



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/39/SR.6  
17 October 1984

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 84: ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE RACIST AND COLONIALIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA (continued) (A/39/534; A/C.3/39/2; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1-2)

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1. Mr. XIE Qimei (China) said that United Nations action to combat racism and racial discrimination fully demonstrated the international community's determination to eliminate those abhorrent practices. The task remained a challenging one, for discrimination based on race, colour, or ethnic origin in some countries was still a matter of concern.

2. In southern Africa, the racist régime of South Africa continued to intensify its apartheid system by enforcing bantustanization and adopting legislation to institutionalize apartheid. The "new constitution" recently introduced in South Africa and the recent "elections" had been a farce, and the South African authorities continued brutally to suppress demonstrators. Furthermore, the South African régime continued to occupy Namibia illegally and was using every means possible to prevent it from achieving independence. That régime had also introduced apartheid into Namibia.

3. In order to eliminate apartheid in southern Africa, all Member States should implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, in particular, they should halt all political, military and economic assistance to the South African régime in order to compel it to abandon apartheid and withdraw from Namibia. Certain foreign economic interest groups and

(Mr. Xie Qimei, China)

Western countries, particularly one super-Power, should assume more obligations. However, that super-Power had been conniving with the South African régime, thereby greatly inflating its racist arrogance. The documents relating to item 84 proved that outside assistance to that régime was continuing, in violation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. The international community should not tolerate that practice.

4. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General, acting upon the suggestions of various delegations, had amended the plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167 and Adds.1-2), and hoped that it would be adopted at the current session. His delegation would continue to take an active part in all efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination and to realize the objectives of the Second Decade.

5. The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination merited appreciation. His country was a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and was pleased that the number of States parties to those instruments increased each year. His delegation hoped that that trend would be maintained, and pledged to continue to implement the Conventions in earnest.

6. The Government of China had always implemented a policy of equality, unity and common prosperity vis-à-vis the more than 50 nationalities within its borders. In the light of China's history, the relationship among its nationalities and their distribution, the Government had formulated a policy of regional autonomy for minority nationalities in areas where members of those minorities lived in compact communities. The policy had been translated into legislation, was guaranteed by the Constitution, and was intended further to ensure that all levels of Government would more effectively carry out policies relating to nationalities, strengthen their unity and promote development in the areas they inhabited.

7. Mr. FREYBERG (Poland) said it was ironic that, despite mankind's impressive progress, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid persisted. Furthermore, despite all the efforts of the international community, those phenomena had shown no sign of disappearing and their practice had actually increased in some areas. As the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on violations of human rights in Southern Africa (E/CN.4/1984/8) demonstrated, southern Africa continued to be the bulwark of racism and apartheid for the indigenous population and recent developments confirmed that there was no hope for an improvement in the near future unless effective steps were taken by the international community.

8. The South African régime remained unresponsive to United Nations resolutions, conventions and appeals, and few could deny that the responsibility for the situation rested with the Western Powers, primarily the United States, some other NATO members and Israel. The fact that those countries were providing increased economic, military and political assistance to South Africa and that such aid constituted hostility towards the peoples of southern Africa had been recognized in

(Mr. Freyberg, Poland)

many United Nations resolutions, confirming a growing awareness of the true obstacles to the eradication of racism and apartheid in that region.

9. Similarly, the updated report on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the colonial and racist régime in southern Africa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1-2) provided further clear evidence, and was of the greatest importance to United Nations efforts to fight apartheid and other flagrant human-rights violations in South Africa and Namibia. The international community should adopt an uncompromising stand if those flagrant violations were to be eliminated. An essential step would be the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter.

10. The policy of Israel in the occupied Arab territories, characterized by expansionism, exploitation and disregard of the basic human rights of the Arab population, was a clear example of racism and of the violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

11. Manifestations of racism were also discernible in western Europe, where various groups propagating neo-Fascist, neo-Nazi and other such ideologies had been operating freely in some countries, particularly the Federal Republic of Germany. Moreover, migrant workers and their families were subject to discrimination and ruthless exploitation in many countries. Exploitation and racial discrimination often coexisted, for racism was a tool used by certain groups to exploit other peoples or nations in order to keep them in an inferior political, social and economic position. In some parts of the world, theories of racial superiority were used to justify neo-colonialism and economic exploitation of the indigenous population.

12. The legal framework established by the United Nations for combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid, particularly, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid and the relevant conventions adopted by the specialized agencies, had proved less effective than expected. The problem lay in the failure of many Member States to ratify and apply those international instruments. Numerous appeals notwithstanding, not a single Government belonging to the Group of Western European and Other States had yet ratified the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Concerted and dynamic action by the international community and international and non-governmental organizations was indispensable to progress in combating racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

13. Although the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had not attained its principal objectives of mobilizing public opinion, Governments and international organizations in the struggle, it had provided an important incentive, and his delegation was firmly convinced that the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the proclamation of the Second Decade

(Mr. Freyberg, Poland)

to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would be of great importance to further international efforts in that field.

14. His delegation considered that the draft plan of activities for 1985-1989 (A/39/167 and Adds. 1-2) should include measures which would be truly effective. His delegation would evaluate the draft plan in that light.

15. His country had repeatedly condemned the barbarian practices of racism and apartheid and had actively contributed to formulating the relevant international instruments. Its dedication to the struggle stemmed from its bitter experiences of Nazi and Fascist ideologies during the Second World War and from the principles of the socio-political system of modern Poland, based on the socialist ideals of equality and social justice. Non-discrimination was a fundamental principle of the socialist legal order in Poland, and the Constitution guaranteed all citizens equal rights without distinction as to birth, nationality or race in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. He pledged his delegation's continued support of the just struggle of peoples for racial equality and for their national and social emancipation.

16. Mr. FURSLAND (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the statement by the representative of Ireland at the Committee's fourth meeting on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community reflected his own delegation's firm views on item 86, which was the most pressing of the items currently under discussion, and he pledged that his delegation would work energetically to make the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as successful as possible.

17. With regard to item 87, the South African system was uniquely obnoxious because racism was institutionalized and because the majority of South Africa's people were denied the right to self-determination. That right was not only important in itself, but was also a necessary foundation for the exercise of other human rights.

18. It could not be reiterated too often that the right to self-determination belonged to peoples, not Governments, and the fact that a country was not occupied by a foreign Power did not automatically mean that its peoples enjoyed the right to self-determination. The examples of Uganda under the Amin dictatorship and Cambodia under Pol Pot were prime examples of that fact. People enjoyed the right to self-determination only if they could freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Self-determination was a continuous process and required that peoples must be given continuing opportunities to choose their governments and social systems and to change them when they so chose. That in turn required that they should be enabled to exercise the other rights set out in the human-rights Covenants.

19. Many peoples today were deprived of their right to self-determination through the concentration of power in a particular political party, ethnic or religious group or social class. Such systems were generally characterized by oppression and

(Mr. Fursland, United Kingdom)

inequality and sometimes by more violent abuses such as torture, summary executions and disappearances.

20. All peoples were entitled to expect the United Nations to protect their right to self-determination from abuse by their own countrymen as well as by outsiders. He drew attention to document A/39/307, which contained the Declaration on Democratic Values issued at the London Economic Summit, held from 7 to 9 June 1984. The values presented in that document reflected a system which represented the best guarantee to the people of his country of their right to self-determination and to their other rights as set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the two Covenants, and his delegation would endeavour to promote and protect those rights throughout the current session.

21. The denial of the right to self-determination through foreign invasion and occupation was no less appalling a violation of the Charter. It was a tragedy and a scandal that the Afghan people were still denied that right by continued Soviet occupation. The Soviet Union had increased its military presence in Afghanistan steadily during the past four and a half years; fighting continued in various parts of the country, one fifth of the people had fled the country and many of those who had chosen to remain were struggling to enable their nation to regain its independence and non-aligned status. The situation was a classic example of a struggle for national liberation, and could be resolved only by the withdrawal of all Soviet forces.

22. Much the same was true of the Vietnamese occupation of another previously independent non-aligned State, Cambodia. Although the silence of the Commission on Human Rights - attributable to Soviet pressure - in the face of the atrocious human-rights violations which had occurred in Cambodia under Pol Pot remained a permanent blot on its record, the fact that the United Nations had failed to help the Cambodian people during their suffering under one régime did not mean that it should acquiesce in a perpetuation of their suffering under that terrible régime's terrible and alien-dominated successor.

23. The South African presence in Namibia was also unlawful, and South Africa should withdraw without delay by implementing the internationally acceptable settlement based on the plan endorsed by Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The people of Namibia had been denied their right to self-determination for far too long.

24. Respect for the right to self-determination was also fundamental to resolving the problems of the Middle East. The people of Israel should be uniquely equipped to understand aspirations to self-determination, and especially able to recognize the parallel existence of the Palestinian people. However, in practice, certain actions taken by Israel during the past year had led to a further deterioration in the confidence of the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. His delegation hoped that the new Government of Israel would take steps to reverse that trend, and that the Palestinians would also play their part in improving the climate of confidence. That represented the only hope of achieving a balanced peace settlement

(Mr. Fursland, United Kingdom)

embracing both Israel's right to existence and security and the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

25. The right to self-determination also applied to the people of Brunei Darussalam, the people of the Cocos-Keeling Islands, the people of St. Helena and the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands. His delegation would address the last issue in the General Assembly in plenary under item 26.

26. The principle of self-determination was inalienable and indivisible. It was fundamental to international peace and security and to the protection of national integrity. No State could afford to be selective in its application, because none of them - except perhaps the very strongest - could be sure when its own right of self-determination might be threatened.

27. Just as self-determination was a universal principle, so was racial discrimination a universal problem. In South Africa, and only in South Africa, it was institutionalized. In other countries, it existed not because of the law, but in spite of the law. Few countries, if any, had grounds for complacency. The only hope for progressively eliminating racism world-wide was if all Governments recognized its existence at home as well as abroad and assumed their responsibilities to combat it.

28. The United Kingdom was a multiracial society, a fact that had greatly enriched its national life. Unlike some other delegations, his did not claim that its society was perfect. However, the United Kingdom had shown its commitment to eliminating racial discrimination by instituting far-reaching legislation in that regard. It had regularly submitted its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and regretted that certain States parties had not similarly fulfilled their obligations under the Convention.

29. That Committee, too, had its obligations, including the obligation to stick to its mandate; it had no competence to deal with issues that fell outside the scope of the Convention. As he had stated in the Third Committee at the thirty-eighth session, he had been surprised that CERD had adopted an opinion relating to the Falkland Islands. His delegation had assumed that that Committee would have taken some note of its views, which had been supported by others. He was therefore all the more surprised to find that CERD had again in 1984 adopted a similar opinion on the Falkland Islands. That opinion concerned a political question, namely the political future of the Falkland Islands. That was an important question, but it was none of that Committee's business. If CERD meddled in extraneous issues it would forfeit the confidence previously placed in it.

30. With respect to item 84, his delegation regretted that the reports submitted thereunder did not represent a useful basis for discussion. The issues were important and complex, and warranted serious debate. The reports consisted of little more than lists of companies maintaining open commercial links with South Africa. Those lists were highly selective and, apparently for political reasons, excluded many national and other corporations that were well known to be conducting regular trade with South Africa.

(Mr. Fursland, United Kingdom)

31. There were substantive differences between delegations in the Third Committee and, of course, those issues should be discussed. The common objective of eliminating apartheid in South Africa had not been and would not be advanced by the ritualistic preparation of incomplete, selective lists of companies doing business with that country.

32. Mr. TANASA (Romania) said that the firm condemnation of racism, racial discrimination and apartheid and the militant solidarity with and many-sided support of the liberation movements for the achievement of the aspirations of all peoples constituted the basic principles of Romania's position.

33. At the beginning of the Second Decade, it was imperative to maintain and further enhance the promising international co-operation of the first Decade and to intensify national, regional and international action on the basis of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

34. Apartheid in South Africa could not be reformed, it had to be abolished. Condemnation of apartheid was already universal and what was now needed was action. It was of great concern that measures taken separately or collectively by Member States had still not changed the situation in South Africa, where brutal repression had intensified and the so-called constitutional proposals had undermined the unity of the oppressed peoples. Indeed, apartheid had found external expression in the ever-more dangerous expansionist drive of the racist régime throughout southern Africa. It continued to occupy Namibia illegally and to undertake acts of aggression against neighbouring countries.

35. Romania again expressed its complete solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of Africa for the eradication of colonialism and for the defence of their national independence and their economic and social progress. It extended its full support to the struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

36. Action to combat racism and apartheid should include measures aimed at improving economic, political, social and cultural conditions. A free flow of information and ideas on ways of combating racial discrimination could make a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade.

37. As part of the preparations for the International Youth Year, increased importance should be attached to educating the younger generation to uphold peace, understanding and mutual respect and to abhor racism and racial discrimination.

38. Mr. SAIDU (Nigeria) said that his delegation strongly believed that resolutions and programmes of action be based on reality. While he understood the need for consensus, he wondered whether consensus was a good idea if the resulting resolutions were ineffective. In any event, his delegation was convinced that, within the United Nations, consensus against evil should be automatic.



(Mr. Saidu, Nigeria)

39. While the first Decade had seen some achievements, the international community should ask itself just how much closer it was to its objectives. A report recently submitted to the Commission on Human Rights had indicated that racist South Africa was now attempting to poison prisoners and was in the final stages of developing ethnic biological weapons aimed at wiping out the black population. Television cameras in prison cells were used as a psychological weapon against the imprisoned freedom fighters. In addition, South Africa had intensified its relocation of large segments of the black population.
40. Despite the activities of the first Decade, apartheid still existed in South Africa, while in the Middle East, the Palestinians were still not free. In the so-called "free world", there was the nightmarish resurgence of Fascist and racist organizations which enjoyed lenient treatment from those Governments which stated that freedom of expression was the right of all groups, even Fascist and racist ones.
41. His delegation welcomed the draft plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167 and Add.1-2), but believed that more could be done to strengthen it. He noted that, at the very time when the Economic and Social Council had been considering the plan, the South African Prime Minister had been welcomed in some capitals in Europe. It was important to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions on sanctions, and the international community should commit itself to an effective plan for the first half of the Second Decade. As the representative of Nigeria had stated in the plenary Assembly, no one would be spared if a racial war broke out in South Africa.
42. Nigeria had always been in the forefront of the struggle to eradicate apartheid. Recently it had sponsored a seminar in Lagos that had concluded that the Government of South Africa was a colonial régime. The African majority had been treated as a colonized people since the founding of the Republic of South Africa in 1910.
43. Document A/39/460 on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid showed that the Convention had received only 35 signatures, 29 of which had been followed by ratification. Nigeria appealed to all States to sign and ratify the Convention, especially those which professed a concern for human rights.
44. The right to self-determination was necessary for the full enjoyment of human rights. So, too, was permanent sovereignty over natural resources. In Namibia, however, the transnational corporations of major Western countries continued to undermine the right of the Namibian people to permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. His delegation therefore called for the independence of Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). That could be achieved only by putting an end to the apartheid régime in South Africa.
45. Finally, if members of the Third Committee wished to achieve consensus on draft resolutions relating to the items under consideration, they must work sincerely towards that end and must attempt to avoid polarization.

46. Mr. HEGYI (Hungary) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was one of the most important tasks facing the United Nations. In South Africa, the apartheid régime defiantly persisted in oppressing the non-white majority. The indigenous population was deprived of all rights and was reduced to slavery. That country had long been a military and police State.
47. South Africa was able to continue its policies only with the economic and military assistance of certain countries and the investments of transnational corporations, which merely strengthened the régime's intransigence. South Africa's racism was also reflected in its foreign relations, particularly its policy of aggression against neighbouring States and its illegal occupation of Namibia. Its behaviour was indeed a threat to world peace.
48. Hungary, together with all humanitarian and democratic forces in the world, resolutely condemned all forms of racial discrimination. It recognized the right of peoples to liberate themselves from oppression and exercise their fundamental national and human rights. His country actively participated in carrying out international measures to eliminate racism and strongly supported United Nations activities to that end. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was another milestone in that noble struggle.
49. The preaching of racial superiority and the stirring up of racial hatred, however, were not confined to any particular part of the world. Certain political parties, even in some highly developed countries, exploited racial hatred for political gain.
50. The Second World Conference to combat racism and racial discrimination had been a positive step towards attaining the objectives of the Decade and the Programme of Action set forth a wide range of effective measures.
51. His country provided assistance to peoples struggling against colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. The broadest segments of Hungarian society were involved in the international struggle against those phenomena through a national programme carried out by the Hungarian Solidarity Committee. Hungary supported the national liberation movements, organized mass solidarity rallies attended by representatives of those liberation movements, and provided scholarships to students from national liberation organizations. Education about the evils of racism and racial discrimination continued to be an integral part of Hungarian school programmes. The relevant international conventions were studied in the secondary schools and universities.
52. Hungary had been one of the first countries to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. His Government consistently upheld the principle of non-discrimination, which had been enshrined in the Hungarian Constitution even before the Convention had been adopted. Hungary's legal system protected the rights of all citizens in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. The importance of that Convention and of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid could not be exaggerated. His country scrupulously carried

(Mr. Hegyi, Hungary)

out its obligations under those two instruments and felt that the General Assembly should call upon all countries which had not yet done so to ratify them.

53. Mr. AHMED (Democratic Yemen) said that document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1 and 2 set forth fully and unequivocally the support provided by imperialism and by the international monopolies to the racist régime in South Africa. In providing such support, they were prompted by the interests they had in common with that régime and by their interest in its continuing to plunder the natural wealth of southern Africa. At the same time, they ignored the human rights of the people of South Africa, including its right to self-determination. Assistance had been provided in the military, nuclear, economic and political fields, in violation of all the relevant United Nations resolutions. The States that collaborated with South Africa did not abide by those resolutions calling for opposition to racism and apartheid, for a decisive stand against them and for the imposition of the necessary sanctions on the grounds that apartheid was a crime against humanity.

54. During the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Western States had created many obstacles to the proper conduct of proceedings in order to promote their interests and their links with the Pretoria régime. They had attempted to raise the same obstacles during the thirty-eighth session of the General Assembly. The Conference had nevertheless been able to produce results, and the Decade had been proclaimed and the Programme of Action adopted.

55. It was truly reprehensible that those States collaborating with the racist régime should try to justify that collaboration. Some had intimated that the corporations operating in South Africa enabled black citizens to obtain work. They had also stated that the visits recently undertaken by the leader of the racist régime to Western Europe should be seen as part of the efforts of the receiving States to persuade him to grant increased rights to those citizens. Such arguments were disgraceful, since world imperialism was not so much concerned that the peoples of South Africa and Namibia should attain their legitimate rights as it was interested in exploiting them and plundering their natural wealth. It was urgent to put an end to the oppression of the majority of the population of South Africa and Namibia, who were subjected to the most abominable forms of slavery.

56. Israel, which practised the same abominable racial discrimination, in Palestine and in the occupied territories, received the same support as was provided by the Western States to the racist Pretoria régime in terms of military, economic and political aid, the establishment of a strategic alliance and the obstruction and violation of United Nations resolutions. That was so at a time when Israel was massacring the Palestinian people, oppressing the population of the occupied territories, persisting in its aggression against and its occupation of other Arab territories, building new settlements and expelling the Arab inhabitants from their towns and villages. Matters had reached such a pass that appeals were being made in the Israeli Knesset for the expulsion of all Arab citizens from occupied Palestine or for their extermination. Such calls were based on official Israeli plans and not, as some claimed, merely on the ravings of Zionist extremists. Deterrent measures must be taken against the two racist régimes and

(Mr. Ahmed, Democratic Yemen)

ways must be found of enabling the Palestinian Arab people and the South African and Namibian peoples to attain self-determination and sovereignty.

57. His country believed that all States must make a concerted effort to oppose racism and apartheid and to expose and condemn all régimes, corporations and individuals that indulged in that inhuman crime or encouraged it. They must also condemn all States occupying the territory of others by force. On the basis of that belief, Democratic Yemen, in addition to its participation in conferences organized to oppose racism and racial discrimination, engaged in various activities at the local level. In its information, cultural and educational programmes it stressed human rights and the struggle of peoples for liberation and social and economic development. Respect for the charter of the League of Arab States, the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the generally recognized rules of international law was embodied in its Constitution.

58. At the internal level, the Constitution and laws of the State emphasized human rights, equality and non-discrimination. Accordingly, the first task undertaken by the Government following independence had been to unite a country which had been divided into more than 20 sultanates and sheikdoms linked with the British colony at Aden and in which various tribal customs and traditions had been practised. The newly independent State had extended security and stability to all parts of the country and had granted equal opportunity to all individuals - including those who had come to the country from abroad during British colonial rule - in all areas of life. Free education had been extended to cover all stages after having been restricted, before independence, to a small élite in the so-called Aden Protectorate. In Democratic Yemen, new concepts for promoting development and for combating ignorance, backwardness and outworn customs and traditions had become firmly established.

59. Mr. HAMER (Netherlands) said that, although the United Nations had been instrumental in raising public awareness of the evils of racism and in taking measures to combat them, the ignorance and prejudice which gave rise to racial intolerance continued to exist. His country had welcomed the proclamation of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as a reaffirmation of the Organization's determination to mobilize international action in that field. Unfortunately, at the Economic and Social Council's first regular session of 1984 the introduction of contentious political issues had almost undermined the consensus in drawing up a plan of activities for the first half of the Second Decade. Failure to follow up on that consensus at the current session of the General Assembly would lead to the loss of one of the most valuable means available to the international community in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

60. Increased international action was required in order to eliminate institutionalized racial inequality and discrimination in South Africa. Further pressure would have to be brought to bear on South Africa in order to persuade the Government to embark on a policy of basic reform to bring about a truly democratic society.

(Mr. Hamer, Netherlands)

61. The recent constitutional reforms in South Africa could not be considered a fundamental change of policy; they failed to address the all-important issue of the disenfranchisement of the black majority. The non-white South Africans viewed the reforms merely as a device for perpetuating apartheid. There were no signs that the South African Government was planning to put an end to bantustanization, which made it easier to exploit cheap black labour. Under that policy, male workers were separated from their families, which were frequently left to live in desperately poor conditions in the bantustans. The reports of brutality by the security forces in the homelands only added to the legitimate concern of the international community.

62. Racial discrimination, however, continued to be a world-wide phenomenon. No society was immune to its various forms. In the course of the past few decades the Netherlands had developed into a multiracial and a multi-ethnic society. His Government viewed with concern the growing signs of intolerance by individuals and groups. The measures taken to counter those disturbing phenomena in the Netherlands were outlined in its sixth periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. No country should shy away from the honest admission that its society was less than perfect, provided that it could also give proof of serious efforts to improve the situation.

63. To date, only 10 States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had made the declaration under article 14 concerning the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to consider communications from individuals. His delegation appealed again to all States parties to the Convention which had not done so to make that declaration. By making available to their citizens all possible forms of international recourse, States demonstrated their sincerity in carrying out their obligations under the Convention. He also called upon States parties to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to give individuals claiming to be victims of violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recourse similar to that available to them under the Optional Protocol.

64. The Netherlands attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Nevertheless, his delegation appealed to CERD to avoid involving itself in specific political situations where racial discrimination was not an issue. Political questions which were beyond the scope of the Convention were outside that Committee's competence. Any decision by the Committee to act otherwise might threaten the unanimous support for its work.

65. The dialogue between the States parties and CERD was essential in promoting the fullest possible adherence to the Convention. His delegation had been involved in the search for a solution to the problem of the inability of a growing number of States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations. Since CERD did not consider it desirable to alter the periodicity of the reporting process, his Government hoped that continued contacts between the chairmen of the bodies set up under the international human-rights instruments would facilitate closer monitoring of similar problems under those instruments.

66. Mr. AL HARTHY (Oman) said that the situation in South Africa was deteriorating daily, the Government continued to repress the people of the country, and, in spite of United Nations appeals, it continued to impose the death sentence. Its aggression against neighbouring States had likewise continued, and it had occupied parts of their territory in order to dictate its own terms.

67. South Africa's persistence in its policy of apartheid, its armed aggression against its neighbours and its occupation of Namibia stemmed from its belief that the international community was unable to put an end to that policy. That, in turn, was a result of the ongoing economic co-operation between certain Western States and the South African Government through the intermediary of transnational corporations. That was how South Africa derived its economic and, consequently, its military strength, enabling it to persist in its policy of aggression.

68. His country reiterated its condemnation of apartheid and placed full responsibility for the failure of the recent negotiations on the question of Namibia on the South African Government. The obstacles raised by South Africa in those negotiations were no more than a deception by means of which it sought to perpetuate a régime based on the repression of the people of Namibia and the exploitation of its resources. His country appealed once more for continued efforts in order to enable the Namibian people to exercise its right to self-determination and independence.

69. Oman endorsed the international community's efforts to impose a complete ban on co-operation with South Africa. It called upon the States concerned to end the activities of their transnational corporations and financial institutions in South Africa in order to show that country that the international community was serious in its boycott of the apartheid régime. The nuclear co-operation between Israel and South Africa, which posed a threat to international peace and security, was to be condemned.

70. Oman welcomed General Assembly resolution 38/14 proclaiming the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It would co-operate with the Secretary-General and with Member States for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade. The draft plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167 and Add.1-2) included some excellent proposals and would provide a practical framework for the success of the Decade.

71. It was preposterous that, despite the existence of numerous international human-rights instruments, racism and racial discrimination continued to be practised. The national legislation of Oman was derived entirely from the tolerant principles of the Islamic Shariah, which prohibited all forms of discrimination, whether on grounds of colour, sex or religion. That legislation was applied without discrimination at all levels of the State.

72. A number of peoples still languished under the yoke of colonialism and military occupation in spite of all the appeals and resolutions concerning their right to self-determination. Israel had usurped the land and property of the people of Palestine, had dispersed that people throughout the world and still

(Mr. Al Harthy, Oman)

pursued it with a view to eliminating any hope it might have of exercising its right to self-determination.

73. Israel and South Africa had shown contempt for the resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations on the granting of the right of self-determination to the Palestinian and Namibian peoples. They had attacked neighbouring States, had occupied parts of their territory and had threatened to step-up such attacks. They had successfully thwarted all international efforts aimed at devising solutions to those issues.

74. Mrs. IDER (Mongolia) said that, despite the enormous efforts of the international community, racism and racial discrimination persisted. The worst manifestation of racial discrimination was the apartheid system in South Africa, which was able to persist because of generous assistance from certain NATO member countries and transnational corporations. Those countries considered the Pretoria régime a close ally against independent African States and national liberation movements.

75. The so-called "constitutional reforms" proclaimed by the Pretoria régime, which the Western mass media attempted to portray as a democratization process, were designed to delude world public opinion. The Mongolian Government consistently supported the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against colonialism, racism and apartheid. Mongolia strictly observed all United Nations resolutions concerning South Africa and maintained no relations with the Pretoria régime. It fully supported the adoption of comprehensive mandatory measures to isolate South Africa.

76. The policies and practices of the Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab territories were another manifestation of racial discrimination and required the serious attention of the international community. Her delegation fully supported resolution 1984/1 of the Commission on Human Rights, which strongly condemned Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Arab territories and she called upon Israel to put an end to those policies and practices and to withdraw from the occupied territories.

77. Her Government was greatly concerned at the plight of migrant workers, national minorities and indigenous populations that were subjected to discrimination because of their national or ethnic origin. Measures should be adopted to eliminate discrimination against those groups. She shared the opinion of the delegation of Nigeria that the draft plan of activities for the period 1985-1989 (A/39/167 and Add.1-2) should be strengthened and should fully correspond to the aims of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. With regard to the updated report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/8 and Add.1-2) submitted under item 84, her delegation endorsed the recommendation (A/39/534, para. 4) to establish direct contact with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid. The valuable work carried out by Mr. Khalifa, the Special Rapporteur, should be continued.

(Mrs. Ider, Mongolia)

78. With respect to the report on the status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (A/39/460), her delegation felt that it was deplorable that many countries which supported the illegal régime were not parties to that Convention. The General Assembly should urge those States to ratify or accede to the Convention. Mongolia valued highly the work of the Group of Three on the Implementation of the Convention and endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights that the Group should continue the examination of the extent and nature of the responsibility of transnational corporations for the continued existence of apartheid in South Africa.

79. Her Government took an active part in United Nations efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Mongolia was a party to the basic human-rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, and scrupulously carried out its obligations.

80. Mr. VILLAGRA-DELGADO (Argentina), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his Government would respond to the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the Malvinas Islands when item 26 came up for discussion in plenary.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.