



COPY
FOR REFERENCE
ONLY - DO NOT
CIRCULATE

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
33rd meeting
held on
Friday, 16 November 1984
at 3 p.m.
New York

DEC 17 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JANNUZZI (Italy)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 71: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

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

Distr. GENERAL
A/SPC/39/SR.33
22 November 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 71: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/339, 501, 527, 532, 591, 620 and 665)

1. Mr. ALSHAWKANI (Yemen) said that the information contained in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/39/591) made it clear that Israel was continuing, in open defiance of the international community, its race against time to implement its expansionist settlement plans in the occupied Arab territories. Israeli policies not only affected human rights but were based on their complete denial. Those policies violated the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. With a defiance and an arrogance not shown by any other Member State, Israel refused to be bound by the resolutions of the United Nations.

2. The Israeli leaders made no attempt to conceal their intention of annexing the occupied territories and expelling their Arab inhabitants. The rulers in Tel Aviv, having proclaimed the annexation of Jerusalem in 1980 and of the Syrian Golan Heights in 1981, were at present engaged in the gradual de facto annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. A grave aspect of Israeli annexation and settlement policies was the removal from those areas of their Arab inhabitants and the implantation of Jewish settlers so that the indigenous inhabitants would become a minority. In Israeli thinking, the problem was not the annexation of the occupied territories but the absorption of their Arab population, and making the lives of the inhabitants intolerable would compel them to leave.

3. The report of the Special Committee threw light only on a small part of Israeli practices because of the difficulties put in the way of the Committee by Israel. That was another example of the Israeli Government's attitude of scorn for the will of the international community and the resolutions of the United Nations, and another indication of the critical circumstances in which the inhabitants of the occupied territories lived.

4. The report also gave a number of examples of Israel's policy of seeking to undermine Palestinian political structures, to destroy Palestinian identity and to distort Arab culture. Freedom of expression and freedom of opinion were outlawed in the occupied Arab territories, and stringent restrictions were imposed on publications of all kinds, on other forms of expression and on journalists and their movements. The works of Arab artists had been confiscated and Arab cultural events banned. Palestinian leaders were subjected to interrogation, detention, dismissal, expulsion and even attempted assassination.

5. The most serious fact brought out by the report was Israel's pursuit, with renewed force, of its annexation and settlement policy. New settlements were being established, others were being expanded, and plans had been announced for the

(Mr. Alshawkani, Yemen)

construction of more settlements and for increasing the number of Jewish settlers. Increasingly serious acts of aggression were being committed by Israeli settlers, with the support of the Israeli authorities, against local inhabitants. Those authorities provided settlers with weapons so that they could attack civilian inhabitants under the very eyes of the Israeli occupation forces.

6. The United Nations had an unblemished record of eliminating colonialism, enslavement, repression and racism, and of helping oppressed peoples to regain their legitimate national rights. Attempts at settler colonialism in Palestine would fail resoundingly, regardless of the savagery used in such attempts and regardless of the military, economic or political support received from allies which, intentionally or unintentionally, ignored the true goals of Israeli colonialism.

7. The unshakeable faith of the Palestinian people in the justice of its cause required that all should strive for the adoption of decisive resolutions, not merely renewing the mandate of the Special Committee and condemning Israeli practices, but calling for collective legal measures to put an end to those practices. The implementation of all the United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine, the core of the Middle East conflict, would preserve the credibility of the United Nations, ensure the peace and security of the world and achieve justice, freedom and stability for all mankind.

8. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (A/39/591) provided ample proof that the general policy of the Government of Israel continued to follow the same lines as in previous years. Official statements by Israeli leaders reflected the clear determination of the Government of Israel to annex the territories occupied in 1967. The report showed that the human rights situation of the Arab population in the occupied territories continued to deteriorate. In addition to pillaging the Arab lands and changing their legal status and demographic structure, the Israeli authorities were systematically intensifying the campaign of terror and violence against the Arab population and imposing new forms of political, economic, social and cultural discrimination.

9. The killing of unarmed persons, mass arrests, torture, collective punishment and deportation constituted the everyday reality in the lands seized by Israel. In addition to such State terrorism, the Israeli authorities were openly conniving with the so-called "volunteer" terrorists from among the Israeli settlers. The ultimate objective of the Government of Israel was to preclude any possibility of returning the occupied territories to Arab sovereignty. Its actions had been systematically condemned by the international community as blatant violations of the norms of international law, including the fourth Geneva Convention, the Charter of the United Nations and numerous decisions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

/...

(Mr. Ovinnikov, USSR)

10. Israel was able to continue to carry out its brazen policy of expansion and aggression in the occupied territories because of the comprehensive military, political and financial support provided by its "strategic partner", the United States. For many years the United States Government had been filling Israeli arsenals with the newest weapons and rescuing the Israeli economy from complete collapse by providing generous financial assistance. In the Security Council the delegation of the United States had time and again blocked resolutions condemning the actions of Israel, thus encouraging it to continue its aggressive policies. The United States, therefore, was just as responsible as Israel for the critical situation in the Middle East, including the occupied Arab territories.

11. The Soviet Union firmly condemned Israel's expansionist policy and the illegal acts carried out by the Israeli authorities against the population in the occupied territories. Immediate efforts must be undertaken in order to bring about a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the implementation of the inalienable right of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent State. The best way to establish peace in that region was through collective international efforts with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In that regard, he noted with satisfaction that General Assembly resolution 38/58 C, which had been supported by an overwhelming majority of Member States, provided for such a settlement.

12. In order to make a constructive contribution to the establishment of peace in the Middle East, the Soviet Union in July 1984 had put forward a new initiative for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. That initiative set forth a realistic and balanced programme of action which took account of the legitimate interests of all parties concerned. A just and durable peace safeguarding the interests of all peoples in the region could be achieved only in that way.

13. Mr. BELTAIEF (Tunisia) said that item 71 had been on the agenda of each session since 1968 because the Zionist entity persisted in its illegal military presence in the occupied territories in defiance of the United Nations, to which it owed its own existence.

14. As in previous years, the report of the Special Committee contained fresh accounts of violations of human rights in the occupied territories, the more shocking of which included collective punishments, the demolition of houses, random reprisals, mass expulsions and deportations.

15. He wished to comment on two aspects in particular of the Israeli practices. Firstly, recent times had witnessed new levels of Zionist terrorism, especially by groups from outside Israel whose sole aim was the expulsion of the indigenous Arab population. Le Monde of 30 October 1984 had carried an article, under the heading "A new example of Jewish terror", describing fatal terrorist attacks against Arabs in Jerusalem, which had been praised by member of the Knesset Rabbi Meir Kahane.

(Mr. Beltaief, Tunisia)

The article went on to enumerate eight further incidents involving the bombing and shooting of Palestinians and Arabs in Israel and the occupied territories, many resulting in death and injury. The targets of those attacks, which more and more often were taking place in Jerusalem were members of the Arab population, including young people and children, and non-Jewish (i.e. Christian and Muslim) religious institutions. The object of the attacks was clear: to terrorize the Arab population, especially in Jerusalem, into leaving.

16. The apparent helplessness of the much vaunted Israeli police force in the face of those terrorist acts was surprising. That was possibly the result of criminal conspiracy between the army, the police, and the terrorist groups.

17. A second disturbing aspect of Israeli practices concerned the extension of terror into primary schools as well as secondary schools and universities. Even girls attending UNWRA primary schools had been struck by armed and uniformed Israeli troops. Such acts, which unfortunately were ignored by the mass media in many democratic countries, would arouse sad memories in many delegates. Hundreds of men from the third world who had come to the United Nations pleading the cause of freedom, justice and peace had, as students, seen their schools and universities closed and had suffered under colonialist régimes. But each act of repression had strengthened their militancy in the anti-colonialist struggle. He was sure that many of those present who, like himself, had had such experiences were in no doubt that some of those young, maltreated, terrorized or imprisoned Palestinian students would one day take their place at the United Nations and join in the struggle for its noble ideals.

18. Until that day, all justice- and freedom-loving nations would continue to condemn the Israeli practices against human rights in the occupied territories and to bring them to the attention of world opinion. Only the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on the Palestine and Middle East questions could put a stop to those colonialist practices by restoring to the Palestine people its inalienable right to self-determination and independence and by liberating all the occupied territories.

19. The implementation of all United Nations resolutions would moreover restore the credibility and moral authority of that Organization which, although constantly flouted by such as the Zionist régime, remained an invaluable bastion for all fighters against racist, Zionist, Fascist, colonialist, expansionist or other forms of domination.

20. Mr. HOMAEI-NEJAD (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/39/591) proved irrefutably that the persistent violation of basic human rights by the Zionist authorities in the occupied territories had brought about drastic changes in the geographical and demographic status of those territories.

21. The Zionist régime, the illegitimate offspring of "compromise" between the imperialist Powers, had never ceased its crimes against the Muslim people. It was

/...

(Mr. Homaei-Nejad, Islamic Republic of Iran)

creating inhuman conditions for the Palestinian people in order to drive them out of their homeland. Far from heeding calls by the international community for the protection of the rights of the Palestinian people, the Zionists attempted openly to justify their crimes against the population of the occupied territories, whose basic human rights they would never allow to be exercised.

22. The steady deterioration in the situation in the occupied territories was due solely to the Zionist régime's consistent policy since 1948 of annihilating the Palestinian people. The most blatant manifestation of that policy was the continuing increase in the numbers of settlements and settlers in the occupied territories. His delegation joined in condemning the Zionist authorities' illegal settlement and annexation of the occupied territories including the holy city of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and called upon the international community to take effective action in that regard.

23. The inhuman practices of the Zionist régime described in the Special Committee's report were already notorious. His delegation emphasized that such practices were not new but deeply rooted in the principles and values of the Zionist régime.

24. The international community had proved impotent effectively to ameliorate the human rights situation in the occupied territories. His delegation considered that the Muslim nations could solve that common problem only through unity and self-reliance and the elaboration of a long-term economic and political strategy. His delegation reiterated its support for the Palestinian people's just struggle to attain its inalienable right to self-determination and to establish an independent State in its homeland, Palestine.

25. His delegation hoped that meetings such as the one he was addressing would allow the international community at least to help the Palestinian people politically by drawing the attention of the world to the atrocities committed by its oppressors, the victims of whose expansionist policies included innocent women and children.

26. Mr. BAAISA (Democratic Yemen) said that international appeals and United Nations resolutions had done nothing to change Zionist attitudes towards a just and comprehensive solution to the problem of Palestine. Rather, the positions of appeasement adopted by some States had provided Israel with the means of implementing its racist and expansionist policies. It no longer had any established geographical boundaries or exercised any restraint in the repressive practices in which it engaged.

27. Having created Israel and endowed it with legitimacy, the United Nations bore a special responsibility for the situation. It was therefore ironic that it should be Israel that most often acted in defiance of United Nations resolutions and in violation of international law and custom. That it could do so without evoking the prompt and effective response stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations not only harmed the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people but damaged the credibility of the United Nations itself.

(Mr. Baaisa, Democratic Yemen)

28. Israel pursued its illegal practices in the occupied territories in an unconscionable manner inconsistent with humane ethical thinking. Its goal was to uproot the Palestinian people from its land and to destroy its national character and identity in order to replace it with Jews from around the world, thereby creating a purely Jewish State and achieving the dream of a Greater Israel. Even mention of the name of Palestine and the carrying of the Palestinian flag had come to rouse the ire of Israel and had been declared a crime punishable by law. It was not surprising that Israel should resort to Nazi and Fascist methods or that it should collaborate with the racist minority régime in South Africa. Their nature and goals were the same and their policies could only lead to greater oppression and greater violation of human rights.

29. The report of the Special Committee contained abundant evidence, including statements made by the Israeli authorities themselves, corroborating Israel's intention of continuing its coercive policies and practices in order to achieve its goal of annexing the territory of the Palestinian people. Israel still refused to allow the Special Committee to enter the occupied territories in order to investigate the situation there. It saw fit to refuse its co-operation while at the same time casting doubt on the accuracy of the report.

30. The Commission on Human Rights had, at its fortieth session, taken up the question of Israeli practices in the occupied territories. It had forcefully condemned Israeli policies and practices and the administrative and legislative measures it had taken to encourage the establishment of settler colonies in those territories. The Commission had reaffirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and had expressed its deep concern at Israel's continued refusal to apply that Convention.

31. Zionist excuses and pretexts did not conceal the true nature of the occupation and did not absolve Israel of responsibility for the consequences of its unjust practices. As stated in paragraph 328 of the report, Israeli policy had led to an increase in the harshness of the sentences handed down against Palestinian civilians, a considerable increase in the occurrence of incidents involving violence and the discovery of large-scale organized Israeli settler groups whose purpose was to intimidate Palestinian civilians and to expand and consolidate Israeli settlement and annexation of the occupied territories.

32. The United Nations was called upon to halt Israel at its borders and to concern itself with the other basic part of the equation, namely the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The adoption of resolutions was of no avail if they were not accompanied by the measures necessary for their implementation. Co-operation with hostile racist régimes, the establishment of strategic alliances with them, providing them with the latest weapons of mass destruction and with mounting economic support had not produced flexibility and moderation in their positions so much as it had encouraged them to perpetuate their practices and reinforced their ability to defy the international community and to ignore its repeated appeals. It was not helpful for certain States to resort to

/...

(Mr. Baaisa, Democratic Yemen)

the use of force, to bring economic pressure to bear or to threaten to cut off assistance in order to blackmail other States and obstruct the efforts of the United Nations to reach an equitable solution to the problem of Palestine.

33. Mr. KA (Senegal) said that the fact that Israel refused to co-operate with the Special Committee and rejected out of hand representations by the Secretary-General on behalf of the Committee proved that it had something to hide.

34. The situation in the territories occupied by Israel was an affront to humanity, the more so as the policies of the occupying Power were a continuing source of violence, insecurity and fear among the civilian population. The Arab minority in Palestine was daily subjected to inhuman, degrading and discriminatory treatment, which worsened as illegal measures aiming for actual annexation of the occupied territories intensified.

35. In defiance of international law and the conventions to which it was party, and showing contempt for basic human rights and morality, Israel obstinately persisted in its policy of establishing an exclusivist Jewish homeland inside the Arab territories occupied since 1967. That had been aptly demonstrated by the provocative statements made by the Israeli authorities of their intention to consolidate Jewish settlements, change the demographic structure of the region and force the Arabs to leave their native land in order to make way for waves of Jewish immigrants.

36. Israel continued with impunity, contrary to relevant international conventions and the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, to conduct reprisals, attacks and intimidation against the civilian population of the occupied territories, by arresting, deporting and imprisoning them, and interfering in their education. The aim of such acts was to undermine the morale of the Arab population and force them into permanent exile.

37. Among many other illegal acts, excavations by Israel under the Haram al-Sharif, which threatened to bring down the fabric of the main Muslim buildings of Jerusalem, were a grave violation of the international status of the holy city. The situation of the civilian population in the occupied territory should not only be a constant source of humanitarian concern but also be seen in the context of an overall settlement to the Israeli-Arab crisis, guaranteeing security to all States in the region and their basic inalienable rights to the Arab people of Palestine.

38. His delegation considered that practical steps should be taken by the General Assembly to ensure the strict observance of human rights conventions in the occupied territories and to make a full investigation into violations of legal instruments to which the occupying Power was party. The countries of the Middle East should unite their efforts not in self-destruction but in bringing out of the Palestine problem peace and mutual respect between the peoples concerned.

39. Mr. SHEKAR (United Arab Emirates) said that the Zionists had been striving since 1948 to uproot the majority of the Palestinian people from the occupied Arab territories and to transform the remnant of that people into second-class citizens in their own country. They had resorted to repression, violence, annexation, the establishment of new settlements and the imposition of economic, political, civil, cultural, and educational restrictions on the Arab inhabitants in order to build a purely Zionist State.

40. An indication of the savagery of the Israeli practices in question was provided by the impression, as reported in many newspapers, formed by a British parliamentary delegation, made up of members of the Conservative and Labour Parties, which had visited the occupied Arab territories. The members of the delegation had all agreed that the situation of the Arab inhabitants was extremely difficult. One member had reported that they had been stunned by what they had seen and that it had been worse than they had imagined. Another had stated that Israel had a racist régime, that it was in the process of creating two classes on the basis of religion and that it largely ignored human rights. During its visit, the delegation had met prisoners whose bodies still showed signs of torture and many who had been permanently disabled.

41. In their frantic endeavour to Judaize the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli authorities continued to establish new Jewish settlements. The number of such settlements had increased to an alarming extent and the total had reached 220. Forty per cent of the land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had been earmarked for settlement, and the number of Jewish settlers would reach 130,000 by the beginning of 1985. The establishment of more settlements would cause greater friction between the indigenous Palestinian inhabitants and the new settlers, who often resorted to the law of the jungle. Acts of terrorism carried out by bands of Jewish settlers had been continuing for a number of years and were either ignored by the Israeli authorities or accorded little importance. That was an expression of the true spirit of Israel, a spirit based on racial discrimination, which had been embodied in Ben-Gurion, the terrorist Begin, Sharon and, most recently, Rabbi Meir Kahane who called for the forcible expulsion of the Arabs.

42. In May 1984, the Arabic newspaper Al-Tali'ah and the Hebrew magazine Ha'olam Haze had reported that Jewish settlers had broken the windows of cars and houses owned by Arabs in Ramallah and El-Biren. It was those groups that had placed booby traps in cars belonging to West Bank mayors. Settlers had thrown grenades into the homes of Arabs near the settlement of Kiryat Arba so as to drive them away, take over their land and thus expand the settlement. They had placed time bombs close to mosques in Hebron, set to go off at the conclusion of worship. Masked Zionist terrorists had attacked the Hebron Islamic University, killing 3 persons and wounding 33. In Nablus, an 11-year-old girl had been murdered by settlers.

43. The occupation authorities had also indulged in organized terrorism. They had begun to implement plans to change the character of the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank. The Israeli Commander of the Central Sector and the leaders of the extreme right-wing Tehiya and Morasha parties had tried to obtain the agreement

(Mr. Snekar, United Arab Emirates)

of Yitzhak Rabin, the Minister of war, to the closure of the Dheisheh refugee camp, the largest in the West Bank, and the expulsion of its inhabitants. That camp had been subjected time and again to Israeli repression and campaigns of arrest. Curfews had been imposed on it dozens of times, its drinking water had been cut off and it had been subjected to armed attack by Jewish settlers. Curfews were still being imposed by the occupation authorities on the Askar and Balata camps near Nablus.

44. The report of the Special Committee showed that more than 900 Military Orders had been issued by the occupation authorities subjecting the Arab population to murder, beatings, torture, expulsion, the destruction of houses, collective punishment and other practices prohibited by the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Military courts were empowered to pass sentences of up to 20 years imprisonment on Arabs who threw stones at passing vehicles, while those who opened fire on vehicles belonging to Arabs when passing Jewish settlements went unpunished.

45. A report of the International Commission of Jurists had stated that there were 1,260 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails in April 1984. According to figures supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross, 929 persons were still detained in the Ansar camp in southern Lebanon in October 1984. Such political prisoners suffered from physical and psychological maltreatment and were deprived of medical care, food and educational and cultural materials.

46. The Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories suffered, on a daily basis, from the arbitrary measures imposed by the Israeli authorities in all areas of life. In the fields of education and culture, Palestinian schools, universities and cultural institutions were subject to closure under emergency laws. Teachers were harassed and there was open interference with school curricula. Israeli policemen and soldiers were completely free to break into classrooms and open fire on innocent students. The Israeli authorities continued to tighten their grip on the five Palestinian universities in a campaign to hinder the development of such institutions. The Israeli authorities also continued to prevent more than 300 students from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip enrolled at universities outside the occupied areas from travelling to those universities in order to complete their studies. It was shameful that, submissively, the United States of America should have supported the Israeli position against the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/39/L.17, on the establishment of the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees, thereby helping to deprive Palestinian students in the occupied territories of educational opportunity.

47. Even houses of worship had not been spared, and Israeli troops had flagrantly desecrated the Al-Aqsa Mosque by placing portraits of Haim Herzog, the Zionist President, in the holy precinct and raising the Israeli flag there. Attacks were made either against the structure of the Mosque or against worshippers there on a daily basis. Plans for its demolition had become obvious when a number of attempts to place explosives there were discovered. An attempt had been made to burn down the Mosque 15 years before, and it had witnessed bloody and violent incidents throughout the years in which the power and influence of Jewish fanatics within the Zionist State had been increasing.

(Mr. Shekar, United Arab Emirates)

48. Measures aimed at forcing Arab farmers and workers to abandon their land and property and migrate in order to achieve the goal of Judaization remained in full swing. Israel was sabotaging agriculture by cutting down trees, destroying crops, and enacting laws to restrict the expansion of Palestinian agriculture. Over the past year, the Israeli authorities had taken over hundreds of thousands of dunums of land in the West Bank. Often, such land was confiscated by Military Order without prior notice.

49. Palestinians living under the yoke of Israeli occupation also suffered from the financial and economic restrictions imposed on them by the Zionist State and 38 different taxes had been imposed on them.

50. A critical phase had been reached in the Zionist settlement plan for Jerusalem, which had the goal of Judaizing the city, causing the migration of its original population and creating a new demographic reality. The Zionists had begun to demolish the Arab industrial area so as to liquidate the Arab economic infrastructure of the city, and were carrying out a campaign of harassment against merchants and workers.

51. While pursuing its policy of annexation and Judaization, Israel was trying to disseminate falsehoods on a matter remote from the basic issue. It was trying to link that issue with the subject of alleged economic improvements. Such attempts were made only in order to distort the true nature of the issue at stake in the occupied Arab territories, which was, in truth, that of a people languishing under the yoke of foreign occupation and struggling for liberation and independence. Israel would not be able to ignore that fact and continue its expansionist policy if it was not for the unlimited support of the United States of America.

52. His delegation, proceeding from its unshakeable faith in the justice of the cause of the Palestinian people, reaffirmed its unqualified support for the right of that people to self-determination and to establish a free and independent State. The international community should take practical and urgent steps to curb Israeli arrogance and to oblige Israel to accede to its will to comply with the provisions of international law and of United Nations resolutions, to ensure unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and to guarantee the exercise of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

53. Mr. BUSCH (German Democratic Republic) said that the ruling circles of Israel, in disregard of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, were escalating their attacks against the Arab community in the occupied territories, by expropriating and plundering the Palestinians and destroying their houses. As the Special Committee had noted in its report, such actions reflected the pattern of previous years.

54. Israel's settlement policy was clearly essential to the "de-Arabization" and colonization of the occupied territories. Acts of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians living in the occupied territories were only possible because terror and expansionism had been raised to the level of State policy.

/...

(Mr. Busch, German Democratic Republic)

55. His country condemned the acts of terror committed against the Palestinian people and joined the representatives of many States in the demand for decisive measures to be taken against the Israeli aggressor under the United Nations Charter.

56. Israel was the regional ally of that main imperialist Power which had declared the Middle East one of its "zones of vital interest". The imperialist policy of confrontation and arms build-up, including the deployment of new medium-range weapons in western Europe, constituted a direct threat to the peoples of the Middle East. Only the support of the United States enabled Israel to disregard the will of the international community and the norms of international law.

57. Israel bore full responsibility for the massacres at Sabra and Shatila and the act of terror against the Palestinian refugee camp at Ein el-Hilweh. His country condemned Israel's application in occupied southern Lebanon of the practices which it had tried and tested in the West Bank, Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights. It demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolutions 508 (1982) and 509 (1982). The struggle of the Arab peoples in the occupied territories for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal and the implementation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people could not be stifled by the Israeli ruling circles.

58. Since its foundation, the German Democratic Republic had supported peoples in their fight for national sovereignty and self-determination. It reaffirmed its solidarity with the Palestinian people in its just struggle for the implementation of its national rights and in particular its right to establish an independent State.

59. His country joined with the majority of States in calling for the urgent convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. His country's position on the Middle East problem and the question of Palestine remained unchanged. It reiterated its support for the proposals on a Middle East settlement submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 29 July 1984 (A/39/368-S/16685), which, in its view, showed the way to a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the Middle East.

60. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was amazed to hear the representative of the Soviet Union speak of State terrorism when it was common knowledge that the Soviet régime had consistently carried out a policy of terrorism as a means of controlling its own people and imposing its rule on foreign peoples. The Soviet Union, after all, had created the abhorrent gulag network. According to a recent report in the Washington Post, there were even now 4 million slave labourers in the "workers' paradise". The Soviet Union also maintained a network of training camps for foreign terrorists, including PLO terrorists.

61. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, requested the Chairman to remind the representative of Israel to confine his remarks to the agenda item under consideration.

62. Mr. BARRAMI (Israel) said that, on the previous day, the representative of Afghanistan had spoken of the need for an independent Palestinian State. Those were touching sentiments. Perhaps he would also like an independent State in his own country. Indeed, it was easier for him to defend human rights in Palestine than in Afghanistan.

63. The same could be said of the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. He would like the international community to forget how the Syrian Government treated its own population. In February 1982 Syrian armoured brigades had bombarded the city of Hama, which had been suspected of being a centre of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to estimates, approximately 25,000 people had been killed during that siege.

64. Syrian forces had also bombarded Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and had incited factional strife within the PLO. The Syrian forces had driven Arafat and his followers from the Bega'a Valley to the sea. The Muslim Brotherhood had recently reported that 700 Palestinian refugees were being held under arrest in a village near Damascus, where they were subjected to harsh treatment. The Syrians took advantage of the so-called Palestinian cause in order to further their own efforts to form Greater Syria from the area consisting of Lebanon, Israel, Jordan and parts of Iraq and Turkey. In defending the Palestinian cause, the Syrian Government was pursuing its own selfish interests in the region. In an article written in January 1983, the Syrian Minister of Defence had stated that Syria had a vital role in the Palestinian cause because Palestine was part of historical southern Syria and because the Palestinian masses objected to separation from the Syrian motherland. At a meeting with journalists on 22 February 1984, the Syrian Ambassador in London had admitted that the concept of Greater Syria did exist. The Syrian régime used the Palestinian cause as yet another tool in its overall strategy and did not tolerate any independent decision-making on the part of the Palestinians themselves.

65. Syria's occupation of Lebanon for the last eight and a half years was further proof of that Government's geopolitical ambitions. President Assad had publicly stated on numerous occasions that Syria and Lebanon were historically one country.

66. Mr. HAMADNEH (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Israeli representative should bear in mind that the Committee was considering the question of Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. As usual, the Israeli representative had given the Committee a lecture containing his favourite historical and political lessons about the region. The central point at issue, however, was Israeli occupation of foreign territory. The Israeli representative, therefore, should speak about the situation of the Palestinian refugees in those territories and when his Government would put an end to its illegal occupation of them. If the Israeli representative was at all interested in showing respect for the principles of the Organization, he should advise his Government to implement

(Mr. Hamadne, Jordan)

all the United Nations resolutions dealing with the question of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

67. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that while listening to the statement made by the Israeli representative, he could not but recall the maxim that an unjust cause could not be defended by clean hands. The representative of Israel had demonstrated the truth of that maxim.

68. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Zionist scheme to bring about Greater Israel was at the root of Israeli expansionism and aggression in the Middle East. The Syrian Arab Republic had no territorial ambitions in the region and respected the sovereignty of all neighbouring States, including Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Since his country was at war with the Zionist entity, it did not recognize Israel. Israel continued to deny the Palestinian Arab population its inalienable rights. The Zionist allegation that Syria had territorial ambitions in Lebanon was totally unfounded. Syria supported the establishment of a national Palestinian State and the complete sovereignty of the Lebanese Government over the territory within its internationally recognized borders.

69. Mr. BARROMI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, ever since the first special session of the General Assembly in 1947, the Syrian Government had repeatedly claimed that Palestine was a part of Syria. It was very strange that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic should now attempt to deny that position. The Europa Yearbook for 1983 had concluded that the Syrian invasion of Lebanon in 1976 was part of the well-known scheme to form Greater Syria.

70. Mr. ABOUCHAER (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reiterated that his Government respected the sovereignty of all neighbouring Arab States within their internationally recognized borders. Syria had no territorial claims on any neighbouring countries. He reaffirmed his Government's support for the liberation of Palestine from Zionist occupation and colonialism. The Syrian Arab Republic believed in the ideal of Arab unity and sought to unify the Arab world.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.