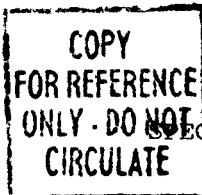


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at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 34th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ABDULLATIF (Oman)

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.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. JESENSKY (Czechoslovakia) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/39/591) demonstrated that the situation in the occupied Arab territories continued to deteriorate as a result of the Israeli policy of annexation. Israel continued blatantly to violate the basic human rights of the Arab population in those territories. The Israeli authorities were doing everything in their power to drive Palestinians from the occupied territories, deprive them of their property and weaken their resolve to achieve national independence.
2. His Government had consistently condemned that policy, which was based on the teachings of Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism. Herzl had held that the State of Israel could only be established and exist through the occupation of the territory of the Palestinian people and their forced elimination. Czechoslovakia strongly condemned the Israeli policy of aggression and annexation in the occupied territories, which was in flagrant violation of all relevant resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly and international law in general.
3. Israel was able to continue to carry out that policy thanks to the comprehensive political, military and economic assistance with which it was provided by its strategic partner, the United States. In essence, the United States was in part financing Israeli colonization and expansion in the occupied territories. Washington, therefore, was also responsible for the continued occupation of those territories and the failure to resolve the question of Palestine.
4. The implementation of the basic rights of the Arab people in the occupied territories could be brought about only through the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel forces. The situation in the area required a collective international solution. The Soviet proposals for bringing about a settlement to the problem of the Middle East constituted a sound basis for peace negotiations between all parties concerned.
5. His delegation expressed satisfaction at the work of the Special Committee, which had carried out its task under difficult conditions. It was unfortunate that Israel had again refused to co-operate with the Special Committee. Lastly, he reiterated his Government's unswerving support of the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of its recognized representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.
6. Mr. XU Shangwei (China) recalled that the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session had adopted a series of resolutions condemning the Israeli authorities for serious infringements of human rights in the occupied territories. It had demanded an end to Israel's attempts to change the legal status and

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(Mr. Xu Shangwei, China)

demographic composition of those territories and to its persecution of Palestinians and other Arabs in those territories.

7. The General Assembly had further declared null and void all actions taken by Israel purporting to alter the legal status of the Syrian Golan Heights. Regrettably, however, the Israeli authorities had refused to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions. They continued to commit atrocities in the occupied territories and to attempt to annex the Syrian Golan Heights, in gross violation of the norms of international law.

8. During the current session of the General Assembly, the representative of Israel had called for the elimination of remaining "pockets of neo-nazism". In fact it was the Israeli military occupying authorities themselves which were committing neo-Nazi crimes every day by violating the human rights of the population of the occupied territories.

9. The Israeli authorities had declared Israel open to all Jews who wished to make it their home, while denying the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and preventing the re-establishment of a Palestinian State in the land of Palestine. Israel's intransigent and reactionary position was a challenge to the entire international community, which should respond resolutely by applying the necessary sanctions against Israel.

10. Experience had shown that the human rights situation of the Palestinians and other Arabs in the occupied territories would not change until their right to self-determination was restored and Israel's military occupation terminated. The Israeli authorities must abandon their aggressive expansionist policy, withdraw from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Israel must recognize the inalienable, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination and to establish its own independent State in Palestine. Only thus would it be possible for all countries in the area to enjoy their rights to independence and freedom.

11. The United Nations should take effective measures to ensure the implementation of all its relevant resolutions. His delegation supported the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to promote the realization of those objectives. China would play its part in seeking a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Middle East question.

12. Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia) recalled that the Special Committee had been established to investigate the inhuman crimes committed by a Member State against a people, whose fate was the responsibility of the United Nations. The Special Political Committee would have to take a decision recommending the imposition of sanctions, as provided for under the Charter, in order to safeguard the human rights of the Palestinian Arabs in the occupied territories. The report of the Special Committee indicated that the general policy of the Government of Israel continued to follow the same lines as in previous years. The ultimate objective of the Zionists continued to be the usurpation of the rest of Palestine and the elimination of the Palestinian people as a separate entity.

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(Mr. Shihabi, Saudi Arabia)

13. A number of international legal instruments, particularly the fourth Geneva Convention, clearly defined the responsibility of occupying Powers with regard to civilians, property and human rights. It was clear from the report that the Israeli authorities had reached the stage of conducting a campaign of terror against the Palestinians in order to force them to flee their lands. The so-called "homeland" doctrine of the Israeli Government, which envisaged a Jewish State established on territory that included the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, was a racist and Fascist doctrine and was the core of the problem. The centuries-old existence of the Arab population in Palestine, however, was an undeniable historical fact.

14. Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories were in flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Israeli authorities had prevented the Special Committee from investigating other, more serious, violations of human rights. In view of that threat to international peace and security, he hoped that the Special Political Committee would adopt a clear position upholding the ideals enshrined in the Charter. Lastly, he hoped that the Special Committee would continue its work and put forward further recommendations on the questions under consideration.

15. Mr. BAALI (Algeria) said that the report of the Special Committee gave further evidence of the inhuman conditions in the occupied Arab territories. He expressed satisfaction at the remarkably objective manner in which the Special Committee had carried out its mandate in view of the major difficulties which it encountered. The continued deterioration of the situation in the Middle East, particularly in the occupied Arab territories, was cause for great concern. That situation was the direct result of the irredentist policy of the Israeli Government, which continued its occupation of the Arab territories, persisted in establishing further settlements in those areas and increased repressive measures against the Arab population. In spite of numerous United Nations resolutions calling upon the Zionist régime to withdraw from those territories, Israeli leaders were taking steps to bring about the definitive annexation of the occupied territories as part of "Eretz Yisrael".

16. The establishment of settlements and the transfer of Israeli settlers to the occupied territories were in flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention. In spite of the repeated condemnation of those practices by the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Zionist régime continued with total impunity to carry out its plans to radically change the demographic composition and geographical characteristics of the occupied territories in order to bring about their ultimate Judaization and annexation.

17. The United Nations must make use of all means at its disposal, including those provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter, to put an end to those Israeli practices, which constituted a grave threat to international peace and security.

18. The Israeli authorities were also continuing their policy of repression and genocide with regard to the Arab and Palestinian populations, which were subjected

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(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

to institutionalized violence by both the Israeli occupation forces and terrorist groups which operated with complete impunity.

19. In recent years a new and more dangerous type of violence, harking back to the days of the Irgun and with the blessing of political, military and religious leaders, had made its appearance. The perpetrators were armed settlers who set themselves up as judges and executioners and terrorized the Arab population with impunity. Settlers who had been arrested had quickly become national heroes and been released "in the public interest".

20. Underground terrorist movements such as the "Kach" group, the Temple Mount group and the "Ein-Kerem" group were another source of violence. Those groups used any method, including booby traps, artillery fire, the machine-gunning of buses and bombings, to attain their avowed end of expelling all Arabs and creating an all-Jewish society.

21. Arabs were in danger at home, at work, in the street and even at prayer, since places of worship had now become haunts of terrorism and fanaticism. Even more serious was the fact that the perpetrators of such acts were often connected with and under the protection of the highest religious and political circles. Such violence should be resolutely condemned, as it presaged a new era of terror and insecurity, and possibly a new bloodbath among the Arab population.

22. In such an atmosphere of terror and insecurity there could be no question of respect for the rights and freedoms of the Arab population. There was no sense in talking of violations of human rights without addressing the heart of the matter: the subjugation of a people and the occupation of its territory. A people denied sovereignty over its own territory and its right even to exist could have no democratic freedoms. Of course, it was important to denounce the restrictions on freedom of expression, association and movement and to see those restrictions as part of a consistent Zionist policy to clear the Arab lands of their rightful inhabitants as a first step to annexation. None of that, however, could hide the basic problem, which was the denial of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories by Zionist troops.

23. The violence and insecurity that had racked the Middle East for the several decades past was the product of Israeli intransigence and the oppressive and aggressive policies pursued by the Zionist régime against the Arab States of the region and within the occupied territories, heedless of the demands of the international community and of United Nations resolutions and international conventions.

24. The Special Political Committee would have no choice but to continue year after year denouncing at length the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people, as long as the occupation of the Arab territories continued and the Palestinian people was unable to exercise its inalienable rights, including its right to self-determination and the establishment of its own sovereign State.

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(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

25. The Middle East would not revert to its former condition of peace and harmony among nations until Israeli adventurism was curbed and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people were restored. It was the collective duty of the international community and the primary responsibility of the Security Council to bring that about.

26. Mr. LAPITSKY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, having annexed East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, the Israeli expansionists were currently preparing the same fate for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and were intent on consolidating their hold on those Arab territories and on forever depriving the long-suffering Palestinian people of its homeland. Through its policy of "creeping annexation", Israel was speeding up its colonization of the confiscated lands. In 1983, Israel established more than 150 settlements in the Arab territories and had confiscated over 60 per cent of the Arab lands in the West Bank, and Israeli colonists were continuing to establish new settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The Israeli expansionists' massive colonization of the Arab territories was intended to hamper the restoration of Arab sovereignty in those lands.

27. Barbarous methods were being used to carry out those criminal intentions. In the occupied territories, the most fertile Arab lands were being confiscated, Arabs were being deprived of access to sources of water, their homes were being destroyed and they were being subjected to social and economic discrimination. In particular Palestinian workers received lower wages than Israelis and were deprived of social and medical insurance, as well as unemployment compensation. Union activities were being sharply curtailed and closely controlled.

28. The Israeli occupation authorities dissolved legally elected municipal councils, replaced mayors, appointed their henchmen to municipal bodies, arbitrarily shut down universities and other educational institutions for extended periods, dismissed objectionable instructors and imposed strict censorship. Those measures served their goal of eliminating the idea of a national liberation struggle from Arab consciousness.

29. Israel was intensifying its policy of organized mass terror and repression in the occupied territories. The Israeli military clique made wide use of "collective punishments", exile and deportation, as well as restriction of movement. Attacks on Palestinian refugee camps were regularly carried out. Israel settlers' organizations employed terror and intimidation tactics against Arabs. The report of the Special Committee contained information about the rough treatment and difficult conditions in Israeli prisons, and it was sufficient to mention the Israelis' use of tear gas against jailed Palestinians.

30. The Israeli aggressor's policy of mass terror and repression was also being widely employed against the population of Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon. In 1984, Tel Aviv had carried out bloody terrorist actions against the Palestinian camp of Ein el-Hilweh. Its so-called "punitive operations" conducted against both Palestinian and Lebanese patriots was proof of its intention of forcing Lebanon to

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(Mr. Lapitsky, Ukrainian SSR)

accept the Israeli diktat. The Israeli tactics of intimidation and demoralization were aimed at forcing the Palestinians to give up the struggle for their inalienable national rights and driving them from their native lands.

31. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic strongly condemned Israel's criminal policies, which were in flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 and in open defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and of numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

32. Israel's policies and its impudent disregard for the collective opinion of the international community was made possible by the protection and support which it received from the United States of America, which was bound to Israel by an agreement on "strategic co-operation". Counting on Israel as an instrument of its aggressive policies, and considering it as its principal foothold in the Middle East, the United States provided it with enormous financial and military aid. The continuous flow of American aid, the United States' support of Israel in the United Nations, in particular its opposition to the Security Council's taking effective measures to end Israeli expansion, were direct encouragement for the Israeli aggressor to undertake new anti-Arab adventures. Those actions by the United States, as well as the Camp David policy of separate agreements, went against the basic interests of the Arab States and did nothing to strengthen peace in the Middle East.

33. Nevertheless, the policies of the Israeli expansionists and their protectors was encountering increasing opposition from Arab national and patriotic forces. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic wished to express its solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people and other Arab peoples for their rights.

34. The end to Israeli occupation and the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the Arab people of Palestine were important factors in the achievement of a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East. The Soviet Union's proposal for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East was based on the idea that a comprehensive, just and durable settlement could be reached and put into effect only by means of collective efforts with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. All the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 should be returned to the Arabs, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination should be guaranteed. Peace should be established among the States of the region, which should all be guaranteed the right to a secure and independent existence and to development. The organization of collective efforts to solve all those problems could be facilitated by the convening of an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations.

35. Mr. TRUONG TRIEU DUONG (Viet Nam) said that Israel was continuing to carry out its systematic policy of aggression and expansion with regard to neighbouring Arab countries and was trying by all unjustifiable means to reinforce and expand its hold on the occupied Arab territories, thereby trampling on the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The fact that Israel continued to

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(Mr. Truong Trieu Duong, Viet Nam)

refuse to co-operate with the Special Committee clearly exposed Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies and its arrogant disregard for public opinion.

36. Viet Nam was enraged by the fact that Israel still continued to violate all fundamental human rights, such as the right to freedom of education, association and expression, as well as the right to work. The occupation régime had by no means ceased its terrorist attacks against the civilian population, and, despite repeated condemnation in the United Nations, the Israeli authorities continued to change the geographical character, demographic composition and legal status of the occupied territories. By pursuing a policy of aggression, terrorism and genocide, the Israeli occupying forces wished to eliminate the whole Arab population of the occupied territories.

37. Although Israel was very aggressive and ambitious, it would not dare to act so flagrantly if it did not have the support and encouragement of the United States of America, its powerful strategic ally. The Camp David accords, the agreement on strategic co-operation between the United States and Israel, as well as the so-called "Reagan Plan" had, in one way or another, resulted in the Israeli Government's increasing expansionist tendencies and its brutal occupation régime in the occupied Arab territories. The current United States Government was strengthening its strategic alliance with Israel and increasing its military assistance to that Government. At the same time, in order to subdue international condemnation for its policy, the United States was also making verbal protests against the Israeli acts of annexation and aggression against the Arab States and feigning friendship with some of those States. However, it should not be forgotten that the United States' enormous military and economic assistance to Israel was being used to finance Israel's colonization and annexation in the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip. The United States wished to turn Israel into its most powerful gendarme in the Middle East so that it could violate the independence and sovereignty of other Arab States, thus serving the United States' global strategy in general and in the Middle East in particular.

38. The international community in general and the Special Political Committee in particular should exert pressure by adopting every possible effective measure to make Israel comply with international law and respect General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the question of Palestine and the Middle East. Viet Nam demanded that United States economic, political, diplomatic and military assistance for Israel should be strongly condemned and immediately put to an end.

39. Viet Nam supported the Soviet Union's proposal to convene, as soon as possible, an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation, on an equal footing, of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Soviet Union, the United States and all other parties concerned. The convening of such a conference would be a positive step towards a comprehensive solution to the Middle East question.

40. The Vietnamese people deeply sympathized with the miserable plight of the Arab people who were victims of United States imperialism and Israeli zionism. Viet Nam

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(Mr. Truong Trieu Duong, Viet Nam)

consistently and resolutely stood side by side with the Arab people in their just struggle against the policy of aggression, expansion and intervention of Israel and its ally, for the restoration of their fundamental national rights and in defence of their independence and sovereignty.

41. Mr. SIMENI (Nigeria) noted the disconcerting refusal by the Israeli authorities to grant the Special Committee access to the occupied territories in execution of its mandate under General Assembly resolution 38/79 D.

42. The report of the Special Committee showed that the occupying Power had denied the population of the occupied territories the fundamental freedoms of education, expression, work and association. Harassment of civilians by the occupying authorities and the ill-treatment of detainees continued, as did the annexation and settlement policies of the Israeli authorities.

43. His delegation considered that the attitude of Israel towards the occupied territories would not change unless sterner measures were adopted by the international community to solve the underlying problems of the conflict. The inalienable rights of the Palestinian people could only be secured by the establishment of a Palestinian homeland. Anything short of that would amount only to the usual annual debate about the violation of human rights.

44. Mr. KARASIMEONOV (Bulgaria) noted that the Special Committee, which had managed to fulfil its mandate despite persistent denial of access by the Israeli authorities, had indicated in its report that the situation in the occupied territories had considerably worsened since 1983. The level of violence and terrorism practised by the Israeli authorities had increased, and plans for further settlements extending into the next century had been announced. The number of Jewish settlers was rising and the civilian population was subjected to constant repression.

45. The general policy of the Government of Israel continued to be based on the notion that the territories which it had occupied in 1967 formed part of the State of Israel and that the establishment of settlements in and transfer of Israeli citizens to those territories did not therefore constitute a process of annexation. That policy of annexation was in clear violation of the fourth Geneva Convention and the Charter of the United Nations and against the express will of the international community.

46. Terrorist practices by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories, including the maltreatment of detainees, arbitrary imprisonment and general discrimination, were part of the grand Zionist design to sap the nationhood of the Palestinian people. Israel continued to carry out its policy of changing the geographical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the Palestinian and other territories occupied since 1967, including the city of Jerusalem. In all those territories, freedom of movement, education and expression was being denied.

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(Mr. Karasimeonov, Bulgaria)

47. For more than 30 years, the Middle East had been a hotbed of political and military tension, posing a constant threat to world peace and security. Throughout that time the Palestinian people had been persecuted, exiled and deprived of its homeland. It was clear that the key to the Arab-Israeli conflict was the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people which alone could resolve the whole Middle East crisis and achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Failure to end the conflict had emboldened the aggressor in its intransigent policy of terror and violence, as demonstrated by Israel's aggressive provocations against Lebanon and its arrogant disregard of relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

48. Israel's continuing occupation of the Arab lands seized in 1967, its cynical defiance of the international community and its flagrant violations of the principles and norms of international law were made possible by the active support received from the United States. United States vetoes of Security Council resolutions aimed at curbing the aggressive policy of Israel made it de facto an accomplice in the establishment of new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

49. His delegation was convinced that only the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination, to establish its own State and to return to its homeland, and a guarantee of independent existence and security for all countries in the region could bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem and put an end to Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

50. In that context the Bulgarian Government supported the July 1984 initiative of the Soviet Union for the convening of an international conference involving all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

51. Bulgaria had repeatedly condemned the Israeli authorities' violation of the fundamental human rights of the population of the occupied territories. It would continue to give active support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people until the inevitable triumph of its cause.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.