

Baghdad, should be the last country to condemn Israel for its policies.

72. Mr. AL-HADAWI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Mr. Shinghan Shapiro, a former Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Israel, had once stated that “The system established in Palestine since the issue of the Defence Laws is unparalleled in any civilized country; there were no such laws even in Nazi Germany . . . There is indeed only one form of government which resembles the system in force here now—the case of an occupied country. They try to pacify us by saying that

these laws are only directed against malefactors, not against honest citizens. But the Nazi Government of Occupied Oslo also announced that no harm would come to citizens who minded their own business.”

73. Mrs. BEN-ITO (Israel) said that she had formerly served as a judge in Israel under that Minister of Justice and she denied that he had ever made any statement resembling the one just read out by the representative of Iraq.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

2120th meeting

Friday, 3 October 1975, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2120

AGENDA ITEM 68

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*):

- (a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. I, chap. V, sect. B.1, paras. 307-313; A/10145 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/5636 and Add.1-3, E/5637 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.3/L.2152, 2154-2157);
- (c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (A/10197, A/C.3/L.2151, 2153)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*) and CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (*continued*)

1. Mr. MARASLI (Turkey) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the presence of the representatives of Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique at the United Nations, and its conviction that they would make a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee. Racism and racial discrimination, which constituted a gross violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations by reducing man to a subhuman condition, had been given an important place in the agenda of the Committee to demonstrate the importance attached to the elimination of those evils. Despite the condemnation and indignation of the world community, an illegal minority régime continued to oppress and exploit more than 5 million Africans in Zimbabwe, and the question of Namibia was far from being settled because of the persistent refusal of the Government of South Africa to implement the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly. That, however, should not lead to despair or pessimism but, on the contrary, should generate a common will to struggle with greater determination and renewed vigour.

2. Turkey had fully supported the principle of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

when it had first been proposed in 1972 and since then it had been extensively implementing the Programme for the Decade (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex). He wished to reiterate that Turkey had never supported the racist Government of South Africa or the illegal minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and had no relations whatsoever with them. There was no racial prejudice in Turkey and fundamental freedoms and human rights were guaranteed in daily life. All the fundamental freedoms set forth in article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) were embodied in the Turkish Constitution. Turkey had constantly supported the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and would continue to do so in the future. His delegation warmly welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Ghana to act as host to the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination, which would be one of the landmarks of the Decade.

3. Mrs. BEN-ITO (Israel) said that her delegation had firmly and unequivocally supported the Programme for the Decade and that its position in that respect remained unchanged: Israel was opposed to any form of discrimination. Her delegation felt, however, that too much stress was being placed on the drafting of documents and too little on their implementation. While any group of people must have legislation to establish the standards for regulating community life, many tended to think that legislation was a sure way of solving social problems. Legislation was not a solution in itself; what mattered was living up to the standards set by the legislation. Some countries had the most explicit and liberal constitutions, but they seemed to be no deterrent to oppression. Some Governments found no difficulty in signing or ratifying any international document while continuing to perpetrate the gravest injustices within their borders; some were most eloquent and quite extreme when it came to drafting international treaties, but that attitude gave no hope to those back home whose most elementary human rights were being trampled. Her delegation felt that resolutions, declarations, treaties,

covenants and conventions were important only in so far as they created an international atmosphere of goodwill and respect for man. Any conference, seminar or international gathering for the promotion of human rights should strive to remind the world that, as stated in the Bible, man, any man, was created in the image of God. If that simple maxim was taught in schools, there might be less need to preach it from international platforms.

4. Her delegation had noted with satisfaction decision 4 (XI) adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at its 242nd meeting on 14 April 1975 (see E/5636/Add.3, annex), which drew attention to the fact that 1975 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the defeat of nazism and fascism, ideologies based essentially on racism and racial discrimination. It should not be forgotten that it had been the wholesale negation of human rights by the Nazi régime which had given birth to the United Nations, and that all declarations, conventions and other instruments drafted in the past 30 years for the protection of human rights had been the direct outcome of the atrocities committed in the concentration camps of Europe. It should also never be forgotten that it had been the merciless and systematic extermination of one third of the Jewish nation, while the world remained silent, that had shocked mankind into the realization that it would take an active part in the protection of fundamental human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, religion and national or ethnic origin. Referring to the persecutions of the Jewish people which had culminated in the attempt, by the Nazi régime, to commit genocide on an unprecedented scale, she said that her delegation could not be counted among those which paid mere lip service to anti-racist slogans, but rather among those which had a very deep and sincere interest in the elimination of every kind of discrimination.

5. For years her delegation had been referring to instances of racial discrimination against Jewish minorities, and the fact that it had to revert to the same subject time and time again was a reflection of the existing gap between the declarations of some representatives and the acts of omission by their Governments. Attention should therefore be drawn, firstly, to the situation of the Jewish community in the Syrian Arab Republic which was, in every sphere of life, subject to degrading discriminatory restrictions which led some Jews, particularly the younger ones, to risk their lives in attempts to escape from Syrian ghettos. The murder of four young Jewish women in March 1974 and the torture of other Jewish women, described by *The Observer* of London of 21 April 1974, as well as the persecution brought to light by the Danish publication *Politiken* of 21 December 1974 were proof of that treatment. The plight of the Jewish community of the Syrian Arab Republic was not a matter which could be considered an internal affair of that State since it involved a violation of international covenants and agreements. That country had approved the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, but had blatantly violated those three instruments. The international community must not close its eyes to the fate of that captive minority, nor should it remain silent. There was

only one salvation for the Jews of Syria: they must be permitted to depart for lands where they could live in peace, dignity and security.

6. Attention should also be drawn to the situation of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union, which had not improved in the past year but, on the contrary, had deteriorated. The Soviet Union had signed, on 1 August 1975 in Helsinki, the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, which contained a solemn undertaking to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as references to specific problems such as the reunification of families. In that connexion, she quoted from the statements made at that Conference by the President and Secretary of State of the United States and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union on the importance of the agreements reached and their determination to implement them, and from the statement made at the 2368th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, on 30 September 1975, by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, who had expressed the hope that the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Agreement would be scrupulously applied since none of them had yet been applied to the Jewish national minority in the Soviet Union.

7. Finally, she appealed to the Delegation of the Soviet Union to announce, as a humanitarian gesture, that Sylva Zalmanson, a young resident of Israel who was on a hunger strike across the street from the United Nations building, would be allowed to exercise her right to visit her husband who was in prison in the Soviet Union.

8. Mrs. DE BARISH (Costa Rica) reiterated her delegation's repudiation of racial discrimination, which, especially in its most hateful form, *apartheid*, constituted an affront to the dignity of the human being and a denial of the principle that all men were equal. She concurred in the view expressed by the Secretary-General in the introduction to his annual report on the work of the Organization that the international community, and the United Nations in particular, had a responsibility to persist in efforts to induce the Government of South Africa to abandon that inhuman policy (see A/10001/Add.1, sect. XIII). She noted with pleasure the work done in that field by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Trusteeship Council, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The activities of the specialized agencies, such as the ILO, FAO, ICAO, WHO, the World Bank and UPU, were also worthy of mention. In that connexion, she hoped that a way could be found for the World Bank's participation in the struggle against racial discrimination, which was characterized as "indirect" in paragraph 57 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/5636), to be made as direct as possible in the future, perhaps through contributions to supplement the meagre resources available for the implementation of the measures planned in connexion with the Programme for the Decade. It had also become clear that the participation of non-governmental organizations, in particular the activities of Amnesty International (*ibid.*, paras. 82-87) and the International Commission of Jurists

(*ibid.*, paras. 89-91, were of great importance. She welcomed the broad participation of women's organizations in the activities of the Decade and stressed the importance of the work of the United Nations Office of Public Information (*ibid.*, paras. 123-133) and the activities of UNITAR (*ibid.*, para. 134).

9. Costa Rica had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 20 January 1967, and had, through the intermediary of an independent expert, participated in the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since its establishment in 1969. The reports submitted by Costa Rica in accordance with the Convention had been praised by the Committee, because the provisions of the Convention had been incorporated into Costa Rican legislation 30 days after the date of ratification. One month after the beginning of the Decade, the Government of Costa Rica had recognized the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to deal with cases coming under article 14 of the Convention, thus giving proof of its intention to co-operate in that United Nations undertaking. Although the number of States which were already parties to the Convention was encouraging, she agreed with the representative of Ghana that it was extremely important for more States to make the declaration envisaged in Article 14.

10. Her delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2151 and it hoped that the text would receive the unanimous approval of the Committee. She also expressed the gratitude of her delegation to the Government of Ghana for its offer to act as host to the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination, which would be one of the more outstanding events of the Decade and should provide an opportunity to assess the rhythm and implementation of measures taken at the national, regional and international levels. Finally, she drew attention to the message which had been sent to the Secretary-General on 21 March by the President of Costa Rica on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which had reaffirmed the adherence of the people and Government of Costa Rica to the humanitarian principles which condemned all forms of discrimination based on race.

11. Miss CABALLERO (Mexico) said that Mexico rejected all kinds of racism and racial discrimination, since traditionally it accepted only the principle that all men had equal dignity and rights. As a mestizo country, it proudly professed its faith in that equalitarian standard, which derived from its national beginnings themselves and gave meaning to its humanistic beliefs. She believed that, in order for international action against racist policies to be more effective, it was necessary to isolate the Governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, to the point of suspending not only diplomatic relations with them, but also economic, cultural and any other relations.

12. Mexico had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination at the beginning of 1975 and was pleased that the number of countries which had acceded to it or ratified it had already reached 87. In addition, it commended and thanked the Government of Ghana for having offered to act as host to

the world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination, since, despite universal condemnation of those practices, they continued to be realities which were as degrading to those who employed them as they were to those who suffered under them.

13. Referring to the question of migrant workers, she said that their situation was unjust and lamentable, because it implied treatment based on inequality which was at times carried to unacceptable extremes, including in some instances the denial of the enjoyment of the basic rights that ought to be the birthright of every human being. The first part of the study by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the exploitation of labour through illicit and clandestine trafficking¹ had been distributed, and in view of the importance of the item, her delegation hoped that the second part could also be distributed.

14. Consistent with her earlier remarks and the traditional orientation of Mexico and the commitment of its Government to secure the establishment of an international economic order based on justice and equality at the earliest possible date, her delegation would support the draft resolutions under consideration (A/10145, annex, Drafts A and B) which had been recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1938 A and B (LVIII).

15. Mrs. SALGADO DOS SANTOS (Brazil) said that Brazil was linked to many African States by ties of history and blood and that prompted it to join with its sister nations in their efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, especially its most inhuman and cruel manifestation—the policy of *apartheid*. At the international level, Brazil had taken part in activities to eradicate racism and had voted in favour of resolutions aimed at promoting that goal, including General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), which had proclaimed the Decade. The Government of Brazil had also attached great importance to the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which had been observed in Brazil in various high-level ceremonies.

16. In June 1975, Brazil had received a visit from a mission of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and on that occasion the Minister for Foreign Affairs had announced that Brazil had just pledged a contribution of \$10,000 to the Unit on *Apartheid* Trust Fund. It was also considering the possibility of including in its regular budget contributions to the various United Nations funds which provided assistance to the victims of *apartheid*.

17. Her delegation endorsed the convening of a world conference to combat racial discrimination and expressed its gratitude to the Government of Ghana for having offered to act as host to that event. It was confident that the conference would not only produce effective legal instruments and machinery for the struggle against racism, but would also promote a full awareness of racial harmony, without which universal and permanent peace could never be attained.

18. Mr. KHAMIS (Algeria) welcomed the long-awaited presence of the representatives of the three new States

¹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/351 and Add.1; see also E/CN.4/Sub.2/352.

Members of the United Nations—Mozambique, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe—and of the legitimate representatives of Kampuchea; he also welcomed the delegations of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and of the Republic of South Viet-Nam, who were present for the time being with observer status while waiting to become actual Members.

19. In the 30 years since its inception, the United Nations had achieved positive results in many fields, among them that of the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination, through resolutions adopted by its organs, and through information campaigns and publications. Furthermore, a Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had been proclaimed which included a programme of action. Algeria, which had spared no effort in that struggle, welcomed the results obtained.

20. However, there should be no illusions about the scope of such achievements. Racism and racial discrimination, *apartheid*, colonial oppression and Zionist military occupation continued to exist. His country could not remain unmoved by such injustices, or by the sufferings of the peoples of Africa, Palestine and other parts of the world, nor could it be indifferent to the stifling of the right of peoples to self-determination, or to the violation of fundamental human freedoms.

21. Zionist policy in the Middle East and the situation in southern Africa were, in the opinion of his delegation, very serious threats to international peace and security. The international community could not continue to limit itself to verbal denunciations of what was happening in Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, Namibia, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

22. The racist, segregationist and expansionist minority régimes were continuing to flout the United Nations, thanks to the economic and military assistance provided by many Western countries in violation of United Nations resolutions. It was deplorable that countries which apparently attributed great importance to respect for human rights were directly or indirectly supporting the partisans of *apartheid* and racial discrimination. In that connexion he referred the Committee to paragraph 92 of the programme of action contained in the report of the International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and *Apartheid* in Southern Africa,² held at Oslo from 9 to 14 April 1973, in which it was stated that foreign economic interests, in their exploitation of the resources of southern Africa, continued to assist those régimes and profit from the oppression of the African peoples. The OAU had strongly condemned such assistance provided by certain countries to South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, and rejected the theory according to which economic and other relations with such régimes could bring about a change in their policies. The African countries were determined to support by every means available the struggle of the liberation movements for dignity, justice and national independence.

23. The non-aligned countries had undertaken to do everything possible to isolate the racist and *apartheid*

régimes through the severance or suspension of all relations with South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Israel; the denunciation of those régimes and their apologists in international bodies; the application of effective measures against countries which flagrantly violated the decisions adopted by organs within the United Nations system in order to achieve that isolation; and the immediate implementation of the pertinent resolutions of the Organization. In that respect, everyone would welcome the fact that the General Assembly had, during its twenty-ninth session (see the 2281st plenary meeting, held on 12 November 1974), decided to suspend South Africa from participating in its work.

24. Algeria had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex) and was determined to contribute to the success of the Programme for the Decade. It would support and assist the national liberation movements struggling against colonialism, foreign occupation, *apartheid* and all forms of discrimination, and would not be hoodwinked by the manoeuvres of South Africa and its so-called dialogue with the African countries. The Council of Ministers of OAU, at its ninth extraordinary session held at Dar es Salaam in April 1975, had said that South Africa should first consult that part of the country's population which constituted the majority.

25. His delegation supported the two draft resolutions on the decade recommended by the Economic and Social Council. In that connexion, he said that he agreed with the remarks and suggestions made by the delegation of India at the 2117th meeting concerning the importance of education in the struggle to eliminate racism and racial discrimination.

26. With regard to the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, his delegation noted with satisfaction that 87 countries had ratified or acceded to it, although it regretted that accession was not yet universal. It was to be hoped that at least an equal number of States would ratify the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. He concluded by thanking Ghana for its offer to host the world conference to combat racial discrimination.

27. Mr. CHORFI (Morocco) said that it was anachronistic and aberrant that more than a quarter of a century after the United Nations had come into existence there were still régimes practising the inhuman, odious policy of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, with respect to both the peoples of southern Africa and the Palestinian people. The Organization had made major efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, and he took the opportunity to pay a tribute to UNESCO, the ILO, WHO and all other specialized agencies which had contributed to the Programme for the Decade. The decision adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session to reject the credentials of the representatives of South Africa and to deny the South African Government's claim to represent the people of South Africa was a victory for the United Nations, and a practical measure aimed at hastening the end of the racist régimes of southern Africa.

² See A/9061.

28. However, the obstinacy of the racist régime of Zimbabwe in perpetuating the domination of the white minority should motivate all countries to redouble their efforts and increase their vigilance. In Namibia, the South African régime continued to ignore the decisions of the United Nations; it was essential to oppose that challenge from the Pretoria régime by concerted, effective and rapid international action. In Azania, the racist régime, through a hypocritical “outward” policy, was trying to deceive international public opinion in order to maintain the supremacy of racism in that part of the African continent and continue trampling the fundamental rights of the vast majority of the population.

29. Whether it was a matter of racial discrimination in its traditional form, such as that applied in southern Africa and Palestine, of racial discrimination in its modern form, such as that practised with regard to the workers of the developing countries who emigrated to some developed countries, or any other form of racism, racial discrimination or *apartheid*, Morocco was opposed to it. He deeply regretted that more than one third of the States Members of the United Nations had not yet complied with their humanitarian duty to ratify and apply the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; he therefore supported the draft resolution which appeared in documents A/C.3/L.2151 and A/C.3/L.2152 together with the amendment in document A/C.3/L.2153. He was also a sponsor of the amendments contained in document A/C.3/L.2157. Morocco was convinced that if accession to the Convention could be made universal, the United Nations could finally undertake definitive action against all forms of racism.

30. His delegation also supported the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council (see A/10145, annex) and any other positive initiative aimed at upholding the dignity of man. In that respect, it noted with particular satisfaction operative paragraph 3 (b) of the first of those drafts.

31. It also attached paramount importance to the convening of a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination, and thanked the Government of Ghana for its generous offer to host such a conference.

32. Miss BIHI (Somalia) said that since its inception the United Nations had been making constant efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, and the changes which had taken place in its structure and membership attested to its achievements in that area. Somalia exemplified those achievements, for it had acceded to independence after a protracted struggle for national liberation and a 10-year period as a Trust Territory.

33. Thus far, however, the United Nations had not been able to put an end to the most flagrant and inhuman manifestation of racism and racial discrimination. The explosive situation prevailing in southern Africa, where the white minority subjected the majority populations of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa to brutal violence, required a timely and effective solution by the international community. The systematic application of the policy of *apartheid* in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa, and its implications for the sovereignty and security of the

independent neighbouring States, constituted a grave threat not only to peace in the area but also to the maintenance of international peace and security.

34. With regard to South Africa, Somalia believed that the United Nations had moved in the right direction when, during the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, it had decided by an overwhelming majority to exclude the representatives of the racist minority régime from participating in the proceedings. That decision was of historical significance in the struggle against *apartheid*.

35. The position of Somalia on the occupation of Namibia by South Africa was equally clear: the white minority régime must implement the resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on Namibia. Consequently, Somalia reaffirmed its categorical rejection of the ignoble Bantustan policy in the Territory, pledged its support for the legitimate struggle of the people of Namibia under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and reiterated its call to the Security Council to adopt all necessary measures, including those envisaged under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, to ensure compliance with the decisions of the United Nations on Namibia.

36. In Zimbabwe, the white minority régime was boycotting all attempts to reach a solution in line with the aspirations of the African majority. All the atrocities committed by that régime—*inter alia*, the cowardly assassination of one of the most prominent leaders of the Zimbabwe liberation movement, Mr. Herbert Chitepo—would not prevent the eventual attainment of full liberation for the Territory. Just as the deaths of Eduardo Mondlane and Amílcar Cabral, murdered by imperialism and its agents, had not impeded the liberation process in Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau, so that latest attack against the freedom fighters of Zimbabwe would not impede progress towards liberation.

37. In addition, the decisive victories scored by the peoples of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and the Comoro Archipelago, and the irresistible force of the liberation struggle in Palestine, French Somaliland and the Seychelles should be hailed. The new independent countries, which had suffered centuries of colonial oppression and exploitation, had inherited tremendous problems, both human and material. Her delegation hoped that the international community would help them to consolidate their sovereignty by assisting them in overcoming their problems.

38. She wished to express her appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report (E/5636 and Add.1-3) and to the United Nations organs, specialized agencies and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations for their continuing efforts to eliminate racial discrimination in their respective areas of activity. Her delegation supported the draft resolutions recommended by the Economic and Social Council and particularly welcomed operative paragraph 9 of the draft recommended in resolution 1938 A (LVIII) regarding the establishment of an international fund, on a voluntary basis, to implement in an effective manner paragraph 17 of the Programme for the Decade. It also reserved its right to comment on the draft resolutions

which had been submitted during the consideration of the item.

39. Finally, she said that her country, after signing the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1967, had ratified that Convention during the current year. Somalia was also a party to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.

40. Mr. OBADI (Democratic Yemen) asserted that there was no racial discrimination and racism in his country and stressed the important work done by his Government to implement the goals and objectives of the Decade. Since its independence, Democratic Yemen had always taken a firm position in that regard: it supported the struggle of the people for liberation and economic and social progress and categorically condemned the policy of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Accordingly, it gave unswerving support to the activities of the national liberation movements. Citing articles 30 and 34 of the Constitution of Democratic Yemen, he recalled that his country had ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and had signed the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. Democratic Yemen also supported all the goals and objectives of the Decade, and after the Assembly had proclaimed it in 1973, the national press had given it widespread publicity. The trade unions, youth and student organizations and the universities were among those taking part in activities related to the Decade.

41. It was impossible to forget the racial discrimination practised by South Africa against the African majority and by Zionism against the Palestinians. South Africa and Zionism were linked by an organic bond. Zionism, as a world movement condemned by the United Nations in General Assembly resolution 3151 (XXVIII) and by the non-aligned countries, as could be seen from the report of the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Lima from 25 to 30 August 1975,³ constituted one of the most serious forms of racial discrimination at the present time. The Zionist régime was pursuing a policy of persecution and oppression of the Palestinians and the Arabs of the occupied Territories, expelling the indigenous inhabitants, confiscating their property and land and destroying their villages and homes. More than 17,000 Arabs, including religious leaders, scientists and students, were under detention in Zionist camps. All the acts of Zionism has been condemned by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, and by the General Assembly in resolutions 2546 (XXIV), 2851 (XXVI), 3005 (XXVII), 3092 (XXVIII) and 3240 (XXIX). Moreover, those acts had been condemned by the Commission on Human Rights in resolutions recently adopted at its thirty-first session in Geneva.

42. In conclusion, his delegation wished to express its appreciation to the Government of Ghana for its offer to host the world conference and to stress the importance of the participation therein of the national liberation move-

ments. It also welcomed the achievements of the specialized agencies within the framework of the Decade.

43. Mr. SIBLESZ (Netherlands) expressed his support for the general thrust of the draft resolution contained in Council resolution 1938 A (LVIII), which had been adopted by consensus, but said that when the item on racism and racial discrimination was considered, there was a dangerous tendency to focus attention increasingly on one geographically and ethnically defined situation, and to view the whole of the problem almost exclusively in terms of *apartheid*. Although the latter was the most serious and flagrant manifestation of racial discrimination at the present time, it should be borne in mind that there was racial discrimination in many parts of the world, and efforts during the Decade should be directed towards combating it in whatever form and wherever it existed.

44. In that regard, his delegation wished to congratulate the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its hard work and valuable contribution to the work of the Decade. The balanced and objective consideration by that group of experts of the reports submitted to it by States were extremely useful in assessing the progress achieved in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, identifying possible weaknesses in the judicial and administrative structures of the countries and suggesting ways of correcting them. Consequently, his delegation hoped that during the course of the Decade those States which had not yet done so would sign and ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and that those which were already parties to that Convention would comply with their obligations to submit periodic reports to the Committee. The entry into force of the functions of the Committee provided for in paragraph 9 of article 14 of the Convention would be of very special importance.

45. In conclusion, he thanked the Government of Ghana for its generous offer to host the world conference which would take place at the mid-point of the Decade in 1978.

46. Miss GUERRA (Madagascar) welcomed the People's Republic of Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Cape Verde. Madagascar, which had been one of the first signatories of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, had always condemned manifestations of racism and racial discrimination and had supported all efforts aimed at eradicating that evil which plagued world civilization. As the end of the colonial era approached, the stubborn resistance of the minority racist régimes grew as they sensed the imminent collapse of their artificial fabrics, which could not withstand the onslaught of world opinion and its sanctions. At the present time, in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe, the racist colonialists, assured of the complicity of the great Powers, were continuing to perpetrate criminal acts of repression in open defiance of international opinion, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In order to consolidate its occupation of Namibia, South Africa was pursuing its policy of "bantustanization" of the Territory—an act of organized genocide which condemned a whole people to stagnation, if not to extinction. The hypocrisy of that bogus act of liberation—which did not

³ See A/10217 and Corr.1.

deceive the international community—was compounded by the conspiracy of silence and even the complicity of the great Powers, which did nothing to prevent it.

47. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of the violation by the United States of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace (General Assembly resolution 2832 (XXVI)). The expansion and strengthening of the Diego García base and the struggle for influence waged by the great Powers in that part of the world were actions calculated to encourage the survival of *apartheid* régimes in southern Africa at the cost of international security. The arms received by South Africa represented a danger to the African continent, and Madagascar also condemned the provision by the United States of advanced weapons to Israel, an action which encouraged the pursuit of a militarist policy. United Nations bodies must seek to create the necessary conditions to force the surrender of the criminal régimes in Southern Rhodesia and South Africa and to restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

48. However, her delegation considered that political victory represented only one stage, albeit a very important one, in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Analysis showed, in fact, that racism in all its forms fed on imperialist and colonialist policies and the socio-economic phenomena and conditions resulting from unbalanced development in the world and in society. Racism drew its strength from economic and technical superiority. The colonialist developed countries, driven by unbridled desire for domination and power to the point of mental aberration, had come to construe their economic and material strength as a form of natural, and even intellectual superiority, thus shaping their doctrine of racial superiority. But that policy of organized deceit, which had drawn upon science and its products to exploit man and reduce him to servitude, had been condemned in turn by modern science, and could not withstand the criticism of the new generation, which was eager for justice and respect of its rights. The conditions for the elimination of racism and racial discrimination were, to a large extent, of an economic and cultural nature: the principle of the economic independence of States and the principle of interdependent and harmonious world economic development, leading to the establishment of a new international economic order, must be promoted, accepted and respected. In that spirit, her country had chosen a socialist course of development based on an integrated and harmonious economic programme designed to ensure that the people enjoyed the fruits of development.

49. At the same time, the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was closely linked to national and international efforts in the cultural and educational fields. There was a need to re-establish an international morality based on respect for human dignity and friendship among peoples. The best guarantee of the success of the struggle for elimination of racism was to ensure that the younger generation received education in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination, her delegation had sponsored the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.2156.

50. She also wished to lay special emphasis on the important role which women had played, were playing and

would continue to play in the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and on their militant contribution to the struggle for liberation. Women had been the universal victim of the international socio-economic system and, once aware of their situation, had become trusty and experienced allies of the progressive movements and a unifying factor in the institution of a new international economic order.

51. Lastly, her delegation expressed the hope that all Member States would accede, without reservations, to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. She also thanked the Government of Ghana for its offer to act as host to the world conference for the Decade.

52. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, whenever the Committee considered the question of racism and racial discrimination, the representatives of zionism attempted to distract attention and, by an extraordinary manoeuvre, set themselves up as the defenders of Jewish minorities in various parts of the world. In the Syrian Arab Republic, no discrimination was practised on religious grounds, and the Jews living there were Syrian citizens who enjoyed the same rights as the rest of the community. In reality, the Zionists' claim that they represented all the Jews of the world and that the latter were subjected to discrimination in the countries where they lived was the product of their racist mentality, which led them to believe that other peoples practised racism and racial discrimination as they did. Religion did not constitute a nationality in itself; it was simply one of the many factors and bonds which shaped a nation. There were Moslems in various parts of the world, and no one claimed that they constituted a single nation. The Jews of the Syrian Arab Republic had refused Israeli tutelage and had condemned zionist aggression as strongly as the other citizens of the country. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and, in keeping with its obligations under that instrument, had already submitted three reports which had met with the approval of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. On the other hand, the world was well aware of the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories—practices which had been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations.

53. Mrs. BEN-ITO (Israel) said that, while it was true that there was no difference between Jews and other Syrian citizens, there was reason to wonder why the Jews sought to escape at all costs from the Syrian paradise, at serious risk to their lives, and why the many Syrian Jews now living in Israel had had to abandon all their possessions, which had been confiscated. The Introduction to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization for 1969⁴ contained a paragraph stating that the Jewish minorities in certain Arab States would be better off

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth session, Supplement No. 1A, para. 74.*

elsewhere, since their presence was a source of national and international tension.

54. Mr. AL-HUSSAMY (Syrian Arab Republic) said that it was not clear from the remarks made by the representative of Israel whether the Jews were expelled from the Syrian Arab Republic after their possessions had been confiscated or whether they escaped secretly at serious risk to their lives. What was abundantly clear was the fate incurred by the people of Palestine who, as the whole world knew, had been driven *en masse* from their lands by the Zionist invaders.

55. The CHAIRMAN announced that the delegations of Finland, Swaziland and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2151; the delegations of Mali and the Sudan had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2152; the delegation of Guinea had joined the sponsors of the amendments in documents A/C.3/L.2155 and A/C.3/L.2156; and the delegations of Afghanistan, Guinea and the Sudan had become sponsors of the amendment in document A/C.3/L.2157.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

2121st meeting

Friday, 3 October 1975, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2121

AGENDA ITEM 68

Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination (*continued*)

(a) Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. I, chap. V, sect. B.1, paras. 307-313; A/10145 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/5636 and Add.1-3, E/5637 and Add.1 and 2, A/C.3/L.2152, 2154-2157);

(c) Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (A/10197, A/C.3/L.2151, 2153)

GENERAL DEBATE (*concluded*) and CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (*continued*)

1. Mrs. ZONDO (Swaziland) said that Swaziland was opposed to racial discrimination in all its forms and believed that meaningful progress in achieving international co-operation and understanding could never be made as long as racial discrimination continued to endanger international social harmony. The Government and people of Swaziland were determined to eradicate the evil of racial discrimination in all spheres of life—economic, social and political.

2. On the national level, a council committee, appointed in 1969 as a "watchdog" against racial discrimination, met regularly to investigate any manifestation of that evil. Swaziland had successfully eliminated the colonial system of education under which schools had been divided into European, Eurafrikan and African groups, and determined efforts were being made to streamline the educational system to suit the needs and aspirations of the country. Training and localization provided equal employment opportunities for all in the public and private sectors of the economy, and 97 per cent of all jobs in the public service were held by Swazi citizens. It was government policy to help create opportunities for Swazi citizens of all races to participate fully in every sector of the economy of

Swaziland. Recently two farmers' organizations, one representing indigenous Swazi farmers and the other expatriate white farmers, had decided to join together, with the Government's encouragement, to form one Swaziland Farmers' Association which would promote the interests of all farmers in the country.

3. Swaziland's policy of non-racialism seemed to be acting as a catalyst in the region, and in the view of her Government, Swaziland's good example of race relations had helped to weaken the abhorrent system of *apartheid* in South Africa. Swaziland had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) in April 1969.

4. In view of the importance of further strengthening the fight against racism and racial discrimination, her delegation supported the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1938 A (LVIII) (A/10145, annex, draft resolution A). Her Government also supported the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1938 B (LVIII) with regard to the holding of a world conference to combat racism and racial discrimination during the Decade (*ibid.*, draft resolution B), and welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Ghana to host the conference.

5. Mr. GOLOVKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/L.2152 and recalled that Bangladesh, Cuba, Cyprus, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Poland, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates had become sponsors. He quoted from the statement made by the Chairman of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* at the General Assembly's 2201st meeting in plenary on 14 December 1973, stressing the importance of ratifying the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*. The operative part of the draft resolution contained specific proposals which had already been confirmed in similar form at previous sessions of the General Assembly, so that the draft resolution should find broad support among delegations.