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ASSEMBLY**

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THIRD COMMITTEE
2nd meeting
held on
Monday, 24 September 1984
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, which had become the 159th Member of the United Nations, and assured him of the co-operation of members of the Third Committee.
2. His election as Chairman of the Committee was a great honour for him and for his country. He would try his utmost to guide the Committee's deliberations in an orderly, wise and objective manner, as had his predecessors, adhering to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and the principles of co-operation and understanding which governed the Committee's work. He therefore looked forward to co-operating closely with the officers of the Committee, members of delegations and the Secretariat.
3. Most of the items before the Committee were not new. The need to deal with the problems involved, however, was just as urgent. Thus, at the start of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the elimination of those two evils remained a high priority. In southern Africa, as another example, millions of people were still being deprived of their basic rights solely on grounds of race and colour.
4. The realization of the right of peoples to self-determination was also of great relevance in the present-day world, when Namibia, inter alia, was still being occupied illegally.
5. The Committee would continue to take an active interest in the international covenants dealing with human rights and social justice in general, as well as in the instruments dealing with specific issues such as apartheid, the rights of the child, and the rights of women. In that regard, the Committee's efforts for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women had gained added urgency in view of the approaching conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women and the forthcoming World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the Decade, to be held the following year.
6. In addition to issues concerning the aging and the disabled and the preparations for the International Youth Year (1985), the problem of mass flows of refugees, in particular, would continue to occupy the attention of the Committee. Indeed, that problem was growing steadily worse in many parts of the world, particularly in Africa. The growing use by Governments of torture and the increasing traffic in drugs would also remain causes for concern.
7. He emphasized the importance, in a world increasingly governed by science and technology, of the development of a body of principles and guidelines for ensuring the enjoyment of human rights. However, what counted most was the application of those principles, and that was the reason for the study of alternative approaches within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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8. Recalling that one of the clearest lessons of history was that peace, stability and progress were threatened whenever people were denied their fundamental freedoms and subjected to oppression or foreign domination, he said that he was convinced that the Committee's work could undoubtedly serve the cause of peace in so far as it reaffirmed faith in human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and in the equality of nations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9. Mr. CARRIER (Canada) nominated Mrs. Tirona (Philippines) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

10. Mr. VELASCO (Cuba) nominated Mrs. Boccheciampe Crovati (Venezuela) as the second Vice-Chairman.

11. Mrs. Tirona (Philippines) and Mrs. Boccheciampe Crovati (Venezuela) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

12. Mrs. KABA (Guinea) nominated Mr. Polowczyk (Poland) for the office of Rapporteur.

13. Mr. Polowczyk (Poland) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.3/39/L.1)

14. The CHAIRMAN first drew attention to some recommendations concerning the organization of the session contained in the last paragraph of the letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the list of items allocated to the Third Committee (A/C.3/39/L.1).

15. The General Assembly recommended, in particular, that all meetings should begin at the scheduled time. With regard to explanations of vote, attention was drawn to paragraph 7 of General Assembly decision 34/401, which provided that when the same draft resolution was considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting was different from its vote in the Committee. He also drew attention to the decision taken by the General Assembly that statements made in a Main Committee were not to be reproduced in extenso.

16. In the case of draft resolutions with financial implications, he pointed out that the Main Committees, as noted in paragraph 13 of document A/39/250, should allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee. He also drew the Committee's attention to regulation 4.9 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning (resolution 37/234), which provided that no competent body should take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly

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or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it had received and taken account of a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal.

17. He informed the Committee that the General Assembly had established 1 December as the deadline for the submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications, and he urged delegations to try to respect that deadline.

18. He reminded the Committee that, in accordance with a recommendation by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the General Assembly had decided, at its thirty-eighth session, that smoking would be prohibited in small conference rooms (rooms 5 to 10 and A to E) and would be discouraged in large conference rooms (rooms 1 to 4).

19. He proposed that, as recommended by the the General Assembly, 7 December should be the closing date for the deliberations of the Committee.

20. It was so decided.

Programme of work

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the tentative programme of work had been prepared on the basis of past practice with regard to the grouping of items and the order in which clusters of items were considered and taking into account the expected availability of documentation, as well as scheduled dates of presence in New York of officials of the Secretariat of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Special Rapporteurs and other officials who would present reports or would be directly involved in the deliberations of the Committee.

22. The number of meetings allocated to each item or cluster of items had been established in the light of past experience and the availability of conference services from 24 September to 7 December. Seventy plenary meetings would be devoted exclusively to the consideration of the agenda items. The Secretariat had informed him that the Committee might be able to hold three or four additional meetings during the session before 7 December, but that it was not possible at present to programme more than seven meetings per week. Prompt inscription on the list of speakers was therefore requested of delegations in order to avoid early closing or cancellation of meetings for want of speakers. The Secretariat would, of course, make every possible effort to provide the necessary services and the Committee would do its best to utilize services not employed for plenary meetings, for meetings of working groups, of regional groups, or of the Group of 77, or for informal consultations.

23. He proposed that the Committee should devote 11 meetings, during the period from 25 September to 5 October, to the Working Group on Migrant Workers and nine meetings to the Working Group on Non-Citizens. That would be in line with the decision adopted the previous year and with the preference expressed by the General Assembly in resolution 38/86 for the meetings of the Working Group to be held at

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the beginning of the session. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal.

24. It was so decided.

25. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) said that the proposed programme of work presented no difficulties for the Netherlands delegation, which supported in particular, the request for prompt inscription by delegations on the list of speakers to avoid loss of time and a heavy workload at the end of the session. At the current session, the Committee had to deal with a draft convention against torture submitted to the General Assembly by the Commission on Human Rights. The Working Group that had produced the draft had been chaired by Mr. Burgers, the representative of the Netherlands, which explained the particular interest taken by the delegation of the Netherlands in that draft convention. The delegation of the Netherlands intended to contact delegations in the near future in order to find a way to overcome the remaining difficulties before the debate on the item, scheduled for the end of November, was held.

26. Mr. AIDARA (Senegal) welcomed the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, whose experience would no doubt be useful to the work of the Committee.

27. The Senegalese delegation found the proposed programme of work even easier to accept in the light of the fact that the Committee had always been flexible in its use of the time allotted to it. His delegation noted, however, that the document concerning agenda item 84 was not yet available and would like to know if it would be ready by 8 October, when consideration of the item would begin.

28. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) said that the note by the Secretary-General on that agenda item would be published in due course. The note would summarize the contents of the report produced for the previous session of the General Assembly in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1 and 2, which were currently available.

29. Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines) agreed with the views expressed by the delegation of Senegal concerning the programme of work proposed to the Committee. The fact that it was a tentative programme enabled the Committee to be flexible in organizing its work.

30. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation supported the proposed programme of work but, like the representative of Senegal, was concerned over the delay in the publication of certain documents, particularly document A/39/505 on agenda item 87 and the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/39/18).

31. Mrs. DOWNING (Secretary of the Committee) informed the members of the Committee that document A/39/505 would appear on 26 September. The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was in the process of reproduction.

32. The CHAIRMAN said that, during the discussion of agenda item 84, the Committee would consider a note from the Secretary-General containing the report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1 and 2) produced by Mr. Khalifa, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In resolution 37/39, the General Assembly had expressed appreciation to the Special Rapporteur for his revised report on institutions providing assistance to the South African Government. It had affirmed that the updating of that report was of the greatest importance to the cause of fighting apartheid and other violations of human rights in South Africa and Namibia and should continue to be an activity in the ongoing work programme of the United Nations. Each time the General Assembly had considered the item, the Third Committee had decided to invite the Special Rapporteur to present his report and to take part in its consideration by the Committee. The Committee had to decide whether the same action would be taken at the current session. The Secretariat had indicated that the financial implications of such a decision would be in the region of \$4,100, a sum that could be covered from existing resources. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to invite Mr. Khalifa to present his report and to take part in its deliberations.

33. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.