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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 89: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 105: IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 100: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/44/18, A/44/171, A/44/190 and Corr.1, A/44/238 and Corr.1, A/44/240, A/44/271 and Corr.1, A/44/300, A/44/310, A/44/327, A/44/330 and Corr.1, A/44/336, A/44/342, A/44/346, A/44/348, A/44/360, A/44/395-E/1989/128, A/44/405, A/44/409 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/411, A/44/412, A/44/442, A/44/593, A/44/617, A/44/618)

1. Mrs. KODIKARA (Philippines) supported the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and noted with satisfaction that the First Decade had resulted in seminars and meetings that had produced valuable recommendations on how to overcome racial discrimination. It was the responsibility of all Member States to make sure that those recommendations did not remain a dead letter.
2. Education, particularly of young people, must be aimed at generating mutual understanding and respect for the dignity and equality of all members of the human family irrespective of economic, social, cultural, linguistic or other differences. The efforts of parents and teachers to combat racial prejudice must be supplemented not only by legislation but also by ensuring that community leaders and the mass media promoted a value system based on justice. The International Court of Justice should be given more authority in respect of the International Covenants on Human Rights and she looked forward to the completion of the proposed model texts of anti-discrimination legislation, on the understanding, however, that they took local situations into account. She also hoped that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would become a universal instrument.
3. Racial discrimination was alien to the mores and culture of the Philippines, which was strongly committed to implementation of the Convention and, in its report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, had highlighted the legal, political and educational measures it had taken to that effect, including ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol.
4. Positive developments in southern Africa, and particularly the impending independence of Namibia, encouraged the hope that the inhuman system of apartheid, an institutionalized form of racial discrimination, would be ended in racist South Africa. Unfortunately, although the new South African leadership had announced reforms and release political prisoners, it had yet to make a firm commitment to

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(Mrs. Kodikara, Philippines)

abolish apartheid. Apartheid could never be reformed and the international community should continue to exert pressure to abolish it.

5. The international community must also intensify its efforts to enable people still under colonial domination or foreign occupation to exercise their right to self-determination. In Kampuchea, the international community must press for a comprehensive solution that would allow the full restoration and preservation of that country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and neutral and non-aligned status, while assuring the Kampucheans that the universally condemned policies and practices of the recent past would not recur. Her delegation looked forward to the independence of Namibia and to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). In the Middle East, the conflict could be resolved by recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent State, and the right of all States in the area, including Israel, to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries. The Philippines had accordingly recognized the State of Palestine.

6. Mr. ENG (Democratic Kampuchea) said that in a world in which national and international security were closely interrelated full respect for self-determination was an important prerequisite for maintaining peace and security both regionally and internationally. That right was still being denied to the people of Cambodia because Viet Nam continued to defy international appeals that it withdraw all its forces. Despite Viet Nam's claim that it had withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia, between 100,000 and 130,000 remained - either concealed or disguised as Cambodian troops and militia men in the army of the puppet régime - in addition to about one million Vietnamese settlers. As a result, the war in Cambodia would continue, but not, as some would claim, as a civil war between Cambodians but rather as a war between Viet Nam, the aggressor, and Cambodia, the victim. Faced with an economic crisis at home, international pressure and the prospect of defeat, Viet Nam had announced its so-called total troop withdrawal in order to win international approval, obtain aid from Western countries, stop military aid to the forces of the Cambodian National Resistance (CNR) and preserve its puppet régime in Cambodia. Viet Nam had refused to accept United Nations effective control and verification of its troop withdrawal and had rejected all the peace proposals put forward by the CNR.

7. The Cambodian National Resistance held that genuine national reconciliation could be achieved in Cambodia only by the formation of a provisional quadripartite Government under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, with all of the parties on an equal footing. Such a Government would have a paramount role to play in organizing free and impartial elections under United Nations supervision and, most importantly, would conduct a census to differentiate clearly between Cambodians and Vietnamese. It was vital to prevent Viet Nam from committing further acts of aggression against Cambodia and particularly from concealing its military forces in Cambodia and the Vietnamese settlers sent there under the policy of Vietnamization. Those settlers, numbering more than a million, had been brought in with the Vietnamese military, and participated with the occupying army in looting the land and property of the Cambodian people and in defending the puppet administration in areas temporarily controlled by Viet Nam.

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8. Mr. VAZQUEZ (Argentina) said that racism and racial discrimination were still on the agenda of the General Assembly because, unfortunately, people in many parts of the world were still persecuted on grounds of their origin or race. Positive action to combat racism must include raising the consciousness of individuals so that they recognized the harmful consequences of racism and overcame their resistance to the notion that all men were equal, regardless of the colour of their skin.

9. He therefore welcomed the emphasis in the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination on apartheid, a system that was so abhorrent that it had to be completely eliminated rather than reformed and justified the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Maintenance of the system of apartheid in defiance of the appeals of the international community could only result in increasing violence, with serious consequences not only for the area and its peoples but for the entire world. He therefore hoped that the South African Government would start serious negotiations with the leaders of the majority population with a view to achieving a peaceful solution and establishing a free and pluralistic society in which everyone enjoyed equal rights. He also called for the immediate and unconditional release of Nelson Mandela and the other political prisoners.

10. Although apartheid was the most immoral form of racial discrimination, there were other, more subtle, forms, such as the discriminatory treatment to which migrant workers were subjected in many countries. While such treatment in most cases did not result from deliberate policies by the receiving countries, the authorities of those countries should adopt appropriate measures to eliminate the practices which caused that discrimination.

11. Strict compliance with the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would ultimately ensure a world of racial equality and harmony. Argentina, a State party to the Convention, scrupulously observed its norms. His country also attached great importance to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, to which Argentina was a party, and urged the States which had not yet acceded to that Convention to do so.

12. The Argentine Government supported the efforts to bring about the speedy independence of Namibia and enable its people to free themselves from the yoke of the South African racist régime. He also stressed the need to ensure respect for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as a means of bringing peace to the Middle East and ensuring the right of all States of the region to exist within secure and internationally recognized borders.

13. Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) said that it had become clear that the South African régime would not change its policy unless forced to do so and the only effective pressure from the international community was comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. His delegation also called for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, the immediate lifting of the state of emergency and the ban on anti-apartheid activities, and a discontinuance to all oppressive measures against the black majority. Bangladesh looked forward to the

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(Mr. Mohiuddin, Bangladesh)

independence of Namibia; it had been an active participant in the Council for Namibia and was also taking part in the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG).

14. Commenting on the racist policy of the Zionist régime of Israel he said that Bangladesh was convinced that a just and lasting solution to the situation could be achieved only through the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had amply demonstrated its sincere desire for a settlement by accepting Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), but its gesture of flexibility had not been matched in Tel Aviv. It was imperative for the international community to intensify pressure for the convening of the proposed international peace conference, with the PLO participating on an equal footing.

15. He trusted that the United Nations would continue to give priority to the problem of racism and racial discrimination. He appealed to all States which had not done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid as soon as possible and urged the States Parties concerned to fulfil their obligations under the two Conventions. Bangladesh, as a party to both Conventions, was determined to pursue their objectives, and reaffirmed its commitment to the successful implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

16. His delegation was encouraged to note in document A/44/595 the action taken by various United Nations agencies and bodies and the important role played by the non-governmental organizations in disseminating information about the Programme of Action. However, inter-agency co-ordination within the United Nations system needed further strengthening for effective implementation of the Programme.

17. The Government of Bangladesh had contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the United Nations Fund for the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity Against Apartheid and the United Nations Fund for the Rehabilitation of Namibian Refugees. It supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and hoped that it would be given wider publicity. It shared the concern about the Committee's financial crisis and was pleased to inform the Committee that Bangladesh had brought its contribution up to date.

18. Mr. TANASE (Romania) said that the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had demonstrated the need to strengthen international co-operation and intensify national, regional and international activities on the basis of the Programme of Action. Apartheid had been universally condemned: what was needed now was action. That should include measures aimed at improving economic, political, social and cultural conditions in order to remove inequalities in employment, nutrition, health, housing and education. In the fight against racism

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(Mr. Tanase, Romania)

and racial discrimination the international community and the United Nations should intensify their co-ordinated efforts during the Second Decade to provide assistance and relief for the victims, especially in South Africa and to create conditions enabling the people of southern Africa to share in shaping their own future.

19. The right of peoples to self-determination could not be separated from the international situation as a whole. Disarmament, for example, particularly nuclear disarmament, a reduction in the arms race and military expenditure, an improvement of the international climate - all affected the quality of life and hence the exercise of that right. In that connection, he welcomed the coming independence of Namibia but reminded Members that there were still problems, such as South African manoeuvres in the coming elections, which required continued attention and vigilance on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

20. Romania firmly supported the restoration of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and urged United Nations support for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all interested States, including the new State of Palestine, Israel, and the permanent members of the Security Council, as soon as possible.

21. Mr. DING Yuanhong (China) said that although there had been some encouraging changes in southern Africa, the state of emergency was still in force, and tens of thousands of anti-apartheid patriots - 70 per cent of the country's total population - were still being persecuted. In order to compel the South African régime to eliminate racial discrimination and abolish apartheid, the international community should increase its pressure, maintain its support for the national liberation movements and the African front-line States and step up effective sanctions.

22. The accession to independence of large numbers of colonial countries after the Second World War had given new meaning to the right of self-determination. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples stated that by virtue of that right, all peoples could freely determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development. The Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations stated that the principle of self-determination of peoples was of paramount importance for the promotion of friendly relations among States based on respect for the principle of sovereign equality. It was clear, therefore, that the right of self-determination was also vital for countries which had already won independence; they, too, were entitled to strive for and safeguard independence, maintain territorial integrity and State sovereignty and adopt the political, economic and social system of their choice. Unfortunately, infringements of the right of self-determination were frequent in the present-day world, and the defence and implementation of that right remained an important task for the United Nations.

(Mr. Ding Yuanhong, China)

23. China supported a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cambodian question based on the withdrawal of foreign troops under effective United Nations supervision and stressed the need to ensure peace in Cambodia and achieve national reconciliation.

24. Noting with satisfaction that United Nations resolution 435 (1978) was finally being implemented, he said that the commencement of the Namibian independence process meant that the decolonization of the African continent would soon be completed. He hoped that all parties concerned, especially the South African authorities, would strictly comply with that resolution to ensure the speedy independence of Namibia.

25. The Chinese Government had consistently supported the just struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples for independence. The Israeli authorities should immediately halt their occupation of the Arab territories, stop their brutal acts of repression in the occupied Palestinian territories and ensure the exercise of the basic rights of the local population. He called for the speedy convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and all the parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question.

26. With the complete withdrawal of foreign troops, the Afghan people had taken an important step towards the realization of their right to national self-determination. China hoped that a broad-based coalition government would be established in Afghanistan so that internal peace could be achieved and the Afghan people could undertake the task of national reconstruction.

27. Mrs. GEBRE-EGZIABHER (Ethiopia) said that, despite the unanimous condemnation of racism and racial discrimination by the international community and the adoption of international legal instruments to combat and eradicate those evils, two decades of struggle had not yielded the desired results. To alleviate the prevailing situation of victims of racial discrimination, especially apartheid, efforts at local, national and international levels must be intensified. All possible steps should be taken to implement fully the international conventions, the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its associated plan of activities. The financial difficulties that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was experiencing hindered it in its important work in fighting racial discrimination, and Ethiopia once again called upon the States parties to fulfil their financial commitments.

28. With respect to the heinous institution of apartheid, her delegation wished to express its indignation at the recent measures of racist South Africa to reform a system which had been universally rejected and deserved no less than total elimination. It was high time that the international community took more stringent measures against the Pretoria régime by imposing comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. States that enjoyed friendly relations with South Africa should exert maximum pressure, including withholding co-operation; and transnational

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(Mrs. Gebre-Egziabher, Ethiopia)

corporations operating in South Africa should be made to realize that their activities made them accomplices in the crime of apartheid.

29. Ethiopia had been one of the first countries to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. It was doing its utmost to implement those Conventions by adopting the necessary legislative, judicial and administrative measures, and it had fulfilled its financial and reporting obligations under the Convention as well. It was also a member of the Group of Three that monitored the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. In Ethiopia itself, all citizens enjoyed equal rights and opportunities, guaranteed by the constitution and other relevant legislation.

30. While her delegation welcomed the success of the efforts of the United Nations to ensure the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and to eradicate colonialism in Namibia, appropriate measures were urgently needed to free the election process in Namibia from South African blackmail and intimidation.

31. Ethiopia hoped that the relaxed international situation would contribute to the speedy resolution of the problem of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and it reiterated its support for the convening of an international conference with the participation of all parties involved.

32. The use of mercenaries was an instrument for violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. Ethiopia was actively participating in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. The timely completion of a convention was imperative.

33. Mr. SIGURDSSON (Iceland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that they had adopted firm legislative, administrative and educational measures to combat racism and racial discrimination. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Programme of Action for the Decade constituted concrete evidence of the will of the international community to make the determined and co-ordinated efforts needed to eliminate the evil of racism. In those efforts, attention should be focused on the root causes of the problem, whether political, historical, economic, social or cultural.

34. The Nordic countries endorsed the priority given to the elimination of apartheid in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade because they considered apartheid to be a serious threat to international peace and security. They had worked consistently for the adoption by the Security Council of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa as a way of achieving the abolition of apartheid by peaceful means. However, in the absence of mandatory sanctions, they had taken extensive, unilateral measures to restrict relations with that country, such as prohibitions on investments in or trade with South Africa. They hoped that those initiatives would inspire other countries to adopt similar measures.

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(Mr. Sigurdsson, Iceland)

35. In March 1988, the Nordic foreign ministers had adopted a revised programme of action against apartheid, which highlighted, inter alia, the importance of increased assistance to South Africa's neighbours. As they had stated in a joint communiqué, if there was to be hope for a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racist South Africa, the Government of South Africa must respond positively to the willingness expressed by the African National Congress and the mass democratic movement to participate in negotiations and talks. The decision to release a number of political prisoners was a positive step, but all remaining political prisoners must also be released. Negotiations must be started with the black majority, the state of emergency and the ban on all political organizations lifted, and all exiles allowed to return home.

36. The report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities contained many valuable recommendations and conclusions and deserved to be studied both by Governments and by United Nations agencies. The Nordic countries welcomed the importance given in the report to strengthening each agency's own programme against racism, improving inter-agency co-ordination and strengthening contacts and co-operation with non-governmental organizations. It further welcomed the emphasis placed in the report on training courses and educational measures.

37. The 128 States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination shared a collective responsibility to ensure that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), established under the Convention as a monitoring organ, had a solid financial basis. Those who professed their support in words should also show it in deeds, by meeting their financial obligations under the Convention. CERD also continued to be plagued by the very late submission of the obligatory reports of States parties, and the Nordic countries wished once again to focus their attention on the importance of providing timely, comprehensive and accurate reports.

38. Mr. ABDUL JALIL (Indonesia) said that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which was currently being implemented, was the most appropriate vehicle for the common international effort to eradicate racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. High priority should be given to the unimplemented features of the plan, so that it could be executed in its entirety and ultimately achieve its intended goal.

39. Despite the pronouncements of the Government of South Africa concerning changes in the political structure of the country, the fundamental aspects of racism and racial discrimination inherent in apartheid persisted and continued to threaten stability and peace in the region. Escalating repression and the implementation of the state of emergency for the fourth consecutive year highlighted the intention of the régime to perpetuate apartheid. His delegation again called upon the international community to impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against South Africa and to demand the immediate release of all political prisoners.

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(Mr. Abdul Jalil, Indonesia)

40. Because racism and racial discrimination were acquired behaviour, action against them should come first and foremost at the national level and should begin within the family. In Indonesia, secular and religious education stressing the equality of mankind and the rewards of co-operation had made it possible for people of over 100 different ethnic groups, speaking over 200 languages and dialects, to live together and to strive further to improve socio-economic conditions for all. The principle of equality was embodied in the Indonesian constitution and reaffirmed in its national philosophy.

41. The imminent realization of Namibian independence through self-determination under the leadership of the South West African People's Organization concluded a long, hard-fought and just struggle, and marked the beginning of a new era of nationhood and the end of many generations of colonial oppression. His delegation supported the right to self-determination in the Middle East, by reaffirming its commitment to extend all possible support to the Palestinian people in their struggle to exercise their sovereignty in an independent Palestinian State, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

42. Mr. CENKO (Albania) said that his country, which was socialist, independent and democratic, attached particular importance to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and national independence and would continue to support the struggle against colonialism, racism, apartheid and all other forms of discrimination. It therefore noted with satisfaction certain positive developments in Namibia and Western Sahara and pointed to the intifadah in the territories occupied by Israel as a manifestation of the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their homeland and exercise their right of self-determination. His delegation hoped that those developments would lead to a solution to the crisis in southern Africa and in the Middle East, thus strengthening international peace and security.

43. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and hoped that it would contribute to efforts to achieve Namibian independence. Albania believed that solutions to regional conflicts must be brought about by the parties directly concerned on the basis of strict observance of the right to self-determination. In that connection, he stressed that the Albanian people would fully support the struggle of the Azanian people to put an end to the apartheid régime.

44. At a time when the peoples of the world aspired to achieve independence and development, and relations between States were expanding in various fields, there was an urgent need for a profound democratization of international relations, equal development for all nations and nationalities, including minorities, and true political, economic, cultural and social emancipation.

45. Mrs. MENZHERES (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that non-governmental organizations had made a significant contribution to efforts to combat apartheid in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. She pointed out in that regard that

(Mrs. Menzheres, Ukrainian SSR)

in May 1989 the Ukrainian SSR had hosted a seminar for non-governmental organizations on the situation in southern Africa. Her Government favoured enhancing the effectiveness of the measures carried out under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and called upon the States which had not yet done so to accede to the international conventions against apartheid, racism and racial discrimination.

46. De facto discrimination remained a widespread phenomenon. Migrant workers and minorities were especially vulnerable to such discrimination. Attention should be focused on completing the drafting and the adoption of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families. Likewise, further steps should be taken to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, and religious minorities.

47. Her delegation supported the recommendations of the global consultation on protecting the rights of the representatives of "vulnerable" groups and viewed as useful the proposal by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on holding a number of seminars in order to define ways to provide the best protection.

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination played an important role in the struggle against racism. Her delegation supported the view that the Committee should be financed temporarily through the regular United Nations budget until the financial difficulties caused by the indebtedness of a number of countries were overcome.

49. No State was immune to national and racial prejudices. Inculcating tolerance for other races and nationalities and respect for the rights of all was an urgent task for the entire world community. The legislation of the Ukrainian SSR enshrined the principle of national and racial equality and sought to satisfy the social and cultural needs of all its citizens, including non-indigenous nationalities such as Russians, Jews, Hungarians, Poles, Bulgarians and Greeks. The activities aimed at satisfying those needs were financed through the State budget and included the establishment of cultural centres, the teaching of national languages, the publication of books and periodicals in those languages, the study of the history of national groups and the protection and restoration of religious monuments.

50. With regard to the right to self-determination, it was gratifying to note the recent Soviet-American statement stressing the agreement on the need to implement fully the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. In the view of her delegation, the most important task currently facing the United Nations was to ensure the transition of Namibia to complete independence.

51. A just solution to the problem in the Middle East could be achieved only on the basis of the recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine. The prerequisites for a just settlement in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions included a rejection of the use of force as

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(Mrs. Mensheres, Ukrainian SSR)

an instrument of State policy and maintenance of a balance of interests in the search for a settlement of the conflict. That objective could be achieved through collective efforts at an international conference held under the auspices of the United Nations.

52. Her delegation supported the role of the United Nations in efforts to bring about a settlement in Afghanistan. Further peace-making efforts and the assistance of neighbouring countries and the Non-Aligned Movement were necessary. Consideration could be given to the proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan.

53. The positive process of organizing multilateral negotiations on Cambodia had begun and it was hoped that it would lead to independent, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia. Nevertheless, in defining the conditions for a final settlement, the millions of lives lost because of the policies of the genocidal régime should not be forgotten.

54. The Tela agreements should bring about a radical change in the situation in Nicaragua and Central America. In that connection, she stressed that the problems in the region should be solved by the Central American peoples themselves without foreign interference. The efforts of the United Nations to settle regional conflicts, should not, however, divert its attention from the situation in the remaining dependent Territories.

55. The continuing use of mercenaries was intolerable both from the point of view of ensuring the right to self-determination and guaranteeing the rights of individuals. In that connection, her delegation supported the conclusions in the preliminary report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries in document A/44/526. The adoption of an international convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries would help put an end to that international crime.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.