



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 74: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

(d) STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
(A/32/187; A/C.3/32/L.6)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Iraq and Mongolia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.6.
2. Mr. KEILAU (German Democratic Republic) introduced the draft resolution in document A/C.3/32/L.6.
3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/32/L.6 should be deferred until a later meeting.
4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 79: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/32/61 and A/32/147 and Add.1-2)

5. Mr. SOBHY (Egypt) said that although the United Nations each year reaffirmed the right to self-determination as being basic to all other human rights and fundamental freedoms, the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Azania and Palestine were still being deprived of that right and subjected to occupation and oppression. The racist régimes in those areas persisted in their intransigence, fanaticism and arrogance and continued to flout the will of the entire international community, which had recognized the rights of those peoples to self-determination.
6. Those peoples were left with no alternative but armed struggle and the United Nations must support them both materially and morally. It must publicize their struggle and do its utmost to block outside assistance to the racist régimes. His own country was supporting those peoples in every possible way and would continue to refuse to deal with the illegal racist régimes. The recent bloodshed reported from South Africa was matched by the price in blood which continued to be paid by the Palestinian people for their human rights in Israeli prisons. The peoples of southern Africa and Palestine must be encouraged in their armed struggle and Egypt would continue to support any bilateral, regional and international efforts to that end.
7. Mr. MERKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the right to self-determination, which was enshrined in his country's Constitution as well as in a number of international instruments, was a legal norm of fundamental importance which applied to all peoples, irrespective of colour, race, religion or regional considerations. Its implementation involved more than the elimination of the remnants of colonialism, important though that was. His country was convinced of

(Mr. Merkel, Federal Republic
of Germany)

the importance of the implementation of that right in all parts of the world and was accordingly continuing its efforts to help bring about a situation of peace in Europe which would, for example, enable the German people itself to determine its rightful place in the community of European peoples. His Government had repeatedly stated that the right to self-determination should be translated into practice without the use of force, which would only inflict new disasters upon mankind.

8. The most important instance of the denial of the right to self-determination was that of the peoples who were still under colonial and alien domination, notably in southern Africa. However, the right to self-determination applied not only while peoples were under foreign rule but also after they attained their independence and it was of a permanent character. That was why most countries held periodic elections, which enabled the people to continue to exercise their right to self-determination and even change their minds concerning concrete aspects of that right and likewise gave the younger generation the opportunity to participate in the process. Self-determination was a complex notion which had economic, social and cultural facets as well as political and legal ones. When the term was used in connexion with colonial areas it was clear that alien domination was involved. However, there were other cases in which it was difficult to determine whether it was a minority or a people as a whole that was asserting the right to self-determination. Even in cases where the population had been consulted through elections or a referendum, the question could still arise as to whether it really had been given a chance to express its views freely and independently. In view of the importance attached to the right to self-determination, it was essential to define it with clarity. Considering the close link between the right to self-determination of peoples and individual human rights and freedoms, it might be helpful, when seeking a clear definition, to bear in mind that in many cases, notably southern Africa, not only the right to self-determination but also individual human rights were being violated.

9. Political self-determination must be accompanied and followed by economic self-determination and his Government endeavoured to co-operate in the economic field with the newly emerging States as soon as they became independent.

10. In conclusion he observed that the right to self-determination, like the rights of the individual, required peaceful co-operation among all States if it was to be implemented on a broad scale.

11. Mr. FIGUEIREDO (Angola) said that Angola, as a front-line State, attached the greatest importance to the question of the right to self-determination and independence of all of southern Africa. The problem was all the more urgent in that fundamental human rights were daily being violated in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, as well as Palestine, by the racist minority régimes, which were growing increasingly virulent and dangerous as their end approached. Despite the efforts of the United Nations, the plight of the victims was becoming increasingly serious because the Powers which had colonized most of the third world continued to keep the puppet colonialist régimes in southern Africa and Palestine alive. Without such co-operation between the imperialist Powers and those régimes there would undoubtedly be a speedy solution to the problem of racism, apartheid and the

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(Mr. Figueiredo, Angola)

denial of self-determination and independence, and attacks on those evils had to be mounted at all levels and in all international forums.

12. It was naturally to be hoped that the peoples of the world who were struggling for independence could win it through negotiation and diplomacy, but the day might not be far off when their only recourse would be to armed struggle. It was the Committee's responsibility to discuss and recommend speedy implementation of the countless resolutions concerning the subject, for no matter how many resolutions were adopted, they would solve no problems unless they were enforced and translated into action.

13. Mrs. MITSKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the right to self-determination was one of the most important pre-conditions for political, economic and social progress, as the great achievements of her own country in all those areas since the great October Socialist Revolution clearly demonstrated. Before the Revolution the Byelorussian people had not even had the right to call itself a nation and its language and culture had been suppressed. The new social structure established by the Revolution and the burgeoning economic development which had followed had brought about a steadily rising level of living and had given impetus to Byelorussian art and culture. The successes of the Soviet multinational family of fraternal peoples in putting an end to exploitation, class antagonisms and national enmities was reflected in the new Constitution of the USSR and proved that only socialism could eliminate conflict between nations and peoples and establish unity and brotherhood among them. As Leonid Brezhnev, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had said in his report to the Supreme Soviet on 4 October 1977, the USSR, thanks to the consistent application of the Leninist nationalities policy, had become the first country in history to solve the national question.

14. The Byelorussian people fully understood the aspiration of the peoples to self-determination and consistently supported their struggle for independence. Over the years many decisions had been taken in the United Nations and other forums which had contributed to the successes of the national liberation movement. The most significant was, of course, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted at the initiative of the USSR. The struggle had also been furthered by the positive changes which had taken place on the international scene in recent years, particularly the process of détente. However, the forces of colonialism and reaction were making a desperate effort to slow down the historical process whereby they were being liquidated and the last stages of decolonization in Africa were proving to be the most difficult and fraught with increasing dangers, as the Secretary-General had noted in his report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (A/32/1, p. 7). She noted in that connexion the statements in the Maputo Declaration concerning South Africa's assistance to the illegal régime of Ian Smith and the support given those régimes in the economic, military and other fields by certain Western Powers. The South African régime's attempts to disguise its efforts to perpetuate its alien domination over the indigenous population through such political fictions as the bantustans and the puppet state of the Transkei could deceive no one. The right to self-determination of the Arab people of Palestine was also continuing to be

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(Mrs. Mitskevich, Byelorussian SSR)

violated, and the Byelorussian SSR recognized their right to the establishment of a State of their own.

15. Her country accordingly urged the implementation by all States of all relevant United Nations resolutions and the immediate elimination of every vestige of colonialism in all its forms. The new Soviet Constitution emphasized that relations between the Soviet Union and other States was based upon observance of the principle of equality and the rights of peoples to determine their own fate and that in its foreign policy the USSR supported the struggle of the peoples for national liberation. Her delegation would therefore support any decision put before the current session of the General Assembly that was aimed at the immediate implementation of the rights of colonial peoples to self-determination and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.