

urgent questions before it. In connexion with the Chinese comments regarding aid to the mercenaries of racism, it should be noted that the representative of China had kept his hand down when the Security Council had voted against South Africa. Indeed, China had not yet recognized the victorious people of Angola which had freed itself from colonialism, thus providing further evidence that the Chinese leadership was becoming as reactionary as the most reactionary forces in the world, namely, the military racist forces of South Africa.

69. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) appealed to delegations not to pursue their quarrel on the events in Angola. There had been a full-dress debate on the question in the Security Council and they should conserve their energies for another debate on *apartheid* to be held the following week. If they truly sought to defend the interests of Africa, they should not fight about it. With the military operations in Angola over, they should find ways to help to reconstruct the coun-

try so that it could effectively exercise its independence.

70. Mr. HSING Sung-yi (China) said that in its attempt to divert attention from the Soviet aggression in Angola, the USSR delegation had not dared to touch upon the substantive issues raised by the Chinese delegation. Moreover, the Cuban role in that Soviet aggression was known to the whole world: it was clear that the Cubans had served the Soviet authorities. He had already replied to the Soviet statement and would not waste the time of the Council on a further reply.

71. Mr. S. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he would accede to Nigeria's appeal not to discuss the question further. What was now required was action, not words, specifically, action to halt collusion with reaction and with the racists seeking to oppress the peoples of southern Africa. Those who were working towards that end did not indulge in slanderous allegations in the Council.

*The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.*

## 1992nd meeting

Wednesday, 28 April 1976, at 3.40 p.m.

*President:* Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1992

### AGENDA ITEM 3

#### **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/5759 and Add.1, E/5760 and Add.1, E/5763, E/5799, E/5813)**

1. Mr. SCRANTON (United States of America) said that every Member State had supported the decision taken by the General Assembly in 1973 to launch the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (resolution 3057 (XXVIII)). It had been the product of a consensus which the United States had helped to shape on the basis of its own experience in attempting to institutionalize the results of the civil rights revolution which had been sparked by the United States Supreme Court decision of 1954 in the case of *Brown v. the Board of Education*. Consequently, the United States Government understood the difficulties of elevating the moral principle of social and racial equality to the level of national law and then making it applicable to the daily lives of individuals, and it had approached the goals of the Decade with hope and with realism. In that painful and complex task, in which even small steps stirred resistance, the success of United Nations efforts depended on developing and sustaining a strong supporting consensus. In its own country, the United States had succeeded in maintaining that basic consensus and would continue to do so, for without a general belief that the elimination of racism and racial discrimination were central goals of the society, rightly defined and fairly pursued, its efforts would inevitably fail.

2. Over the past 30 years, the United Nations had maintained a similar consensus and the action it had taken in the field of human rights had been inspired by a common commitment to work against certain universally defined wrongs. For its part, the United States had supported every proper effort to combat racism

and racial discrimination at the international level. It absolutely opposed *apartheid* and believed that South Africa must be exposed to relentless demands of the world community until that system was eradicated. It took the same position on racial discrimination wherever it persisted.

3. However, the unwise, unjust and completely unacceptable action by the General Assembly in adopting resolution 3379 (XXX), equating zionism with racism, had demolished the United Nations consensus on questions relating to racial discrimination. Zionism was not racism or racial discrimination. It was a justifiable and understandable manifestation of national feeling on the part of a people whose claim to a homeland had been recognized by the United Nations almost 30 years earlier. The final borders of that homeland had not been agreed upon, and the search for a just and lasting settlement of that dispute had absorbed the attention of the United Nations for a number of years. However, the Organization's early act of recognition was not at issue.

4. The United States would never accept the thesis of General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) any more than it would agree that other legitimate national movements were to be condemned as forms of "racism" or "racial discrimination". That position was not the policy of a particular Administration at a particular moment; it was a view strongly held in the Congress, in the executive branch and throughout the nation as a whole. The United States felt so strongly about the Assembly resolution that it had announced that it could no longer participate in the Decade for Action or support it or attend the proposed World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in Ghana. It would adhere to that position and could resume its participation in the Decade only if the latter were to return to its original basis, which had once been accepted by a broad consensus.

5. His remarks should be seen not as an expression of anger or self-righteousness but as a deeply felt expression of concern for the integrity and vitality of the United Nations system. The world was too filled with political strife to continue to permit the United Nations to be used to inflame racial and religious antagonisms and to waste its time in political vilification when so many nations needed its assistance in coping with poverty and economic instability. Political vilification was not the answer. The answer was stable agreements reached through consensus.

6. Mr. SHARAF (Jordan) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was central to the efforts of States to bring about a more just world order. Through the United Nations, an increasing majority of nations had been fighting for freedom, equality, self-determination and independence and against colonialism and racial domination. They had realized that human rights were not an exclusive cause confined to national societies in a small and privileged geographical area of the world, but were inseparable from the struggle of the developing world for emancipation from the bonds of alien domination and racial supremacy. With the collapse of colonialism in most parts of the world, it was anachronistic to conceive of human rights as separate from the right of all peoples to independence and equality. That was the idea behind the Decade for Action and the United Nations instruments on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

7. Africa was the geographical context in which those new ideas were gaining support. Africa's struggle had revolutionized international values concerning human rights and, as colonialism on that continent had collapsed, the islands of racism and *apartheid* in southern Africa had become the focus of the struggle. The goal was to isolate those islands further and to force them to yield to the irreversible tide of history.

8. The Jordanian Government supported the aims and purposes of the proposed World Conference to be held in Ghana in 1978 and the request of the Ghanaian Government that the United Nations should share in the costs of the Conference (see E/5763). In the meantime, racism and racial discrimination in all their national and international manifestations must be condemned and fought.

9. The General Assembly had acted appropriately in condemning zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination (resolution 3379 (XXX)). It had condemned a retrogressive and harmful political ideology and its politically repressive and violent practices in the Middle East. It had exposed the racist and discriminatory basis of Israel's conduct against the Palestinian Arabs and their neighbours in the area and the bankrupt moral position of Israel's supporters outside the region. A Government which subjugated hundreds of thousands of indigenous inhabitants in their own homeland by military force and denied them their human rights was a legitimate target for condemnation by the international community. There was an inseparable link between the legitimate aspirations and demands of the peoples of Zimbabwe and southern Africa for freedom and dignity in their own homeland and those of the Palestinian people. The United Nations should consistently support all three as part of the same struggle for liberation.

10. The Programme for the Decade annexed to General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) was founded on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Gen-

eral Assembly resolution 217 A (III)) and was therefore directly applicable to the situation within each country. For its part, Jordan had endeavoured to bring its constitutional concepts and social practices into line with the human rights principles endorsed in United Nations instruments within the limitations imposed by history, level of development and external circumstances.

11. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Observer for the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking at the invitation of the President, drew attention to the successes achieved by the oppressed peoples struggling to free themselves from racism, racial discrimination, *apartheid* and colonialism and to win political independence. Those victories, which had increased the membership of the United Nations, had been won in conditions of international détente brought about by the sustained efforts of the Soviet Union, the socialist countries and all the peace-loving forces allied with the peoples fighting for national liberation. They had been nurtured by various United Nations instruments calling for the elimination of racism and *apartheid* and the granting of independence to colonial peoples, which the Byelorussian SSR had strongly supported and which had been reaffirmed as basic policy at the twenty-fifth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. However, the time had come to demand the strict implementation of those instruments through collective action by all Member States on the basis of the Programme for the Decade.

12. It had become all the more urgent to isolate and boycott the racist régimes in southern Africa because certain capitalist countries, in defiance of United Nations resolutions, had stepped up their aid to those régimes. Not only were they supplying modern weapons to crush the national liberation movements but they were intensifying economic and trade relations, through transnational monopolies, with a view to perpetuating the *status quo*. As the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had indicated in its report,<sup>1</sup> the continued financial and economic support of the Salisbury-Pretoria axis by certain NATO countries and, in particular, by large monopolies of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, which enabled the racist régimes in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia to keep their indigenous peoples in conditions of poverty, high infant mortality and high illiteracy, was tantamount to a plot to frustrate the national liberation movements. The complicity of the imperialist countries had been clear in Angola, where the Pretoria régime had unleashed direct aggression against the people. However, the just cause of the Angolan people had triumphed in the face of overwhelming opposition.

13. Despite the attempts of several countries to conceal the fact that zionism was essentially racist, which the General Assembly had recognized in resolution 3379 (XXX), that fact had been borne out by the recent visit of the South African Prime Minister to Israel. The Zionist ideology, recently restated at the World Zionist Congress, was in clear violation of article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX)) and constituted a

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1).

threat to friendly relations among peoples, co-operation between States and international peace and security.

14. His delegation favoured the unconditional implementation by all States without exception of the measures set forth in United Nations documents for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and *apartheid*, including the strict application of sanctions against the racist régimes in southern Africa. In the Byelorussian SSR, the very nature of a socialist democratic society precluded the existence of any form of discrimination. The Byelorussian SSR appreciated the initiative taken by the Government of Ghana and supported the proposed World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It was imperative that the Council, at its current session, should give fresh impetus to the implementation of the goals of the Decade for Action.

15. Mr. JANKOWITSCH (Austria) said that his Government had unequivocally rejected racism and racial discrimination both internally and internationally and believed that the phenomenon should be totally eradicated. Accordingly, it had been outlawed in Austrian legislation and Austria, as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had already submitted two reports on the subject to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. However, discrimination in any form could not be eliminated simply by the enforcement of legislation; it had to be attacked, through education and information, at its source, namely in the minds and hearts of people.

16. The Austrian Government was concerned about violation of human rights wherever it occurred and had therefore aligned itself with past and current efforts of the international community to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, including *apartheid*. It continued to contribute to the various United Nations funds for assistance to the peoples of southern Africa and had whole-heartedly supported the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as an expression of solidarity with the countries of Africa, which had been subjected for so long to the indignities of racism. The Programme for the Decade, which Austria fully approved, could not be implemented without sustained and concerted efforts by the entire world community based on broad support. His Government adhered to the definition of racism and racial discrimination given in article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It supported the proposal for a World Conference and Ghana's request for a sharing of costs by the United Nations.

17. The resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session relating to action to combat racism had found the degree of support necessary in so far as they were clearly addressed to the situation in southern Africa. His delegation hoped that the momentum of United Nations decisions could be maintained and that the Government of South Africa could be induced to bring about a peaceful evolution of political rights and equality for all the peoples in that country. It also trusted that any further decisions taken by the Council could be adopted either by consensus or by a clear majority, bearing in mind the original aims and primary targets of the Decade and with a refusal to be distracted by matters unrelated to the evils of

racial discrimination and *apartheid*, which could only have a divisive effect on the United Nations. If the Council wished to generate support from inside and outside the United Nations for its action to implement the goals of the Decade, it should be careful not to create a wide gap of understanding between its decisions and public opinion in many Member States. His remarks were motivated not by any desire to reopen discussion on questions which had deeply divided the General Assembly at its thirtieth session but by the sincere hope that Member States would unite behind the primary goal of ensuring respect for human rights and that Austria would be able to contribute to successful action by the Council.

18. Miss BALOGUN (Nigeria) said that the Government and people of Nigeria were committed to the total eradication of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Her delegation welcomed the World Conference to be held in conjunction with the Decade. The purpose of the Conference was to examine ways and means of solving the manifold problems associated with racism and racial discrimination, and it was bound to raise the morale of the Africans in their relentless struggle for emancipation and hasten the collapse of the illegal régimes in southern Africa. Those objectives could be achieved only if the Western Powers made genuine efforts to comply with the various United Nations decisions directed against the racist régimes. A number of Western Powers were in fact directly benefiting from the dehumanization and enslavement of the blacks in southern Africa, either through the profits generated by the use of cheap labour or through the lucrative munitions shipments designed to ensure the racist régimes against probable attacks. Her country had, for its part, not only observed the political and economic sanctions against the racist régimes but also given financial and material support to the various liberation movements of the victims of racism and racial discrimination, and it would continue to focus attention on practical ways and means of alleviating their distress. Her delegation welcomed the choice of an African venue for the forthcoming World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and hoped that the Secretary-General would do his utmost to make the required funds available.

19. Her own country was not a multiracial society and therefore did not have any problem of racism or racial discrimination. The comparatively small number of aliens resident in Nigeria had equal rights with Nigerians before the law and were free to engage in private business in all but a very few economic sectors. Nigeria encouraged foreign investments and the activities of foreign businessmen, and its Constitution made adequate and clear-cut provision for the integration of aliens into Nigerian society either through registration at birth or naturalization.

20. The Government and people of Nigeria shared the confidence of all progressive elements in the Council in the imminent collapse of the racist régimes in southern Africa and wished to express their deep appreciation for the moral and material support given to the cause of liberation in that area by the Scandinavian countries, the socialist countries and other friends of Africa and supporters of freedom.

*Mr. Ehsassi (Iran) took the Chair.*



21. Mr. DAMMERT (Peru) said that some victories had been won in the past few years in the fight against racial discrimination, especially in Africa. Those victories meant not only the elimination of racism and racial discrimination but also the collapse of colonialism and other forms of imperialism and of their efforts to divide and segregate the native populations. Unless, however, the international community could join forces to put an end to the *apartheid* policy of the white minority in South Africa, the Decade could hardly be expected to succeed or achieve its goals. That policy was in clear violation of many resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and its various bodies and had to be eliminated as soon as possible so that the native peoples of Namibia and Azania might be able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and enjoy basic human rights and freedoms. At the same time, the independent countries of the area had to be free from foreign aggression and occupation.

22. He welcomed the offer of the Government and people of Ghana to act as host to the World Conference in 1978 and urged the United Nations to assist the Government of Ghana in ensuring the success of the Conference.

23. Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination had reached a new and positive stage with the collapse of Portuguese fascism in Africa and the liberation of its former territories there, which also created favourable conditions for the emancipation of Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. The defeat of the South African racists in Angola marked an historic triumph for the entire African continent and put an end for ever to the myth of white supremacy. Thanks to the solidarity of the countries and the African peoples, colonialism and racism were now on the defensive. The forces of capitalism and imperialism were continuing, however, in their efforts to postpone the inevitable by supporting the forces of *apartheid* and oppression in southern Africa, and it was essential to redouble efforts to defeat their machinations and ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Namibia, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. In that connexion, it was especially important that South Africa be made to restore to the People's Republic of Angola all the property which it had stolen during its criminal aggression and compensate the Angolan people for the damage caused by its troops. The prompt entry of Angola into the United Nations would also be an important token of the anti-colonial commitment of the Organization.

24. The United Nations also had to face up to the grave implications for peace and security of recent South African legislation authorizing that country's forces to intervene militarily in any African country. That legislation was particularly important in the light of the close ties which existed between South Africa, NATO and various Western countries.

25. The international community should also consider appropriate measures against the treacherous action of certain reactionary Latin American countries, such as Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile, which served the enemies of Africa and defied world opinion by strengthening their ties with the South African régime. An equally significant indication of the nature of South Africa's international support was Mr. Vorster's recent visit to Israel, which showed the connexion between zionism and *apartheid* and justified the action of the General Assembly in defining zionism as a form of racism.

26. His country, which represented a multiracial fusion of Latin and African elements and had, through a profound social revolution, overcome the heritage of racism of its own colonial past, rejected all forms of racial discrimination in its socialist Constitution and would continue to support international efforts to ensure full equality for all peoples everywhere.

27. In that connexion, it welcomed the Conference to be held in Ghana in 1978 as an indispensable and important event, and urged the United Nations to provide Ghana with every assistance so as to ensure the Conference's success.

28. Mr. LAMB (Australia) said that his Government regarded racial discrimination and intolerance with abhorrence and was actively associated with United Nations programmes aimed at realizing the goal of self-determination for the remaining colonial entities in the world. It embraced the objectives of the Decade, especially its appeal to counter all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to identify the fallacious and mythical beliefs that contributed to racism.

29. It was essential, however, to be clear about the meaning of terms. Racism could only be a form of discrimination practised by one race of people upon another. The meaning could not be extended to encompass other forms of discrimination, whether real or imagined. Language could not be twisted to suit different situations as they arose. His delegation would continue to play whatever part it could to ensure that the goals of the Decade were realized without being distorted by the recent perceptions of some.

30. His delegation welcomed the forthcoming World Conference and especially the fact that it was to be held in Africa, a continent which was host to the sickness of racism in its most visible form. It hoped, however, that further examination of the costs of the Conference would produce suggestions for a reduction in their scale. His delegation did not wish to prejudge at the current stage the Ghanaian Government's request for defrayal of the costs, but felt that a proposal of that nature, which departed from arrangements that had served the international community for some years, deserved careful study. His delegation would defer a definitive position on that matter until the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, which was the only body competent to discuss a departure from one of its own decisions.

31. Mr. BOATEN (Observer for Ghana), speaking at the invitation of the President, commended the report of the Secretary-General (E/5763) and expressed appreciation of the co-operation and understanding which had prevailed during his Government's consultations with the representatives of the Secretary-General.

32. Ghana, as an African nation, was inspired by its vision of the Africa of the morrow, a continent strong, united and devoid of injustice, oppression and humiliation. His country's occasional strident postures in international forums could be attributed to the conviction that its newly won independence would be meaningful only to the extent that it led to the total decolonization and unity of Africa, including the elimination of the archaic, immoral and totally indefensible theories and practices of *apartheid* and the untenable claims of the superiority of one race over another. Such dangerous theories had disturbed Africa's peace and now, more than ever, posed a threat to international peace and security.

33. He noted that, as a result of an initial reluctance to undertake the admittedly difficult and ambitious Programme for the Decade, the essential national, regional and international support and the necessary resources for the Programme had not yet been generated. Support for the Programme should not be limited to mere condemnation of the cruel and oppressive system of *apartheid*. He rejected the claim made in some quarters that the victims of *apartheid* were better off than other members of their ethnic group living in free independent Africa. Such claims sought to distort the issue and were baseless and irrelevant.

34. The thesis that the fight against racism and racial discrimination was essentially a fight for Africans alone or, at best, for the so-called coloured people of the third world was inadmissible, for the problem affected all mankind. The future of the United Nations and of the world would be determined by the solution of the problem of southern Africa and of racist practices in other parts of the world. Ghana would continue to make sacrifices to help achieve the goal of eliminating *apartheid*.

35. Referring to his Government's offer to act as host to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, he said that arrangements had been made for the construction of a number of additional buildings for the Conference. The cost of those buildings as well as the cost of a number of ancillary services for the Conference would be the sole responsibility of the Government of Ghana. The fragile economy of his country had been seriously affected by the continuing global recession, and, after most serious consideration, his Government had requested that the United Nations absorb at least half of the additional costs involved in holding the Conference in Ghana. While some might caution that such a request would constitute a precedent, he doubted that it was the first of its kind. Moreover, precedents should be followed only if warranted by circumstances. It was important to note that strict adherence to the terms of General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV) would severely limit the number of developing countries capable of acting as host to important United Nations conferences.

36. As the report of the Secretary-General showed, the extent of the additional cost involved was not yet certain and could be determined only after the Council had made a number of decisions relating to the Conference, including its scope and duration. His delegation's preliminary evaluation of the estimates prepared by the Secretariat led it to believe that, with careful scrutiny, the cost estimate of \$645,000 could be further reduced. The Council might appoint a preparatory subcommittee whose terms of reference would include that task. In that connexion, he wondered why the International Conference on Human Rights at Teheran, which had lasted for three weeks (22 April-13 May 1968), had involved an additional cost to the host country of less than \$250,000, and why the host country in that case had not been called upon to pay the cost of travel by United Nations officials in connexion with preparations for the Conference.

37. To help reduce the cost of the Conference, he recommended that the Council should dispense with summary records, thus saving \$185,000. Estimates for conference services were rather high and could be reduced.

38. While Ghana would do its utmost to ensure the success of the Conference, it was imperative that careful preparation should begin almost immediately.

39. He commended the contributions of the specialized agencies, OAU, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations towards achieving the objectives of the Programme for the Decade.

40. He summarized Ghana's hopes for southern Africa, which were that Namibia should be independent and free of South African and racist minority controls, that Rhodesia should be independent and free of minority and racist control and that South Africa should be free from *apartheid* and minority control. All those countries should evolve societies which were multiracial and which guaranteed the same benefits and privileges to every man, woman and child regardless of his origin, race, colour or creed.

41. Mr. PETROV (Bulgaria) expressed support for the goals of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and noted that his Government was a signatory of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, recently adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 3068 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973). It would take an active part in United Nations activities during the Decade.

42. Bulgaria and the other socialist countries would continue to provide moral, material and political assistance to the national liberation movements in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

43. While all forms of racism and racial discrimination were odious, they existed in their most abhorrent form in Africa and southern Africa. He noted the long-standing concern of the United Nations with the problem and expressed the view that the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council had contributed significantly to the moral and political isolation of the racist régimes. His delegation supported all the resolutions adopted at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly on the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

44. *Apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination were an affront to human dignity and a massive and flagrant violation of human rights. They represented a serious obstacle to international co-operation and a threat to world peace and security as well as a serious impediment to economic and social development. All Member States should increase their contribution to the United Nations struggle for the final elimination of racism and racial discrimination. He noted that some Western countries had consistently followed a policy of covert co-operation or connivance with the racist régimes in southern Africa, falsely claiming that they could not control the activities of multinational corporations or that global strategic considerations were involved. It was not surprising that some of those countries sought excuses to shun the Decade for Action and to boycott it entirely. It was obvious that the neo-colonialist policy of imperialism was in a state of deep crisis and was doomed to fail. The lesson of Angola proved that the tide of history could not be reversed.

45. In the light of the victory of the Angolan people and of the people of Mozambique, the recent visit of Mr. Vorster to Israel was a source of increasing con-

cern to all. The strengthening of the unholy alliance of Israel and South Africa represented a serious challenge to the United Nations and confirmed the fact that aggression and racism, oppression and racial discrimination were synonymous.

46. His delegation supported the request of the Government of Ghana that half of the expenditure incurred in holding the Conference away from United Nations Headquarters should be defrayed by the United Nations through voluntary contributions for the Decade.

47. Miss RICHTER (Argentina) said that, in conformity with the United Nations Charter and her country's well-established policy of equality before the law for all, Argentina whole-heartedly supported all United Nations programmes to combat racism and racial discrimination. Her delegation had supported the convening of a World Conference in Ghana; it hoped that the Secretary-General would provide the necessary support and that preparations for the Conference would be carried out efficiently and as economically as possible.

48. Her delegation hoped that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session proposals for concrete measures to ensure the success of the Conference.

49. Mr. MAINA (Kenya) commended the United Nations policy of devoting a year or a decade for the examination of difficult problems besetting the international community. Racism and racial discrimination could be likened to a disease for which there was no immunization and against which constant watchfulness was needed. While many parts of the world were free of the germs of racism and racial discrimination or had successfully eradicated them, a few areas, particularly on the African continent, represented some of the worst instances of that phenomenon. The South African and Southern Rhodesian régimes systematically applied constitutional and legal provisions involving racism and racial discrimination and had resisted repeated appeals by the United Nations to alter their policies. The results of the protracted United Nations efforts were disappointing, to say the least, particularly in the light of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and its extension of the evil system of racism and racial discrimination into that United Nations Territory.

50. While it was difficult, in discussing the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to avoid references to another evil whose roots were fed by racism, efforts must be made to keep the discussions somewhat separate. In southern Africa the consistent position of the African people, who were the victims of racism and racial discrimination, was that all the people living in that part of the world could be accommodated if the oppressive régimes currently wielding political and economic power changed their ways and enabled all the peoples of southern Africa to live peacefully and normally in human dignity. If changes were not made, conflicts would arise that could not be resolved without greater suffering and loss of life. It was therefore a mark of friendship rather than hostility to urge action to achieve change in those evil systems before it was too late.

51. Unfortunately, the gross distortions created by racism in southern Africa and elsewhere led to distortions at the United Nations. Although less violent forms of racism and racial discrimination in other parts of the world merited attention, southern Africa, the most virulent example of that evil, must be given priority.

52. It was inevitable that the United Nations, however reluctantly, should take firm action against States which grossly violated the commitments they had made when joining the Organization.

53. He expressed the hope that by the end of the Decade no State anywhere in the world would officially and publicly sanction racism in its Constitution and laws. Racism was at the root of many other evils, such as colonialism and imperialism, and its elimination would alleviate untold suffering among the peoples of the world.

54. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council set 5.30 p.m. on Monday, 3 May, as the time-limit for the submission of draft resolutions on the item.

55. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that a draft resolution on the item was in the early stages of preparation and urged that the proposed time-limit be extended one day to Tuesday, 4 May, at 5.30 p.m.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*

## 1993rd meeting

Thursday, 29 April 1976, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Siméon AKE (Ivory Coast).

E/SR.1993

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/5759 and Add.1, E/5760 and Add.1, E/5763, E/5799, E/5813)**

1. Mr. MALIKYAR (Afghanistan) said that it was largely as a result of the activities of the United Nations that awareness of the evils of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* had continued to grow and that the international community was now involved in the struggle to eliminate those evils. It was currently recognized, more than ever before, that the realization

and exercise of the universal norms of human rights were both inevitable and necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. The international community should strive to achieve full respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, particularly the right to self-determination, which was an essential prerequisite for the observance of other rights, and to promote the complete elimination of foreign domination and colonialism in all its forms. With regard to southern Africa, the progress achieved in the former Portuguese Territories contrasted with the appalling situation which still prevailed in certain territories, including Namibia