



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
29th meeting
held on
Friday, 18 November 1977
at 3 p.m.
New York

DEC 5 1977

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. NEUGEBAUER (German Democratic Republic)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 57: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued)

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be incorporated in a copy of the record and should be sent *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550.

Corrections will be issued shortly after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/32/SR.29
23 November 1977
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 57: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued (A/32/284, A/32/308; A/SPC/32/L.12, L.13, L.14)

1. Mr. OULD HAYE (Mauritania) congratulated the Special Committee on having succeeded, despite the hostility of the occupation authorities, in carrying out its difficult mandate, as evidenced by its report (A/32/284). It was clear from the report that Israel was continuing to apply its policy of annexation and establishment of new settlements, and that the sufferings of the civilian population of the occupied territories were increasing daily, as repression mounted. The Special Committee had accordingly stated that the international community should assume its responsibilities to end the occupation, thereby safeguarding the most fundamental of the human rights of the population of the occupied territories.
2. All Israeli practices were aimed at changing the historical, geographical and demographic character of the occupied territories. The Zionist leaders were attempting to produce an irreversible fait accompli, without even trying to hide their intentions, as the recent statements of some Israeli leaders showed. For instance, Mr. Dayan had recently told the General Assembly that Israel could not accept any prohibition on the right of Jews to live in any part of their ancestral land. What that meant was that there were no more occupied territories, but only liberated Israeli lands.
3. That attitude of defying the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the cause of the constant deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories and constituted an obstacle to the attainment of peace. Consequently, the time had come for the United Nations to assume its responsibility and remind Israel that the first obligation of every Member State was to respect the Charter, and that annexation and colonization were flagrant and inadmissible violations of the United Nations Charter.
4. The time had also come for the international community to display its readiness to bring about the true conditions for establishing a just and lasting peace, namely, evacuation by Israel of all the occupied Arab territories and restoration of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.
5. Mr. CHOU (China) expressed indignation at the Israeli Zionists' crimes of aggression and expansion and firmly supported the stand of the Arab countries and the PLO.
6. During the past year, Israeli zionism had continued to pursue its policy of aggression and expansion and had committed numerous crimes in the occupied territories; it had plundered their resources, interfered with the religious

(Mr. Chou, China)

- activities of the Arab inhabitants, carried out demolition and relocation projects in the city of Jerusalem, intensified its fascist rule over the occupied territories and stepped up its repression, and arrested thousands of Arabs on trumped-up charges. Its brutality equalled that of the Nazis.
7. The Israeli occupation authorities had deliberately changed the legal status, geographical characteristics and demographic composition of the occupied territories. They had even wantonly asserted that the occupied territories were liberated Israeli lands and that the establishment of settlements there was legal. They had even declared their intention to settle 2 million Jews there over the next 20 years.
8. In the past three decades, the aggression of Israeli zionism had brought great sufferings to the Palestinian and other Arab peoples. Where there was oppression, there was resistance. Where there was aggression, there were struggles against aggression. The so-called question of human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories was, in the final analysis, a question of aggression versus anti-aggression. During the past year, the Palestinian and other Arab peoples of the occupied territories had continued their resistance to the Israeli aggressors. There was no doubt about the determination of the people of the occupied territories to fight zionism to the end.
9. Israeli zionism dared to act as it did because it had the support and connivance of the two super-Powers. One super-Power had provided it with large quantities of economic and military assistance, repeatedly declaring that it was committed to the security of Israel. The other super-Power, which flaunted the banner of socialism, was doing its utmost to sabotage the military unity of the Arab peoples and interfere in their internal affairs. While professing friendship for the Arab peoples, it was sending a steady flow of Jewish emigrants to Israel. The two hegemonic super-Powers pretended to be doing all they could to achieve a settlement of the Middle East question but in fact neither of them wanted to see a settlement; they wanted to maintain a state of "no war, no peace", in order to facilitate their control of the Middle East to suit their respective strategic needs for global hegemony. However, no force on earth could shake the will of the heroic Palestinian people to regain their national rights. All attempts on the part of hegemonism and zionism to sustain Israel's aggression were doomed to failure.
10. The Chinese Government and people had always supported the just struggle of the Palestinians and other Arab peoples enslaved by the Israeli aggressors. They strongly condemned Israeli zionism for its policies of aggression and expansion and for the numerous atrocities it had committed in the occupied territories. They strongly condemned the super-Powers and maintained that Israel must withdraw from all the Arab territories and that the national rights of the Palestinian people must be restored. He was convinced that, so long as they persisted in unity and struggle, supported by the third world and all justice-loving peoples, the heroic Palestinian people would be able to eliminate super-Power sabotage, thwart Israeli zionism's schemes of aggression, recover the lost territories and regain their national rights.

11. Mr. GOUNDIAM (Senegal), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, thanked all those who had acknowledged the complexity of the Special Committee's work and its efforts to carry it out successfully. Israel, using defamatory language, had tried to cast suspicion on the Special Committee, the General Assembly, the Special Political Committee and the testimony contained in the report. There was no smoke without fire.

12. He had been disappointed to note that the representative of Israel was a slave of the system which the Special Committee had denounced in its report when it had said that it remained convinced that the Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied territories were an integral part of a system designed to establish in Palestine and in the occupied territories a Jewish State free of any foreign element, in terms of religion and ethnic composition.

13. The assertions of the representative of Israel had been based entirely on prejudices and preconceived ideas, but the unquestionable objectivity with which the members of the Special Committee had acted could be seen simply from document A/SPC/32/L.12, containing the statements by the reporters for The Sunday Times, Mr. Eddy and Mr. Gillman. Although the representative of Israel believed that the population of the occupied territories was "happy" because it was well fed, it should be noted that the Special Committee's mandate pertained to things that were more necessary than bread for human dignity; bread without freedom was useless.

14. The Special Committee considered that the international community should reaffirm its commitment to law and to world peace and should accordingly persuade Israel to co-operate with the Special Committee or any other body of its choice with a view to determining the truth, once for all, with regard to the actions for which it was criticized.

15. In accordance with rules 13 and 15 of its rules of procedure, the Special Committee was entitled to consult the representative of any State in respect of any matter relevant to its terms of reference. It could also request the State concerned to communicate to it all necessary statements and documents as well as a list of witnesses and experts whose evidence the Special Committee might desire to hear. Israel should comply with those requirements and allow the Committee to visit the actual scene of the events.

16. The representative of Israel had stated, maliciously, that he (Mr. Goundiam) shared the privilege of condemning Israel with his Senegalese colleague, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It was indeed a privilege to merit the confidence of the international community, throughout the world and in Africa. It was also a privilege to belong to a country where the rule of law prevailed; for it was not by chance that Senegal was a member of most of the conciliation, mediation and arbitration commissions in Africa. Senegal was a moderate country, in its ideas and in its actions, and it respected the principles set forth in international instruments on human rights; in short, it was a country that carried out its responsibilities. Israel should do likewise in order to have the privilege of participating in the restoration of peace in the Middle East.

(Mr. Goundiam, Senegal)

17. The representative of Israel had stated that the detention of many Arabs in the occupied territories was for security reasons, but he overlooked the fact that, in accordance with article 5 of the fourth Geneva Convention, persons apprehended for activities hostile to the security of the occupying Power must be treated with humanity and, in case of trial, must not be deprived of the rights of fair and regular trial.
18. He emphasized that the Special Committee had been motivated by its desire to bring about peace for all mankind, established according to law, because it believed that all human beings were members of one and the same species.
19. Mr. LAMDAN (Israel), speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that he was reluctant, in view of the events now taking place in the Middle East, to participate in the debate at the present stage, but the representative of Senegal obliged him to do so. The representative of Senegal had asserted that the position of the Chairman of the Israeli delegation was based entirely on preconceived ideas and prejudices; it was difficult to see why the members of the Special Committee should feel that they had a monopoly on objectivity, when no member of the Special Political Committee who had read their report could have been left with the impression that the Special Committee was endowed with much objectivity. The representative of Senegal had simply made a personal attack on the Chairman of the Israeli delegation, without answering any of the criticisms the latter had made in his statement at the beginning of the current debate.
20. Mr. GOUNDIAM (Senegal), Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, speaking in exercise of his right of reply, said that, as he had to return to his country, he had asked the other members of the Special Committee to give the Special Political Committee whatever clarifications might be necessary.
21. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Chairman of the Special Committee for his statement and for his valuable contribution to the work of the Special Political Committee. He informed the Committee that the delegation of Iran had asked to be placed on the list of speakers. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that request.
22. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.