

# 1989th meeting

Monday, 8 October 1973, at 3.45 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1989

## AGENDA ITEM 53

**Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (continued)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9018, A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995, 1996, 1997/Rev.1, 1998, 1999 and Corr.1, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and Corr.1, 2004-2008):

(a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995, 1996, 1997/Rev.1, 1998, 1999 and Corr.1, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and Corr.1, 2004-2008)

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS (concluded)** (A/C.3/L.1996, 1997/Rev.1, 1998, 1999 and Corr.1, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and Corr.1, 2004-2008)

1. Lord GAINFORD (United Kingdom) agreed with the Egyptian representative that the Committee should concentrate on the four major aspects of the programme and accept the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Commission on Human Rights with respect to its details. Obviously, a programme of such complexity and length could not wholly satisfy every delegation, but he had hoped that, in a spirit of compromise and of determination to launch a programme which could be supported by all Member States, delegations would have refrained from proposing many amendments. His delegation found it especially regrettable that some delegations had sought to amend passages not considered by the informal working group. He felt that most of the amendments before the Committee widened the scope of the programme and had little to do with racial discrimination as defined in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Some of them introduced political elements which could only weaken the thrust of the programme, while others destroyed its balance by placing too much emphasis on the need to combat discrimination and ignoring the need to promote harmony between different races. For example, the first of the amendments submitted by the USSR (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) took no account of the last part of paragraph 5 of the draft programme, which stressed the need to promote harmonious relations between races. His delegation would therefore vote against that amendment.

2. For the same reason, his delegation had introduced a subamendment (A/C.3/L.2004) to the Egyptian amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1998, which, in its opinion, did not substantially improve paragraph 13 (a) of the draft. The terms of reference of the proposed conference seemed somewhat negative, in so far as they related to the implementation of resolu-

tions many of which were unacceptable to a number of Governments. The United Kingdom amendment urged that the conference should focus on the promotion of racial harmony, which complemented measures to eliminate racial discrimination, as was shown by the debates in the Commission on Human Rights. He hoped, therefore, that his amendment would be adopted unanimously. He would explain his vote and his delegation's position on the programme as a whole when the latter had been adopted.

3. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) felt that the USSR amendments in document A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1 were sufficiently clear and did not call for a long explanation. The first amendment gave a more positive meaning to paragraph 5 of the draft programme, and the second provided for assistance to people who were victims of racial discrimination. The third complemented the draft programme, while the fourth and fifth amendments were concerned solely with form.

4. Unlike the United Kingdom representative, he felt that the various amendments complemented and improved the draft and that their number bore witness to the desire of delegations to draw up a positive document.

5. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said her delegation had withdrawn a number of the amendments it had proposed at the previous meeting, which had appeared in the provisional version of document A/C.3/L.1997. The amendments it maintained, of which the Moroccan delegation was a sponsor, were reproduced in the revised version of that text (A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1). The only change in relation to document A/C.3/L.1997 concerned the third amendment.

6. Her delegation supported the amendments before the Committee; it supported the amendments in document A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1 in the context of the Decade and their universal application on the basis of the principles set forth by Mr. Hernán Santa Cruz in his study entitled *Racial Discrimination*, from which she quoted paragraphs 340 and 354. She would take up the subject of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2001 at a later stage.

7. Mr. CATO (Ghana), speaking on behalf of his own delegation and that of Egypt, submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.2002) to paragraph 18 of the draft programme. His delegation had stressed the important role that a committee could play in the effective implementation of the programme for the Decade, and it had agreed with many other delegations that that task should be entrusted to a committee of the General Assembly. However, in a spirit of compromise, with a view to enabling the programme as a whole to be adopted, the sponsors of the amendment had accepted the proposal that the Economic and Social Council should be given the responsibility for co-ordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in

connexion with the Decade. Paragraph (c) of the amendment contained the only new idea: it provided that the Economic and Social Council should also act as the preparatory committee for the world conference. The other parts of the amendment restated the basic elements of the draft programme, and he hoped that they would be supported by the members of the Committee.

8. He also submitted on behalf of the delegations of Afghanistan, Egypt and Yugoslavia, as well as his own, draft resolution A/C.3/L.2001, which contained all the necessary elements to ensure the proper implementation of the programme. He considered that the amendment in document A/C.3/L.2006, which concerned the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2001), and the subamendment in document A/C.3/L.2007, which concerned the amendment of Egypt and Ghana (A/C.3/L.2002), could be adopted without a debate.

9. In conclusion, he suggested that the Committee should recommend in its report that the Economic and Social Council invite the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the President of the United Nations Council for Namibia to take part in its deliberations, since those organs were directly concerned in the Decade.

10. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), introduced the Egyptian amendment (A/C.3/L.1998) to paragraph 13 (a), and said it was designed to replace the words "but not later than 1978" by the words "but preferably not later than 1978", a change which, he hoped, would make it possible to avoid any controversy on the question of the date. The amendment also provided for the insertion of the word "racism" before the words "racial discrimination".

11. His delegation was not opposed in principle to the United Kingdom subamendment (A/C.3/L.2004) to the amendment he had submitted, but would have preferred the reference to the promotion of racial harmony to have been made in the context of United Nations resolutions and the principles of the Charter, rather than separately.

12. He supported the 10-Power amendments to paragraph 13 (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1), since it was necessary to link discrimination to racism.

13. Mr. AL-QAYSI (Iraq) recalled that at the preceding meeting his delegation had made some general remarks on the wording of paragraph 1 of the draft programme. He wished to propose that that paragraph should be brought into line with the Charter. If his suggestions were not out of order, he would like them to be considered.

14. The CHAIRMAN recalled that 6 p.m. on Friday, 5 October had been set as the deadline for the submission of amendments and that amendments which had not been submitted by that time could not be considered.

15. Mr. KORPÅS (Sweden) said that the Commission on Human Rights had done an excellent job and he would have preferred the draft programme to be the subject of a consensus. The Committee ought to adopt many amendments unanimously. Thus, referring to the first of the Soviet amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1), to which the United Kingdom representative

had raised objections, he proposed that the USSR should accept the addition of the few words proposed by the United Kingdom delegation so that the latter could vote in favour of the amendment.

16. Mr. KABINGA (Zambia), referring to the amendment submitted by Egypt and Ghana (A/C.3/L.2002), said his delegation was convinced that it was absolutely essential to set up a special committee. It understood that a consensus had emerged to the effect that the Economic and Social Council should be entrusted with the tasks which would otherwise have been the responsibility of the proposed committee. His delegation could associate itself with that consensus, but wished its reservations on the matter to be reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

17. Mrs. ESHEL (Israel) said she would have preferred the proposed activities for the Decade to deal with the main issue—namely, racial discrimination as defined in the Convention. Her delegation welcomed the Brazilian amendment in document A/C.3/L.1996 which related to that issue. On the other hand, she did not believe it was constructive to attempt to introduce matters which, whatever their intrinsic value, did not relate directly to the subject dealt with. Accordingly, she was opposed to the proposal for the delegations of Trinidad and Tobago and Morocco which would have the effect of introducing the question of the rights of women. Her delegation was not opposed to the first amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1, but it felt that the other amendments in that document had no value in the particular context. Similarly, it did not believe that the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1 were constructive, since they introduced new elements. On the other hand, she would vote for the Egyptian amendment (A/C.3/L.1998), which reflected the Committee's discussions. Her delegation could not accept the first of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1), which was aimed at deleting the reference to harmonious relations between races. There was no need to comment on the other amendments, and her delegation's position regarding them would be made clear when they were put to the vote.

18. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) asked whether the second of the 10-Power amendments in document A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1 involved the deletion of former paragraph 13 (e). Such a deletion would be unfortunate, since that subparagraph recognized the legitimacy of the liberation movements. Her delegation was not opposed to the amendments submitted in that document, but it wished the following phrase to be added at the end of the proposed new subparagraph (e): " , or to settle natives in reservations, thus condemning them to a miserable existence".

19. Mr. FØNS BUHL (Denmark) said that, on the whole, his delegation supported the draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Egypt, Ghana and Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.2001) and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously. If the draft resolution was voted upon, however, his delegation would request a separate vote on operative paragraph 6.

20. Mr. AL-QADHI (Iraq), replying to the question put by the representative of Mali, said that the sponsors of the amendment to paragraph 13 (e) (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1) had not intended to delete the original text

of that subparagraph but merely wished to supplement it.

21. Mr. SHAFQAT (Pakistan) asked why the word "universal" contained in the Egyptian amendment to paragraph 13 (a) (A/C.3/L.1998) appeared in parentheses.

22. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) explained that, following consultations in the working group, it had been decided to insert the words "full and" before the word "universal". Since the working group had been unable to reach a consensus on the latter word, it had been placed between parentheses so that the Committee itself could take a decision on the matter.

23. Miss JAUREGUIBERRY (Argentina) said that her delegation supported the amendments to paragraphs 13 (d) and (e) (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1), which fitted in well with the programme. It also endorsed the Egyptian amendment to paragraph 13 (a) (A/C.3/L.1998).

24. Mr. VON KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany), referring to the first of the Soviet amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1), asked whether it would not be possible to insert at the end of paragraph 5 of the draft programme the phrase "and to promote harmonious relations between races" contained in the original text, which reflected another important aspect of the programme for action to combat racism and racial discrimination.

25. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland) supported the suggestion made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, which would make it easier for delegations to accept the Soviet amendment.

26. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the programme should relate essentially to action to combat racism and racial discrimination; it was not possible to speak of interracial harmony while the policy of *apartheid* continued to be applied. Furthermore, paragraph 3 (d) referred to the need to put into effect procedures to "improve relations among racial groups"; that formula appeared adequate to his delegation, which felt that the amendment to paragraph 5 of the draft programme as it had been submitted was more realistic. His delegation was therefore unable to accept the suggestion made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. Moreover, the United Kingdom delegation had submitted a subamendment (A/C.3/L.2004) to that effect to the Egyptian amendment to paragraph 13 (a) (A/C.3/L.1998); if that subamendment was adopted, it would accommodate the point made by the Federal Republic of Germany and the delegations which had supported its proposal.

27. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that if racial harmony had existed, it would not have been necessary to initiate a programme for action to combat racism and discrimination. Consequently, the United Kingdom subamendment to the Egyptian amendment was unacceptable. Her delegation did not believe that there was a single international instrument relating to human rights which was devoted to racial harmony. In order more accurately to reflect the true situation, the United Kingdom delegation might modify its subamendment to read: "which would contribute to the search for, and promotion of, racial harmony".

28. Mr. VAN WALSUM (Netherlands) said that, in his view, the approach advocated by the representative of Morocco was too formalistic. The ultimate aim of the programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was clearly the promotion of racial harmony, even if the words "racial harmony" did not appear in any international instrument. His delegation could not endorse a view which would involve placing limitations on the universal application of human rights. It was not only in South Africa that racial discrimination existed; it was a serious problem in every part of the world, and efforts to combat racism should be undertaken on a world-wide scale. Accordingly, his delegation would support the United Kingdom subamendment.

29. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) said that his delegation's affirmative vote on the Egyptian amendment (A/C.3/L.1998) to paragraph 13 (a) did not entail any change in the position previously taken by his delegation on the resolutions referred to. It also supported the proposal to establish an international fund on a voluntary basis contained in paragraph 17 of the draft programme; however, in view of the fact that no mention was made of the aims of the fund or the arrangements for running it, Finland was not currently in a position to enter into any commitment regarding its possible contribution to the fund.

30. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said he wished to express certain reservations regarding the Russian translation of the documents; he reserved the right to revert to that matter at a later stage.

31. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to vote, paragraph by paragraph, on the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I).

#### *Paragraph 1*

*Paragraph 1 was adopted by 96 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

#### *Paragraph 2*

32. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt paragraph 2.

*It was so decided.*

#### *Paragraph 3*

*The second of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 99 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

*The first sentence of paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*The third of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Paragraph 3 (d), as amended, was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Paragraph 3 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 104 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### *Paragraph 4*

*Paragraph 4 was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Paragraph 5*

The first of the Soviet amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) was adopted by 76 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions.

*Paragraph 6*

The fourth of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 85 votes to 1, with 9 abstentions.

Paragraph 6 (a), as amended, was adopted by 99 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

33. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the first of the amendments by Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1), involving the addition to the paragraph of a new subparagraph (c).

*It was so decided.*

34. Mr. EVORA (Portugal) said that his delegation wished to abstain on the amendment in question.

35. Mr. KABINGA (Zambia), speaking on a point of order, said that before the Portuguese delegation had expressed its wish to abstain the Chairman had already stated that the Committee had adopted the amendment by Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago.

36. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the amendment of Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago had been adopted. It would, however, be noted in the summary record of the meeting that, following the adoption of the amendment, the Portuguese delegation had indicated a desire to abstain.

Paragraph 6 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 7*

Paragraph 7 was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 8*

The fifth of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 87 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, he would take it that the positions of delegations on paragraph 8 as a whole, as amended, were the same as their position on the amendment, and that it was adopted.

38. Mr. MARTINEZ (Cuba) and Mrs. MANDARA (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on a point of order, stated that their delegations had abstained in the vote on the fifth Brazilian amendment but wished to vote for paragraph 8 as a whole, as amended. The paragraph should therefore be put to the vote.

Paragraph 8 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 100 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 9*

The second of the amendments by Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1) was adopted by 96 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

Paragraph 9 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 10*

The sixth of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 91 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

Paragraph 10 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 102 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 11*

Paragraph 11 was adopted by 105 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 12*

The seventh of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996), as applicable to subparagraph 12 (a) of the draft programme, was adopted by 94 votes to 1, with 7 abstentions.

The second of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) was adopted by 71 votes to 2, with 20 abstentions.

The amendment by the German Democratic Republic (A/C.3/L.2005) was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Subparagraph (a) (ii), as amended, was adopted by 101 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Paragraph 12 (a), as amended, was adopted by 103 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Paragraph 12 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 101 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

*Paragraph 13*

The amendment by Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic (A/C.3/L.2000) was adopted by 89 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

39. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the United Kingdom subamendment (A/C.3/L.2004) to the Egyptian amendment (A/C.3/L.1998).

40. Mr. MARTINEZ (Cuba) said that his delegation intended to vote against the subamendment and asked if he could explain his vote forthwith.

41. The CHAIRMAN asked delegations to defer explanations of their votes until all voting had been completed.

42. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) pointed out that the United Kingdom representative had not replied to her observation and asked the representative of the Secretary-General whether there were any international instruments which referred to racial harmony.

43. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that once voting had begun statements could not be made; the representative of the Secretary-General would therefore not be able to speak until the voting had been completed.

44. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) asked where the phrase proposed in the United Kingdom subamendment was to be inserted.

45. The CHAIRMAN said that the phrase was to be added at the end of the Egyptian amendment, after the

words "racial discrimination". If that posed a problem, the matter would be cleared up at a later stage.

*The United Kingdom subamendment (A/C.3/L.2004) was rejected by 44 votes to 34, with 14 abstentions.*

*The Egyptian amendment (A/C.3/L.1998), as amended by the adoption of the amendment by Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic (A/C.3/L.2000) was adopted by 96 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

*The third of the amendments by Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1) was adopted by 92 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

*The first of the amendments by the 10 Powers (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1) was adopted by 84 votes to none, with 12 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 13 (d) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 94 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.*

46. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Malian oral subamendment to the second amendment by the 10 Powers, regarding paragraph 13 (e).

47. Mr. AL-QAYSI (Iraq) said that, as a sponsor of the 10-Power amendment, he would have no difficulty in accepting the Malian subamendment, although he would like to make several formal alterations to the text.

48. The CHAIRMAN said that it had been possible to admit the proposal by Mali because it was a subamendment. The representative of Iraq, however, wished to change the original text and that was no longer admissible.

*The Malian oral subamendment to the second of the amendments by the 10 Powers (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1) was adopted by 63 votes to none, with 23 abstentions.*

*The second of the amendments by the 10 Powers (A/C.3/L.1999 and Corr.1), as amended, was adopted by 73 votes to 3, with 17 abstentions.*

49. In reply to a question by the Ghanaian representative regarding procedure, the CHAIRMAN read out rule 132 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

*The third of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) was adopted by 67 votes to 6, with 16 abstentions.*

*The fourth of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) was adopted by 90 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Paragraph 13 (f), as amended, was adopted by 97 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

50. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) observed that the French and English versions of the fifth of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) should be brought into line.

*The fifth of the USSR amendments (A/C.3/L.2003 and Corr.1) was adopted by 79 votes to none, with 11 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 13 (g) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 86 votes to none, with 9 abstentions.*

*Paragraph 13 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 95 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.*

#### Paragraph 14

*Paragraph 14 was adopted by 93 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

#### Paragraph 15

*The seventh of the Brazilian amendments (A/C.3/L.1996) was adopted by 82 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.*

*Subparagraph 15 (d) (v) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 93 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*The fourth of the amendments by Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago (A/C.3/L.1997/Rev.1) was adopted by 85 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

*Subparagraph 15 (d) (vi) as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 92 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

*Paragraph 15 as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 95 votes to none, with 1 abstention.*

#### Paragraphs 16 and 17

*Paragraphs 16 and 17 were adopted by 87 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.*

#### Paragraph 18

51. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the subamendment by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.2007) to the amendment of Egypt and Ghana (A/C.3/L.2002).

52. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in view of the very large number of non-governmental organizations, it would be useful to refer specifically to the "interested" non-governmental organizations, in other words, those active in the field of human rights.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that it was no longer possible to amend any of the proposed texts, and read out rule 130 of the rules of procedure.

*The subamendment by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (A/C.3/L.2007) was adopted by 64 votes to 1, with 23 abstentions.*

*The amendment of Egypt and Ghana (A/C.3/L.2002), as subamended, was adopted by 88 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.*

54. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex 1), as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

*It was so decided.*

55. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee should proceed to vote on the draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Egypt, Ghana and Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.2001). The draft resolution having been the subject of an amendment proposed by the Netherlands (A/C.3/L.2006), he invited the Committee to vote first on that amendment.

56. Mrs. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago) said that her delegation wished to propose an amendment to the draft resolution.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that would hardly be possible at that stage, but the representative of Trinidad and Tobago could submit her proposal when the draft resolution was put to the vote in the plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

58. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he considered the draft resolution in question a separate document, and that since the voting process had not yet begun, his delegation would like to submit an amendment.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolution could not be dissociated from the draft programme which the Committee had just adopted. Since the voting procedure had been initiated for the question as a

whole, it was not possible to accept further amendments.

*The Netherlands amendment (A/C.3/L.2006) was adopted by 62 votes to 3, with 22 abstentions.*

60. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the draft resolution submitted by Afghanistan, Egypt, Ghana and Yugoslavia (A/C.3/L.2001), as amended, was adopted.

*It was so decided.*

61. The CHAIRMAN invited delegations to offer explanations of their votes at the following meeting.

*The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.*

## 1990th meeting

Tuesday, 9 October 1973, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yahya MAHMASSANI (Lebanon).

A/C.3/SR.1990

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mrs. Bertrand de Bromley (Honduras), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

### AGENDA ITEM 53

**Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (continued)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and A.2 and XXX, sect. B; A/9018, A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, A/9095, A/9139, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995):

(a) **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (concluded)** (A/9003 and Corr.1, chaps. XXIII, sect. A.1 and XXX, sect. B; A/9094 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2, A/9177, A/C.3/L.1995)

### EXPLANATION OF VOTE

1. Lord GAINFORD (United Kingdom) said that the United Kingdom welcomed the adoption of the programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In view of the length of the programme, it would be surprising if there were not some points in the original draft which his delegation could not endorse. It also regretted the attempts which had been made to distort the scope of the Decade by introducing elements which had little to do with racial discrimination as defined in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and it felt that some of the amendments incorporated into the programme had weakened its thrust. The United Kingdom delegation hoped that the programme would not be used for political ends.

2. He wished formally to place on record a number of reservations. First, the United Kingdom did not accept that colonialism was a form of racial discrimination or that the success of efforts to eliminate racial discrimination depended on the vigour with which action was taken to implement United Nations resolutions relating to colonialism. It could not therefore endorse

paragraph 6 (b) of the programme (A/9094 and Corr.1, annex I), and it objected to the association of colonialism and racial discrimination elsewhere in the programme. The United Kingdom also wished to register opposition to the view that racial discrimination would be eliminated more swiftly if racist régimes were isolated. It had never accepted the principle that the best way of dealing with Governments it disliked was to break off all relations with them. Its reservation on that point applied particularly to the new subparagraph after paragraph 13 (d). At several points the programme urged implementation of all United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination and colonialism and implied that their implementation was obligatory. The United Kingdom did not accept that there was any obligation on Member States to implement General Assembly resolutions, many of which the United Kingdom had voted against. Those reservations applied in particular to paragraphs 6 (b) and 13 (a), (e) and (f). The United Kingdom interpreted all references in the programme to the need to give assistance to peoples struggling against racial discrimination or to achieve self-determination as being in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, but it did not support the principle of the right of the people to use force in pursuit of political aims. That reservation applied particularly to paragraphs 2 (d), 12 (a) and 13 (e). The United Kingdom did not accept the need for new international instruments on racial discrimination, as called for in paragraph 13 (g) of the programme, or that *apartheid* was a "crime" under international law. It also doubted the need for another fund of the kind proposed in paragraph 17, and it would be misleading if it held out any prospect of contributing to such a fund. The United Kingdom Government could not undertake to use "every means at [its] disposal" or "all the appropriate media of communication" to educate the public as called for in paragraphs 12 (a) (vi) and 12 (c). As was well known, the media in the United Kingdom were not subject to government control and any attempt by the Government to instruct the media would conflict with the principle of freedom of information. The United Kingdom