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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

later: Mr. OGURTSOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist
Republic)

CONTENTS

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

AGENDA ITEM 100: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF 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)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 89: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (*continued*) (A/44/240 and Corr.1, A/44/409-S/20743 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/477, A/44/574, A/44/575, A/44/595, A/44/617; A/C.3/44/L.3; E/1989/42 and Add.1-4)

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 and Corr.1, 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)

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*) (A/44/526, A/44/548)

1. Mr. FAJARDO (Cuba) said that the abolition of slavery in Cuba, whose anniversary was being celebrated in 1989, was undoubtedly one of the most important events in its history. The 1869 Constitution of Guaimaro had given statutory legitimacy to the principle that all people were created free and equal. With those historical precedents, Cuba had supported all the resolutions relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and appreciated the progress made during the period 1985-1989 in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. The conclusions and the recommendations of the Global Consultation on Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in Geneva in 1988, as well as other important United Nations related activities represented important steps in the attainment of the objectives of the Second Decade.
2. It was a matter of concern that in spite of all those efforts, the apartheid system remained as an affront to humanity. Only the complete dismantling of that system could enable the black majority population to exercise and enjoy its rights. Once Namibia had gained its independence, the United Nations, with the support of the all Member States, should concentrate all its energies on the dismantling of the odious régime of apartheid. His delegation wished to reiterate its support for the African National Congress and to call for the release of Nelson Mandela and his comrades in the struggle against apartheid.
3. His delegation supported the decision by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to hold a session in 1990 to commemorate its twentieth year of activities, to coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre. In view of the Committee's financial difficulties, his delegation joined the appeal to countries which had not yet done so to pay their contributions so as to enable the Committee to carry out its important task.
4. Although there was no discrimination in Cuba despite its multiracial population, it had submitted its eighth periodic report to the Committee,

(Mr. Fajardo, Cuba)

containing information on the legislation enacted relating to racial discrimination. Cuba was a member of the Committee and a Party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

5. His delegation welcomed the report by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, bringing up to date the list of banks, transnational corporations and other organizations which provided assistance to the South African régime.
6. He reaffirmed Cuba's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, its condemnation of Israeli aggression in the occupied Arab territories, and its support for the adoption of a resolution on the intifadah by the General Assembly. It was in favour of a peace conference, with the participation of all concerned, to solve the Middle East conflict.
7. Commenting on the Special Rapporteur's report on the use of mercenaries, he pointed out that while reports of mercenary activities had decreased, those activities were becoming more dangerous and more difficult to control. He supported the conclusion in paragraph 83 of the report concerning the peace process in Central America.
8. Mr. Ogurtsov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) took the Chair.
9. Mr. WALKER (Jamaica) said that it was regrettable that racism was still entrenched in several parts of the world despite active international efforts to combat it. The origins of racism were still not fully known and research into that topic was on the agenda of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. The United Nations must continue its relentless efforts to eradicate that scourge.
10. The South African régime continued to promulgate policies rooted in the systematic and illegal institutionalization of racial discrimination. The recent assumption of power by President De Klerk signified nothing more than cosmetic changes in the apartheid system, which was a modern form of slavery and a crime against humanity; it could not be reformed and had to be destroyed.
11. His Government joined in the demand for the lifting of the state of emergency; the release of all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela; an end to the harassment of anti-apartheid activists; and free and unrestricted participation of all political parties and groups in the political life of South Africa.
12. Jamaica, which had been the first to apply trade sanctions to South Africa, would continue to press for the universalization of that strategy and would seek every possible way to intensify the pressures on the South African régime.
13. The progress towards independence in Namibia was proof of the effectiveness of persistent co-ordinated international pressure. At the same time, the international community must ensure that South Africa did not subvert the electoral and constitutional arrangements for Namibia's independence. Jamaica was

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(Mr. Walker, Jamaica)

participating in the transition to independence by providing personnel to election-monitoring teams established in Namibia by the United Nations and by the British Commonwealth.

14. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had drawn attention to the plight of various vulnerable groups. To alleviate their plight, efforts were continuing to complete an international instrument governing the treatment of migrant workers and their families and a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Those efforts had the full support of his delegation, which also endorsed the recommendation to hold seminars with a view to identifying other groups which might be vulnerable to discrimination and to suggesting remedial measures. His delegation hoped that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade would not be disrupted again because of financial constraints and that all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would fulfil their financial obligations.

15. Although many countries had gained their independence during the post-war period, some societies were still struggling for the right of self-determination. That right was a goal to which all people aspired and the international community must continue its co-operative efforts to ensure that it was fully realized.

16. He reiterated Jamaica's unwavering commitment to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Its legislation guaranteed the right of all people to equality. Recognizing that the primary responsibility for eradicating racism rested with the States themselves, his country had acceded to and had ratified all the relevant international instruments.

17. Mr. MALAGA (Peru) said that the forthcoming elections in Namibia marked the fall of the last bastion of colonialism in Africa, uniting the inhabitants of Namibia with the free peoples of the United Nations and signalling the final eradication of apartheid and the Pretoria régime.

18. The international press was currently giving broad coverage to the tens of thousands of South Africans demonstrating against apartheid, notwithstanding the state of emergency which had been in effect since June 1986. Peaceful demonstrations had been held in 17 cities, where only a few months ago such protests would have been unimaginable. The country was being forced to acknowledge that the apartheid system was on the verge of collapse.

19. The progress made over the last quarter of a century in the struggle to end racial discrimination, including the elaboration of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid had been notable for forging a universal awareness and sensitivity to the problem, creating an unprecedented international legal machinery to deal with it, imposing sanctions against violators, although not always successfully, and exerting political pressure on the racist régime in South Africa and even, in recent years, on the systems of institutionalized racism which still existed in some industrialized

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(Mr. Malaja, Peru)

nations. While the United Nations had played an important role, those changes had come about mainly through the efforts of the indigenous movements for national independence and against racial oppression.

20. The economic sanctions adopted by various States Members had had a strong influence on the decision of the Pretoria régime to modify the system of apartheid. They should be co-ordinated and made even more comprehensive. It was undeniable that economic sanctions and the arms embargo, in combination with the unshakable determination of the people, had forced South Africa to accept the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Moreover, in response to international pressures, Pretoria had freed important political prisoners, among them Walter Sisulu, incarcerated since 1964. At the same time, Nelson Mandela and many other important political leaders were still being detained.

21. With respect to the preliminary report prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries, it was his delegation's view that although mercenary activities appeared to have diminished, they had not ceased and might reappear in Africa and Central America in a more violent form. As stated in the report, the emerging co-operation between mercenaries and drug traffickers, whose combined resources were enormous, represented an unprecedented threat to the stability of established democratic States and to international peace and security. Completion of the drafting of an International Convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries would provide the international community with a basic instrument governing the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of people to self-determination.

22. Miss TUKAN (Jordan) deplored the persistence of discrimination on grounds of race, sex or ideology at a time when there was justifiable apprehensiveness about the degradation of the environment and the global destruction that could be caused by nuclear and other weapons.

23. Namibia had long suffered from the racist régime imposed upon it by South Africa and she expressed confidence that the programme being implemented under United Nations auspices to hold free elections there would succeed and lead to full independence and freedom. Nevertheless, the South African régime's attempts to interfere in the elections were a source of concern. Jordan had always supported the struggle of the Namibian people for independence, as well as the General Assembly resolution to end the South African mandate in the Territory. It called for continued vigilance and international pressure to bring a halt to the practices of the South African Government.

24. It was to be hoped that the independence of Namibia would bring about the downfall of the South African régime based on apartheid. Jordan had always opposed and would continue to oppose that régime and called for increased international economic and cultural pressure on South Africa. To eliminate the policy of apartheid and to grant all the inhabitants of that country their basic human rights.

(Miss Tukan, Jordan)

25. The Palestinians suffering under Israeli occupation were deprived of their basic rights to self-determination and to live in freedom and dignity in their own country. Their fearless intifadah, now entering its twenty-third month, was clear proof of their repudiation of the occupation and its racist and arbitrary practices. The Palestinians under Israeli occupation were demanding no more than their right to the establishment of an independent State on their own soil. The intifadah against the occupation was directed towards achieving that goal, whatever the sacrifice.

26. Jordan's policy of opposition to all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid was guided by the tolerant principles of Islam, which prescribed freedom, justice, human dignity and equality for all men, regardless of belief, national origin or colour; it was also inspired by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

27. Her delegation supported all the ideas and proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/44/595). Pressure and sanctions were not sufficient; a publicity campaign was needed to foster positive thinking on all those matters.

28. Détente in international relations had contributed to the settlement of the Namibian problem. The improvement in the international climate had turned many countries, especially the super-Powers, from confrontation to dialogue, from doubt and fear to trust and confidence and from competition to co-operation.

29. Mr. ELIADES (Cyprus), noting the persistence of policies and practices based on prejudice and discrimination in certain parts of the world, said that his Government pursued with singular determination a policy aimed at combating all forms of discrimination. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was one of the most important legal instruments in the field of human rights. It was therefore disappointing to note the financial difficulties impeding the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). He hoped that all States parties to the Convention would meet their financial obligations in order to enable CERD to continue to carry out its important mandate.

30. His Government had always taken a clear stand against apartheid, and in favour of dismantling it and establishing an equitable political, social and economic order which guaranteed the fundamental rights and freedoms of all South African citizens. The hideous nature of apartheid and the prolonged suffering of a disenfranchised people could not be glossed over by talk of reform and vague promises. The first steps towards a truly democratic South Africa must be the lifting of the state of emergency and the ban on activities of organizations and individuals, and the release of all political prisoners, particularly Nelson Mandela.

31. Cyprus fully supported the process of decolonization, which was one of the major achievements of the United Nations. That important task, however, would not

(Mr. Eliades, Cyprus)

be completed until all vestiges of colonialism were eliminated. His country fully supported the current efforts to bring about the independence of Namibia and looked forward to welcoming Namibia as a State Member of the United Nations. Lastly, he reaffirmed his delegation's support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to realize its legitimate right to self-determination and establish an independent State in Palestine.

32. Mr. HASHI (Somalia) reaffirmed his country's opposition to all forms of racial discrimination. The most striking form of racism was apartheid and its elimination should be the prime objective of the international community. His delegation strongly supported the international consensus on the need to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime, and called upon the Governments that were violating the international embargoes against South Africa to desist immediately.

33. Somalia stressed the need to further isolate the racist régime and assist the countries which were the target of South Africa's destabilizing policies. The international community should help the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference in its efforts to strengthen the economies of the front-line States and reduce their economic dependence on Pretoria. In that connection, his Government fully endorsed the principles set forth in the communiqué dated 22 March 1989 issued at Harare by the Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa of the Organization of African Unity (A/44/216-S/20580).

34. Somalia was committed to the cause of the oppressed people of Namibia. While it welcomed the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations Plan for the independence of Namibia, his Government was alarmed at Pretoria's efforts to intimidate the civilian population in order to impede the process of Namibian independence. The international community must ensure that the Namibian people participated freely in the electoral process under the supervision of the United Nations.

35. Somalia was gravely concerned about the gross and systematic violations of the rights of the Palestinian people. Through the intifadah young Palestinians were struggling to overcome injustice and liberate their homeland. His Government would continue to support relevant United Nations resolutions calling for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem, including the exercise of the right of all Palestinians to return to their homes and establish an independent State. He supported the convening of an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

36. His delegation expressed satisfaction at the important work performed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and urged all States parties to pay their assessed contributions so that that Committee could carry out its mandate effectively. Lastly, he reaffirmed Somalia's full support for the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and urged Member States to participate actively in the various activities of the Decade.

37. Mr. MEHNAT (Afghanistan) stressed the need to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter as an effective means of fighting apartheid. Afghanistan had always supported the struggle against racism and racial discrimination and was a party 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. It attached great importance to the dissemination of information on the dangerous consequences of racism and apartheid and its educational institutions and mass media gave considerable attention to the crimes perpetrated by racist régimes.

38. Afghanistan continued to support the legitimate struggle of the heroic people of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine to assert their right to self-determination. It had consistently supported the just struggle of the people of Namibia and Palestine under the leadership of SWAPO and the PLO, respectively, their sole and legitimate representatives. In that connection, he stressed the need for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) in order to bring about the independence of Namibia.

39. Afghanistan reiterated its condemnation of the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights, and its oppressive policies aimed at suppressing the Palestinian intifadah. It was essential to ensure the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and to establish an independent State in Palestine. Afghanistan supported the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the full participation on an equal footing of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

40. The representative of Pakistan had dared to speak of the realization of the right of the Afghan people to self-determination, the restoration of peace in Afghanistan and the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. It was strange to hear a representative of a country which had contributed to the war and suffering in Afghanistan express regret for the continuation of that war. The people of Afghanistan themselves could find the best means to safeguard their rights, including the right to self-determination. Pakistan should solve its own problems first and not attempt to set up governments for other countries. Otherwise, his delegation might refer to the problems of the Pushtuns and Baluchis, who were tired of the increasing domination by the Pakistani military.

41. The full implementation of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 43/20 were the most important steps to be taken to achieve peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan must halt immediately its interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan .

42. Mr. Kabore (Burkina Faso) resumed the Chair.

43. Mr. AGU'BUZO (Nigeria) said that his delegation agreed with the view that apartheid could not be reformed and must be dismantled. It noted with satisfaction that the activities programmed for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination included the dissemination of information on human rights and the evils of racism and racial discrimination, and it endorsed the decisions taken at the 1988 Global Consultation.

44. It was now clear that pressure and sanctions did work. Studies in Australia and the Nordic countries had shown the effect of even the limited sanctions applied to the apartheid régime and it was gratifying to note that even in countries where Governments had been unenthusiastic about imposing sanctions, the pressure exerted by individuals, non-governmental organizations and legislation had had a tremendous impact on the economy and social fabric of the racist régime. Clearly the international community had accepted its task of extirpating apartheid: what was lacking was political will on the part of some Governments. For those who recognize the evils of apartheid but were opposed to armed struggle, it might be easier to support the only peaceful alternative, namely universal mandatory sanctions. It was farcical to speak of financial assistance to the suffering masses in southern Africa when there was no commitment to end apartheid.

45. It was reassuring to note that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had met as scheduled in August. Nigeria had consistently fulfilled its financial and other obligations to the Committee and urged other Member States to do likewise.

46. The report of the Special Rapporteur in document A/44/526 showed that the problem of mercenaries had assumed new significance and that the international community should be on its guard in respect of new forms of mercenary activity that were likely to emerge in the future.

47. Ms. ZINDOGA (Zimbabwe) said that despite improvements in super-Power relations, racism, colonialism and the denial of self-determination persisted. In southern Africa in particular, apartheid was the root cause of a conflict that jeopardized regional and international peace and security. The international community must not be deceived by a South African régime that continued to support armed bandits in neighbouring Mozambique and Angola who were destroying those countries' economies and subjecting their populations to brutal and indiscriminate violence. That violence was made possible by weaponry supplied by the United States on the specious grounds of combating imaginary Soviet influence in southern Africa. She appealed to outside forces to refrain from actions that would perpetuate the sufferings of the people in that region.

48. In Namibia, the atmosphere was not conducive to the holding of free and fair elections because the South African régime refused to comply with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and was intensifying its policy of intimidation and police repression.

49. The apartheid régime pursued a policy of destabilization in southern Africa that had cost the region \$30 billion and 1.5 million lives. Its release of some political prisoners and talks with church leaders, while welcome, were merely

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(Ms. Zindoga, Zimbabwe)

intended to help the apartheid régime's allies block efforts to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions. She called upon the South African leadership to create an atmosphere that was genuinely conducive to negotiations by repealing the Group Areas Act, lifting the state of emergency, releasing all political prisoners unconditionally, dissolving the tricameral parliament, repealing the Bantu Education Act, removing the ban on all political parties and accepting the Organization of African Unity's Harare Declaration on Southern Africa.

50. The front-line States, the OAU and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had joined South African democratic forces in calling for comprehensive mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. She welcomed the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly on Apartheid to be held from 12 to 14 December 1989 and hoped that the General Assembly would adopt the Harare Declaration on South Africa. She also urged the General Assembly to approve a three-week session in March 1990 to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre.

51. In the Middle East, the Palestinian people was being brutalized with increasing ferocity and its struggle for the realization of self-determination and basic human rights was being frustrated by the obduracy of the Israeli Government, which was jeopardizing the peace process by turning a deaf ear to reasonable proposals. She therefore urged Israel's friends to pressure Israel to co-operate in the search for a solution to the Palestinian question.

52. In Latin America the struggle for self-determination was being impeded by those who repudiated democratic elections when they did not like the result, by coups resulting in the assassination of democratically elected leaders and by the use of mercenaries. She welcomed the forthcoming elections in Nicaragua as well as the revelations about the recruitment of mercenaries in document A/44/526 and hoped that the one country named in that report would discourage its nationals from engaging in the mercenary activities it has previously condoned because it feared the threat of communism or wished to impose its own concept of democracy.

53. On the issue of migrant workers, she said that she hoped the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families would be approved by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session and that it would be ratified by all States.

54. She proposed that wider publicity should be given to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and especially of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and that a world public information campaign on human rights should be launched. If the present financing of CERD was unsatisfactory, the General Assembly should find other ways to finance it. Existing studies on racism, racial discrimination and apartheid should be updated and new ones should be undertaken on specific factors. In that connection, UNESCO's role should be further expanded. The Security Council should impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and the international community should provide more practical assistance to

(Ms. Zindoga, Zimbabwe)

the victims of racism and apartheid, their liberation movements and the front-line and neighbouring States which were also victims of apartheid aggression. She appealed to the transnational corporations to stop doing business with South Africa and to the international banking system not to reschedule South African debts.

55. Mrs. SEMAMBO-KALEMA (Uganda) said that Uganda supported the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and the plans of action for the periods 1985-1989 and 1990-1993, all of which stressed the importance of education and public information. Uganda had adopted legislative, administrative and educational measures to combat racism and racial discrimination and it was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

56. Comprehensive mandatory sanctions were the only peaceful means of bringing effective pressure to bear on the Pretoria régime to end apartheid and those who opposed them encouraged the régime to continue defying the international outcry. Recent reforms and the release of eight political prisoners did not attack the root causes of the problem. She therefore supported the convening of a special session of the General Assembly on apartheid in December.

57. The position of migrant workers and their families and populations belonging to minorities also called for international protection and there was an urgent need for an international convention to that end.

58. Despite optimism about the Namibian people's achievement of independence, Namibia's position was still precarious. There was no assurance that South Africa would keep to its part of the bargain and that the goals of the independence plan for Namibia would be implemented so long as South Africa exercised full control of the electoral process, with the Secretary-General a mere observer. South Africa was still trying to sabotage independence by manipulating and intimidating the voters and there was evidence of the registration of South Africans and non-Namibians. The Secretary-General must put pressure on South Africa to abide by Security Council resolutions 435 (1978) and 640 (1989) and must assume his full role of supervising and controlling the electoral process. Urgent action must be taken to strengthen the overstretched UNTAG peace units. Her delegation hoped that the Secretary-General had made preparations for United Nations responsibility to continue after the elections, guaranteeing Namibia's independence and peace during the transition period. Immediate withdrawal of a United Nations presence would open the way to new manipulations by South Africa.

59. The use of mercenaries must be strongly condemned as a violation of human rights and the right of self-determination. She agreed with the Special Rapporteur that the termination of armed conflicts and easing of tensions in many parts of the world inhibited the presence of mercenaries, but noted with regret that South Africa continued to destabilize front-line States through the use of mercenaries, while at the same time negotiating peace with neighbouring States.

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(Mrs. Semambo-Kalema, Uganda)

60. She also noted with concern the Special Rapporteur's fear of the developing relationship between mercenary activities and drug traffickers and supported the urgent conclusion of an International Convention against the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries.

61. Uganda called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and for the Palestinians to be able to exercise their right to self-determination. Believing that Israel must exist within secure boundaries, but that the aspirations of Palestinians must be respected in order to achieve a just settlement in the Middle East, Uganda supported the holding of an international conference under United Nations auspices, with all parties concerned participating, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

62. Her Government believed that the people of Kampuchea should be left to determine their own future without coercion or external interference. It also hoped that the Afghan people would find a solution to their problem.

63. Ms. OKEYO (Kenya) said that it was not enough to agree that apartheid must be dismantled. Positive action must also be taken against the South African apartheid régime, particularly in the form of comprehensive sanctions backed not only by moral indignation but also by financial and economic pressure. South Africa would try to reschedule its debt in 1990 and the international banking community must seize that opportunity to refuse to finance the apartheid régime. As long as that régime was assured of economic support and military collaboration, it would not relinquish its power. The recent leadership changes in South Africa had brought a ray of hope, particularly with the welcome release of prominent political prisoners, but that hope could be realized only if the new leadership took steps to remove the legal foundations of apartheid rather than merely try to reform it.

64. Discrimination arose from ignorance, insecurity and intolerance and therefore required appropriate educational efforts to combat it. She therefore supported Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/5 entitled "Situation of human rights in South Africa" and drew particular attention to paragraph 23. The experience of her own country, which had created a thriving multiracial society despite a history of suffering under colonial domination, showed that committed leadership and firm legislative action and education could help combat discrimination. Kenya's example reinforced her belief that the struggle of the majority in South Africa was assured of success.

65. Mr. ALLAFI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that Islam, which provided the legal basis of Libyan society, proclaimed that men were equal and accorded preference only on the basis of competence and achievements, thus eliminating factionalism and discrimination on the grounds of class, descent or colour. Guided by such lofty teachings and principles, Libyan society utterly rejected all forms of racism and racial discrimination. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was a party to all the international agreements concerning the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Furthermore, his country had no relations nor any form of co-operation with racist régimes.

(Mr. Allafi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

66. Despite the efforts of the international community and the United Nations system, large portions of humanity were still subject to various forms of oppression and enslavement. The illegal existence of the apartheid régime in South Africa and the Zionist régime in Palestine constituted a gross violation of the Charter and human rights. They shared the same racist theories and engaged in similar terrorist practices against the peoples under their domination. The international community had grasped the racist nature of those two régimes and condemned the imperial links between them.

67. Racism and racial discrimination could not be eliminated by merely condemning them; the international community should take practical steps against racist régimes, including comprehensive sanctions and boycotts. Through their persistent defiance of international resolutions, and their continuing flagrant violations of human rights, those régimes had confirmed the futility of seeking dialogue with them. Nor was there any validity in the theories of their supporters, which maintained that sanctions and boycotts could only be counter-productive. The international community should be alert to the dangers inherent in the ideology of racist régimes. The blacks in South Africa and the Palestinians were the victims now, but people everywhere were potentially the victims of such ideas.

68. The Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was a clear expression of the international will to eliminate that phenomenon and was the logical consequence of the failure of the First Decade to achieve the desired results. However, the importance of both Decades should not be belittled, even if their effect had been limited. They had managed to enhance awareness of the dangers of racism and the value of co-ordinated international efforts in that field. Rather than dwelling on past disappointments and mistakes, attention should be directed towards the future and making the remaining activities of the Second Decade successful. That could only be done through the contributions of all countries to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade. He noted with regret that the current status of the Fund was not encouraging. According to the Secretary-General's report, only five countries, including his own, had contributed to the Fund during the year ending on 31 August 1989.

69. The legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, regional security, national unity and freedom from colonialist domination, apartheid and foreign occupation, by all available means including armed struggle had been repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly. The spirit of conciliation between the two super-Powers and relative détente in international relations should not mask the fact that many peoples were still prey to foreign occupation and settlement or victims of hostilities, political hegemony and economic dependency. The international community should support the United Nations and strengthen its role in the elimination of colonialism and odious racist practices. His country, which had a long and bitter experience of colonialism, firmly believed in the ultimate triumph of the legitimate will of peoples to self-determination.

70. The heroic Palestinian people had conducted its fearless intifadah against Zionist occupation for nearly two years, reminding the world of its tragedy and the barbarous practices of Zionists against women and children armed only with stones

(Mr. Allafi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

and an iron will. Those practices had revealed the true nature of the Zionist terrorists and their allies, who were intent on the elimination of the Palestinian people. His country's clear and firm moral stance on that problem sprang from its commitment to international agreements and its national duty. It fully supported the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people to liberate its territory and achieve self-determination and the establishment of an independent State in the whole of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. He appealed to all freedom-loving countries to support that struggle and the intifadah.

71. Namibia's struggle for self-determination was now in the phase of cautious anticipation of the results of international efforts to achieve its independence. He hoped that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) would be fully and impartially implemented. The international community should be alert to the underhanded manoeuvring by the racist Pretoria régime aimed at undermining independence and manipulating the forthcoming elections to its own advantage. It was to be hoped that the victory of the people of Namibia would give new impetus to the struggle to end the racist régime in Pretoria and all other racist régimes. His country had provided and would continue to provide all political and material assistance to the people of Namibia in order to enable it to achieve its legitimate goals, namely respect for and protection of its political and economic choices and from interference, hostility, hegemony or threat.

72. The scandalous phenomenon of mercenarism was another dangerous obstacle to self-determination which directly threatened the peace and security of human communities. The international community should devote more attention to that phenomenon. The conclusions of the preliminary report on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/44/526) deserved the full attention of the Committee. His delegation welcomed the decrease in traditional mercenary activities and warned of the danger presented by new activities, such as the alarming illicit trade in narcotics, which threatened the peace and security of entire communities.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.