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Chairman: Mrs. Halima EMBAREK WARZAZI (Morocco).

Statement by the Director of the Division of Human Rights

1. Mr. SCHREIBER (Secretariat) thanked the Chairman and the other members of the Committee for the welcome extended to him at the preceding meeting on his appointment as Director of the Division of Human Rights. He had already witnessed encouraging progress in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights, at the forty-first session of the Economic and Social Council, and in the accomplishments of the Seminar on Apartheid held at Brasilia. The Secretary-General, in the Introduction to his Annual Report,^{1/} had noted and stressed the importance of the renewed resolve of Member States to exert their continued efforts for the recognition of the dignity of man. The Third Committee had to its credit very considerable achievements, the most recent being the completion and adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had now been signed by thirty-one States and ratified by four. The Committee could count on the complete co-operation of the Division of Human Rights in its further endeavours during the current session in the fulfilment of the Charter purposes in the field of human rights.

AGENDA ITEM 58

Manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance (A/6347 and Add.1 and 2)

2. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that in recent years there had been a tendency for members of the Committee to seek to have the agenda include a number of items relating to subjects on which they held strong views but all of which derived from the central theme of human rights. Agenda item 58 which the Committee was now taking up was of that nature. Its purpose was to obtain information from Governments on manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious

intolerance in their countries; yet, as everyone knew, no Government dared to report that such manifestations occurred to any great extent within its territory. The item therefore served no useful purpose. Any country having a written constitution could point to clauses in which humanitarian values were enshrined and prejudice and intolerance were decried; however, the vital question was not the existence of such clauses or the goodwill displayed by a Government in adopting legislation, but whether the people had been enlightened on the subject by their Government and by the educational institutions. He deplored the fact that much time and effort had been devoted to compiling reports such as those before the Committee, while work on the draft International Covenants on Human Rights had remained in abeyance. He hoped that the Committee would not recommend such reporting in the future, but would concentrate on more constructive work.

3. Mr. BAZÁN (Chile) said that his country's reply (see A/6347) was entirely genuine, for in Chile there was no discrimination based on race, religion or nationality. The United Nations should persevere in its attempts to discover where discrimination was practised and what forms it took, for only then could its action be given proper focus. Obviously, the adoption of suitable legislation by countries was desirable, but the matter could not be allowed to rest there. There were forces in society which needed to be reoriented and sections of the community which had to be re-educated. Therefore, in addition to conventions binding on Governments there was a need for declarations proclaiming the principles of non-discrimination, appeals to the spiritual and temporal leaders of society and work among the people to ensure that discrimination of every kind was permanently rooted out. The Committee needed all the information it could obtain in order to decide how to organize that many-sided endeavour most effectively.

4. Mr. OZGUR (Cyprus) said that he tended to agree with the Saudi Arabian representative, particularly since the subject-matter of the present item was covered by other items on the agenda; his delegation believed that the draft International Covenants on Human Rights were the best tool the Committee could use to combat discrimination. He suggested that the Committee should adopt a resolution indicating that the subject of the present item would be dealt with under other related items.

5. Mr. TSAO (China) felt that the item, which had appeared on the agenda for several years, was important. His delegation for one was quite pleased with the replies sent by Governments. In response to the Secretary-General's note of 30 November 1965 (*ibid.*, para. 5), sixteen additional Governments had submitted information, bringing the total to seventy, and

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Supplement No. 1 A.

twelve Governments which had replied earlier had sent additional information. The Secretary-General's note had served two useful purposes: it had demonstrated the concern of the United Nations with the problem of discrimination and it had prompted Governments to re-examine laws and practices with a view to possible improvements. He believed that the Committee should take note of the information received and thank the Governments which had responded.

6. Mr. N'GALLI-MARSALA (Congo, Brazzaville) agreed with the Saudi Arabian representative. Replies to questionnaires were not valid unless they were verified; it would be useful, in fact, if the United Nations could have observers in all countries to see what the actual situation in matters of discrimination was. In the existing circumstances, however, the replies were of little value. Moreover, they had been sent almost exclusively by small countries. He saw no replies from the United States and South Africa, where discrimination was known to exist.

7. Mrs. RAMAHOLIMIHASO (Madagascar) said that the replies received since the Secretary-General's note of 30 November 1965 justified the decision at the last session to keep the item on the Committee's agenda. The replies showed that some new steps had been taken at the national level and that the responding Governments were concerned about the problem and anxious to promote its solution. At present, when racial discrimination seemed to be more rampant than ever, the item had certainly not been useless. Since it had served its immediate purpose, however, there was no need to retain it on the agenda. The Committee should take note of the information submitted and use the remaining two meetings it had allocated to the item for consideration of the draft Covenants.

8. Mr. RÍOS (Panama) agreed that the Committee should dispose rapidly of the present item so that it could devote more time to the draft Covenants, whose completion was long overdue.

9. Mr. RODRIGUEZ FABREGAT (Uruguay) said that his country had always prohibited in its Constitution the making of any distinction among its citizens other than on the basis of their talents and merits.

10. Since there appeared to be no great desire to discuss agenda item 58, he supported the suggestion that the two other meetings allocated to its consideration might more profitably be devoted to agenda item 62 (Draft International Covenants on Human Rights). Legal instruments could well remain meaningless, however, unless their precepts became embedded in the conscience of mankind; that required a labour of education in and out of the schools so that the new international law evolved by the United Nations as a reaction to the prejudice and intolerance that had led to the Second World War might ultimately become an expression of the conscience of the peoples. His delegation would support any draft resolution on the present item which would unequivocally oppose racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance. He suggested that the Committee should begin at its next meeting consideration of agenda item 95 (Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with

particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories).

11. Mrs. SOUMAH (Guinea) said that, as its reply in the Secretary-General's report (A/6347) showed, her country had prohibited in its Constitution any form of racial discrimination; all its citizens were free to profess any religion they chose or form any organizations they wished. Her delegation would therefore support any resolution aimed at the elimination of the phenomenon of racial discrimination, which should not be allowed to persist in the modern world.

12. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) recalled that at its previous session the Committee had found that much of the information provided under General Assembly resolution 1779 (XVII) had been out of date and therefore of limited value. On the other hand, the Secretary-General's present report (A/6347 and Add.1 and 2) was evidence of an encouraging response to his request for information. Since her delegation felt that the importance of education in eliminating racial discrimination could not be over-emphasized, it had welcomed the description by UNESCO of its activities in that field in the Secretary-General's previous report on the subject (A/5473) and was glad to learn from the current report that one Government had concluded an agreement with UNESCO on the organization of courses for teachers in the field of education for international understanding.

13. Her Government had submitted no information under the present agenda item because it had dealt with the matter in the comprehensive and detailed report—relating to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination—it had transmitted under item 57. That fact in itself was indicative of the extent to which the items of the Committee's agenda overlapped. Perhaps the two meetings saved by concluding the discussion of item 58 at the present meeting could be used for discussion of agenda item 59 (Elimination of all forms of religious intolerance: (a) Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance; (b) Draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance).

14. Mr. BAZÁN (Chile) supported the United Kingdom representative's suggestion.

15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should adopt the following draft resolution to take account of the views expressed during the debate:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting the work done and the work being done by the organs of the United Nations concerning the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the elimination of all forms of national and religious intolerance,

"Recalling its resolutions 1779 (XVII) of 7 December 1962 and 2019 (XX) of 1 November 1965,

"Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/6347 and Add.1 and 2) and thanks the Governments which have provided information in accordance with resolution 2019 (XX)."

16. Mrs. AFNAN (Iraq) wondered whether the draft resolution proposed by the Chairman implied that

there would be no further reports from Governments on the subject and that the item would be dropped from the Committee's agenda.

17. The CHAIRMAN replied in the affirmative.

18. Mr. LE DIRAISON (France) said that, while it was true that the item under consideration largely covered the same ground as other items, the Committee should not underestimate its value in promoting an awareness of the need for Governments to take action to eliminate racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance and to supply information on the steps they had taken. Moreover, the different activities implied in such related items as those concerning periodic reports on human rights and creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, indicated that the efforts of the United Nations to ensure the observance of human rights were reaching maturity. However, he agreed that it was more important to discuss the Draft International Covenants on Human Rights, and especially the measures for their implementation.

19. His delegation supported the draft resolution suggested by the Chairman but thought that it should include an additional paragraph recommending that in future the replies to the questionnaire on periodic reports on human rights should include information on measures to eliminate manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance.

20. Mr. SANON (Upper Volta) welcomed the Chairman's suggested draft, but thought it desirable to identify the United Nations organs referred to in its first preambular paragraph.

21. Mrs. HARRIS (United States of America) said that her Government's reply to the Secretary-General on the action it had taken in compliance with General Assembly resolution 1779 (XVII) had been sent to the Secretariat, and she hoped that it would be circulated shortly.^{2/} The United States, which had been settled by peoples of different races and religions, had had long experience of the enormous problems involved in eliminating prejudice and intolerance, and her delegation would discuss in detail the United States Government's accomplishments, goals and problems when the Committee took up agenda items 57 and 59, at which time it would review the new legislation enacted and other steps being taken by both private and governmental bodies.

22. The item under discussion had had its origin in the inquiry undertaken by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities into the anti-Semitic incidents of 1959-1960, and it had been on the agenda of the Third Committee for a number of years. It had stimulated the adoption of the United Nations Declaration and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the preparation of the draft Declaration and draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance.

^{2/} Subsequently circulated in document A/6347/Add.3.

The debates on the items relating to those subjects would provide ample opportunity for a discussion of manifestations of prejudice and intolerance, and the United Nations continued to receive information relevant to that subject in other contexts. Thus, the purpose for which the item under discussion had originally been introduced was being carried forward, and the draft resolution suggested by the Chairman might therefore be adopted forthwith.

23. Mr. OBEYA (Nigeria) said that his delegation had no objection to the adoption of the draft resolution, which reflected the consensus in the Committee. He suggested, however, that a further preambular paragraph, reading: "Bearing in mind that questions of a related nature are on the agenda of the Assembly", might be added, in order not to give the impression that efforts to deal with the problems involved had been abandoned.

24. Mrs. DAES (Greece) suggested that the last part of the first preambular paragraph, as read out by the Chairman, should be amended to read: "... concerning manifestations of racial prejudice and national and religious intolerance", in order to conform to the title of the item under discussion.

25. The CHAIRMAN suggested that there should be consultation between those delegations which had expressed views on the wording of the draft resolution with a view to producing an agreed text on which the Committee could vote at the next meeting.

It was so decided.

Organization of work (continued) (A/C.3/600,
A/C.3/L.1331)

26. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should conclude its meetings for the twenty-first session by 14 December 1966; that it should agree not to have general debates on agenda items relating to draft instruments, namely, item 62 (Draft International Covenants on Human Rights), item 56 (Draft Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and 60 (Freedom of information; (a) Draft Convention on Freedom of Information; (b) Draft Declaration on Freedom of Information); and that the time-limits for the submission of amendments to the draft instruments in question should be 1 p.m. on 10 October, 25 October and 15 November 1966 respectively. With reference to agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council), she suggested that the Committee discuss the sections of the report in connexion with the independent items on its agenda to which those sections related. Furthermore, she suggested that the Committee take up item 55 (Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) during the week of 21 November 1966.

It was so decided.^{3/}

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

^{3/} The organization of the work of the Committee, as adopted at the 1376th and 1377th meetings, was subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1332.