

be seen in the Committee itself. The geographical position of Spain, its culture, concept of man and philosophy of existence made it a cross-roads of humanity where race had no meaning. That was also characteristic of Spain's influence in Latin America, to which reference had already been made at the current meeting.

74. With regard to the current situation, the continuing existence of racism in the world was a sad reality, but it was a reality which contained the seeds of hope. The ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by many countries, including his own, and the periodic reports submitted under the provisions of the Convention to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, were important first steps towards the education of world public opinion and

the promotion of national awareness of the problem. Each country acceding to the Convention committed itself to eradicating the evils of racial discrimination. The means to that end consisted in enlightening the public, at both the national and international levels, on the subject and on the legal and economic measures required to fulfil the provisions of the Convention. In that connexion, the measures called for in the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council and annexed to document A/9666 represented a significant contribution to the fight to eliminate racial discrimination. His delegation was therefore prepared to support that resolution, and looked forward to the day when the problem of racial discrimination would no longer exist.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

2059th meeting

Tuesday, 8 October 1974, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2059

AGENDA ITEM 53

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (continued) (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1-4, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475):

- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued);
- (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Miss WILLIAMS (Sierra Leone) assured the three new Members of the United Nations, Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau, that they could count on Sierra Leone's fraternal co-operation within the Organization.

2. It was undoubtedly the goal of all countries represented in the Committee to lend effective meaning to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Her delegation, for its part, unreservedly supported the draft resolution concerning the Decade which the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1863 (LVI), had recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. However, it wished to submit the following two amendments.¹ First, an additional preambular paragraph should be inserted, reading as follows:

"Calling attention to paragraph 18(e) of the Programme for the Decade under which the Secretary-General will circulate a questionnaire on the basis of which the Economic and Social Council will consider every two years action undertaken or contemplated by

Governments in implementation of their programmes for the Decade."

Secondly, she would like a new operative paragraph 11 to be inserted after paragraph 10. The new paragraph would read as follows:

"Expresses the hope that adequate resources should be made available to the Secretary-General to enable him to undertake the activities entrusted to him under the Programme for the Decade."

3. She recalled that violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms stemmed from colonialism and subjugation. When those conditions came to an end, it unfortunately became apparent that the newly-emerging State was left with a situation characterized by inequalities—malnutrition, disease and illiteracy. That problem should be given close scrutiny in the Programme for the Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex). Her delegation would welcome the use of scientific and technological skills on both the national and regional level to help the victims of those inequalities win their rights and fundamental freedoms. It was assumed that those rights and freedoms were recognized everywhere, but that was not the case, particularly in southern Africa. Although the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) had provided guidelines for the international community, certain countries had seen fit to disregard its provisions. The sanctions which had been passed by the United Nations had failed dismally.

4. The attitude taken recently by the supporters of *apartheid*—judging, *inter alia*, by the reaction of the South African delegation and its allies who said that they too,

¹ The text of these amendments was subsequently circulated as document A/C.3/L.2104.

were Africa's friends—was enough to dispel all hope of a speedy and happy solution. The Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, in a letter dated 26 September 1974 addressed to the Chairman of the Special Political Committee,² had insisted that *apartheid* was an internal affair which the United Nations was not competent to discuss. He had even raised objections to the participation of the representatives of the liberation movements in the work of the Special Committee, alleging that they did not qualify for recognition, nor did they represent anyone in South Africa. Under the circumstances the Third Committee must concentrate, within the framework of the objectives of the Decade, on ensuring support for those struggling for racial equality through the liberation movements in South Africa and on bringing pressure to bear on all countries aiding the South African Government militarily, politically and economically, so that they would cease all support. It was no longer honourable for those countries to advance the reasoning that their economy would suffer too much if they broke off relations with South Africa. In fact, experience had shown that when those countries wished to sever relations with other countries for political reasons, they did so by creating substitute markets or creating pretexts to compromise politically. They were fully aware on the other hand, that the South African régime was wholly dependent on their support and that without it South Africa would have to yield to the just demands of the United Nations.

5. Her delegation would not fail in its duty to associate itself with the call to concerted African action against South Africa and to urge all States to take appropriate action to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex).

6. Her delegation also noted the work done by the specialized agencies involved in the activities of the Decade (see E/5474 and A/9666/Add.1). It was to be hoped that they would continue, within the framework of their programmes, to monitor legislative provisions safeguarding human rights. In that connexion her delegation was concerned over the status of migrant workers in Europe and America, particularly unskilled workers, regardless of whether or not they had migrated with a work contract. It had noted the work of the ILO in relation to labour legislation and UNESCO's efforts regarding the educational standards applicable to migrant workers. It particularly applauded the study entitled "Exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking",³ prepared by Mrs. Warzazi, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. She expressed the hope that in its appraisal of the reports submitted to it, in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Programme for the Decade, the Economic and Social Council would take that study into consideration.

7. Mrs. BALDÉ (Guinea) welcomed the new members of the United Nations, Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau, and assured them that her country was prepared to collaborate with them.

² A/SPC/169.

³ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/351 and 352.

8. The problem of racial discrimination was of grave concern to Guinea just as it was for the international community as a whole, as could be seen from the fact that it was the first question to be considered by the Committee. It was high time to draw up and effectively apply measures which would make it possible to eradicate that scourge completely. Guinea therefore unreservedly supported the Programme for the Decade, and it paid a tribute to the Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations for all that they had undertaken within the framework of the Programme. The Government of Guinea, which had always opposed all forms of racial segregation, had signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in March 1966. Guinea was, moreover, an active member of the Special Committee on *Apartheid*. Her delegation unreservedly supported—and had co-sponsored—the draft resolution (A/9666, annex) which the Economic and Social Council was recommending to the General Assembly for adoption, and she appealed to all members to give it their support.

9. She deplored the fact that the fascist régimes of South Africa and Rhodesia, benefiting from the strong support of the imperialist Powers, continued to defy all the decisions taken by the United Nations. The resolutions of the United Nations remained a dead letter also with those Powers, which continued to maintain trade relations with South Africa and even to supply it with weapons. And yet, logically, all those who had adhered to the principles contained in the United Nations Charter should condemn South Africa and Rhodesia and cease supporting those régimes. As for South Africa, it could not legitimately claim to be part of the United Nations, since it flouted the latter's Charter. Her delegation wished, in that connexion, to congratulate the Credentials Committee for the unequivocal attitude that the majority of its members had taken with regard to South Africa. It was time to accept the fact that the hour had passed for dialogue with the fascist Governments of South Africa and Rhodesia and that the United Nations must now take radical, concrete measures to implement its decisions. There must no longer be any hesitation to resort to force in order to restore the right to freedom and self-determination of the peoples who laboured under the yoke of oppression.

10. Those two countries were not, however, the only ones where racial discrimination prevailed: in Europe too, Africans were forced to accept deplorable working conditions and live at the mercy of white racists.

11. The demand must be made of all the Governments concerned to take specific measures to combat racial discrimination, each at its own level. For example, action could be taken in the educational field by teaching young children about racism and by using posters and publications which illustrated its evils. The Constitutions of such countries should also include articles making any act of discrimination in the field of education a punishable offence.

12. Racism and racial discrimination were not bound by frontiers, and there was no region of the world that was not exposed to those evils. It was therefore the duty of the international community to work towards their total eradication.

13. Mrs. POKHAREL (Nepal) welcomed the delegations of Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau to the Committee and expressed the certainty that their contribution would be of immense value.

14. She said that the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning on 10 December 1973, was a very significant event. The Secretary-General, in the excellent report he had submitted in accordance with paragraph 18(f) of the Programme for the Decade (E/5474), had clearly shown how important it was. The Economic and Social Council had also done a remarkable job in co-ordinating the Programme and evaluating the activities to be undertaken during the Decade. Despite all of those efforts, racism and racial discrimination still prevailed in the world today, and particularly in southern Africa.

15. Even after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, discrimination against women still existed. Her delegation welcomed the decision taken by the General Assembly in resolution 3010 (XXVII) to proclaim the year 1975 "International Women's Year", and it expected considerable progress to be made in promoting equality between men and women. Women in Nepal were not subjected to any form of discrimination. Men and women were equal before the law and had equal access to education and public office. Discrimination based on race, religion or culture was likewise alien to Nepal. Although several ethnic groups existed, Nepal had never experienced any conflicts of a racial nature.

16. Nepal believed that all the countries of the world should unite and support the action to combat racism and racial discrimination. Her delegation felt that the non-governmental organizations could make a specific contribution to the struggle by educating the masses—for example, through publications which would make them aware of the evils of racial discrimination.

17. Her delegation whole-heartedly joined the General Assembly in condemning racial discrimination, racism and the policy of *apartheid* practised by South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. Racism and racial discrimination had led to narrow-mindedness which was a serious obstacle to international peace and security. All countries should unite to do away with such evils and establish equality among all peoples, great or small.

18. Mr. KARHILO (Finland) said that the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was an important decision which reflected the efforts of the international community to combat one of the basic enemies of mankind's well-being. His Government was opposed to racial discrimination in any form because racism was incompatible with the principle of equality of all human beings.

19. The situation prevailing in the world was far from encouraging. The existence in southern Africa of an institutionalized form of racism, *apartheid*—the most cruel and repugnant manifestation of inequality based on race—was a source of constant concern to his Government and

people. His Government had not only expressed its concern in words, but also in contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. Likewise, it contributed to the Assistance Fund for the Struggle against Colonialism and *Apartheid* established by the Organization of African Unity. His Government had decided to increase its contributions to those funds in the coming year. Finland also provided humanitarian assistance, through the liberation movements, to men and women struggling against racism.

20. The Economic and Social Council had been entrusted with the responsibility of co-ordinating and reviewing the activities of the Decade. The ultimate goal of the work of the Council was a harmonious development process leading to the advancement of economic and social development and of human rights. Abolishing racism was a fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of that goal. The variety of aspects of the problem of racism called for a coherent and co-ordinated approach. Since the Decade had been launched less than a year previously, the Council was not yet in a position to examine the whole range of activities contemplated by the international community. The coming year would be crucial from that point of view because the programmes of the specialized agencies and member Governments would be known, and the Council could then suggest ways and means to secure full co-ordination of activities.

21. Research and study were important for a better understanding of the reasons for and consequences of racism. The matter had been dealt with in detail in the Programme for the Decade. The preliminary information received from UNESCO concerning its participation in the activities of the Decade (see E/5474 and A/9666/Add.1) were extremely interesting, and he stressed the importance of the decisions to be taken by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eighteenth session in October/November 1974.

22. The roots of racism, and its social causes and consequences, should be studied in order to find remedies for different situations in different societies. Research work should be intensified both at the national and international levels. The future role of the United Nations University could be of particular importance in that context. The Second Committee was currently employed in defining that role. His delegation hoped that that aspect of the question would be taken into account in the discussions in the Second Committee and in the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council when it considered in detail the role of the University in 1975.

23. He found the information provided by the representatives of UNESCO and the ILO concerning their programmes for the study of the racial problems caused by international migration of labour particularly interesting. Even those countries where racism seemed to be non-existent, and where legislative measures provided guarantees against racial discrimination at the *de jure* level, were not exempt from outbursts of racism when the economic situation brought about changes in the composition of the population and the labour force. Those changes should be carefully studied with a view to preventing any possible

manifestations of racism through appropriate measures, particularly in the field of education.

24. Finland had ratified, at an early stage, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and consequently the necessary legislative measures had been taken to prevent the occurrence of *de jure* discrimination. It was at present in the process of formulating its national programme of action for the Decade and that programme would provide for measures in the field of public information, studies on the problem of racism, the training of teachers and the preparation of educational material concerning racial discrimination. The general aims of the Finnish national programme would be to increase the level of knowledge concerning racism and racial discrimination and thus to influence the basic attitude of all segments of the population with a view to completely eradicating discrimination.

25. Mr. AL-SHAMSI (United Arab Emirates) said that since joining the United Nations his country had signed all United Nations instruments, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It applied the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and its society was one in which people of different nationalities and religions lived together in peace. It was a country where there were many foreign workers, who were not subjected to any discrimination and whose children enjoyed, on a par with the indigenous population, free education and health services. Education was one of the weapons in the fight against racial discrimination. Many public schools had been opened; pupils were taught to feel distaste for discrimination and to respect human rights. In addition, Human Rights Day was duly celebrated, and there were frequent radio and television programmes dealing with the evils of racial discrimination.

26. Consequently, his delegation could not remain silent when certain people were victims of violent acts of racial discrimination. It joined with other delegations in denouncing the acts of any Governments that were imperialist or racist. His country supported the struggle of the Palestinian people and the peoples of southern Africa to recover their rights and their national sovereignty. It appealed to the whole international community to act together to make South Africa give up its racist policies. It was regrettable that the measures taken so far by the United Nations had come to nothing because certain Governments continued to support the *apartheid* régime and disregarded even the United Nations resolutions calling upon Member States to place an embargo on arms shipments to South Africa. He urged those Governments to stop their policy of collaboration.

27. Mr. EVANS (Australia) stressed that the Programme for the Decade had action as its keynote and that all Governments must account for the way in which they were fulfilling their commitments. Australia had noted with interest the practical action being taken to implement the Programme for the Decade, for it was concrete efforts rather than resolutions or conventions adopted with great publicity which demonstrated the willingness of Governments to achieve the goals of the Decade. As the Australian Prime Minister had stated at the 2249th plenary meeting of

the General Assembly, Australia, conscious that its own record was flawed, was determined to remove all forms of racial discrimination within its territory, notably against the aboriginals.

28. Over the centuries there had always been a disposition for groups of people to try to assert superiority over other groups, for various reasons; that had often manifested itself as racial discrimination. There were probably few countries represented in the Committee which could say with absolute confidence that their records were without blemish. However, the United Nations had recognized by its debates and recommendations that such short-comings in human nature need not be immutable.

29. Australia had signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and intended to ratify it as soon as enabling legislation had been passed. It could state in clear conscience that it would be able to carry out fully the obligations laid down in the Convention once the Australian Parliament had considered and enacted—as it would shortly be doing—a Human Rights Bill and a Racial Discrimination Bill which aimed at incorporating those obligations into Australian law. The Bills would make illegal any discrimination based on race, colour, language, national or ethnic origin, birth or other status. The Racial Discrimination Bill would guarantee equality before the law against discrimination based on race or national origin, and also a number of economic and trade union rights, although the latter had for long been recognized under Australian law.

30. His Government believed that it would serve no purpose to grant rights by law and to proscribe racial discrimination unless appropriate enforcement machinery was also established. The Racial Discrimination Bill therefore provided practical and effective legal remedies; courts would be empowered to grant injunctions, to make orders to rectify injuries caused, to cancel contracts and to award damages to aggrieved persons. A Race Relations Commissioner, a Central Race Relations Council and Regional and Local Conciliation Committees would be established. The Council would have wide representation from the community, including aboriginal groups and migrant organizations. It would play a significant rôle in the Australian programme for the Decade.

31. The Australian Government recognized that it was vital to develop public awareness of the need to combat racism, and agreed with the representative of Brazil (2058th meeting) on the need to make sure that succeeding generations would grow up in an atmosphere free from hatred and racial tensions. Australia's programme would be directed to further changing community attitudes and to improved understanding, tolerance and friendship among racial and ethnic groups.

32. As a member of the Economic and Social Council, Australia supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council in resolution 1863 (LVI) and would vote in favour of that text, which highlighted a number of aspects of racial discrimination, particularly the practice of *apartheid*. Australia had not only favoured the adoption of resolutions condemning South Africa's racist policies, but had also taken action—for example, by protesting to the

Government of South Africa over the mass arrests of members and supporters of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in Namibia—in the hope that concerted international and bilateral pressures would bring about change in South Africa. It had taken a strong stand against any sporting contests in which South African teams were not representative of its peoples, and it would support any decision by the United Nations to impose sanctions against South Africa, provided they were also adhered to by South Africa's major trading partners.

33. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) congratulated the Chairman and the other officers of the Committee on their election and welcomed the representatives of the three new States Members of the United Nations, Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau.

34. The Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination implied that the Third Committee should change the traditional pattern of its discussions on racial discrimination and focus its debate on action that had been taken, rather than reiterating its strong condemnation of *apartheid*.

35. There was no racial discrimination in Italy. Consequently, her country's approach to the implementation of the Programme for the Decade was basically to prevent any manifestation of racial discrimination and to continue to co-operate in the international action aimed at combating it.

36. As a preventive measure, General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII) had been brought to the attention of all ministries concerned. The ministries had been invited to prepare a preliminary outline of the current state of legislation on the subject, of the education of young people and of public information activities, with a view to subsequent intensified action to be reported to the United Nations every two years as provided by paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme. It had also been pointed out to the ministries concerned that the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination provided for the presentation, by each State party, of a report on the legislative, judicial or other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Convention; the ministries had also been asked to note that the Committee established under the Convention did not consider acceptable the reports of States parties which confined themselves to stating that in their countries there was no racial discrimination and no need to enact specific legislation. She informed the Committee that in the previous week a branch of the parliament had unanimously approved a bill authorizing the Government to ratify the Convention; the bill provided for the application of penal sanctions against those who engaged in acts of discrimination against persons belonging to a national, ethnic or racial group.

37. The Ministry of Education had had the text of resolution 3057 (XXVIII) circulated to all its offices, allowing them to choose the most suitable means of achieving its objectives. She drew attention to the need to take into account, when implementing the Programme at the national level, the variety of situations in the various countries with regard to racial discrimination. It was clear that the action to be taken to implement the Programme

would not be the same in countries where racial discrimination existed as action in countries where it did not. Action would also vary according, *inter alia* to the culture of the country concerned, the means of communication with the population and the role played by various social forces, including non-governmental organizations. Her delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of the Philippines (2057th meeting) about the lack of training materials; there again, however, the material prepared by UNESCO or by the Office of Public Information would have to be adapted, when used at the national level, to the local situation. The Secretariat might consider producing material designed for homogeneous groups of countries in order to facilitate the exchange of views within a group. The Secretariat should bear that in mind when choosing the countries to be invited to take part in seminars organized in the context of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights. The Secretariat should also take into account the variety of situations when preparing the questionnaire to be sent to Member States to help them prepare their biennial reports on the action taken to implement the Programme for the Decade.

38. Finally, she wished to reiterate her delegation's support of the efforts of the United Nations to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. Her Government would take part in any effective action designed to achieve the aim of complete racial harmony. As a member of the Economic and Social Council, Italy had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution which was before the Committee, and she hoped that the text would once again be adopted by consensus.

39. Mrs. MASSON (Canada) said that she was gratified, particularly as a member of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, at the election of a woman as Chairman of the Committee.

40. With regard to her country's position on racial discrimination, she recalled that in 1970 Canada had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; in conformity with article 9 of the Convention, her country had prepared reports, the most recent of which had been found satisfactory, in April 1974, by the Committee established under the Convention. Faithful to its policy of opposing racial discrimination and, in particular, *apartheid*, her country contributed to various programmes designed to help the victims of racism and *apartheid*. It provided the largest contribution, namely \$175,000 in 1974, to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. It also contributed to several scholarship programmes.

41. Action at the national level included the adoption of various pieces of federal legislation, such as the Canadian Declaration of Rights, the Fair Employment Practices Act and the Act relating to the prohibition of hate propaganda, and at the provincial level there were human rights commissions to see that the laws against racial discrimination in all areas were implemented. Furthermore, her Government was currently studying the possibility of establishing a federal human rights commission. A recommendation on that subject had been made during a working meeting organized by her Government at Montebello in

November 1973, in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, with a view to studying the measures to be taken to achieve the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Various organizations concerned with human rights had already begun to work on projects connected with the Programme for the Decade, following the organization by the Government of a series of information meetings at the regional level concerning the Decade. Conferences and workshops on the subject had also been organized throughout Canada on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would also be on the agenda of a human rights conference to be held in November 1974 in Victoria, British Columbia.

42. However, it should be emphasized that the elimination of racial discrimination could not be achieved solely at the governmental level by means of legislation or information programmes, but had to take place at the individual level first. Each person had to become aware of his responsibility in the search for a solution, and make an effort to correct certain attitudes, change states of mind and reject discriminatory prejudices based on groundless race concepts.

43. Her delegation would support, with some reservations, the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption by the General Assembly.

44. Mr. CEDE (Austria) said that he was pleased that a representative of Africa was presiding over the Committee's deliberations just as the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was beginning. It was in Africa, and—to be precise—in southern Africa, that the evil practice of *apartheid* continued to prevail despite the United Nations resolutions condemning that flagrant and continuing violation of the fundamental rights of the individual. Only the implementation of the Programme for the Decade would enable racial discrimination to be effectively eliminated.

45. His country was particularly aware of the problem and had always strongly condemned all racial discrimination, whether in the form of discriminatory measures or institutionalized in a political system. As had been said on 21 March 1974 by the President of his country—then Minister for Foreign Affairs—on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Austria had always expressed by its votes in the United Nations its condemnation of *apartheid* and all other policies based on principles of inequality, racial discrimination, religion or other discriminatory grounds. His country had been a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination since 8 June 1972. Furthermore, ratification of that Convention had led his country to alter a provision of its Constitution, thus guaranteeing the application of the rights set forth in the Convention to foreign residents in the same way as to Austrian citizens. Furthermore, in conformity with article 4 of that Convention, the new Austrian Penal Code, which would enter into force on 2 January 1975, made incitement to racist activities a punishable offence.

46. He was happy to be able to announce that his Government's contribution to the United Nations Educa-

tional and Training Programme for Southern Africa had doubled in 1974 compared with the previous year. A sizeable contribution had also been made during the year to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and to the United Nations Fund for Namibia. Lastly, Austrian educational institutions had made available scholarships to students from southern Africa, among others.

47. His country fully supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination which, more than any theoretical declaration, would help to put an end to all forms of racial discrimination.

48. Mr. FIRN (New Zealand) said that discrimination based on race was one of the most serious problems of the present times and the international community should do its utmost to put an end to it. The elaboration of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had been only a first step towards the complete elimination of racial discrimination and *apartheid*, which continued to prevail in the world. Now more than ever, at a time when the world had to face crises in all fields—population, food and natural resources—men should recognize that they all belonged to the same family.

49. New Zealand was a multiracial society, free from discrimination, where racial equality was a fundamental principle. Where corrective action in particular cases was required, the Race Relations Act, adopted by the New Zealand Government in 1971 in implementation of New Zealand's obligations as a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, provided the necessary machinery. New Zealand supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. It had not formally adopted a programme of action, but it had, during the past year, taken a number of steps that demonstrated its desire to promote racial equality. Among other things, it had reaffirmed its stand on sporting contacts with South Africa; no South African sporting team would be permitted to visit New Zealand until such time as sport in South Africa was organized on a non-racial basis; it had increased its contribution to the three United Nations funds that rendered humanitarian assistance to the victims of racist policies in southern Africa; its first report under article 9 of the Convention had been submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and had been favourably received; it had conducted a review of its immigration policy with a view to attracting more migrants from a wider range of countries than in the past. While attaching importance to ensuring that the various elements of the New Zealand multiracial community continued to live together harmoniously, the New Zealand Government was seeking at the same time to preserve their distinct cultural heritage and identity. A bill had recently been introduced in Parliament to foster the Maori language among all New Zealanders.

50. In conclusion, he said that his country's position on racial discrimination had consistently been made clear in the United Nations and elsewhere and that his delegation firmly supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly for adoption.

51. Mr. WILSON (Liberia) welcomed the launching of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. At the present time, blacks in South Africa were still suffering under the odious yoke of *apartheid*, which was universally condemned. In his statement to the tenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on 25 May 1973 at Addis-Ababa, the Secretary-General had observed that *apartheid* continued to exist in South Africa and that it was a matter of fulfilling the principles of the Charter by promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. He had reminded his listeners that *apartheid* was not simply an African question but concerned all who believed in the dignity of man, and he had emphasized that *apartheid* imperilled the peace; it was therefore in the interest of all Members of the United Nations and not only African States, to prevent such a situation from developing further and to create real, genuine and lasting harmony between the races. His delegation agreed with the representative of Egypt (2053rd meeting) that the time had come to take action to combat racism. From 9 to 14 April 1973, the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa, organized by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, had been held at Oslo. That Conference had proposed, *inter alia*, that investments should be withdrawn, all new investment programmes should be halted and no loans or other assistance should be provided to the white racist régime or to corporations operating in South Africa. It had also proposed that all economic and scientific support of and collaboration with South Africa should be halted, in particular by terminating the purchase of gold, platinum and other minerals, discontinuing all scientific collaboration, particularly nuclear co-operation, and refusing to grant patents and licences to the Government of South Africa and its institutions as well as to corporations and other bodies which operated in South Africa.

52. The Conference had proposed in addition that the flow of immigrants to South Africa should be halted and, to that end, that States should prohibit special recruiting organizations from operating in their countries and prevent, or at least dissuade, their citizens from migrating to South Africa, and that trade unions should take special measures to prevent their members from migrating to South Africa.

53. Those concrete proposals for concerted international efforts to hasten the eradication of *apartheid* deserved the careful consideration of all Member States.

54. Mrs. CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms, together with respect for international law and the principles enunciated in the United Nations Charter, formed the basis for the Constitution of Bangladesh. Article 25 of that document stated, *inter alia*, that the State would “support oppressed peoples throughout the world waging a just struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racialism”. The people of Bangladesh knew from bitter experience the agony of being denied fundamental human rights and were firmly determined to uphold respect for human worth and dignity and the equality of all people. It was for that reason that

Bangladesh had consistently—in all forums, international, regional and national—expressed its firm support for all measures directed against racism, and solemnly reaffirmed its determination to concert its actions with progressive forces which were seeking effective means of eliminating racial discrimination and ensuring the exercise of fundamental rights.

55. Racial discrimination still existed in the world in many forms, as had been demonstrated in the study by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities⁴ and in the introduction (A/9601/Add.1) to the Secretary-General’s report on the work of the Organization. Her delegation firmly believed that, so long as the international community failed to discharge its responsibilities, *apartheid* would persist in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa, presenting a continued threat to peace. A stable and peaceful international order could be established only if human rights were respected.

56. Bangladesh therefore unreservedly supported the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which marked a determination to do something more tangible than merely condemn abhorrent racial practices. The international community appeared determined to expose and eliminate such practices; the racist régime in South Africa was now ostracized by mankind in general and its credentials had been rejected by the General Assembly. Bangladesh pledged its total support to the fight against racial discrimination.

57. Mr. BUNE (Fiji) said that his Government fully supported the goals and objectives of the Decade and had been heartened by the Secretary-General’s report on the various activities being undertaken or contemplated by Member States and United Nations organs during the Decade (E/5474 and A/9666/Add.1). It shared the belief that a methodical and concentrated attack on the causes of inequality was the only solution to the global problem. Given the diverse factors involved, each Government must seek its own solution on the basis of its own experience and needs. However, the situation in southern Africa and in Southern Rhodesia was entirely different; their plight was one of human exploitation based on colonialism and alien domination. Wherever colonialism was tolerated, racism and racial discrimination existed. His delegation believed that, unless the overwhelming majority of the people of that part of Africa were liberated from colonial bondage, they would be forever deprived of their basic human rights. The international community must therefore act in concert to speed up the process of self-determination if it sincerely wanted those oppressed peoples to achieve their liberation.

58. If certain industrialized countries continued to maintain relations with the racist Government of South Africa and the illegal régime of Ian Smith—although claiming not to support those régimes—no solution would be possible. The South African Government had made it known in unequivocal terms that it was committed to a policy of separate development, which it was implementing very efficiently. Countries that continued to trade directly or

⁴ *Racial Discrimination* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.XIV.2).

indirectly with South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, despite the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the sanctions imposed by the Security Council, and countries that engaged in sporting activities with them betrayed their flagrant support for the racist policies of the two régimes and became accessories to the practices of *apartheid*, racism and racial discrimination. In such circumstances, one might well ask whether the support by those countries of the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council (A/9666, annex) was really sincere.

59. Fiji found racial discrimination abhorrent and was ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. As a multiracial country, it realized that legislative measures, resolutions and declarations did not suffice in order to maintain racial harmony; positive, practical measures, such as those contemplated for the Decade, were required. His delegation supported the resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council and urged all delegations to do likewise.

60. Mr. JAAFAR (Tunisia) said that he had listened with interest to the various statements on the item under consideration and the sometimes moving appeals for stepped-up action against racism and racial discrimination. Tunisia's position on the question, and the vigorous and far-reaching action it had taken at the national and international levels in order to contribute effectively to the struggle waged by peoples for the triumph of justice, equality and human solidarity, were well known.

61. Some progress had been made since the beginning of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. An important development was the seating of representatives of Guinea-Bissau among the members of the Committee; he hoped that those of Mozambique and Angola would also soon take their places. He congratulated Portugal for starting the process of freeing the African peoples enslaved by the former régime and assured it of his country's support in that endeavour. The example of Guinea-Bissau offered new hope that the people's cause would triumph in such countries as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Palestine, whose inhabitants were struggling to assert their rightful control over their own countries and to enjoy the rights universally recognized as man's prerogative without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. Yet, in the face of obvious facts, the last champions of colonialism, racism and *apartheid* persisted in their attitude. That was why the international community must show increasing vigilance and forcefulness in assuming its responsibility to eliminate the remaining bastions of racism, racial discrimination and colonialism.

62. The adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had already marked a step forward in the fight for human rights. All States should, within the context of the Decade, take practical, effective measures forthwith to put an end to régimes of violence, terror and segregation and provide tangible, decisive support to the peoples and movements which were in the forefront of the struggle against racism, discrimination, *apartheid* and colonialism. In conclusion, he said that his delegation would vote for the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council and for any amendment which would improve it by calling for even more decisive action.

63. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that his delegation had supported adoption of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and was gratified that the Committee was beginning its work with the study on *apartheid*, a crime against humanity which violated the principles of international law.

64. His delegation attached great importance to the question under consideration, not only out of loyalty to the positions it had always taken at the international level but also because it was deeply convinced that social progress was impossible to achieve without eliminating the evils of racism. Cuban society was, by definition, multi-racial, and in the course of its pre-revolutionary period it had been exposed to the neo-colonialist greed of the United States. Since the revolution of 1959, it had been aware that only a society where man was not exploited by man, where full employment was a reality and where everyone had unimpeded access to free education protected future generations from such practices forever. If exploitation, colonialism and imperialism disappeared, *apartheid* and racism would be nothing more than relics of the past, but the international community must not neglect any opportunity of speeding up that process. For that reason, Cuba had supported the activities planned for the Decade: its Government was preparing to ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* and was studying the possibility of setting up a national committee to co-ordinate all the activities planned under the Programme for the Decade. Those activities would, in due course, be made known to the Council in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 18 (e) of the Programme.

65. A year had passed since the solemn proclamation of the Decade. One could already formulate conclusions regarding the activities undertaken under the Decade and examine the implementation of the current programme. One positive fact stood out on the world scene. The process of decolonization undertaken by the Portuguese Government proved once again the close correlation existing between the elimination of foreign domination and the elimination of discriminatory practices. The struggle of the peoples of the Portuguese colonies, which had always received the unswerving support of the Cuban Government, would enable them to enjoy their fundamental rights; however, it had also afforded the Portuguese people an opportunity to shake off the yoke of the dictatorship which had deprived them of their freedom. Elsewhere, the situation was gloomier than in 1973: in Rhodesia, a sizable increase (22 per cent) in military expenditures indicated possible preparations for repressive measures against the people and liberation movements of Zimbabwe. The harsh provisions of the Law and Order Maintenance Amendment Bill of 1973 and the Land Tenure Act of 1969 were intensifying the segregation and oppression of the indigenous population. The military co-operation between the Ian Smith régime and its counterparts in Pretoria was becoming more and more flagrant. In South Africa, the Vorster clique was building up its arsenals and ruthlessly suppressing the increasingly open and aggressive demonstrations of discontent by the students and the African labouring masses. As the Special Committee on *Apartheid* had pointed out, the recent murders and assassinations bore witness to the growing danger in southern Africa. In the Middle East, the

Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories continued to be deprived of their most elementary rights by the Zionist régime, which was maintaining increasingly close ties with South Africa, particularly since the October 1973 conflict, as had been noted in the report on recent developments in the relations between Israel and South Africa submitted to the Special Committee on *Apartheid* by the Sub-Committee on the Implementation of United Nations Resolutions and Collaboration with South Africa.⁵ Finally, with regard to Namibia, there was nothing to add to Chapter IX of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/9623/Add.3).

66. The very heavy responsibility devolving upon the NATO Powers, particularly the United States, in the perpetuation of those odious practices must be stressed once again. Economic and Social Council resolution 1864 (LVI) was perfectly clear in that regard: all collaboration with the racist régimes must cease; the economy of the white régime in Salisbury was profiting from the trade in chrome, asbestos and nickel with the United States under cover of the Byrd Amendment, in flagrant violation of the sanctions adopted against the Southern Rhodesian régime. The South African racists were enjoying the political support of the United States in international forums. Arms from the United States and other NATO countries were being used to subjugate not only the South Africans but the fighters in Namibia and Zimbabwe as well. In other parts of the world, racial discrimination continued to give cause for concern. In a number of Latin American countries, the Indian was still marginal and subject to discrimination. In Panama, as the representative of that country had stated (2055th meeting), the inhabitants suffered the effects of the discriminatory treatment meted out in the colonial enclave forming the Canal Zone. The presence of fascism in Chile further aggravated the situation in Latin America. In the United States, despite the supposed progress boasted of in the Committee, the situation of the blacks and Americans of Mexican, Asian, Puerto Rican and Indian origin continued to present serious anomalies. Moreover, immigrant workers in the industrialized capitalist countries of Europe were seeing their situation deteriorate day by day.

67. His delegation had made a careful study of the reports (E/5474 and E/5475) submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with paragraph 18 (f) of the Programme, and of the information contained in documents A/9666 and Add.1 and 2. To ensure that the activities undertaken under the Programme were co-ordinated effectively, better use should be made of the interdisciplinary supervisory machinery so as to avoid wasting resources and energy, particularly as far as the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination was concerned. The proposals made by the main specialized agencies seemed to be sound, and Cuba was particularly interested in the work which the ILO was to carry out in 1975 on the question of migrant workers (see E/5474, para. 51). It would be useful to conduct a new general study of the 1958 Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupa-

tion,⁶ which also focused on the countries which had not ratified that Convention, as well as so-called "special" studies on discrimination in certain countries. The Council might also make a careful study of the links which certain non-governmental organizations maintained with the racist régimes.

68. As far as the United Nations was concerned, his delegation attached great importance to some of the tasks entrusted to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. After careful analysis, it concluded that the study prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking⁷ was an extremely useful document in that it specified the measures to be taken at the international level, and it was unfortunate that the study had not been referred to the Committee. However, the decision to appoint a special rapporteur would make it possible to have precise information on that important question. It was to be hoped that the study would soon be available to the Council. The Office of Public Information should be especially diligent in disseminating the results of the Sub-Commission's work.

69. At the national level, every State should implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and isolate both politically and morally the régimes to which they referred. In that connexion, the decisions taken by the General Assembly on South Africa's credentials were a very positive measure. States should also give moral and material assistance to the national liberation movements and should, for example, recognize their right to take part in the work of international bodies.

70. His delegation supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council, although it felt that, while covering the most important ideas, the draft needed to be made more specific on certain points. It would therefore vote for the draft but would support any amendment aimed at making it more precise.

71. Miss HARELI (Israel) said that it was hardly necessary to recall the special sensitivity of the Jewish people to every form of discrimination, whether based on race, descent, religion or any other distinguishing sign. It was encouraging to hear from a number of delegations which had spoken that there were countries, particularly in South America, in which several races lived together in peace, but there were still too many cases where racial diversity led not to mutual enrichment but to the exploitation, harassment and suppression of the weaker groups by those which were stronger. That attitude was particularly serious where it was the official policy of sovereign Governments.

72. She wished to cite a number of specific instances which concerned her more directly, since they related to Jewish minorities. The Jewish community in Syria numbered no more than a few thousand persons, whose plight was desperate. She quoted a communiqué dated 3 July 1974 from the International League for the Rights of Man,

⁶ International Labour Organisation, *Conventions and Recommendations, 1919-1966* (Geneva, 1966), Convention No. 111.

⁷ See E/CN.4/Sub.2/351 and 352.

⁵ A/AC.115/L.383.

which stated that Jews could not emigrate from Syria, that they required special permits to move farther than four kilometres from their own quarters, that many professions were closed to them, that they had to carry a special identification card with the word "Jew" marked in red, and that strangers were forbidden to enter the Jewish quarter and Moslem inhabitants were advised to avoid contacts with the Jews. She also referred to an article published in the newspaper *Epoca* on 28 April 1974, in which an Italian correspondent gave a poignant description of the Jewish ghetto in Damascus.

73. The sad fact was that those discriminatory regulations were made and implemented by the very Syrian Government whose representative had informed the General Assembly a few days before that there was no racial discrimination in his country and had further asserted that racial discrimination was incompatible with Islam. That simply constituted one more reason why the Government of Syria should desist from persecuting the Jews and let them go to freedom.

74. Referring to the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, she said that, unlike other minorities in that country, the 3 million Jews were kept in a position of national inferiority. There was not one Jewish school, 600 synagogues had been closed, and no books were published in Hebrew, whereas 75 anti-Semitic works had been printed at the expense of the Soviet Government during the past few years. The press encouraged anti-Semitic agitation both directly and under the guise of anti-zionism or anti-imperialism.

75. Jews who wanted to leave the Soviet Union were exposed to all kinds of administrative and professional harassment and were often condemned to forced labour after a sham trial, their sole crime being that they had openly expressed their wish to go to Israel. Although a number of Jews had been able to leave the country in recent years, 130,000 people were still waiting for permission to emigrate.

76. In September, an international colloquium of world-famous jurists had been held in London. The participants, who were among the greatest legal minds of the world, had issued a declaration stating, *inter alia*, that they were deeply disturbed by certain manifestations of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union . . . They had also spoken of harassment and other forms of ill-treatment to which Jews wishing to leave the country were subjected and noted that in trials of Soviet Jews human rights, Soviet law and procedure and the normal scale of penalties were ignored.

77. In addressing the General Assembly, at its 2255th plenary meeting, the Israeli Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed his appreciation for what had already been done with regard to emigration and had appealed to the Soviet Government to show greater generosity and to grant the requests of those who applied to emigrate. Authorizing Jews to leave the USSR would solve a problem which was not only Jewish but also Soviet, and with which the Soviet Government had been struggling for many years.

78. The Programme for the Decade would succeed only if all manifestations of racial discrimination, wherever they

were found, were tackled courageously. Information and education were needed to make men respect the rights of their fellows. In the final analysis, only the political will of all Governments could effectively turn the Programme into action.

79. Mrs. HOUNNOU (Gabon), referring to the statement made before the General Assembly by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Gabon (2247th plenary meeting), reiterated her country's denunciation of the odious crime of *apartheid* in South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia, which inflicted on millions of human beings, in the lands of their own ancestors, the greatest degree of depersonalization ever known. The Gabonese Constitution and Nationality Code vehemently denounced and the Penal Code provided severe penalties for racial discrimination. Racism was a disease which denied its victim his human dignity and reduced those who practised it to the level of animals. That was why Gabon execrated and condemned *apartheid*, which was the most shameful expression of that crime. In order to improve the international climate it was essential to eliminate, along with all the vestiges of colonialism, the racial discrimination and *apartheid* which remained a constant source of tension and conflict in the world, particularly in Africa, where they constituted a vast conspiracy.

80. It was the duty of those who were chiefly responsible for international peace, some of whom were the hidden allies of the Governments at Salisbury and Pretoria, to take the necessary measures to put an end to that threat. The United Nations, democratic Governments and progressive peoples should demand the immediate cessation of all support to the minority racist régimes, and ensure compliance with that demand.

81. Her delegation felt that the proper way for the United Nations to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 1975, which would coincide with the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)), would be to take effective and positive steps to ensure the total realization of the objectives and principles of that Declaration. Collective and vigorous action should be taken against racial discrimination wherever it manifested itself.

82. As in similar cases in the past, her delegation would vote for the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council, and for any amendments which would serve to improve it.

83. Mr. MARMURI (Libyan Arab Republic) said that the policy of racial discrimination, which was widely practised in numerous parts of the world, was daily becoming harsher in southern Africa. There, persons who claimed to be civilized perpetrated oppression and practices which were as inhuman as they were odious, human dignity was trampled underfoot and a white minority pursued its arbitrary policy. The South African racist minority régime could not survive without the support of the imperialist Powers which had interests in that country.

84. In the Middle East, the valiant Palestinian people, deprived of its legitimate rights by the conspiracy of the

imperialist Powers, was kept under the yoke of a discriminatory policy of Zionist bands, in violation of the resolutions in which the international community had condemned Israel; it none the less continued to struggle for its usurped rights.

85. Racial discrimination was a crime against society, an obstacle to social and economic progress and a flagrant violation of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter. His country, which had long suffered from imperialist and fascist racial discrimination, sought concerted international action to free mankind from that scourge. For its part, it had broken off all relations with the racist régimes, in accordance with the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, and would continue to give its full support to the people of those regions and to all liberation movements which were fighting to regain their liberty, dignity and pride. Libya had been one of the first countries to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was convinced that the Programme for the Decade, if applied, would result in substantial progress in the fight against racism and racial discrimination. It thanked all the specialized agencies which had taken steps to apply the Programme and it would support the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council.

86. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, in view of the late hour, further consideration of the item should be postponed until the next meeting.

87. Mr. HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the statement of the representative of Israel was nothing but a tissue of lies and fabrications. It was as ridiculous as though a representative of South Africa had attempted to convince the Committee that his Government did not practise *apartheid*. Zionist practices were no less atrocious than those of the South Africans, a fact which was hardly surprising in view of the military and economic relations which bound those two countries together. Indeed, Israel had voted against the draft resolution which the General Assembly had adopted as resolution 3206 (XXIX), by which it had approved the first report of the Credentials Committee, and thus rejected the credentials of South Africa. Israel had always defied the resolutions of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories. Its Government refused to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which had been open for signature since 1965. It also refused to apply the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,⁸ to which Israel was a party. That was why the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3092 A (XXVIII), in which it had called upon the Israeli authorities to respect and comply with the provisions of that Convention in the occupied Arab territories. The representative of Israel had said nothing of the 9,000 Arabs held without trial in Israeli prisons or of the destruction of civilian installations during which women and children had been killed. It was clear that she had been trying to exploit the fate of the Jews to slander the Syrian

Government, distorting reality. The fact was that Jews enjoyed every freedom in Syria, where they were not subject to any discrimination, other than in the minds of the Zionists. It was thus ridiculous that the Zionist régime, which was founded on racial discrimination and which practised oppression against the Palestinians, should accuse Syria and other countries of racial discrimination. It would seem that the time had come to apply the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and to condemn and overthrow that régime.

88. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the representative of Israel had not even listened to what various representatives had said about their concern at the manifestations of racism in South Africa and other parts of the world. She had viewed the discussion of that question merely as a pretext to slander the Arab countries and their Soviet friends. The examples which she had cited were drawn from anti-Soviet publications and the sole objective of the so-called colloquium to which she had referred had been to slander the Soviet Union. The reason for that slander was clear. Israel had said nothing about the violations of human rights committed in the territories occupied by it, a question which had attracted the attention of various United Nations bodies, in particular the Commission on Human Rights, which had strongly condemned them. The operative part of resolution 1 (XXX) of the Commission on Human Rights⁹ contained a very clear condemnation of the policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories. Furthermore, it was not by accident that Israel had said nothing about its ties with the racist régimes in southern Africa, since it provided them with considerable assistance. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 3151 G (XXVIII), the General Assembly condemned, in particular, the unholy alliance between Portuguese colonialism, South African racism, zionism and Israeli imperialism.

89. Consequently, he rejected the slanderous remarks made by the Israeli representative with regard to the Soviet Union. All Soviet citizens enjoyed the same rights. They were subject to no discrimination on grounds of race, sex or religion, nor were they entitled to any privileges. The Soviet Union was, moreover, a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the International Covenants on Human Rights, whereas Israel had not yet acceded to the Convention.

90. Mr. GOLOVKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) rejected the allegations made by Israel, which it regarded as slanderous and fictitious and which were intended to conceal the blatant political fact of Israel's imperialist policy in the occupied Arab territories. Israel was not only interfering in the internal affairs of foreign countries but was also seeking to divert the Committee's attention from problems existing in certain African countries. However, the ties existing between Israel and those countries were common knowledge and had been categorically condemned by the General Assembly. He therefore hoped that the members of the Committee would not allow themselves to be distracted by those fabrications, the real reasons for which were only too obvious.

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5, chap. XIX.*

91. Mr. RAZA (Pakistan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Bangladesh had referred in her statement to a controversial question which had no relationship whatever with the subject under discussion. The unfortunate events to which she had referred, without naming Pakistan, had taken place as the result of the armed intervention of a neighbouring country. But for that intervention, Pakistan and Bangladesh could have parted without bloodshed.

92. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed for the benefit of the representative of Israel that the Committee was dealing not with religious intolerance but with racial discrimination. However, the fact that a person practised a religion did not mean that he belonged to a race. It was the Zionists who were persuading the Jews to isolate themselves from the rest of society, to regard themselves as a separate race, for the purpose of political propaganda. By introducing a question of so-called religious intolerance into the Committee's debates, the representative of Israel was seeking to gain sympathy for the Zionist cause. Furthermore, in the Islamic world there was no discrimination, for Islam considered that all men were the children of one God. In Syria, a Moslem, a Christian and a Jew belonged to the same race.

93. Moreover, since the question of anti-Semitism had been raised, he wished to point out that there were Jews who were not Semites, for example, the descendants of the Khazars; it was they who had created Zionism, because they had been the victims of discrimination in Europe.

94. Miss HARELI (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, observed that her statement was based on facts and that she had carefully checked her quotations, drawn from various publications and from the conclusions of a group of respected international jurists. There had, it was true, been a change in the policy of the USSR toward Jews recently, but if their situation was so enviable, why did so many Jews wish to leave the USSR?

95. As many Arab representatives had done on several occasions, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had made slanderous accusations against Israel. The United Nations committee of inquiry was composed solely of countries which maintained no relations with Israel, including one country which said that it was at war with Israel; in that respect, it was a faithful reflection of the situation existing in the United Nations, where the Arabs could obtain whatever they wished. If the fate of the Arabs in Israel was so atrocious, how was it that Arabs and Jews lived in peace in Israel and in the territories administered by it and that thousands of Arab visitors came to Israel each year? With regard to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Israel's conscience was clear; it would be better for delegations to put principles into practice and not limit themselves to making high-sounding statements. Referring to a letter in *The Times* of London, which had been mentioned, she could make available to anyone who was interested the text of a letter refuting it which had also appeared in *The Times*. All other allegations made by various bodies and in various

documents had already been firmly refuted by Israel's official representatives and she would not repeat their arguments.

96. Mr. AL-QAYSI (Iraq) said that one would have supposed the Israeli delegation would address itself to the questions on the agenda. However, the representative of Israel, after making a number of statements in which she had called on all delegations to express themselves in deeds rather than words, had just indulged in an orgy of propaganda, propaganda which was without any foundation whatever. Zionism, if examined carefully, was nothing but a racist theory based on the supremacy of the Jewish race; what was more, by denying the fundamental rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories Israel was pursuing what could only be called a racist policy.

97. Referring to the composition of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, and in an attempt to cast doubt on the conclusions of that Committee, the representative of Israel had alluded to a so-called Arab majority in the United Nations. That attitude was an insult to the body which felt itself to be an international community.

98. When mention was made of the violations perpetrated by Israel in respect of the rights of the Palestinians residing in Palestine and in the occupied Arab countries, the Israeli delegation replied that it involved a political matter and that Members were departing from the questions under consideration. When that delegation sought to highlight the trouble spots which continued to exist in some parts of the world, that too was a vain attempt to distract attention from its own country over which the black shadow of Zionism hovered.

99. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) wished to stress that different questions should not be confused. That was a point which could not be emphasized too strongly.

100. He also wished to point out to the Israeli representative that when she invoked the land of her ancestors in support of Israeli claims, she was indulging in a personal interpretation of history. The Jews who had lived in the land of Palestine in antiquity were not the ancestors of the Israeli Zionists who claimed kinship with them. Whether one was speaking of ancient times when the destruction of the Temple of Solomon occurred or of the modern era which had witnessed the atrocities of Nazism, the analogy went no farther than the fact that in both cases only a minority of rich and influential people had been able to flee. The Israeli Zionists were not truly Semites and they should not claim Semitic ancestry in an attempt to turn to account the hardships which the Jewish people had endured. Indeed, with the means of support which they had at their disposal and which they knew how to use so well, the Israeli Zionists were far from being defenceless.

101. Miss HARELI (Israel) said that she would like to take the floor again since it seemed, to judge from the reactions to her statement, that she had touched several sensitive points.

102. Mr. GOLOVKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on a point of order, said that he did not think that the representative of Israel could add anything new at the current stage of the discussion and moved the adjournment of the meeting in accordance with rule 118 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

103. The CHAIRMAN, after reading out rule 118 of the rules of procedure, put the motion to the vote.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was adopted by 38 votes to 3, with 30 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 7 p.m.

2060th meeting

Wednesday, 9 October 1974, at 10.50 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. Aminata MARICO (Mali).

A/C.3/SR.2060

Tribute to Mr. Sean MacBride, United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

1. The CHAIRMAN noted with satisfaction the presence of Mr. Sean MacBride, the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, and congratulated him on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for 1974 jointly with Mr. Eisaku Sato, the former Prime Minister of Japan. The honour accorded to Mr. MacBride was a tribute to his work for the cause of human rights in Namibia and throughout the world.

2. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland) associated the people, Government and delegation of Ireland with the congratulations extended by the Chairman to Mr. MacBride on the award to him, jointly with the former Prime Minister of Japan, of the Nobel Peace Prize. The award was a well-deserved honour, since he had spent his life in the service of the ideals and objectives for which the Third Committee was also striving. Moreover, it was appropriate to recall that Mr. MacBride's family, and in particular his parents, had played an eminent role in the struggle for independence in Ireland, which had resulted in his father's name being enshrined in a poem composed by another Irish Nobel prize-winner, William Butler Yeats. She expressed the hope that the freedom and independence achieved by Ireland would soon be enjoyed by the people to whom Mr. MacBride was currently devoting his life, and also in the other areas of southern Africa.

3. Mr. TRAVERT (France), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the European Economic Community, associated himself with the Chairman of the Committee and the representative of Ireland in congratulating Mr. MacBride and Mr. Sato on the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to them. Mr. MacBride's presence in the Committee was an honour and an encouragement to its work.

4. The Chairman had adequately expressed the appreciation of all members for the work Mr. MacBride had done as United Nations Commissioner for Namibia. He had been one of the architects of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and had been the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland when that country had ratified the Geneva Conventions of 1949.¹ He had done much laudable work on behalf of the international community, especially in the field of human rights.

5. Mr. MacBRIDE (United Nations Commissioner for Namibia) said that he felt honoured to be present at the Committee's meeting and thanked the Chairman and members for their kind words of congratulations. The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to someone who worked in the field of human rights was important, since it constituted a recognition of the fact that the protection of human rights was essential for the maintenance of peace. In conclusion, he thanked the Third Committee for its contribution to the cause of the people of Namibia.

AGENDA ITEM 53

- Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*)** (A/9603, chap. I, chap. V, sect. C.1; A/9666 and Add.1-5, A/9719, E/5474, E/5475, A/C.3/L.2101-2105):
- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*);
 - (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General (*continued*)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*)

6. Mr. ETUK (Nigeria) said that his country was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex), and whole-heartedly supported the efforts made by the international community to achieve the purposes of that Convention. Nigeria believed in the dignity of man, fairness and equal justice for all, and considered it quite legitimate to fight against inhuman practices, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, wherever they existed. It had condemned, and would continue to condemn, the recalcitrance of the Governments of Rhodesia and the Republic of South Africa with regard to the question of racial discrimination.

7. Nigeria also viewed colonialism and imperialism with abhorrence. In that connexion, it wished to congratulate Portugal on having taken the wise decision to grant independence to Guinea-Bissau. As a gesture of approval of the new progressive policy followed by Portugal towards its African Territories, the Head of State of Nigeria had released a Portuguese national from prison on the occasion of the fourteenth anniversary of Nigeria's independence. The new Government of Portugal should also be congratulated.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 970-973.