, and to try to avoid repeating old mistakes. Achievements would be much greater if the problems involved were tackled in a more systematic way. First, women should clearly define their goal, and have a thorough grasp of its implications. As an initial step, legislative measures were, of course, indispensable, but laws were of very little real value unless implemented, and in the actual life of women, practice lagged far behind legal rights.

30. She believed that the most important task was to stimulate rethinking by both men and women with regard to their roles in present-day society. Consequently there was a need to educate girls and boys as members of society who had equal rights and duties, and also to educate the parents, the employers and the Governments, and bring about a radical transformation of the relations between the sexes. That was

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(Mrs. Ben-Ami, Israel)

fundamentally an educational concept and its implementation was the only way to women's true participation in the effort to ensure the well-being of society and the development of countries.

31. It had been proved that there existed a close correlation between women's education and their participation in every field of society, especially in the labour force. Israel provided a good example of that fact and, although it was true of all countries it was of particular importance to the developing countries, now in the stage of transition from an agricultural economy to an industrial one. When referring to the position of women, one must consider the situation as it related to great masses of women and not to the privileged few, who had been given opportunities to live a richer life, and the figures showed that there had been no great improvement and that there were still great differences between men and women in education.

32. In her delegation's view the priorities in women's education must be the attainment of a high level of literacy, specific training for jobs to avoid classifying women as only fit for certain kinds of jobs, and education of women to accept change as a constant pattern of life.

33. Education would have to prepare women to fulfil the needs of an industrialized technological society and for the social role that they would have to face. Education should be directed to making the woman immune, as a consumer, as the one who directed the social value of her group and as the judge of her family needs, to the dangers of the information media, the advertising media and the consumer society as a whole, so that she could maintain social and humanistic values in the present-day technological world. The most important role for the mothers of today and for the mothers of the future was to imbue the world with social and moral values. The performance of that task would give women the right to claim an increase in their participation in political life and in policy-making at all levels, including international co-operation and the strengthening of international peace, and would enable them to co-operate with men in the creation of a new era of peace - that peace so often promised to the new generation but not achieved.

34. Mr. PU (China) said that, although women constituted half of the world's population, in certain countries women were a long way from achieving equal status with men. But the advance of history was irresistible, and the women's movement for equal rights would undoubtedly continue to win new victories. Today, many women were distinguishing themselves in the fields of science and technology, industrial and agricultural production, and culture and art. Women of the third world, in particular, had become an important militant force in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and for national liberation, independence and social progress.

35. Throughout history, and especially over the past hundred years or so, Chinese women had been a great revolutionary force. After the May Fourth Movement in 1919, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, the political consciousness of Chinese women had become increasingly heightened and they had participated more actively and on an even wider scale in the great struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism.

36. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, Chinese women had been liberated and had made brilliant contributions in various fields. The number of women workers, model women workers and women leading cadres had grown during the past 29 years from 600,000 to 30 million. The women of new China had thus proved to be a powerful force in the cause of China's socialist revolution and socialist construction. Without their participation the Chinese revolution would not have been successful. Those great achievements had been made under the guidance of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his theory concerning the women's movement. In new China women were participating extensively in social production, and their economic and political positions were gradually improving. Thus the essential material basis and spiritual requirements for the complete liberation of women were being created.

37. Although the liberation of women and the liberation of the masses were inseparable, and although the fundamental interests of women and those of the masses were entirely consistent, women had their own particular interests. Men and women received the same wages for the same work. At the same time, a series of protective measures had been adopted in the light of women's special physiology. All ideas and acts that discriminated against women were opposed.

38. The political consciousness of Chinese women continued to grow, and revolutionary organizations of women in China were an important integral part of the over-all revolutionary force. Many women occupied responsible posts in all areas of social life, and emphasis was placed on the training of women cadres, especially in the case of women from minority nationalities.

39. The cause of Chinese women's liberation had received the support of women from all justice-upholding countries in the world. China was striving to develop friendly exchanges with women from different countries of the world and supported their just struggles.

40. China had entered a new phase in its development. Its aim was to build, before the end of the century, a prosperous socialist country with modern agriculture, industry, defence and science and technology. That was a new long march which would surely bring about profound changes in the economic life, social pattern and spiritual outlook of the country. In it women would participate, together with the rest of the Chinese people.

41. The Fourth National Women's Congress had recently convened. It had formulated new tasks for the women's movement in the new era, had revised and adopted the constitution of the All-China Federation of Women and had elected its new leadership. Thus had begun a new historic process for the women's movement in China. Women were participating in the three revolutionary movements of class struggle, the struggle for production and scientific experiment. At the same time, full emphasis would be given to women's special role in educating the younger generation, harmonizing family relations and forging new mores. Chinese women supported the realization of the "four modernizations".

(Mr. Pu, China)

42. The plight of the women in the countries and regions still oppressed by colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism was most tragic. Chinese women were working together to develop the international women's united front with a view to struggling against those evils, maintaining international peace and security, and promoting human progress and the liberation of women.

43. Mr. BRYANT (Australia) said that, notwithstanding some differences of attitude, societies in general tended to underestimate the achievements of women, to underemploy their talents and to restrict by law, tradition and social conservatism their opportunities for employment. The Third Committee had played a significant part in drawing attention to the issue.

44. His delegation strongly supported the decision to hold in 1980 a World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women and was glad to be taking part in the work of the Preparatory Committee. At its first session the Preparatory Committee had clarified many important questions concerning the organization of the Conference and had pointed the way for various organs of the system - in particular, the regional economic commissions and the specialized agencies - to prepare actively for it. The Preparatory Committee had established with greater clarity the financial and staffing resources required. He stressed that, unless sufficient resources were allocated to the Conference, its success would be compromised, and he hoped that it would shortly be possible to resolve the question of the actual site of the Conference.

45. His delegation whole-heartedly supported the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, as it was one of the central pillars of international activities in relation to women. It urged that, in the allocation of its resources, regard should be paid to the need to permit full implementation of the programme, which should not be restricted solely to co-ordination.

46. There seemed to be an imbalance between the output of United Nations documents and meetings concerning women and the input of women to the General Assembly itself, even though there was, of course, a reasonably high proportion of women in the Third Committee. He suggested that all delegations should recommend to their Governments that the status and number of women in their missions and delegations be improved.

47. His delegation had followed with interest the activities of the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. It was particularly pleased to learn of the Consultative Committee's decision to scrutinize carefully the projects submitted and the way in which the Consultative Committee had worked with the regional commissions in selecting projects for execution.

48. Australia had supported the previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council concerning the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in Teheran and looked forward to further

(Mr. Bryant, Australia)

clarification of the functions of the Institute and the relationships it would develop with other bodies, so that it might receive wider support from the international community. Australia had pledged \$20,000 per annum to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development as core budget support for a period of three years commencing in 1977/78 and had provided funds for the training course for women which the Centre had organized in the middle of 1978.

49. The United Nations should work with States in looking for ways in which women might be integrated in the development process. The Australian Development Assistance Bureau, the Office of Women's Affairs of the Department of Home Affairs and other relevant departments of the Australian Government had established a series of principles designed to help Australia work more closely with the countries of the Asian and Pacific region and with the international community as a whole in the furtherance of that goal.

50. Although political equality had been granted to women in Australia earlier than in almost any other country in the world, their progress to political power had been slow. There were currently no women in the House of Representatives and there were only five women in the Senate, one of whom was a Cabinet Minister. The situation was no different in the state parliaments. In other areas of public activity the picture was more heartening. There were now women judges in both federal and state jurisdictions, whereas 10 years ago there had been none. There were now women as heads and deputy heads of missions in the Foreign Service and women professors in universities, whereas in the year in which the United Nations was founded there had been none. Women were working in large numbers in the legal, medical and teaching professions on equal terms with men, but they were far less prominent than men in the decision-making process. Some women occupied senior posts in the Australian public service, but none had yet succeeded in becoming a head of department. It was significant, however, that, in general, women were playing a more decisive role in public affairs than in private industry.

51. In other spheres relating to women, too, great advances had been made in Australia. Equal pay had been introduced in 1972; there were generous maternity leave provisions, at least for women in the Australian public service; women had long-service leave rights on equal terms with men. In education, women fared as well, or even better, than their male counterparts.

52. In Australia women had played an equal part in overcoming the hardships of a pioneering country. Yet their entry into the highest level of the decision-making process had been slow. However, the situation was changing rapidly. A society which excluded women from full social, economic and political equality was denying itself access to one half of the nation's great resource: the intellectual and moral power of women.

53. Mrs. QUY (Viet Nam) said that the process of promoting equality between men and women had begun in her country in conjunction with the national democratic revolution, whose first programme, drawn up in 1930, had stated that women's

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(Mrs. Quy, Viet Nam)

potential was one of the essential strengths of the revolution, which would not be victorious without the mass participation of women. Large numbers of women had participated in the struggle for national liberation in the awareness that the root cause of the poverty in which they lived was their nation's dependence. During the August 1945 revolution female leaders had taken their place among the militants in order to launch the people's insurrection. On 2 September 1945 Viet Nam had proclaimed its independence and sovereignty and shortly afterwards it had embodied the rights of women in the 1946 Constitution. That Constitution had declared that men and women had equal rights at the political, economic, cultural, social and family levels and that women had the right to the same wage as men for work of equal value and to paid maternity leave, and had proclaimed the rights of mothers and children and protection for marriage and the family. The right to vote and to be elected had been granted to women on the same conditions as to men.

54. During the first resistance of the Vietnamese people to colonialist aggression (1946-1954) women had been one of the decisive forces in the people's war, replacing men behind the lines and helping them on the battlefield. That contribution to national resistance had raised the status of women and served to reaffirm the equality between the sexes brought about by the revolution. It had also raised women's political and educational level, particularly in the case of rural and working women.

55. During the second resistance against aggressive imperialism, the régime of the Ngo Din Diem clique had waged brutal repression against the population of South Viet Nam. In the rising of January 1960, which had ultimately led to the transfer of power, all the insurrectionists were women and their leader, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, had thereafter become deputy commander of the People's Army for the Liberation of South Viet Nam. Women had participated in the struggle in many ways - blocking the enemy's offensive, bringing action by the puppet army and administration to a standstill and performing liaison and other duties and the transport of munitions. They had also had a very important role in the general insurrection of 1968.

56. From 1975 onwards, in a totally liberated South Viet Nam, women pioneers had formed the guard that ensured the safety of goods and persons against acts of sabotage and terrorism by the agents left behind by the former occupier. Most working women had participated enthusiastically in the economic changes, overcoming difficulties caused by the lack of raw materials formerly supplied from abroad. In the social and cultural sphere, women had made a great contribution to the work of eliminating the vestiges of neo-colonialism.

57. In North Viet Nam, before the destructive war unleashed by aggressive imperialism, the Union of Vietnamese Women had mobilized women to take over production and services, replacing men who were at the front, to manage household affairs in order to encourage men to enlist, and to support them at the front and in the fighting. Millions of women had participated in that mass

(Mrs. Quy, Viet Nam)

movement, which had resulted in an unprecedented acceleration of the political education of women and had improved their social, spiritual and material status.

58. Women had accordingly undergone a profound change during the struggle. Economic and social construction had opened up for Vietnamese women the possibility of freely exercising their right to work, which was of capital importance in gaining social equality and economic independence, a prerequisite for their complete emancipation and for full and genuine equality. In 1977 the percentage of women had been 40 per cent in the State sector, 60 per cent in the co-operative sector and 30 per cent among specialized workers; women formed 24 per cent of university-trained executive personnel and 44 per cent of personnel with secondary education occupying management posts.

59. Women also participated fully in the management of the State and of the economy. It was sufficient to state that in North Viet Nam 30 per cent of the members of the National Assembly and 40 per cent of the members of the people's councils were women; 50 women were vice-chairmen and members of provincial administrative committees and 3,000 women were chairmen and vice-chairmen of district and communal administrative committees. That great advance demonstrated that Vietnamese women had become active members, on the same footing as others, of the community of workers to which society and the State belonged. The task of the moment was to struggle against economic poverty and to combat obsolete concepts concerning the problem of women, to increase the participation of women in the management of society and production, to organize domestic work and the care of children rationally and to raise the political, cultural, scientific and technical level of women.

60. However, just as Vietnamese women were preparing to achieve peacefully the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, they were again having to face a war, a frontier war in the south-west of the country, provoked by a great Power which had expansionist designs on South-East Asia.

61. Viet Nam's experience had emphasized the dialectical connexion between the emancipation of women and national liberation and the struggle for social progress of the people. Viet Nam was gratified by the way in which the 1975 Declaration of Mexico had emphasized that dynamic link at the international level: equality, development and peace, with the understanding that any lasting peace had to be based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of States. It was also gratified by the fact that the three elements of that dynamic link were likewise respected in the new general objectives described in the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women (E/1978/106, para. 17).

62. Miss MORENO (Mexico) said that one of the major challenges confronting the international community was to achieve full equality between men and women and to eliminate discrimination; that was not merely an objective but an essential

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(Miss Moreno, Mexico)

element of the society for which the world was hoping. In Mexico, as the Secretary for External Relations of her country had stated in the General Assembly, no legal discrimination of any kind against women existed; the central problem was the elimination of outdated concepts, of the stereotyped images that had imprisoned men and women in traditional roles and had deprived them of freedom to decide among all the possible choices.

63. At the national level, measures and reforms continued within the general development plans, since the problems of women were those of society as a whole. Accordingly, the execution of the programme of the Alliance for Production was continuing, as was the process of political, administrative and economic reform, and those together constituted social reform. She mentioned, as examples of activities having a direct bearing on the status of women, that the number of day-care centres for persons not covered by the institutions of the social security system had increased, training programmes for non-working women had expanded with a view to enabling them to do productive work at home, programmes to improve nutrition had been established or expanded, and family planning information activities had been launched. Within the framework of the general development plans, therefore, activities had been undertaken that were directly beneficial to women, and in particular to underprivileged women in rural and urban areas. All those measures were consistent with the content of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women.

64. At the international level, Mexico had participated at all meetings on the subject and had acted as host in October for a seminar under the auspices of FAO and ECLA on identifying programmes for rural women.

65. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Preparatory Committee (A/33/339), her delegation supported the draft resolution in annex I. On the subject of documentation for the Conference, her delegation considered that the report and statistical annex mentioned in paragraph 12, items 2 and 3, of the Secretary-General's report should be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women simultaneously. With regard to the content of paragraph 13 and the following paragraphs, her delegation agreed with the guidelines given in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution of the Preparatory Committee. She pointed out in that connexion that there was a Latin American candidate for the office of Secretary-General of the Conference. Moreover, given the fact that the preparatory activities for the Conference were fundamental for its success, the documentation should be distributed sufficiently in advance for Governments to be able to consider it. Finally, the convening of sectoral meetings was of great importance, especially the United Nations/UNESCO seminar on women and information media (A/33/339, para. 29), which would provide an opportunity for identifying the impact of the media on the formation, dissemination or encouragement of the stereotypes she had mentioned.

(Miss Moreno, Mexico)

66. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (A/33/198 and Add.1), a favourable trend was clearly discernible in the activities, for example in the concern not to use the resources to fund more new posts than were essential and the effort to co-ordinate with other similar funds and not to duplicate their work. Her Government had in the current year pledged its first contribution to the Fund.

67. On the subject of the Secretary-General's report on information activities for the Conference (A/33/339/Add.1), she said that the possible impact of the proposals on modifying the image of women and eliminating stereotyping should be analysed, as should the contribution that could be made by wider knowledge of the objectives of the Plan of Action and of the Decade. She also believed that methods other than those discussed in the document could be taken into account.

68. Mrs. MIKHAILENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that women's role in a society was a very useful criterion for ascertaining the level of civilization in that society, for the solution of economic and social problems depended on the recognition of the contribution women could make. Since the foundation of the United Nations great efforts had been made to eliminate discrimination against women; the proclamation of the International Women's Year in 1975, the International Congress in Berlin and the 1975 Conference held in Mexico City, whose Declaration and World Plan of Action had later been approved by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session, were evidence of that fact. At the same session, the Assembly had proclaimed the United Nations Decade for Women, in the context of which activities were being organized at the national, regional and international levels to promote equality, development and peace. The Commission on the Status of Women, which had given attention to the need to integrate women into efforts on behalf of peace and development and into the struggle against racial discrimination and apartheid, also had an important part to play in the struggle against discrimination against women; in that connexion she drew attention to decisions of the Commission subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1978/31, 1978/33 and 1978/29, among others.

69. Those considerations in no way implied that discrimination against women had been brought to an end since, as was well known, women were still segregated in certain capitalist countries, where they generally had poorly paid jobs, where there were large gaps between the average salaries of women and those of men and where women's exercise of their political rights was purely symbolic. Women's rights were also treated with disdain in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. Document A/33/214, concerning women and education, indicated that the number of illiterate women continued to increase and that women frequently occupied jobs requiring no specialized training. It showed how necessary it was to achieve true equality, which could be achieved at the national level only by bringing about socio-economic changes, including the promotion of the advancement of women and their participation in public life.

70. In the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, women had achieved equality with the October Revolution. Article 33 of the 1978 Constitution established legal guarantees reflecting the concern of the State with the status of women. More than

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(Mrs. Mikhailenko, Ukrainian SSR)

half of the economically active population of the Republic were women, who often held posts requiring professional expertise. As could be seen from documents A/32/216 and A/33/214, women represented more than half of all university graduates, more than half of all trade union leaders and more than 35 per cent of the deputies in the Supreme Soviet of the Republic. Women took part in the administration of the State, in the management of the economy and in the affairs of the Republic (there were 40,000 women's soviets, which were important instruments for protecting women's rights). Women also took part in the international women's movement and women's movements for peace, disarmament, social progress, the banning of nuclear weapons and the elimination of colonialism.

71. Her delegation supported the three objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace, and believed that the United Nations should continue to evaluate the progress achieved until those three objectives were attained.

72. The report on the work of the Preparatory Committee (A/33/339) contained positive elements, but there were also some aspects which caused confusion; for example, the reference to "interested informal groups" in paragraph 11 (e) was unclear; and the suggestions regarding new appointments to a number of positions referred to in paragraphs 13 to 22, and more specifically in paragraphs 16, 17 and 22, gave rise to serious doubts.

73. Miss WHITE (Ireland) said the United Nations Decade for Women had proved to be one of the major achievements of the United Nations in the area of social development. In Ireland, while women had been limited to the home as dictated by social attitudes which they themselves shared, they had occupied a privileged position and there had in fact been few legal barriers to their participation in all aspects of public life. That was demonstrated by the fact that some women had played very active roles in the political, educational and social fields. The International Women's Year had also had a part in changing social attitudes.

74. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of women in education (A/33/214), the World Conference would, in accordance with its subtheme "Employment, Health and Education", place special emphasis on elaborating new strategies for integrating women in the development process, particularly by promoting economic and employment opportunities on an equal footing with men through the provision of adequate health and educational facilities. It was to be hoped that the Conference would emphasize that subtheme and particularly education, which was the most important issue.

75. The report indicated the extent to which Governments were responding to the call for action. Ireland had enacted measures to eliminate sex discrimination in reading material at the primary school level and to secure equal access by boys and girls to classes on all school subjects. But there was still a great disparity in the number of boys and girls taking mathematics and science subjects, and the number of girls entering institutions of higher education was far below that of boys, despite the fact that until the age of 17 there was a slightly higher proportion of girls in the educational system. Ireland had a high population growth which put the educational system under heavy strain. But more schools were being established, which would undoubtedly assist in eliminating such differences.

(Miss White, Ireland)

76. Turning to the Secretary-General's report on the Voluntary Fund for the Decade (A/33/198), she noted that UNDP had approved a very small number of projects related to the Decade, which made her feel that Governments could perhaps ensure that women played a greater part in formulating national programmes submitted to UNDP. Ireland regretted that it had not been in a position to announce a pledge to the Voluntary Fund at the recent Pledging Conference, but it made a substantial contribution to UNDP and was open to all suggestions for bilateral projects for the advancement of women.

77. Mr. MUCORLOR (Liberia) said it was an established fact that his Government recognized full equality of rights for women and therefore supported all measures necessary to accelerate the integration of women into the development process.

78. Since its founding 136 years earlier, his country had pursued the policy of granting all its citizens equal rights, regardless of colour, sex or religion. It was one of the nations that had granted women the right to vote very early and it intended to continue applying that policy in the future. Women played a prominent role in his country and in that connexion mention should be made, for example, of Mrs. Brooks-Randolph, who had been President of the General Assembly and was currently the first female Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of his country, and Dr. Brown Sherman, who was President of the State University of Liberia.

79. For those reasons his delegation regretted that there were still countries where women were not treated that way and it urged those countries to change their attitude.

80. In conclusion, his country expressed its gratitude to the Secretary-General for the documentation submitted and it supported the convening of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

81. Mr. MAZAIRAC (Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information), introducing document A/33/339/Add.1 on information activities for the World Conference of the Decade, said that the information programmes set forth in that document had been made as broad as possible, within the context of the anticipated possibilities, with a view to laying the foundation for and supporting the national and regional activities - which would be the basic ones.

82. For his part, he wished to express his satisfaction at having had the opportunity to prepare that information project as an integral part of the programming for the Conference. Its purpose was to assist the information media in attaining a situation where the desire of the United Nations and Member States that women should participate fully in development and in instituting a new international economic order became a reality.

AGENDA ITEM 76: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/383/Rev.1, A/C.3/33/L.22)

83. Mr. NTAKIBIBORA (Burundi) said that it was an honour for him to submit to the Committee draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22, the sponsors of which had been joined by the delegations of Bangladesh, Ghana, Haiti, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia. At the same time he regretted that that crucial question had been pending for so many years. As far back as 1972 the General Assembly had in fact recognized the danger threatening the peoples of southern Africa and had requested Member States to sever their diplomatic relations with South Africa. The Assembly had subsequently broadened the scope of that request, but some Member States had nevertheless maintained their attitude and others had expanded their relations with South Africa.

84. The text submitted to the Committee was based on General Assembly resolution 31/33. As promised, the African group had brought the draft to the attention of all the regional groups, in order that they might make any comments they considered appropriate. The sponsors had tried to take such comments into account so that the draft would be acceptable to all delegations.

85. Having said that, he wished to point out a number of errors and alterations. In the second preambular paragraph the words "New International Economic Order" should have initial capitals in the French and Spanish texts; in the ninth preambular paragraph, in the English version, the word "menace" should be replaced by the word "threat"; in operative paragraph 3 the word "strongly" should be replaced by the word "vigorously", the words "political and" preceding the words "economic interests" should be deleted, in the third and fourth lines "transnational" should read "multinational" and, in the penultimate line, in the Spanish text, the words "que impiden" should be replaced by the words "lo que impide"; in the Spanish text of operative paragraph 5, the words "por fin" should be inserted after the word "adopte"; likewise in the Spanish text, in operative paragraph 8 the word "revisado" should read "actualizado", and in paragraph 10, following the words "requests the Secretary-General to," the words "have the above-mentioned report of the Special Rapporteur printed," should be inserted and that sentence should continue with the words "to arrange for its widest possible dissemination and to transmit it to the Special Committee against Apartheid, ...".

86. As amended the text was based on the assumption that the peoples of southern Africa also had a right to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, to benefit from the International Development Strategy and to have the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States applied to them.

87. The sponsors had given serious thought to the report prepared by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Khalifa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/383/Rev.1), which they considered acceptable in spite of the fact that it contained a number of errors. Although the Special Rapporteur had not reached any conclusions the facts spoke for themselves, and the

(Mr. Ntakibibora, Burundi)

sponsors had therefore condemned the policies of maintaining the economic interests - whether those of States or private interests - supported by the multinational corporations. They had therefore once again reaffirmed their conviction that there was nothing whatsoever to be gained from giving assistance to South Africa. In that connexion, it should be pointed out that South Africa had obtained \$US 78 billion for its five-year plan for the purpose of achieving a growth rate of 6.4 per cent; that was more than was necessary to initiate the New International Development Strategy.

88. The sponsors likewise requested the Security Council to adopt binding decisions to prohibit all collaboration with South Africa in the nuclear field, since, although nuclear weapons could not hold back the oppressed peoples of that region in their progress towards freedom, they constituted a serious threat to international peace and security.

89. The damage had already been done, but it could be remedied if States scrupulously observed the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council. The international community, particularly the Western States, which had shaped the Charter, should oppose policies such as those practised in southern Africa, which were contrary to all the principles of that Charter. The sponsors hoped that the draft would be adopted by a large majority.

90. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the financial implications of the amendment to paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22 proposed by the representative of Burundi, informed the Committee that publication of Mr. Khalifa's report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/383/Rev.1) had already been requested at the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, and it had been determined that the cost of publishing it would amount to \$24,550. Adoption by the Committee of the aforementioned draft resolution would therefore have no additional financial implications.

91. Mr. GIUSTETTI (France), explaining his vote before the vote, said that although some delegations felt that peaceful methods offered no possibility of achieving the elimination of apartheid within a reasonable period of time and that recourse to force was inevitable, his delegation did not share that opinion. On the contrary, it believed that the peaceful approach was the only way to eliminate apartheid as soon as possible without at the same time imposing excessive sacrifices on the community that was to be helped.

92. The measures recommended in a resolution such as General Assembly resolution 31/77 would constitute an obstacle to that approach without succeeding in inducing South Africa to discontinue apartheid even gradually. Moreover, it might temper the harshness of the régime and make it less intolerable, which would give it a further respite. The first result of severing all relations with South Africa would be to convince the minority community that the only way to retain a place in the country would be to maintain the system. Moreover, that policy would deprive countries that wished to see human rights fully respected in South Africa and throughout the world of any means of action and would leave them no choice other than a protracted,

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(Mr. Giustetti, France)

costly struggle. It was therefore incorrect to assert that the intention and consequence of maintaining relations with South Africa was to permit that country to persist in its policy of apartheid. On the contrary, the aforementioned relations constituted effective means of exercising influence and pressure and would make it possible to eliminate apartheid in a manner that was in the interest of the victims, thus enabling a South Africa that was integrated into the African continent to make its economic and technological resources available to its inhabitants on an equal footing.

93. His country maintained a permanent bilateral diplomatic activity, supported measures such as the embargo on the sale of arms and was convinced that it had chosen the approach that was most rapid and demonstrated the greatest respect for human life. The draft resolution no doubt expressed its sponsors' conviction, but at the same time it contained the ulterior motives of those who supported them. His delegation was of the view that the policy recommended in its text was not the most appropriate for the interests that it set out to defend, and it would therefore vote against it.

94. Mr. EDIS (United Kingdom), explaining his vote before the vote, said that the draft resolution endorsed a report which purported to demonstrate that the maintenance of economic and diplomatic links of any kind with South Africa was the major factor in the perpetuation of the abominable policies of the régime. His country was among those pilloried in the report on that basis.

95. His delegation rejected the tendentious, selective and intellectually dishonest approach of the report, which lacked objectivity, and it could not accept either its premises or its conclusions. It also rejected the statements made during the debate on that item by one group of countries and its allies, which had sought, as usual, to fish in troubled waters. Their attitude reeked of hypocrisy, and it had been revealed in the course of the debate that that very group of States themselves had economic links with South Africa. Their feeble attempts to deny it had been neither effective nor convincing.

96. His country did respect, however, the strongly held convictions of African countries, shared by the mass of developing countries, on the situation in South Africa, and it well understood their feelings of anger and frustration. They justifiably felt affronted by the gross violations of human rights, and they understandably expressed themselves in strong terms.

97. His Government had made clear its total opposition to the policy of apartheid practised in South Africa and was determined to continue to work for rapid fundamental change of that situation. Apartheid went against the tide of history and was bound in the end to fail. The problems of South Africa were those of human rights, not colonialism. His country had consistently condemned also the brutal ill-treatment of detainees and the inhuman system which permitted detention without trial solely on grounds of political belief. It had demonstrated its concern at

(Mr. Edis, United Kingdom)

the South African Government's measures of October of the preceding year, detaining members of black nationalist organizations, by voting for the Security Council resolution condemning the South African Government.

98. His Government had several times emphasized to the South African Government the need for real progress on Namibia, Rhodesia and apartheid and had also acted jointly with other Western members of the Security Council. Those initiatives, supported by the majority of the international community and recognized by the Security Council, could not be carried forward in the absence of diplomatic relations with South Africa.

99. His country did not provide any military assistance to South Africa and was determined to fulfil faithfully its obligations under Security Council resolution 418 (1977) calling for a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa, even though it had for many years implemented its own effective embargo. It shared the concern of other States about South African nuclear intentions and had pressed South Africa to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and accept IAEA safeguards on all its nuclear facilities. His Government did not collaborate, either, in the development of South Africa's nuclear power industry.

100. Economic relations were not incompatible with the promotion of peaceful changes, and his country was using what economic links did exist with South Africa to bring about change. The Code of Conduct of the Nine on Employment Practices was an important step in that process. Economic confrontation with South Africa would have severe consequences for his country and for the black inhabitants of South Africa and other countries in southern Africa that were economically dependent on South Africa. His Government was none the less conscious of the need to reduce its large economic stake in South Africa and had taken steps in that direction.

101. For all those reasons his delegation could not accept the basis of the draft resolution, and it also had objections with regard to particular paragraphs, including many of the resolutions referred to in the preamble, which it had been unable to support. It would therefore be obliged to vote against the draft resolution.

102. Mr. VERKERCKE (Belgium) said that a prominent feature of his country's position was the categorical repudiation of the policy of apartheid. His Government had reaffirmed that position many times and, in particular, through the activity of its Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Lagos Conference. His country was strictly applying the embargo on supplying arms to South Africa, in conformity with Security Council resolution 418 (1977), and had shown its disapproval of the policy of apartheid by various measures having to do with official relations with South Africa, especially in the cultural and credit fields.

103. He none the less thought that draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22 contained several unjustified statements and, moreover, that it endorsed baseless conclusions. For those reasons, his delegation would be obliged to vote against it.

104. Mr. SIBAMBO (Mozambique) said that, considering the adverse consequences which the political, military, economic and nuclear assistance given to the racist régimes of southern Africa had upon the peoples of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia and the threat which it posed to the territorial integrity and independence of neighbouring countries and to international peace and security, his delegation was joining the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22.

105. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22.

106. Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22 was adopted by 100 votes to 7, with 20 abstentions.

107. The CHAIRMAN, at the request of the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, said that the record would make note of the fact that its delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, although its vote had not been duly registered.

108. Mr. LIVERMORE (Canada) said that his delegation had abstained from voting, despite the fact that it shared the desire to put an end to racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, because many of the points contained in the draft resolution's text went beyond what was desirable in the attainment of those objectives. It could not accept, for example, the implication contained in the eighth preambular paragraph that the maintenance of diplomatic relations with South Africa was a violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, nor the singling out of Western economic interests in southern Africa for condemnation as agents of collaboration in racist policies. Lastly, it had serious doubts as to the objectivity of the report submitted by Mr. Khalifa and therefore could not endorse the request to give it the widest possible dissemination. His delegation regretted that there could not have been more consultations with the delegations of the African Group on those points.

109. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that he had abstained from voting on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22, although he appreciated the effort which the sponsors had made to take into account the points of view of delegations with differing attitudes; he was opposed, in particular, to the sixth preambular paragraph and to operative paragraphs 3 and 4.

110. Mr. HEINEMANN (Netherlands) said that he had abstained from voting on the draft resolution and regretted that no effort had been made to avoid giving it a polemical tone. He expressed some doubts concerning the objectivity of the report submitted by Mr. Khalifa and registered his opposition, in particular, to the sixth preambular paragraph and to operative paragraph 3.

111. Mrs. BEN-AMI (Israel) said that she had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22 because of the first, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, whose language and content were unacceptable to her Government. That was particularly true of the seventh preambular paragraph, which took note of resolution 2 (XXXI) of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Her delegation none the less endorsed the basic aims of the draft resolution and therefore regretted its negative vote.

112. Mrs. DINCMEN (Turkey) said that she had voted in favour of the draft resolution, which was consistent with her opposition to apartheid, but she did not approve the unusually strong language used in certain paragraphs.

113. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that, if she had considered the draft resolution on the basis of its merits, she would have voted against it, because she could not accept the content of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, not to mention some of the preambular paragraphs. However, she had decided to abstain, in view of the effort that had been made to avoid at least some of the polemic overtones which had characterized other resolutions.

114. Mr. HOYT (United States of America) said that his country remained committed to the achievement of independence and self-determination by the peoples of southern Africa. Despite that, however, his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22 because it could not accept a number of its implications, particularly those contained in operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8. As for the report of the Special Rapporteur, he considered that it criticized certain industrialized countries for their relations with South Africa without any attempt to make an objective analysis of the effects of political, trade and other relations.

115. Mr. GAGLIARDI (Brazil) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, although the language of some paragraphs was excessive and went beyond what might be justified by the facts.

116. Mr. GOMEZ-ANZARDO (Cuba) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22, which embodied the militant fervour of the fraternal African countries struggling against colonialism, discrimination, racism, apartheid, neo-colonialism and all the crimes which the South African and Rhodesian régimes were committing with the complicity of certain countries which there was no need to name because they were only too well known. However, his delegation regretted paragraphs 365 and 369 of the report of the Special Rapporteur, which gave a distorted view of the Cuban presence in Africa.

117. Miss MANGANARA (Greece) said that in the past her delegation had always voted in favour of the philosophy and principles contained in draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.22. However, on the present occasion it had been obliged to abstain from the voting on the draft resolution, in view of certain inaccuracies concerning Greece contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/383/Rev.1, referred to in the draft resolution, and in view of some other points which her delegation could not agree with.

118. Miss DUBRA (Uruguay) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution; it wished, however, as it had done in the Fourth Committee and other committees, to express its reservations with respect to the language used in certain paragraphs which contained assertions that, in her delegation's judgement, tended to depart somewhat from reality and from the objectives sought.

119. Mr. WINTER (Chile) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution because he fully shared its objectives. However, as he had already said in the Fourth Committee, he felt that some parts of the draft resolution contained elements and language that went beyond its purpose.

120. Mr. RIZINGALA (Uganda) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because of its conviction that continued military, political, economic and other forms of collaboration by certain Member States with the racist régimes of southern Africa was to a large extent responsible for the perpetuation and denial of human rights in that part of the world. Even more serious was the fact that those southern African régimes, in connivance with certain Member States, continued to defy United Nations sanctions.

121. In connexion with the statement made by the delegation of the United States at the 30th meeting, in which reference had been made to Uganda, he felt that there was no need to reiterate his delegation's well-stated position with respect to the various malicious allegations of violations of human rights in Uganda. It was enough to say that competent international authorities were in the process of establishing the truth of the matter and that their conclusions should not be prejudged.

122. His delegation had no intention of raising the issue of the United States unilateral trade embargo against Uganda, because that was a purely bilateral matter. However, he had been appalled to hear the United States representative use Uganda as a defence for his country's activities in southern Africa. The embargo could not be called an expanded initiative on the part of the United States, as if the allegations against Uganda were worse than the repressive situation in southern Africa, which the international community had declared a crime against humanity. The motivation behind the embargo was not concern on the part of the American people; had that been so, they would first have acted to halt their vicious role in southern Africa. No one could possibly imagine that a restriction on the issuance of visas or on the approval of training programmes could improve the human rights situation in any country.

123. The CHAIRMAN requested that the representative of Uganda should confine himself to explanation of vote after the vote.

124. Mr. RIZINGALA (Uganda) said that he wished briefly to conclude, because he had not had an opportunity to comment when the United States had made its statement referring to Uganda.

125. The truth of the matter was to be found in the assertion of the representative of the United States that the effectiveness of economic sanctions in influencing the international policies of Governments depended upon circumstances. What were the circumstances in Uganda and in southern Africa? In Uganda, an independent people had refused to be exploited or dominated by the imperialists. In southern Africa, racist régimes were engaged not only in exploiting the black majority populations but also in massacring them, with the support of the United States, among other countries which stood to benefit from the perpetuation of that situation. The United States representative would have the Committee believe that a change in

(Mr. Rizingala, Uganda)

his country's policy with respect to private investments in southern Africa would have no profound effect in bringing about a change in the policy of the southern African régimes. He wished to reiterate his scepticism regarding the role of the United States and other countries as honest brokers in bringing about negotiated settlements in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

126. Miss CARRION (Bolivia) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, although it could not agree with the language used in certain paragraphs.

127. Mr. PALACIOS TREVIÑO (Mexico) said that he had voted in favour of the draft resolution in view of his country's well-known position on the item but wished to place on record his reservations with regard to the wording of some paragraphs.

128. Mrs. VARGAS (Costa Rica) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it fully shared its spirit and its aims. Collaboration of any kind with régimes universally identified with violations of the rights of oppressed men and peoples in southern Africa seriously undermined the legitimate efforts of those peoples to escape from their state of oppression. In those efforts, they could, as always, rely upon the sympathy and support of Costa Rica. However, her delegation had reservations with regard to the language used in several paragraphs of the draft resolution and to certain statements that were not fully consistent with the facts or needlessly exaggerated them.

AGENDA ITEM 87: PROBLEMS OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED (continued)
(A/C.3/33/L.21/Rev.1 and L.28)

129. Mr. PAPADEMAS (Secretary of the Committee) said that, as indicated in the statement of financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/33/L.28), the cost involved would be absorbed within resources available to the Secretary-General.

130. The CHAIRMAN announced that Guyana, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. The date mentioned in the fourth preambular paragraph should be changed from 20 September to 26 September, and the word "their" in the last line of operative paragraph 1 in the English text should be deleted. If there were no objections, she would take it that the Committee agreed to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

131. Draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.21/Rev.1 was adopted by consensus.

132. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany), speaking in explanation of the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/33/L.21/Rev.1 on behalf of the nine countries of the European Economic Community, said that, although they believed that discussion of the special needs of elderly people in international forums was necessary and useful, they wished to stress the priority need for practical measures at the regional and national levels. With regard to operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, they wished to make clear their view that any international manifestation such as that proposed, which had major financial implications and depended on further studies, should for the time being be regarded as a decision in principle.

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133. Mrs. MORGENTHAU (United States of America) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for their co-operation and requested that the Secretariat should submit a more informative statement of financial implications than that contained in document A/C.3/33/L.28.

AGENDA ITEM 91: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON ADOPTION LAW (continued)

134. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt without a vote a draft decision on agenda item 91 (United Nations conference for an international convention on adoption law) stating that the Third Committee, after considering item 91 at its 31st to 38th meetings, from 27 October to 6 November 1978, had decided not to adopt any measures on the item.

135. It was so decided.

136. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda items 76, 87 and 91.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.