

37. Mr. BAL (Mauritania) thanked the representative of the United Kingdom for that useful information, of which his delegation had duly taken note. He pointed out, however, that his statement was based on the report of CERD, which had regretted the attempt of the illegal régime to change the demographic composition of Southern Rhodesia by massive white immigration.

38. Mr. HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to the statement made by the representative of Israel, said that it was ridiculous for the delegation of an enemy which had been condemned for many violations of human rights to accuse the Syrian Arab Republic of such practices, and challenged that delegation to cite a single United Nations resolution supporting its claim.

*Various questions dealing with the  
International Women's Year*

39. The CHAIRMAN said that the submission of the second part of the Committee's report on agenda item 12,<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document A/9829/Add.1.

which was principally concerned with its discussions on the International Women's Year, to the General Assembly had been delayed because the various regional groups had not yet made known the names of the States which would make up the Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year, the creation of which had been provided for in the draft resolution that the Committee had adopted on the topic at its 2080th meeting (A/C.3/L.2118/Rev.2).<sup>6</sup> The only group that had submitted a list of names was that of Latin America.

40. Mr. SAYAR (Iran) announced that his country had decided to contribute \$US30,000 to the fund for voluntary contributions for the International Women's Year established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI). Part of that sum would be devoted to meeting the costs of the meeting of the Consultative Committee which would advise the Secretary-General on the preparation of an international plan of action to be finalized by the Conference when it met in 1975.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 37, draft resolution III.

## 2105th meeting

Monday, 2 December 1974, at 3.20 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2105

### AGENDA ITEM 53

**Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9618, A/9666 and Add.1-6, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475, A/C.3/L.2141 and Corr.1):

**(b) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (*continued*)**

1. Mr. JOB (Yugoslavia) said that his delegation, after studying the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/9618) and hearing the statement at the previous meeting by the Director of the Division of Human Rights, who had introduced the item under discussion, was more than ever convinced that the decision to consider the matter separately was completely justified.

2. Yugoslavia had always attached the greatest importance to the question of racial discrimination and to the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, nationality or other distinctive characteristic. It had therefore ratified the International Covenants on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) at an early date. In accordance with the provisions of article 9 of that Convention, his Government had regularly sent in the reports which, as a State party, it was required to submit to the Secretary-General. The Seminar on the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of National Ethnic and Other Minorities had been held from

25 June to 8 July 1974 at Ohrid, Macedonia, under the auspices of the United Nations, and a report on it<sup>1</sup> was now available to members of the Committee. Yugoslavia, as a multinational State, paid great attention to those questions in its internal and foreign policy. His Government believed that any discrimination, as formulated in article 1, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, seriously compromised friendly relations between States and constituted a serious threat to peace. For that reason, it was important that States should abide by the obligations they had contracted under existing instruments on the subject or under bilateral, regional or multilateral treaties. In particular, *apartheid*, which constituted a scandalous and criminal form of racial discrimination, could not be tolerated. The members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be commended for the determination with which they had sought to contribute to the realization of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In that connexion, his delegation was sure that the decolonization process in Africa, which had been given additional impetus by the changes in Portugal, would continue ineluctably, bringing freedom to peoples still under colonial domination and doing away with the final vestiges of racism and discrimination.

3. The work and the report of the Committee were praiseworthy in every way. It was very encouraging that

<sup>1</sup> ST/TAO/HR/49.

more than 80 States had ratified the Convention, and it was to be hoped that others would soon follow suit. However, discrimination would not automatically be eliminated simply because the Convention had been widely ratified. That result could be achieved only by supplementing effective legal measures with, among others, political, social and cultural measures.

4. The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reflected its careful consideration of the reports submitted by the States parties in accordance with article 9 of the Convention. In conformity with that Committee's general recommendation IV,<sup>2</sup> his Government had provided data on the demographical composition of its population. He trusted that other Governments would also provide the supplementary information that had been requested.

5. With reference to minorities, he wished to comment on the part of the Committee's report in which it expressed concern over the apparent failure of Austria to implement the provisions of articles 4 (a), 4 (b), 5 (e) (vi), 5 (f) and 7 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, with the result that those who read the report might not have a clear picture of the position of the Slovenian and Croatian minorities in Austria. The fact that the representative of Austria had told the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that "there were no distinct national or ethnic groups in Austria although there were religious and linguistic minorities" (A/9618, para. 135) caused concern to his delegation which could not content itself with that statement or accept the further statement that minorities were "completely free to develop their culture and use their languages and had every opportunity to do so" (*ibid.*, para. 137). That statement was in contradiction with paragraph 134, according to which some members of the Committee "noted with concern that the report stated that there was no provision in Austrian law for a right to equal participation in cultural activities (as provided for in article 5, paragraph (e) (vi), of the Convention)". Furthermore, the Law on Minority Schools in Carinthia of 19 March 1959 had abolished compulsory bilingual education, and the minority language was no longer taught except at the express request of the parents, which had to be made each year. With reference to the official use of the Croatian and Slovenian languages, the report stated, again in paragraph 135, that "certain disparities were noted between the provisions of some of the international treaties by which Austria was bound and those of its own laws, with respect to minorities", and that "the explanation given in the report ... appeared to indicate that certain obligations under an international treaty had been abridged or limited by a federal law". It was well known that many representatives of the Slovenian and Croatian minorities frequently expressed their dissatisfaction with Austria's failure to implement fully the provisions of the State Treaty concerning minorities. He stressed that his Government had, since 1955, repeatedly drawn the attention of the Austrian Government to the fact that minorities were exposed to permanent pressure and various threats in violation of the State Treaty and that contrary to the statement made by

the representative of Austria, also mentioned in paragraph 137 of the report, the position of both minorities had been constantly deteriorating. There were currently in Austria organizations with neo-nazi and racist policies, such as the Karntner Heimat Dienst organization; the existence of such organizations was expressly forbidden under the terms of article 7, paragraph 5 of the State Treaty and of article 4 (b) of the Convention. It was disturbing to note that although a special census of minorities was planned in Austria for 1981, the measures required for improving the position of minorities were being postponed pending the results of such a census. Experience had shown that such censuses could be used as instruments of pressure and intimidation against minorities. Furthermore, observance of the rights of minorities must in no case depend on their numbers. The common purpose of all members of the Committee must be to ensure that declarations concerning respect for human rights should be accompanied by the strict application of international obligations in that respect.

6. With reference to the third periodic report by Bulgaria, it was stated in paragraph 240 of the Committee's report that it

"noted with regret that information on the ethnic composition of the population, as envisaged in general recommendation IV, had not been provided. It was observed that large national minorities such as Turks and Macedonians lived in Bulgaria and that it would be important to have information on their situation with respect to the provisions of the Convention".

He pointed out in that connexion that following a population census held in Bulgaria in 1956, the official figure for the number of Macedonians had been 178,862 but that the existence of a distinct Macedonian national minority in Bulgaria had not been recognized. It was to be hoped that the Government of Bulgaria would provide satisfactory information on that subject in reply to the request of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

7. In the matter of minorities, his delegation had been motivated only by a desire to protect their rights as provided for in international treaties and agreements. Yugoslavia had always believed that the settlement of the problem of minorities on the basis of respect for their rights could not but help to build bridges of understanding, co-operation and friendship between countries, thus promoting rapprochement between nations and the advent of an era of international peace.

8. Mrs. GRINEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) welcomed the work carried out by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, since action to combat racism in all its forms was an important aspect of the activities of the United Nations. At its ninth and tenth sessions, the Committee had considered a series of documents containing information on the situation in the Territories which were still under the colonial yoke and in which racism and discrimination were rampant. In particular, it had considered a working paper relating to Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. It was deplorable that in those countries the indigenous population was still being violently

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18*, chap. X, sect. B, decision 1 (VIII).

repressed, subjected to brutality and torture and denied freedom of movement. The Committee had stated that it was in favour of the application of stricter sanctions against régimes which practised such a policy. It had once again appealed to all members of the international community to implement fully the measures provided for in the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council with a view to the elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The Byelorussian SSR supported those measures and welcomed the decision of the Credentials Committee to reject the credentials of South Africa.<sup>3</sup> The colonial peoples that had, after long struggle, regained their freedom in Africa were raising the question of the total elimination of colonialism on that continent. It must be recognized that racism and colonialism would have been eliminated long ago if the countries which were the first in loudly condemning them practised what they preached. Her delegation supported all the decisions taken by the Committee with regard to action to combat racism and racial discrimination, including in particular the decisions relating to the Golan Heights because the Syrian Arab Republic, a State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, was not able to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.

9. Her delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.2141 and joined with the delegations which had appealed to the States not parties to the Convention to accede to it and ratify it. The Byelorussian SSR was a party to that Convention and, as such, fully respected the commitments it had undertaken. Racial discrimination had always been considered inadmissible—and that was an absolute principle—in the Byelorussian SSR, where, as in the Soviet Union as a whole, the principle of equality was applicable to all citizens, irrespective of their nationality, race or any other distinctive characteristic. The encouragement of racial discrimination was punishable by law under articles 97 and 71 of the Byelorussian Penal Code. The creation of privileges for the benefit of a specific category of citizens was punishable by imprisonment from six months to three years or by exile for three years. She was, however, happy to state that she had no cases of the application of article 71 of the Penal Code to report because the question of racial discrimination did not arise in her country. The Byelorussian SSR would always support the peoples who were waging a just struggle against oppression, racism and racial discrimination. She hoped that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would continue, as it had always done, to struggle resolutely against that scourge.

10. Mr. KANKA (Czechoslovakia) said that his country had taken an active part in the international community's efforts to eliminate racism and had always endeavoured to provide effective assistance to peoples struggling against the oppression of racist régimes. Despite the efforts made by the United Nations, racism and racial discrimination continued to exist in various forms. Every day, the world learned of shocking abuses committed in South Africa, where a shameful régime was using murder and the suppression of the national liberation movements to preserve its political power and economic domination based on the plundering of natural resources and the exploitation of

peoples. By adopting the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the peoples of the world had gained important instruments for their struggle against racism and racial discrimination. At its twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 3057 (XXVIII), had adopted the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which provided for the implementation of a number of measures in the political, economic, social and cultural fields and in the field of education and training and the adoption of other documents aimed at the elimination of racial discrimination. The promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms were among the primary objectives of the Charter; for that reason, the United Nations must make renewed efforts to give effect to those principles. Such results could be achieved only by the adoption of further concrete measures for the elimination of racial discrimination, particularly when it took the form of *apartheid*. It was the moral and political duty of every State to implement the measures adopted for that purpose and to ensure that in its territory the law provided all citizens with guarantees against any possible manifestation of racism and racial discrimination.

11. The legal system of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic contained specific provisions guaranteeing respect for the principle of equality, without distinction as to race or colour, nationality or ethnic origin, in accordance with article 20 of its Constitution. In that connexion, the legal guarantees went even beyond the requirements of international agreements relating to human rights.

12. The efforts now being made by the peoples of the world to maintain international peace and security in the current atmosphere of détente gave reason to hope for further social progress and to hope that racism and racial discrimination, which impeded such progress, would be finally eliminated through the combined efforts of the international community.

*Miss Dubra (Uruguay), Vice-chairman, took the Chair.*

13. Mrs. PALTÍ (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the persecution of Jews in Syria had been reported in detail in various newspapers and periodicals by independent observers. She would therefore confine herself to quoting the words of the Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man.

14. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), speaking on a point of order, said he wished to be sure that the statement of the representative of Israel would deal with the item under discussion, namely the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The representative of Israel was referring to a statement made by the Syrian Arab Republic as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: the question was whether she wished to submit information, in place of the Syrian Government, or to criticize what the representative of that Government had said.

15. Mrs. PALTÍ (Israel) noted that the Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man had said, at the

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document A/9779, paras. 14 and 15.

International Conference for the Deliverance of Jews in the Middle East, held in Paris on 3 July 1974 under the presidency of the President of the French Senate, that "what is involved is a violation of international covenants and agreements, covenants which Syria has ratified and which it now blatantly violates". The treaties referred to were the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The resolution adopted by the Conference had noted with satisfaction that other Arab countries had considerably liberalized their policy concerning Jewish citizens, and called on the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to take immediate steps to ensure that all Jews who wished to leave the country should be allowed to do so without hindrance; that all Jews who wished to continue to reside in the Syrian Arab Republic should be allowed to live in full enjoyment of their civic and civil rights, and in particular that restrictions of movement and all interference with their religious, economic and cultural rights should be immediately terminated; and that all Jews imprisoned as a result of discriminatory measures should be released. Finally, the Conference had reaffirmed its belief that the granting to all citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish alike, of all the rights and freedoms laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights would prove the best means of bringing about lasting peace and brotherhood among the peoples of the Middle East.

16. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) noted that Israel had once again insisted on making a statement irrelevant to the issue and sought to impose its will on others.

17. Mr. NEYTCHEV (Bulgaria), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the *Demographic Yearbook* contained data based on the 1965 census concerning the ethnic composition of the population of Bulgaria. The results of the next census, which would take place in 1975, would be communicated in due time to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

18. Mr. JOB (Yugoslavia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed the hope that Bulgaria would transmit data on the ethnic composition of its population, and in particular on the Macedonian minority, as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had requested.

#### AGENDA ITEM 56

##### **Human rights and scientific and technological developments: report of the Secretary-General (A/9645, A/C.3/L.2143, 2144)**

19. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director, Division of Human Rights), introducing the item the Committee was about to consider, summed up the situation. The International Conference of Human Rights, held at Teheran in 1968, had been responsible for raising in specific terms the question of human rights and scientific and technological developments. That initiative had been the result of two considerations: scientific developments opened vast possibilities for economic, social and cultural progress, and consequently for decisive advances in the field of human rights, but they also involved certain dangers for the rights of individuals or

groups, and hence their use raised complex ethical and legal problems. The Conference had therefore felt that such problems required interdisciplinary studies which would make it possible to draw up appropriate standards. In the same year, at the end of its twenty-third session, the General Assembly had drawn conclusions from the work of the Teheran Conference and, in its resolution 2450 (XXIII), had invited the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the problems in connexion with human rights arising from developments in science and technology, in particular from three specific standpoints: respect for privacy of individuals and the integrity and sovereignty of nations in the light of advances in recording and other techniques; protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity, in the light of advances in biology, medicine and biochemistry; and uses of electronics which might affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on such uses in a democratic society. The General Assembly also decided that, in general, it was necessary to establish an appropriate balance between scientific and technological progress and the intellectual, spiritual, cultural and moral advancement of humanity. Resolution 2450 (XXIII), which had been the starting point for the work envisaged, had been followed by other resolutions adopted on the Third Committee's recommendation or on the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights. Those resolutions contained recommendations to Governments concerning desirable approaches and policies in that field and guidelines with regard to the aspects of the question on which it seemed that attention should be focused. That was the purpose of resolution 10 (XXVII) of 18 March 1971 of the Commission on Human Rights,<sup>4</sup> which had been confirmed and expanded upon by General Assembly resolution 3026 B (XXVII) of 18 December 1972. The note by the Secretary-General issued in document A/9645 gave information on the progress of the work which had been undertaken in accordance with those resolutions and which had related mainly to economic, social and cultural rights and to the specific aspects referred to in General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII).

20. The Commission on Human Rights considered the question of human rights and scientific and technological developments at its thirteenth session.<sup>5</sup> So far, in respect of the impact of scientific and technological progress on economic, social and cultural rights, three preliminary reports had been submitted to the Commission on the right to work, the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to rest and leisure and the right to social security. Final reports would be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in 1976. A report had been submitted by UNESCO on the right to education and to culture at the Commission's thirtieth session; WHO would present a report on the right to health at the Commission's thirty-first session, in February 1975. With regard to the specific subjects mentioned in General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII), the report on respect for the privacy of individuals and the integrity and sovereignty of nations in the light of advances in recording and other techniques had already been circulated. A second report, on uses of electronics, had been partly published and would be

<sup>4</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 4*, chap. XIX.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5*, chap. II.



completed by the thirty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. It was expected that a third report, on the protection of the human personality and its physical and intellectual integrity in the light of advances in biology, medicine and biochemistry would be submitted at the same time. The more general report on the balance which should be established between scientific and technological progress and the advancement of humanity should be ready in 1976. That report involved very complex evaluations covering multiple factors, and it would probably be necessary to call on leading figures in the scientific world and specialists in the humanities and to form a small group of qualified experts. All the reports which had been submitted so far were based on essential technical advice which had been gathered either from a liaison group appointed by the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, the competent specialized agencies, or expert consultants, as the case might be.

21. Moreover, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3150 (XXVIII), the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, a report on the problem of the protection of broad sectors of the population against social and material inequalities, as well as other harmful effects which might arise from the use of scientific and technological developments. Finally, in accordance with the request which had been made to him by the Commission on Human Rights at its thirtieth session in resolution 2 (XXX),<sup>6</sup> the Secretary-General would submit to the thirty-first session of the Commission a document analysing the observations which Governments had been invited to make about the studies which had been prepared, and also the views and observations sought from Governments and specialized agencies on the use to which science and technology could be put for the various purposes specified in the resolution.

22. In its resolution, the Commission had stated its intention of considering, in the light of that analysis, the guidelines which could be adopted in order to define international standards. It had also decided to continue the consideration of the item at future sessions.

23. Mr. COMMENAY (France) observed that people were currently questioning concepts which had previously been considered sacrosanct and doubted the benefits of science and progress, in which nevertheless there was blind faith.

24. The first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143, submitted by Australia, Ecuador, France, Iran, Japan, the Philippines and Tunisia, recalled the important role that had been played by the Proclamation of Teheran of 13 May 1968,<sup>7</sup> adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights, in awakening world opinion to the positive and negative aspects of scientific and technological progress. Paragraph 18 of the Proclamation had moreover been reproduced almost word for word by the General Assembly in the second preambular paragraph of its resolution 2450 (XXIII), which had advocated thorough and continuous interdisciplinary studies, both national and international, which might serve as a basis for

drawing up appropriate standards to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in various spheres. All the other resolutions quoted in the second and fourth preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution, including General Assembly resolutions 2721 (XXV) and 3150 (XXVIII), had urged the elaboration of norms in order to establish a balance between scientific and technological progress, the intellectual and moral advancement of mankind and the improvement of the general living conditions of individuals, groups and peoples. General Assembly resolution 3150 (XXVIII) had stressed the urgent need to make full use of the scientific and technological developments for the welfare of man and to neutralize its present and possible future harmful consequences; and General Assembly resolution 3148 (XXVIII) had viewed the problem from the point of view of the preservation and further development of cultural values.

25. While in keeping with the general aim of those resolutions, draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 went beyond them by extending the basic concept of balance to new areas. The sponsors had considered that it was essential to take into account, in the context of the question under discussion, one of the major problems of contemporary times, that of development, bearing in mind that the threat posed by scientific and technological progress was largely proportionate to the degree of development. That approach to the problem could, however, prove dangerous to the extent that it might serve to justify the state of under-development in a pseudo-scientific manner. Some people might be tempted to say that, since the under-developed countries and regions had the good fortune to be unaware of the disadvantages of progress such as, for example, pollution and uncontrolled urbanization, they should be protected from progress. That one-sided approach to the problem was erroneous because the enlightened citizens of the developing countries, as they had proclaimed on many occasions, wanted in turn to attain scientific and technological progress and to use it to improve their living conditions. It was to be hoped that the battle against under-development would be won precisely through the sharing of the benefits of progress and that an increasing number of countries and individuals would in turn be threatened, as it were, by the development of science and technology.

26. As the preamble to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 noted, the introduction of modern technology into the developing countries could pose specific problems of adaptation which the institutions in the United Nations had begun to analyse. It had been pointed out at the eighteenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Paris from 17 October to 23 November 1974, that in some countries science and technology all too often remained the privilege of minority groups. Often too, the forms of science and technology introduced into those countries reflected foreign cultural values and therefore disrupted traditional structures and national characteristics. In the end, a division of labour which could increase the dangers of scientific and technological progress in the least protected countries was liable to be introduced. It was to be feared, for example, that some countries, because of the opposition of their own population, might set up highly polluting industries in the developing countries which, in their desire to improve their industrial plant, would be less

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XIX.

<sup>7</sup> *Final Act of the International Conference on Human Rights* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XIV.2), p. 13.

careful about measures to protect the population. Those dangers could be avoided through the efforts specified in the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

27. He hoped that he had explained sufficiently clearly how the two concepts of balance and of universality which were applied to scientific and technological progress should be understood. All the efforts made in that sphere by various delegations, including his delegation, had a constructive approach in that they aimed at social progress and justice and, in a general way, at the protection of human rights.

28. Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution indicated what measures should be taken. At the request of several delegations, the sponsors had decided to replace the word "modify" in paragraph 2 by the words "adapt, if necessary", and to reword the end of that sentence to read: "and invites Governments which already have experience in that field, to transmit to the Secretary-General the information available to them". The sponsors had also thought it appropriate to specify that the fundamental rights to be safeguarded belonged not only to individuals or persons, but also to groups or organizations, in other words, to legal entities, which could also be the victims of the misuse of technical and scientific progress. The collecting of qualified opinions proposed in operative paragraph 3 was necessary, in view of the diversity, complexity and technical nature of the subjects to be studied, to ensure sound and careful progress; at the same time, the competent bodies of the United Nations, and particularly the Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development should be consulted. Those provisions were, moreover, repetition taken from General Assembly resolution 2450 (XXIII). The request to the specialized agencies in paragraph 4 was also not unprecedented. In particular, UNESCO had devoted part of its discussions, at the eighteenth session of its General Conference, to a programme of studies concerning the human aspect of scientific progress, including the improper exploitation of science. The preparation by the Commission on Human Rights of a programme of work to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session in 1976, mentioned in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, might provide a valuable stimulus and encouragement for States which still lacked experience in that area, and might help them to set up the structures necessary to explore that new field, drawing on the work of the United Nations and on the experience of other countries, as necessary.

29. In defence of the proposal contained in operative paragraph 6 of the draft, he recalled that there was a strong causal relationship between the different aspects of a single phenomenon. The sponsors of the draft had decided that it was necessary to draw the attention of the competent organs to the question of the protection of human rights, during a future United Nations conference on science and technology which might be convened in 1978 or 1979, and for which preparations would be made in 1975 by an intergovernmental working group of the Committee on Science and Technology for Development in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1897 (LVII). The decisions which the competent organs might take would necessarily have repercussions, even indirectly, on human rights.

30. He again drew attention to the ninth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 which, in his opinion, indicated the real scope of the subject; it was vital to act without delay. The universality of the real or potential danger created by the misuse of scientific and technological progress was equalled by the universality of the guarantee and application of human rights. As the most recent UNESCO General Conference had stressed, it was at the international level that the problems relating to the human aspects of scientific progress should be studied, observed and brought to public attention. It was a task which would require much time, and which should therefore be undertaken without delay.

31. The CHAIRMAN announced that Guatemala had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143.

32. Mr. PARTHASARATHY (India) recalled that the suggestion for a study of the subject under consideration had been put forward initially by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Acting on that suggestion, the International Conference on Human Rights, held in Teheran in 1968, had adopted its resolution XI<sup>8</sup> which referred to the benefits as well as the dangers of scientific progress to human rights. The misuse of certain scientific discoveries and of their application constituted a threat to human rights and raised complex ethical and legal problems. The Conference had recommended that the United Nations and its related organizations should undertake thorough and continuous interdisciplinary studies at both the national and the international level.

33. As a developing country, India believed that scientific and technological progress opened up new vistas for the prosperity and happiness of its people and immense possibilities of improving the general standard of living. The application of new scientific technology would make it possible for developing countries to put into effect rapidly the noble principles expressed in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

34. Science and technology were in themselves neutral, and such dangers as they represented for mankind depended solely on the use to which they were put. His delegation was quite aware of the need to ward off those dangers. However, the inherent positive contributions of scientific and technological progress to improving the lot of mankind throughout the world should not be overlooked.

35. There was urgent need for scientific studies on environmental pollution by chemicals, smoke, dust, toxic materials and other industrial wastes, and for measures to control problems arising from unchecked industrial growth. The production, sale and distribution of narcotic drugs and other harmful chemicals should be controlled more firmly, and the political aspects of the expansion of powerful industries, and their effect on human rights, should also be studied.

36. In India, as in many other countries, the positive results of recent breakthroughs in science had been seen. The green revolution had come to fruition in a number of countries and production had increased. Breakthroughs in

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 13.

science and technology would make it possible to overcome malnutrition and endemic famine in the long run. Ignorance was the main problem. The possibility of harnessing new scientific developments in that field were enormous. Developing countries faced a twin problem: the quantitative problem of providing basic education not only for many children but also for over 800 million adults, and the need to provide higher education and technical education at all levels; and also the qualitative problem of replacing the traditional aims of education with objectives attuned to current manpower needs and national development aims. In that context, technology had a most significant role to play. Those objectives might be achieved at the village level, by the use of community educational centres where people could educate themselves with the help of radio and television broadcasts, at a fraction of the cost and time of conventional classroom education.

37. In 1975, his country would start an experimental programme of satellite instructional television. The project envisaged broadcasting educational television programmes by satellite to 5,000 points in India which would each be provided with a receiving set. The programmes would also be oriented towards developing practical knowledge by conveying information on a number of subjects of interest to the rural population of India. They would help to strengthen the integration of the country. Without the invention of satellite broadcasting, the programmes could not reach every corner of the country where communications were often not very good.

38. There was no doubt that science and technology were capable of being misused. The developing countries, however, feared that in the process of attempting to avoid those dangers, the positive benefits of scientific and technological developments might inadvertently be stifled. The objective should be to strike the right balance by maximizing the potential benefits while minimizing the potential dangers of scientific and technological developments.

*Mrs. Marico (Mali) resumed the Chair.*

39. Dr. MALAFATOPOULOS (World Health Organization) said that the active role played by the World Health Organization and its co-operation with the United Nations on the question of human rights and scientific and technological progress were governed by a resolution adopted by the twenty-third World Health Assembly in May 1970<sup>9</sup> reaffirming that the health aspects of human rights in the light of scientific and technological progress were within the competence of WHO. The World Health Organization had also submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session a preliminary memorandum on that question<sup>10</sup> and it had just completed a study dealing with developments in biology and medicine and their impact on human rights, in particular the right to health. That study, which covered various questions, would be considered by the WHO Executive Board in January 1975 before being transmitted to the Secretary-General for presentation to the Commission on Human Rights and other interested United Nations bodies. In addition to that report, the WHO Director-General was currently con-

sidering, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3150 (XXVIII), the preparation of a study on health aspects of human rights and advances in biology and medicine. In the study an attempt would be made to reflect the degree to which scientific and technological advances had furthered the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, the objective embodied in article 1 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization.

40. In November 1973 WHO had organized at Geneva, together with UNESCO and the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, a symposium on the social and ethical implications of progress in biology and medicine whose conclusions had recently been published by WHO. It had contributed a major study entitled "A survey of international and national codes and legislation in selected areas". It had also participated in the United Nations Symposium on Population and Human Rights held at Amsterdam from 21 to 25 January 1974 and had presented a working paper on health and human rights.

41. He assured the Committee that WHO would continue to co-operate with it in considering health aspects of human rights and scientific and technological developments.

42. Mr. JOHANSSON (Sweden) stressed how essential it was to protect the individual from the risk of improper use of certain scientific and technological innovations. The experience of his country in that new field might, he felt, be useful to other delegations.

43. His Government considered that the report of the Secretary-General on respect for the privacy of the individual and the integrity and sovereignty of nations in the light of advances in recording and other techniques,<sup>11</sup> which had been before the thirtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, analysed in depth the problems involved and provided an excellent basis for formulating international standards to protect personal integrity. In Sweden preparation of legislation to protect the individual against secret and improper listening was well under way, and the Government was studying proposals for a new law prohibiting secret and improper photographing.

44. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on uses of electronics which might affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on such uses in a democratic society,<sup>12</sup> he stressed that automatic data processing, which had been in use for only 20 years, could pose a serious threat to personal integrity. The individual was not in a position to use or control automatic data processing methods, and it was therefore important that access to such methods should not be reserved for the few but should be shared by society as a whole. In order to safeguard personal integrity, Sweden had adopted a Data Act, which had entered into force on 1 July 1974, and had established a Data Inspection Board to supervise the use of computer techniques for personal registration. That was the first national law covering the use of data processing techniques on information regarding individuals, within both the public and the private sector. However, many

<sup>9</sup> Resolution WHA23.41.

<sup>10</sup> A/8055/Add.1.

<sup>11</sup> E/CN.4/1116 and Corr.1 and Add.1-3 and Add.3/Corr.1 and Add.4.

<sup>12</sup> E/CN.4/1142 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

terms still had to be defined, including the concept of "personal integrity". It was because of the unforeseeable possibilities of such a technique that Sweden had decided to adopt the Data Act in spite of considerable limitations left to the discretion of the Data Inspection Board.

45. Such problems were not exclusively national problems. A European network of data communication was being planned, and already large quantities of information were transmitted by telephone or by satellite from one country to another or between different parts of the world. International agreements were therefore necessary. In that connexion, the study being undertaken by the Data Inspection Board on officials responsible for registers in Sweden and on the extent to which such officials used computers abroad and on foreign agencies, private as well as official, which had access to data processed in Sweden would make it possible before long to take account of certain experiences concerning the flow of information from one country to another. The United Nations should continue to consider the question in order to ensure that electronic data processing techniques would be used exclusively for the benefit of mankind.

46. His delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 and the revisions to it. It had not had time to consider fully draft resolution A/C.3/L.2144, but it was already aware that it would have difficulty in supporting certain paragraphs.

47. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that her delegation, which was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143, felt that the Committee had a responsibility to protect human rights in the context of scientific and technological progress. The Philippines was greatly concerned with protecting the privacy of communications and correspondence, which was, moreover, guaranteed under article IV of the Constitution.

48. Like other developing countries, the Philippines wanted scientific and technological advances to be applied to development. "Third world science" had a part to play in that connexion and her delegation was glad that the representative of India had referred to scientific activities in his country. The special needs of developing countries regarding science and technology and the transfer of technology were mentioned in the sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs and in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143. In addition, the Second Committee was currently considering a draft Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,<sup>13</sup> article 13 of which very clearly stressed the importance of science and technology for development.

49. The Third Committee, however, was mainly concerned with people and the risks for human rights of the use of science and technology. As the representative of France had said, science and technology were good not in themselves but only in the way in which they were used. The developing countries should be aware of the dangers involved so that they could avoid the mistakes made by the developed countries and the risk of alienation through

mechanization and could ensure that science and technology were used to improve the quality of life.

50. Her delegation had taken note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the uses of electronics which may affect the rights of the person and the limits which should be placed on such uses in a democratic society, chapter III of which described the threats and problems from the point of view of human rights created by computerized personal data systems: inaccuracy and obsolescence of data, access to and sharing and centralization of personal data, accumulation of personal data, the importance of computer personnel and so forth. As the representative of WHO had stressed, advances in chemistry, biology and medicine also presented some risks. Her delegation noted that the report of the Secretary-General was based almost exclusively on observations by developed countries, and it suggested that the study of the question of human rights and progress in science and technology should not be limited to electronics but should be expanded to cover the scientific world as a whole and to take account of the experience of developing countries and "third world science". It recognized the need for international standards for the protection of human rights in the field of science and technology.

51. Mr. CABANAS (Spain) said that the problem of human rights and scientific and technological progress should not be considered from too general a viewpoint as that could lead to undertaking all kinds of studies, which would not have the desired practical effects. The problem involved both the rights of the person and the integrity of States. With regard to the individual, consideration should be given separately to the effects of technological progress in its various forms, any improper uses should be condemned and a programme should be developed based on the consideration of certain groups of problems relating to human rights. In that context, draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 was very constructive and merited support, for it encouraged States to promote technological progress while at the same time protecting human rights and it committed the international community to adopt a programme and international standards.

52. Mr. VELA (Guatemala) said that science and technology were basically of a practical nature, since their usefulness to man consisted in their applications, which must be in the service of man. However, so much attention had been devoted to building a scientific civilization that man had been to some extent overlooked. Technology had developed enormously, but ethics had not progressed at the same pace. When man became the slave of scientific and technological progress, he no longer understood the meaning of his existence and he lost the sense of his own destiny. Accordingly, the fourth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143 reaffirmed the need to ensure a balance between scientific and technological developments, the intellectual, spiritual and moral advancement of humanity and the improvement of the living conditions of individuals, groups and peoples. The sixth preambular paragraph placed emphasis on development. Guatemala considered that science and technology must be an instrument of development for the developing countries, which should draw up a programme adapted to their level of development and their personality.

<sup>13</sup> Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as its resolution 3281 (XXIX).



53. However, there should above all be a balance between man and his environment. Scientific and technological progress threatened to exhaust natural resources, with terrible consequences for mankind. Attention should also be given to the possible consequences of the development of certain techniques: all information media, in particular radio and television, could give rise to abuses and impose false cultural values. Man himself was baffled by the civilization which he had created, and it would be necessary for him to rely on ethical principles to defend himself against the abuses of technology.

54. His delegation felt that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2143, of which it was a sponsor, was balanced and constructive. If it was adopted, the General Assembly would, at its following session, be in a position to take decisions and adopt practical norms.

*Composition of the Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year*

55. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) pointed out that the General Assembly still had not received the second part of the report of the Third Committee on agenda item 12.<sup>14</sup> It had therefore been unable to take a decision on draft resolution III in that report, relating to the Consultative Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year, the adoption of which had been recommended by the Committee. Her delegation wished to know the results of the consultations undertaken by the Chairman in accordance with paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that her consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups had thus far produced results only in respect of the group of African States and of the group of Latin American States, the latter of which had, however, submitted the names of only two countries for the three seats allotted to it on the Consultative Committee. She had received nothing from the other regional groups. If no results were achieved within the next two days, she would have to explain to the Assembly why she would be unable to appoint the 18 States members of the Consultative Committee.

57. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) asked, in connexion with the consultations concerning the composition of the Consulta-

tive Committee for the Conference of the International Women's Year to which the Chairman had just made reference, whether a reply had been given to the group of Western European and Other States which wished to be allotted additional seats.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that that question should not become the subject of a general debate in the Third Committee. Nevertheless, she pointed out that, although it was not her responsibility to take any decision concerning the composition of the Consultative Committee, the number of members of which had already been fixed at 18 in draft resolution III recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, she would continue her consultations with a view to settling the matter, which she would discuss directly with the Chairman of the group of Western European and Other States. Only when the consultations had been completed could the possibility of submitting an amendment to the draft resolution in question be envisaged. However, the allotment of one or more additional seats to a given group of countries was bound to raise problems with other groups of countries.

59. Miss DUBRA (Uruguay) said that the number of seats on the Consultative Committee was determined according to the established principle of equitable geographical distribution. If a group of countries wanted to be allotted one or more additional seats, other groups of countries would certainly demand larger representation.

60. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) reminded the representative of Italy that the composition of any committee must meet the principle of equitable geographical distribution prevailing in the United Nations. If the Group of Western European and Other States succeeded in obtaining one or more additional seats, other groups of countries would be entitled to demand equal treatment. She therefore found it quite pointless to engage in a debate on the matter. Consequently, she felt that the utmost caution should be exercised in the consultations on the question, and suggested that the Chairman should, in that connexion, take into account the many cases of the establishment of consultative committees or other expert groups in the various organs and commissions within the United Nations system.

<sup>14</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 12, document A/9829/Add.1.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*