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Chairman: Mrs. Mara RADIĆ (Yugoslavia).

AGENDA ITEM 49

World social situation: report of the Secretary-General (concluded) (A/6703 and Corr.1, chap. VI, sect. III and chap. XI, sect. I; A/6826, E/4324 and Corr.1, A/C.3/L.1495)

EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE

1. Mr. ASTEN (Australia), explaining his delegation's vote, said that it had voted for draft resolution A/C.3/L.1496/Rev.3 but had abstained on the seven-Power amendments (A/C.3/L.1497/Rev.2) because it felt that the text was not well balanced, in that it implied that a significant increase in international assistance was the only remedy for the world social situation. His delegation believed that efforts by the individual developing countries, bilateral agreements with the individual developed countries and more rational use of the available assistance were also important factors. It had voted against the Nigerian amendments (A/C.3/L.1499/Rev.1), because it felt that they did not reflect a sufficiently balanced view of all the factors relevant to social development. They ignored the basic United Nations principle of advancement by co-operation, suggesting, instead, that the main responsibility for social development lay with a specified group of countries.

2. Mr. LUSINGA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his delegation had voted for the amendments proposed by Nigeria and by the seven Powers which were designed to improve the text of the draft resolution, solely because both satisfied the desire expressed by his delegation that efforts should be made to ensure the effectiveness of the United Nations assistance programmes.

3. He believed that the United Nations, with the assistance of experts and the co-operation of the specialized agencies, should seek to ensure that its activities attained the objectives pursued by the recipient countries.

4. Some delegations had upheld the view in the general debate that problems connected with the presence of experts in a given operational sector, as in the field of technical assistance in general, were the responsibility of the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operations, but his delegation considered that when the activities of such experts were concerned with the economic and social development of a region or country, steps should be taken to ensure continuity. The Social Development Division should be given the necessary means to ensure continuity of the work in its sphere of competence and to arrange for the international experts to be succeeded by qualified nationals without prejudicing the result of the work undertaken.

5. His delegation hoped that trained personnel of the developing countries would be able to obtain information from institutions of the United Nations and other organizations in order to enable them to cooperate to good purpose with the international experts and in order to ensure continuity of the work undertaken, under favourable conditions. It was not enough for the developing countries to get more outside assistance; it was also necessary that such assistance should serve as a catalyst to promote the progress and social welfare of those countries.

6. Mr. VERENIKIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation had voted for the draft resolution because it believed that it would contribute to the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 (XLI) and thereby help to improve the world social situation. On the other hand, his delegation had voted against the new text of the third preambular paragraph proposed by Nigeria, because it did not agree with the interpretation it contained of the causes of the unsatisfactory world social situation. It was stated in this proposed paragraph that that situation remained unsatisfactory because of various factors, without specifying what those factors were, so that the impression could be created that they were not important.

7. At the Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Seventy-Seven at Algiers many delegations had drawn attention to the need for far-reaching social reforms in the developing countries in order to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism. The economic and social reforms which would permit an improvement in the world social situation included, *inter alia*, the total elimination of economic colonialism, industrialization of

developing countries, the use of internal resources to raise the level of living of the population, fair and equitable distribution of the national income, increased expenditure for cultural development, agrarian reform, the strengthening of the role of the State, the planning of social development, the elimination of illiteracy, the expansion and improvement of public health services, higher wages and salaries and the elimination of unemployment.

8. The seven-Power amendments were unrealistic, in that they did not take account of the responsibility of a certain group of countries for the unfavourable social situation prevailing in the developing countries. The imperialist countries were the ones responsible for that state of affairs, but the proposal lumped capitalist and socialist countries together, thereby creating regrettable confusion. His country had always supported peoples struggling against foreign oppression. The developing countries wished to put an end to the suffering of their peoples and to improve their deplorable situation. The USSR took an active part in resolving that problem, but it must be clear that the problem was created not by the Soviet Union, but by the colonialist Powers who should bear the complete responsibility for it before the peoples of the developing countries.

9. Mr. TAYLOR (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the new text of the third preambular paragraph proposed by Nigeria because it considered it unbalanced in that it sought to ascribe the responsibility for raising the level of world social development primarily to the factor of international assistance, whereas such assistance was only one of the factors involved. Furthermore, it had abstained on the new operative paragraph 3 proposed by the seven Powers, although it had been able to support a somewhat similar resolution submitted in the Second Committee.^{1/} The essential difference between the two resolutions was that, whereas the former had urged Governments to respond to the Secretary-General's appeal, that before the Second Committee had asked them to do everything possible to raise the level of assistance. His delegation interpreted an appeal to Governments addressed to themselves to respond to a request to raise the level of international assistance as tantamount to an indication that they were prepared to make increased contributions to international assistance. His Government was already meeting the 1 per cent development target and was unable at present to make a commitment to increase its contributions.

10. In conclusion, he said that his delegation had been able to vote for the draft resolution as a whole, as amended, although it had reservations about the sixth preambular paragraph, which appeared to place the onus for raising the level of social development on the flow of international assistance. His delegation was grateful to the sponsors for amending the earlier draft of what appeared in the final resolution as operative paragraph 6 in a way that avoided referring to the twenty-third session of the General Assembly as the deadline for the completion of the declaration on social development. His delegation objected to imposing

narrow time limits on the Assembly's subordinate bodies which might have the effect of preventing them from fully consulting Member States, not members of the Commission over the drafting of the declaration on social development. The removal of that deadline had made it easier for his delegation to vote for the resolution as a whole.

11. Mr. BASHIER (Sudan) said that his delegation's vote for the draft resolution and the amendments thereto indicated its support for the United Nations efforts to improve the world social situation. His delegation had voted in favour of the new text of the third preambular paragraph proposed by Nigeria because it believed that the world social situation remained unsatisfactory because of insufficient contributions by some States Members of the Organization, despite the fact that those States were in a position to increase their contributions.

12. As to operative paragraph 7 of the resolution, his delegation would have preferred there to be no particular mention of the parts of the summary records relating to the preparation of the draft declaration on social development. It would have been better if the General Assembly had asked the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission for Social Development all the summary records of the debate. In taking that position, he had in mind the view expressed by the Italian representative at the 1531st meeting that the Third Committee should ask the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission for Social Development only those parts of the statements made during the debate which had related to the draft declaration, because some delegations had spoken of the social, economic and political aspects of development in their respective countries. The delegations which had chosen to do so—most of them from the developing countries, whose views his delegation shared—had done so deliberately because they believed that the economic and social aspects of development were interdependent and because they wished their views to be incorporated in the draft declaration.

13. Mrs. KUME (Japan), speaking in explanation of vote, said that her delegation had voted for the new operative paragraph 3 proposed by the seven Powers on the understanding that, while the importance of international assistance for social development must be recognized, such assistance should be carried out by co-ordinating and combining various measures in the economic, social and other fields.

AGENDA ITEM 58

International Year for Human Rights:

- (a) Programme of measures and activities to be undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General (A/6687, A/6866 and Add.1);
- (b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights (A/6354, A/6670 and Corr.1)

14. Mr. SCHREIBER (Secretariat) reminded the Committee that the General Assembly, in its resolution 2217 A (XXI), had requested the Secretary-General to co-ordinate the measures and activities undertaken by Member States, the United Nations, the specialized

^{1/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 46, document A/6916.

agencies, regional organizations and the national and international organizations concerned in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights, and in particular to collect and disseminate information on activities contemplated or undertaken by them. As to the dissemination of information, the Secretariat had already published two bi-monthly bulletins which were available to members of the Committee. He drew attention to the significance of General Assembly resolution 1961 (XVIII), which had entrusted the Commission on Human Rights with the task of preparing a programme of activities for the International Year.

15. General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) was fundamental: in it the Assembly had expressed the view that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been an instrument of the highest importance for the protection and promotion of the rights of individuals and the furtherance of peace and stability and had reaffirmed its belief as to the importance of increasing awareness of the extent of the progress made in that connexion. It had established certain priorities, namely, the urgent need to eliminate discrimination and other violations of human dignity, in particular the policy of apartheid. The most important provision of that resolution was the call to States Members, the specialized agencies and national and international organizations to intensify their efforts in the field of human rights. Operative paragraph 3 invited all Member States to ratify certain conventions. Of those, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery had obtained seven new ratifications, which brought the total number to seventy; the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour had been ratified by seventy-nine countries; the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation had been ratified by sixty-three countries; the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value had been ratified by sixty countries; the ILO Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise had been ratified by seventy countries; the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education had obtained nine new ratifications, which brought the total number to thirty-nine; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide had obtained three new ratifications, which brought the total number to seventy-one; the Convention on the Political Rights of Women had obtained ten new ratifications, which brought the total number to fifty-five; and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had been ratified by eighteen States, which meant that nine more ratifications were needed for it to come into force. By the same resolution, the Assembly had decided to hasten the conclusion of other draft conventions, two of which had been approved unanimously and were now the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The draft International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance, which the Third Committee had partially considered at the present session, at which the draft Convention on Freedom of Information was also to be considered, might perhaps be adopted at the next

session. The Declaration on territorial asylum and the Declaration on Discrimination Against Women, the consideration and preparation of which the Assembly had decided, by resolution 2081 (XX), to complete by 1968, had been approved at the present session.

16. The most important of the many initiatives connected with the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights was the large International Conference on Human Rights due to be held in Teheran in 1968 at the invitation of the Government of Iran. The Preparatory Committee for the Conference had submitted a report in 1966^{2/} and in its 1967 report (A/6670 and Corr.1) it made proposals on the programme of the Conference, the venue and date, and the expenses it would entail. The Secretariat was going ahead with the preparations, and for that purpose it had been in constant contact with the Iranian authorities, which had co-operated fully. No serious difficulties were foreseen and the report of the member of the Secretariat who had been to Teheran was satisfactory. He himself was particularly impressed by the understanding and constructive attitude of the Iranian authorities. The usual agreement on the holding of the Conference would soon be concluded with the Government. The necessary measures had been taken to ensure that the participants enjoyed services similar to those normally provided in the United Nations. The Secretariat had had the task of preparing the documents for the Conference, and, in doing so, had acted upon the proposals of the Preparatory Committee. Various documents had been prepared, including two surveys of the action taken in connexion with human rights since the approval of the Universal Declaration and the methods adopted by the United Nations in that field. A collection of instruments prepared and approved by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in the field of human rights would also be compiled. The Conference would be financed partly by the United Nations and partly by the Iranian Government. The Fifth Committee was now considering the proposals which the Secretary-General had made in that connexion after a thorough study of the question.^{3/} The Secretary-General hoped that sufficient resources would be available to ensure that the Conference took place in an atmosphere consistent with the long-term importance of its objectives. The Secretary-General associated himself with the statements of the Preparatory Committee about the purpose of the Conference, whose three main objectives were to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to review the activities of the 'intervening twenty years and, above all, to prepare a programme for intensifying efforts to promote respect for, and observance of, human rights. He pointed out that suggestions had been made for the Conference at various recent seminars on questions connected with human rights, including the Seminar on Measures required for the Advancement of Women held in the Philippines in 1966, the Seminar on the Effective Realization of Civil and Political Rights at the National Level held at Kingston, Jamaica in 1967, the Seminar on Apart-

^{2/} Ibid., Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 63, document A/6354.

^{3/} Ibid., Twenty-second Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/6705), sect. 2, chap. III, p. 12.

heid held in Brazil in 1966, and the Seminar on the realization of economic and social rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, held at Warsaw in 1967. The Secretariat hoped to take them into consideration in preparing the annotated agenda for the Conference.

17. In the annex to resolution 2217 A (XXI), the General Assembly had made a series of recommendations concerning activities which might be pursued during the International Year for Human Rights. In particular, it had recommended that the President of the General Assembly should issue a special message, to be released on 1 January 1968, and that the Secretary-General, the executive heads of the specialized agencies, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the executive secretaries of the regional economic commissions should issue similar messages during 1968 at the time they deemed most appropriate and that such messages should be widely circulated by all communications media. The Secretariat had been assured that that recommendation would be implemented. Other recommendations had referred to a special issue of human rights postage stamps and the use of special cancellations during 1968; the widest possible dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for which purpose over a million copies had been printed in more than fifty languages; the preparation and publication of a special pamphlet on United Nations activities in the field of human rights, which had already been drafted; radio and television programmes relating to human rights; and a special meeting of the General Assembly on 10 December 1968 in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, to which Governments would be invited to send, wherever possible, persons who had participated in its drafting. It had also been recommended that prizes should be instituted for persons who had made outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; nominations for such prizes should be sought from Member States and other sources; it was recommended that the first award should be made during the twenty-third session of the General Assembly.

18. The activities of the specialized agencies in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights were described in section III of the Secretary-General's report (A/6866). They had designated competent officials to ensure the effective co-ordination of their activities with those of the United Nations. For example, the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) intended to make the human rights programme and the action of the ILO the central theme of his report to the 1968 session of the International Labour Conference. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had taken similar action. In accordance with the General Assembly's recommendation that the artistic resources of the world should be mobilized to commemorate the approval of the Universal Declaration, it would be able to count on the co-operation of the International Theatre Institute, which was to organize the performance of a play illustrating human rights, and of the International Music Council, the International Association of Arts

and the International PEN. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), had also made preparations for important activities, consisting, in particular, in the publication of a statement on the action of the Organization, especially as it related to the International Covenants on Human Rights, emphasizing the necessity to ensure that each individual should be able to exercise his first fundamental right, freedom from hunger. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) had requested the postal administrations of its Member States to issue special stamps for the International Year for Human Rights.

19. The possible types of action which could be taken by Member States were also described in General Assembly resolution 2217 A (XXI). Twenty-seven Member States had already sent in reports and effective action could be forecast in connexion with the International Year in the form of special messages by Heads of States, the appointment of committees to co-ordinate the activities of each country, the intensification of efforts to ratify the conventions concerning human rights and many other activities. With regard to regional organizations, reports had already been received from the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of American States; they were also expected from the Organization of African Unity and other regional organizations. As for the non-governmental organizations, many had sent positive replies and special mention should be made of the World Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations, which was to be held in Paris, at Unesco House, in September 1968, and to which all non-governmental organizations had been invited and not only those recognized as consultative bodies by the Economic and Social Council.

20. Finally, he reminded the Committee of the objectives of the International Year for Human Rights listed by the Secretary-General, i.e. to draw world attention to the importance of human rights, to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to examine international action to promote the exercise of human rights, to study the methods employed to that end and, above all, to draw up a plan for future action.

21. Mr. OZGUR (Cyprus) proposed that the important statement by the Director of the Division of Human Rights should be issued in extenso as a Committee document.^{4/}

It was so decided.

22. Mr. BEEBY (New Zealand), speaking in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights, introduced that Committee's report (A/6670 and Corr.1). In view of the reports submitted by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Iran and the Director of the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat, the Preparatory Committee had agreed that the Conference should begin on 22 April 1968. The Preparatory Committee had had the task of preparing the draft rules of procedure for the Conference, which would be found in annex I. Two points which had given rise to discussion were the number of main committees of the Conference and the working lan-

^{4/} Subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.1500.

guages. Rule 45 of the draft rules of procedure referred to one or more main committees. As to the working languages, after certain amendments had been proposed, the Committee had decided to uphold its decision of 1966 to recommend English, French, Russian and Spanish as working languages. The preparatory Committee's most important task had been the drafting of the provisional agenda for the Conference. During 1967 the Committee had re-examined the provisional agenda which it had prepared in 1966;^{5/} taking into account a number of suggestions made by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights. As a result, the wording of the item on women's rights had been modified and a new item relating to slavery had been added (A/6670, and Corr.1, annex II (c)).

23. Chapters VI and VII of the report referred to the participation in the Conference of regional inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. There had been no problems as far as the former were concerned and the Committee had recommended to the Assembly that it should invite, among others, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity. Participation of non-governmental organizations, on the other hand, had given rise to serious controversy. Even when some degree of participation had been accepted in principle the Committee had been unable to reach a consensus on the number of organizations which might be invited and the nature of their participation, and it had had to refer the matter to the General Assembly for a decision.

24. Revised cost estimates for the Conference were shown in annex III and the comments on them were contained in chapter VIII.

25. Mr. HOVEYDA (Iran) said that his country attached enormous importance to human rights, which formed the basis of the social revolution launched some years before in Iran with a view to bringing about by peaceful means one of the greatest transformations in the country's history. His delegation had therefore noted with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General (A/6866 and Add.1) on the activities contemplated for the observance of the International Year for Human Rights in 1968, and the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Human Rights (A/6670 and Corr.1). A special committee had been organized in his country some months before to draw up the appropriate programme of activities, which would be submitted to the Secretariat shortly.

26. The reports presented a highly encouraging prospect and there could be no question that the activities contemplated would help to draw the attention of the world to the importance of achieving the objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; in that connexion, emphasis should be placed on the vital function of information in the form of special leaflets and official declarations, issues of stamps and other means of publicity. However, the observance of the International Year could not be limited to commemorative ceremonies but must be marked by the adoption

of the necessary measures for the effective promotion of the goals envisaged in the Universal Declaration. To that end, the most significant event of the International Year would undoubtedly be the International Conference on Human Rights, and it was therefore of paramount importance that every effort should be made to guarantee its success. To that end, his Government had been in constant communication with the Secretariat ever since the General Assembly, in resolution 2217 (XXI), had accepted its invitation to hold the Conference at Teheran. The new Parliament building, which was now being completed, would be the site of the Conference and it would be equipped with all the necessary facilities. The Iranian capital had already been host to a number of international meetings and the requisite steps were being taken to ensure the success of the work of the Conference.

27. He thought that the draft provisional agenda was, on the whole, satisfactory, particularly item 11 concerning the formulation and preparation of a human rights programme to be undertaken subsequent to the celebrations of the International Year, which indicated that the Conference would not be an isolated event but would form part of the world-wide effort to promote such rights. With reference to the programme of activities which he had mentioned, he said that measures to promote women's rights in the modern world were of great importance to his country, for the emancipation of women as mothers and wives and as full-fledged members of society had always been a matter of great concern to the Iranian Government.

28. In conclusion, he appealed to all concerned to spare no effort to ensure the success of the International Year.

29. Lady GAITSKELL (United Kingdom) stressed the importance of the International Year for Human Rights and of the International Conference on Human Rights being held in connexion with it. The purpose of the Year was to make the peoples of the world more aware of their human rights and also to focus world attention on that comparatively neglected area of United Nations activity in order to explore the constructive possibilities for the future human rights programme of the Organization. There were two main pitfalls in that regard. Firstly, there was the danger of obsessive insistence on the exclusive discussion of particular problems, such as apartheid, the rights of women, freedom of expression, racial discrimination and so on, whereas human rights were interdependent and to give excessive weight to any one of them did not necessarily ease the solution of the problem. The Conference should therefore concern itself with all human rights and make practical recommendations; a mere repetition of sterile debates was not desirable.

30. The second danger lay in the error of obstruction, which consisted in trying to heap all human rights activity together so that it concentrated on abuses that occurred, it would seem, only in the territory of others and never in one's own. Unlike certain countries, the United Kingdom never claimed to be immune from breaches of human rights, and consequently the first aim of the measures taken to celebrate Human Rights Year was to remedy domestic shortcomings. The four objectives of the United Kingdom programme of activities were education and publicity regarding the

^{5/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-first Session, Annexes, agenda item 63, document A/6354, para. 31.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and discrimination against women in the United Kingdom, and assistance to enable the people of the United Kingdom's remaining dependent territories to fully understand their human rights.

31. With regard to the provisional agenda for the Conference, she considered that it offered a satisfactory framework, for it was well balanced and dealt with the whole range of human rights.

32. The question of the structure of the Conference was of great practical importance and she reiterated the view of her delegation reflected in paragraph 36 of the Preparatory Committee's report (A/6670 and Corr.1) on the need to establish two main committees in order to prevent the discussions from becoming unbalanced as a result of the exclusive discussion of certain problems.

33. Finally, as far as non-governmental organizations were concerned, while she recognized that there were different views regarding their usefulness, she failed to understand why certain delegations continued their campaign against them since they helped to mould world public opinion and, at least in the United Kingdom, they did great work in publicizing the purposes of the crusade for economic and social progress in the developing world. She therefore considered that those non-governmental organizations which could afford the cost of travel to Teheran to attend the Conference should be welcomed.

34. Mr. GHAOU CY (Afghanistan) said that he attached great importance to the International Year for Human Rights and the Conference to be held in Teheran in that connexion. The purposes of the Conference were to review the progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration, to evaluate the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used in that sphere, and to formulate a programme of further measures.

35. The draft provisional agenda seemed to him fully satisfactory, especially the sub-items included under item 11, regarding the formulation of the programme of further measures; he hoped that the Conference would recognize the right of peoples under foreign domination to self-determination and also devote special attention to the question of the violation of basic human rights in colonial territories and to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and of apartheid.

36. In view of the influence of economic development on the effective exercise of human rights, he suggested that special funds should be established to meet concrete needs experienced by the developing countries in that regard, and he pointed out that, in 1960, his delegation had proposed^{6/} in the Economic and Social Council the establishment of a special technical assistance fund for advancing the status of women in the developing countries; that idea had unfortunately not been taken up, owing to financial considerations, but he hoped that it would be considered at the International Conference on Human Rights.

37. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would co-operate to its utmost in efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.

38. Mr. ALVA (India) said that human rights covered a very broad field but mankind would not be able to progress unless human rights problems were satisfactorily solved. Much had been said and written about those rights but what was needed was to observe them and really promote them.

39. His delegation had read with great interest the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/6670 and Corr.1) and was happy to note that it made recommendations on almost every issue, although there had been no general agreement on the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations.

40. With regard to the International Year for Human Rights, he said that his country would duly celebrate it with an extensive programme; the Government had appointed a national committee to direct it and the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of the offices of the specialized agencies in New Delhi would be invited to attend the meetings of the national committee for appropriate co-ordination of the events. Those and other measures indicated the importance his country attached to the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights.

41. The Indian delegation was sure that the International Conference on Human Rights would mark a substantial contribution to the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights.

42. Mr. MELOVSKI (Yugoslavia) said that as a member of the Preparatory Committee he would like to stress the very great significance of the International Conference on Human Rights to be held in Teheran in 1968, and he also emphasized the interdependence between the struggle for the promotion of human rights and the cause of peace, since any violation of such rights resulted in a deterioration of international relations and, conversely, international disputes had always had negative consequences for the observance and protection of human rights. Human rights and fundamental freedoms constituted an indivisible whole which did not permit the promotion and protection of some at the expense of others. In that connexion, it would be necessary for the Conference to make a general survey of the situation and study the results thus far achieved with a view to guiding future United Nations activities.

43. The most serious and urgent problems now confronting the world in the matter of human rights were those resulting from colonial domination and policies of racial discrimination and apartheid such as those practised in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, so-called Portuguese Guinea and other colonial territories in which the population had been deprived of their most elementary rights. The Governments of South Africa and Portugal and the racist régime in Southern Rhodesia turned a deaf ear to the protests of the world and continued to adopt more and more measures to deprive the African population of all their rights. Accordingly, the Yugoslav delegation was of the opinion that the Interna-

^{6/} Document E/AC.7/L.375.

tional Conference should give special importance to the question of the violation of fundamental human rights in the colonies and to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid. Another matter which the Conference should thoroughly examine was the search for ways and means of achieving the most effective possible implementation of the Covenants and other instruments concerning human rights adopted by the United Nations. His delegation believed that the weakness in the implementation of those instruments lay in the fact that the problem had so far been tackled mainly from the angle of setting up appropriate machinery for supervision. While not denying the importance of such machinery, it believed that the basic consideration was the establishment of conditions which ensured, at the national and the international level, the widest protection and promotion of all human rights. That required the preparation by the United

Nations of long-term programmes that would make it possible to intensify international co-operation, promote support for concrete measures by individual countries to accelerate the solution of social and economic development problems, and ensure maximum participation by the United Nations and its organs and by States in general.

44. In that way, the efforts to foster the observance of human rights would be more directly integrated into the general measures in behalf of world peace and progress and the establishment of friendly relations among peoples. The Yugoslav delegation was convinced that the International Conference on Human Rights would make an outstanding contribution in that respect, and Yugoslavia would continue to support joint efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.