

be made in that connection of the work done by WHO with regard to the health conditions of the refugees of southern Africa, by the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which had excluded South Africa, and by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to the Nationhood Programme for Namibia. The activities of the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the United Nations Council for Namibia should also be emphasized.

74. Nevertheless, neither the mobilization of international public opinion nor the condemnation of South Africa's hateful policy against the black population could put an end to the escalation of that Government's violence in South Africa and Namibia. The increasingly callous actions of South Africa were being protected by the complacency of its Western associates and other countries which enabled it to act with impunity. The General Assembly, in its resolution 34/24, specified the measures which should be adopted during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and the international community, for its part, had called for the complete isolation of the South African régime and the imposition of mandatory sanctions against it. However, not only had those measures not been adopted, but some countries' ties with Pretoria had been strengthened, both on the economic level and on the political, military and nuclear levels, the net result being that the minority racist régime constituted a threat to international peace and security and an increasingly fearsome evil for the whole African continent. Only a collective effort and real political will, reflected in an increase in the material assistance extended to the peoples of southern Africa, could help to put an end to the sufferings of those peoples. In that regard, Algeria confirmed its commitment to the people of South Africa, as represented by its national liberation movement and by SWAPO, the sole representative of the Namibian people.

75. The mention of racism brought to mind the fate of that other people oppressed on grounds of its ethnic or religious origin, the Palestinian people, the victim of similar practices by the Zionist régime. It was not mere chance that a lamentable common fate was forging stronger and stronger ties between the Zionist régime and that of Pretoria, as could be seen from the reports submitted regularly to the Special Committee against *Apartheid* and the General Assembly. The relevant documents of the United Nations reflected, moreover, the close co-operation between the two countries in the nuclear sphere. Her delegation was deeply concerned by the fate of the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples under Zionist occupation, and she reiterated Algeria's support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

76. The enumeration of the evils of racism and racial discrimination would be incomplete without mention of the situation of migrant workers, which was a constant concern of the United Nations.

77. It was clear that racism could not disappear in a decade, but it was also certain that its most hateful manifestation, *apartheid*, and its natural ally, zionism, might lose all their sinister content if some Member States were prepared to demonstrate solidarity with those who had committed themselves to the struggle on behalf of oppressed peoples.

78. The recent victory of Zimbabwe had shown that, thanks to the determination of that brave people, the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had registered one great success. It was to be hoped that by 1983 others could be added and that the preparations for the Second World Conference scheduled for 1983 would help to ensure that it was well organized.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*

## 7th meeting

Tuesday, 21 April 1981, at 10.55 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Paul J. F. LUSAKA (Zambia).

E/1981/SR.7

### AGENDA ITEM 2

#### **Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued) (E/1981/15 and Add.1 and 2, E/1981/36)**

1. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said that his country, shortly after independence, had enacted legislation guaranteeing the equality of all people. The principle of the equality of all, without discrimination, has been enshrined in the Constitution.

2. Argentina had a long and celebrated tradition of welcoming immigrants from the furthest corners of the earth. For those educated in a spirit of equality it was monstrous and incomprehensible that the United Nations had found it necessary to proclaim a decade relating to a concept as fundamental as that of the equality of all mankind. It was still more incomprehensible that the end of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was near, while so much remained to be done.

3. His delegation had always displayed great interest in the matter, as evidenced at the drafting of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII)) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

4. His delegation was aware of the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the struggle against discrimination. It was regrettable that it had not been possible, through lack of extrabudgetary funds, to hold the round table for newspaper editors called for in paragraph 25 of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade (General Assembly resolution 34/24, annex). It was to be hoped that some way would be found to finance that meeting from United Nations resources.

5. Argentina had sponsored resolution 14 (XXXVI) of 26 February 1980 of the Commission on Human Rights,

which revealed the international community's concern over *apartheid* and all racist practices, including discrimination against specific minority groups.

6. His delegation attached great importance to the study on the links between racial discrimination and inequalities in the fields of education, nutrition, health, housing and cultural development called for in paragraph 24 of the programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade, and would welcome further details of that study. The study, which would tackle all aspects of the problem, would be of great interest at the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In the meantime, efforts to combat racial discrimination would necessarily continue to be fragmented among various committees, commissions, working groups and regional meetings.

7. Mr. KHALIFA (Sudan) said that his country's stand on racial questions had always been consistent and well defined. The Sudan fully supported the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination as practised in South Africa, Namibia and Israel.

8. The international community should make greater efforts to end *apartheid* in South Africa. Every year that policy was condemned in international forums, despite which the South African racist régime had continued its inhuman policies. Little progress had been made over the past decade. The South African white racists had not yet drawn any lessons from the example of Zimbabwe. They continued to repress the peoples of Azania and Namibia and to attack neighbouring States, thus endangering peace and security in Africa and throughout the world. The United Nations could not be held responsible for that lack of progress. Certain Member States which chose to disregard General Assembly resolutions were to blame. Only total isolation of South Africa's racist régime and the imposition of sanctions would provide a just solution to the problem. It should be borne in mind that the United Nations had adopted many resolutions and decisions recognizing the legitimacy of the struggle, including armed struggle, against racial discrimination.

9. The Sudan fully supported the decision to convene a Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to assess the progress made during the Decade, and to formulate specific measures aimed at ensuring the universal implementation of United Nations resolutions on racial discrimination. The aims of the Conference should be established with great care if positive results were to be achieved.

10. His delegation also welcomed the imminent convening of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa. He trusted that the Conference would represent a final step in the imposition of sanctions against South Africa.

11. He welcomed the adoption by the General Conference of UNESCO, at its twenty-first session, held at Belgrade from 23 September to 28 October 1980, of resolution 4/20, which had invited member States and the Director-General of UNESCO to take all necessary steps to ensure that public opinion, journalists and others working in the mass media became even more conversant with the Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, *Apartheid* and Incitement to War.

12. It was regrettable that, for want of extrabudgetary funds, UNESCO had been unable to convene the round

table for newspaper editors. His delegation fully recognized the role to be played by the mass media in attaining the objectives of the Decade, and trusted that the necessary resources could be found to finance the holding of the round table.

13. Mr. GÜRAKAN (Turkey) said that the United Nations had been founded on the conviction that all men were equal and that lasting peace could not be attained without respect for human dignity in all countries of the world, irrespective of race, nationality, creed or political beliefs. While the ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had not been fully implemented anywhere, racial discrimination and *apartheid* constituted the most systematic and massive violations of human rights and the most direct challenge to the United Nations.

14. The problem of racial discrimination had come before the United Nations early in its history. The Organization had adopted many resolutions and decisions aimed at ending the deplorable policies of *apartheid* in South Africa and Namibia. Each year, those policies and the dismemberment of Namibia had been condemned by the international community. Yet there was no indication of any improvement in the situation. Indeed, the Pretoria régime, in an effort to maintain its abhorrent racial policies, was resorting to increasingly repressive measures within South Africa while intensifying its acts of aggression against neighbouring countries. The prospects for a peaceful solution to the question of Namibia were diminishing because of South Africa's intransigence.

15. Yet the international community should not be discouraged in its efforts to find peaceful ways of eliminating racism from the face of the earth. The adoption of resolutions was not, in itself, enough, but their importance should not be underestimated. They struck at the very roots of racial prejudice and its various manifestations. Moreover, public opinion was at last beginning to recognize the dangers that racial discrimination represented, as a result of which the Pretoria régime had become increasingly isolated. The attainment of majority rule by peaceful means in Zimbabwe had increased that isolation. It was an historic event in the history of a country in which racial oppression had reigned for generations, and offered a lesson to those who still clung to the tenets of racial inequality.

16. It was clear that the international community had to explore new possibilities of taking concerted action against *apartheid* and racial discrimination. The United Nations should make greater efforts to increase pressure against South Africa in order to force it to abandon its policies of *apartheid*, and the international community should provide assistance to the victims of those policies. Of still greater importance was the strict implementation of the recommendations and decisions taken by the competent United Nations organs.

17. Turkey was resolutely opposed to *apartheid* and racial discrimination in principle and in practice. His Government fully supported the objectives of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and had played an active role in the international community's efforts to eliminate *apartheid*. Needless to say, Turkey maintained no relations whatsoever with the South African régime. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the speedy realization of equality and justice for the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia.

18. Miss OBAFEMI (Nigeria) said that the Decade for Action and the World Conference to Combat Racism

and Racial Discrimination reflected the international community's profound commitment to the elimination of racial discrimination. Although many of the Decade's aims would not have been realized when it ended, some measure of progress had been made in the struggle against racism. The General Assembly had adopted several important resolutions, notably resolution 32/10 of 7 November 1977, which called upon Governments to take appropriate measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that operated enterprises in southern Africa to put an end to such enterprises. The Assembly had further urged United Nations organs, specialized agencies and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen and enlarge the scope of their activities in support of the Decade's objectives; it had also called for increased material and moral support for the victims of racial discrimination.

19. It was gratifying to note that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/10, several States had adopted measures to eliminate racial discrimination. It was also noteworthy that the majority of constitutions promulgated in recent years had contained provisions giving effect to the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Courts had been established to enable the victims of racial discrimination to seek appropriate redress. Governments had employed various means to educate public opinion in the fight against racism. In short, the progress made at the national level in the battle against racism offered some cause for satisfaction.

20. The various measures adopted by the United Nations had been moderately effective against the various forms of racial discrimination afflicting mankind. World opinion had been aroused and racism had been universally condemned. Indeed, it was such pressure which had effectively prevented the complete and formal annexation of Namibia by South Africa.

21. Primary responsibility for the elimination of racial discrimination lay with the individual Governments of Member States. International action could not be a substitute for effective national action. In cases such as that of South Africa, however, where government policy was based on racial discrimination, vigorous intervention by the international community was the only means left to force compliance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The international community should therefore spare no effort to exert pressure on South Africa.

22. Referring to the progress report of the Director-General of UNESCO on action by UNESCO to study the role of the media in the struggle against racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* (E/1981/36), she said that there was a need for greater efforts to mobilize public opinion in support of changes in attitude, habit, customs and practices. The role of the mass media in combating racism could not be overemphasized. Non-governmental organizations had a vital role to play and their cumulative effort represented an important element in the international drive to end racism.

23. It was important to bear such points in mind as preparations were begun for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Attention should be focused on areas in which little or no progress had been made. Her delegation trusted that all States Members of the United Nations would participate in the Second World Conference as a token of their sincere desire to eradicate racial discrimination.

24. Mr. AL-ALI (Iraq) said that nations had made a great deal of progress through their struggle against

imperialist and racist systems. In 1980, Zimbabwe had freed itself from the white racist régime, an event that had reinforced belief in the necessity of continuing to support oppressed peoples.

25. Nevertheless, there were countries in which success had not yet been achieved. The people of South Africa were still struggling bitterly against the white minority régime. The people of Namibia were still struggling against the racist domination of the South African régime. The people of Palestine were continuing their daily struggle against racist Zionist oppression in an endeavour to establish their own independent State.

26. Iraq condemned racial discrimination in any form, since it contradicted its moral and cultural values as well as its political ideology. Racial discrimination was evil and reactionary, as was imperialism, which encouraged racial exploitation through its transnational corporations. Those who advocated segregation and racial discrimination believed in the myth of racial supremacy, which was actually nothing but a reflection of greed and evil monopoly. Racial discrimination not only violated the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but also caused instability and posed a serious threat to peace on the African continent.

27. It was only natural for the peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine to reject such oppression and to foment rebellions supported by freedom-loving people everywhere. Iraq supported the struggle of the African people against *apartheid*, and offered its moral and material support for their cause. It was also at the forefront of the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the racist Zionist entity. It would be inappropriate to distinguish between *apartheid* in Africa and the racial discrimination inflicted upon the Arab population in Palestine. The Zionists maintained that the Jews were a superior race and, as such, required a special State for themselves alone. They had expelled the Palestinian people from their lands, attaining their objectives by special legislation and a policy of genocide. There were close parallels between the *apartheid* régime in South Africa and the Zionist régime in the occupied Arab territories. It was not surprising that the Zionists had developed close links with the racist South African régime, including co-operation to develop nuclear weapons. The links between the Zionist entity and the *apartheid* régime in South Africa had been condemned by the international community.

28. The effectiveness of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination depended on a comprehensive approach to the problem. It could not be confined to one region but should encompass the whole world. It could not tackle one kind of racial discrimination while ignoring others. His delegation wished to see an intensification of efforts to impose sanctions on any and every régime practising any kind of racial discrimination.

29. Mr. RANGACHARI (India) said that although some progress towards eliminating racism and racial discrimination had been made during the Decade—the most notable success being the victory of the people of Zimbabwe—racism and racial discrimination still existed. Moreover, experience had shown that periods of economic distress led to a recrudescence of discriminatory measures. In multiracial societies today, it was the immigrants and migrant workers who suffered. It could only be hoped that enlightened opinion would prevail.

30. The most abhorrent evil remained the policy of *apartheid* practised in South Africa, where racism was

an institutionalized instrument of State policy. The consequences of *apartheid* had been extensively documented by the United Nations, in particular, by the *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Experts of the Commission on Human Rights and by the Special Committee against *Apartheid*. Noting that the issue of *apartheid* had first been raised in the United Nations 35 years earlier, he asked how much longer the people of South Africa would have to suffer oppression and exploitation before *apartheid* was eliminated.

31. The problem of *apartheid* was a problem of lack of political will to take effective measures. As had been pointed out, the time had come to translate the common commitment to the eradication of *apartheid* into specific political, economic and other measures, including the imposition of sanctions against South Africa. Was it too much to hope that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would end with the elimination of *apartheid* in South Africa?

32. His delegation would continue to participate actively in international efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination and it hoped to participate in the preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

33. Mr. WAŚCIŃSKI (Poland) said that while much had been accomplished in the drive to eliminate racism and racial discrimination—*inter alia*, through the adoption of many international conventions and declarations—much remained to be done. No one could deny that there was a link between respect for human rights and the maintenance of international peace and security. Accordingly, continued pursuit of the policy of détente, in particular through efforts to halt the arms race and to adopt effective measures on disarmament, would contribute to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. His delegation therefore urged all countries, peoples and international organizations to make every effort to ensure that measures were adopted on the international, regional and national levels to reduce armaments and to ban the development of new weapons of mass destruction so that the process leading to general and complete disarmament might be started.

34. Poland had consistently pursued an international policy aimed at combating all forms of social injustice and had consistently opposed racist practices all over the world. Polish legislation guaranteed equal protection of all citizens against all forms of discrimination. Any kind of racist activity or propaganda was prohibited and was punishable under the law. Although no official records were kept on the ethnic origin of Polish citizens, it was estimated that some 1.3 per cent of the population belonged to other national groups. All national groups in Poland enjoyed the right to preserve and develop their culture and received assistance, including financial support, from the State for that purpose.

35. At the international level, Poland had actively contributed to the formulation of, and was a party to, all international instruments aimed at suppressing and punishing crimes against humanity and it attached the greatest importance to efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Since those evils continued to exist in many parts of the world, the international community must redouble its efforts during the second half of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Poland would continue to participate actively in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination and in favour of the universal realization of the right of people to self-determination.

36. His delegation was ready to participate in the preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and was of the view that the Conference should proclaim the need to eradicate racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, the most flagrant crimes against the dignity of mankind, and should reaffirm, once more, the special responsibility of the United Nations and of the international community as a whole *vis-à-vis* the oppressed peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Palestine and their respective liberation movements. Finally, it should mobilize world opinion in favour of full support for the legitimate struggle of all peoples against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

37. Mr. LÓPEZ PAZ (Observer for Cuba) said that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was perhaps the most important item on the Council's agenda. Racism, racial discrimination, zionism and *apartheid* were evils that afflicted all peoples desirous of peace, development and social progress. Cuba identified itself with and supported the just struggle of all oppressed peoples against the various forms of domination, exploitation and racial discrimination fostered by imperialism and colonialism.

38. For more than 15 years, the racist Government of Pretoria had flouted the will of the United Nations and hampered every effort to condemn its hateful régime. The programme of activities to be undertaken during the second half of the Decade, annexed to General Assembly resolution 34/24 of 15 November 1979, was designed to bring about the complete and final elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and must be implemented to the full. The Cuban delegation would support any initiative by the international community to mobilize public opinion against the racist régime in South Africa, its imperialist allies and the transnational corporations which gave it support.

39. In 1980, the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had concluded that, despite numerous and far-reaching United Nations resolutions on *apartheid*, some Member States had maintained and even increased their political, military, economic and other relations with South Africa. The international community must demand the strict fulfilment of the oil embargo and the arms embargo and, even more important, take all possible steps to prevent South Africa from producing atomic weapons.

40. The South African Government had received new encouragement from the reactionary policies of the current Government of the United States. The new imperialist administration was using every means available to it to label peoples striving for liberation—whether in Namibia, Palestine or El Salvador—as terrorists. It was indulging in every kind of manoeuvre to rob the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), which for 21 years had been carrying on a heroic struggle for the national liberation of Namibia in unequal combat against the racist force of occupation, of its victory and prevent the Namibian people from exercising their inalienable rights. It was also seeking to prevent the first-line countries from supporting their brothers in SWAPO.

41. Nevertheless, there could be no doubt that, although the Pretoria régime was heartened by the promises of the imperialists, the struggle to eliminate racism and colonialism in southern Africa was advancing. The independence of Zimbabwe and its entry into the United Nations were examples of that progress. It was the duty of the international community to unite its efforts to attain independence for Namibia and help to

eliminate, once and for all, the hateful system of *apartheid*. In conclusion, he reaffirmed once again his delegation's firm and constant support for the people of Namibia and for SWAPO.

42. Mr. ALBORNOZ (Ecuador) said that it was encouraging to note that the international community had passed from the stage of merely making declarations to that of taking action to eliminate racism and racial discrimination once and for all. The action taken by Governments, the organizations of the United Nations system, the information media and non-governmental organizations was encouraging. It ranged from measures to promote human rights, economic development and social justice to the quest for internal and international peace—all in the interest of more equitable human relationships.

43. The economic gap between nations was itself a form of discrimination which had racist connotations. Accordingly, the developing countries looked hopefully for signs of *rapprochement* in the north-south dialogue and tangible benefits as a result of the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As was stated in paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's report (E/1981/15), the World Bank supported indirectly the objectives of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex) through projects aimed at alleviating poverty and improving education.

44. Citing the progress made by his country, he said that the Constitution, which had been approved by a popular referendum in 1978, condemned all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination or segregation and prohibited all forms of discrimination. Foreigners enjoyed the same rights as Ecuadorians, except for political rights. In 1979, a section entitled "Offences against constitutional guarantees and racial equality" had been added to the Penal Code; moreover, the Code contained an entire chapter relating to crimes concerning racial discrimination. Education was available to all inhabitants of Ecuador without discrimination and free of charge.

45. Ecuador was a melting-pot of races, both indigenous to South America and European. Even though immigrants continued to arrive, particularly from America and Europe, and there was intermarriage between the different races and nationalities, the indigenous peoples preserved their cultural identity and their very varied and rich traditions were fully respected. In schools where the pupils were predominantly indigenous, teaching was conducted in Quechua, or another native tongue, in addition to Spanish. The President had delivered part of his inaugural message to Parliament in the Quechua language. Accordingly, the concept of racism and racial discrimination was alien to the Ecuadorian mind.

46. For all those reasons, Ecuador had whole-heartedly supported the activities contained in the Programme for the Decade and had become a party to all the international or regional declarations, covenants and conventions relating to human rights.

47. Much remained to be done before racism and racial discrimination could be eliminated from those African countries which had not attained self-government. Similarly, many changes were still needed in the legislation and attitudes of many countries, and much remained to be done also to eradicate the vestiges of cultural and economic discrimination in the developing world. His delegation trusted that further progress would be made in all those aspects so that the principles

espoused by the United Nations might be reflected in reality and so that the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination could take effective action leading to the final elimination of racial discrimination throughout the world.

48. Mr. ELARABY (Observer for Egypt) said that the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was at a crucial stage. It was therefore imperative for the international community to rededicate itself to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* wherever they existed. More than half of the Decade had passed and, although many efforts had been made to eradicate those evils, they continued to plague mankind.

49. Egypt had been among the first to draw the attention of the world community to the seriousness and increasing danger of the situation in southern Africa. That region had witnessed and was still witnessing the gravest violations of human rights and instances of man's injustice to man. The racist régime of South Africa continued to defy the will of the international community and to perpetrate atrocities against the black majority. The failure of the meeting on Namibia, held at Geneva from 7 to 14 January 1981, was a further example of that régime's arrogance and intransigence. Despite the commendable attitude of SWAPO, the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, and its readiness to conclude a cease-fire within the framework of the United Nations plan for Namibia, the Pretoria régime had not only refused to accept a cease-fire but had reaffirmed its intention of perpetuating its illegal occupation of the Territory, its continuing acts of aggression against neighbouring countries, its oppression and suppression of the Namibian people and its inhumane policies of *apartheid*. The gravity of the situation required immediate action. As the organ responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, the Security Council should impose mandatory sanctions on South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter. The time had come for the international community to take a firm stand against the racist régime of Pretoria, and the people of South Africa should be enabled to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination without further delay.

50. At the first World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978, the international community had reaffirmed the need to intensify positive and effective action to isolate racist régimes wherever they existed and terminate their practices. The adoption of the Programme of Action<sup>1</sup> had been a significant outcome of that Conference. Eight years after the proclamation of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Economic and Social Council had received a specific mandate from the General Assembly, in resolution 35/33 of 14 November 1980, to undertake the necessary preparations for convening the Second World Conference in 1983, the year which would mark the end of the Decade. That Conference would review and assess activities undertaken during the Decade, but its main purpose would be to provide for future requirements and to formulate ways and means of ensuring the full and universal eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

51. In connection with the Secretary-General's report (E/1981/15 and Add.1 and 2), the Egyptian delegation wished to express once again its congratulations and

<sup>1</sup>See Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2), chap. II.

appreciation to the national liberation movements and to the anti-*apartheid* and anti-racist movements, for their co-operation and their contribution to attaining the objectives of the Decade. Their activities in support of the Programme of Action should be strengthened and enlarged. The United Nations system and its organizations should also intensify their efforts to alert public opinion to all forms of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. The publications of the Centre against *Apartheid* should be utilized for that purpose.

52. His delegation also commended the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee against *Apartheid*, the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities for their efforts to make the United Nations role in combating racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* effective. He noted with regret that the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had concluded in its 1980 report<sup>2</sup> that, despite numerous and far-reaching United Nations resolutions, some Member States had maintained and even increased their political, military, economic and other relations with South Africa, thus contributing to the survival of the inhumane policies of *apartheid*.

53. Every co-operation should be extended to the Secretary-General in order to enable him to carry out the mandate entrusted to him by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to collect from Governments, specialized agencies, regional inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, information on how the immigration laws of Member States affected different races, and on measures taken to eliminate racism and racial discrimination. The activities, experience, suggestions and recommendations of all United Nations organs and bodies concerned with the elimination of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* should be co-ordinated and harmonized within the framework of the preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. In that regard, the Egyptian delegation welcomed the achievements of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and noted with appreciation the comments and suggestions in the UNESCO report on the important role of the mass media in mobilizing public opinion. It noted also that the Council for Namibia continued to perform its task with great efficiency. He hoped that the body whose task it was to prepare the Second World Conference would be able to hold its first session by early 1982 and present its report to the Council at the first regular session of that year.

54. Out of deep conviction derived from the principles and teachings of Islam, which forbade any form of discrimination, Egypt had consistently extended support in all fields to all peoples struggling to implement their inalienable right to self-determination. It therefore appealed to free peoples all over the world and to all Member States to make the forthcoming Conference a success. Though there might be divergent views on the adequacy, severity and timing of the proposed measures to be taken against South Africa, there could be no justification for the reluctance of certain countries to shoulder their responsibilities. Since all Member States were agreed that the policies of *apartheid* adopted by the Pretoria régime were inhumane and a flagrant violation of the basic human rights enshrined in the Charter

of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it was their collective responsibility to bring them to an end.

55. As a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid* (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex), Egypt appealed to all Member States which had not yet done so to take urgent steps to adhere to them. In conclusion, he assured the Secretary-General of Egypt's full co-operation in the preparations for the Conference. Egypt would lend every moral and material support at its disposal to its brothers and sisters suffering under the yoke of discrimination and struggling against injustice. The victory of the people of Zimbabwe had been a significant success and he hoped that another victory could be achieved by the end of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1983.

56. Mr. BADJI (Senegal) said that the struggle against racism and racial discrimination was one of the United Nations primary tasks. The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the progress report of the Director-General of UNESCO showed the great effort being made by the international community to put an end to those phenomena in all their forms. But in spite of all types of initiatives at all levels, racism and racial intolerance continued to claim many victims, especially in South Africa and Namibia. Senegal remained convinced that the total isolation of the South African régime was the only way to prick the conscience of those who thought that a man's value depended on the colour of his skin.

57. His delegation believed it was high time for the Economic and Social Council, the importance of whose role in the United Nations system had never been adequately emphasized, to desist from futile discussions and the search for scapegoats and devote itself to promoting concrete measures aimed at eradicating racism, racial discrimination and racial prejudice. The majority of those measures had already been formulated and it was now a matter of having the courage to put them into effect. All those States which had not already done so should adhere as soon as possible to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*, article V of which envisaged the creation of an international penal tribunal to try all those considered guilty of the crime of *apartheid*. Much had already been done by international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, but the task remained immense. The Programme for the Decade, which was coming towards its end, should be revised and amplified with the participation of all. Senegal would spare no effort in making its contribution to preparations for the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

58. Mr. LAHLOU (Morocco) observed that, despite the tireless efforts made by the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and the United Nations as a whole during the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, there had been no improvement in the living conditions of the victims of racism and *apartheid* and the principles of the Charter were as far as ever from guaranteeing the promotion of and respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of all men and women without distinction.

59. Since 1946, when India had first denounced the discriminatory laws underlying the policy of *apartheid*,

<sup>2</sup>Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 22.

United Nations action to combat racism and racial discrimination had been marked in particular by the adoption in 1965 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the observance in 1971 of the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the proclamation in 1973 of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. Such action had prompted a sharp increase in the anti-racial activities of all United Nations organs, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and individual Member States.

60. Thus, the Special Committee against *Apartheid* had called for an international conference on sanctions against South Africa, the Commission on Human Rights had co-ordinated co-operation within the United Nations system with a view to securing an integrated approach to racial discrimination and the specialized agencies had played a vital role in implementing the objectives of the Decade. UNESCO, in particular, had made positive efforts to promote universal racial harmony by alerting public opinion. All those efforts notwithstanding, however, part of the world's population continued to be subject to inhuman treatment.

61. The indecisiveness and ambivalence of certain Powers and groups of interests were encouraging the racist régime of Pretoria in its belief that it could survive joint action by the United Nations and by the struggling peoples of Namibia and Azania. He would urge anyone who was at all sympathetic to the policy of *apartheid* to consider the facts given in a special publication issued in November 1980 by the Centre against *Apartheid*, which described the effects of *apartheid* on African family life in South Africa. Like the pass laws, the disintegration of African family life in South Africa was only one example of an institutionalized racism which was designed to destroy systematically an entire people.

62. Racism, racial discrimination and the policies of *apartheid* seriously undermined the credibility of the United Nations. At the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, to be held in 1983, the United Nations would be called upon not only to advocate the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to condemn all collaboration with the racist régime in South Africa but also to match its words with action by drawing up a decisive plan of action and adopting specific measures. Racial discrimination was a moral deviation and, according to the Prophet, if one witnessed a deviation one must act to correct it.

63. Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia) observed that to a large extent, colonialism and imperialism had been responsible for instigating racial discrimination by treating racial groups unequally in order to further their own interests. In some cases, those interests had kept colonial practices intact after independence so that in a number of newly-independent countries racial minorities continued to control vital sectors of human endeavour.

64. Nowhere, however, had racism and racial discrimination been practised so blatantly and brutally as in South Africa. The relentless struggle of the international community and of the peoples of the region against racism and racial discrimination had led to the universal condemnation of *apartheid*, yet the *apartheid* régime was as intransigent as ever. Many difficulties lay ahead in the struggle against *apartheid*, especially in view of the direct and indirect support which South Africa continued to enjoy from a number of States. South Africa would continue to seek moral and material support from its traditional friends, and its opponents

must therefore remain on the alert and not be misled by its current manoeuvres.

65. His delegation was seriously concerned at the situation in South Africa, and throughout southern Africa, created by the policies and actions of the *apartheid* régime, in particular its brutal repression of its opponents, its renewed acts of aggression against neighbouring States and its continued illegal occupation of Namibia. All possible pressure must therefore be brought to bear on the Pretoria régime to make it respond positively to the just demands of the civilized world. In addition to the arms embargo, the Security Council should seriously consider imposing mandatory economic and other sanctions against South Africa. South Africa had been able to continue its policies of oppression and violence primarily because it had continued to receive substantial support from certain States Members of the United Nations which, while publicly condemning South Africa's racial policies, none the less continued to maintain close economic ties with that country, providing it with the economic support essential for its abhorrent social structure. It was high time for those countries whose investments in and economic co-operation with South Africa had, in effect, indirectly supported the *apartheid* régime to embark on a policy of serious disengagement.

66. Although eight years of the Decade had elapsed, the cruel system of *apartheid* remained intact despite cosmetic changes and the Pretoria régime continued to consolidate its stranglehold over the black majority of South Africa's population. The United Nations must therefore redouble its efforts and mobilize public opinion in order to eradicate *apartheid*, once and for all, from the face of the earth. One way to do that would be to influence public opinion in those countries which supported South Africa and whose encouragement had emboldened the *apartheid* régime.

67. While international meetings at the global level were important to the struggle against *apartheid*, regional and subregional meetings might prove equally fruitful. International conferences adopted strategies and new measures to deal with the problem of *apartheid*, but the international press had recently given such conferences only minimal coverage and the public at large was ignorant of their decisions. Prominent officials and public leaders were able to participate in regional and subregional meetings, however, and the outcome of such meetings could be reported more effectively to the general public. Only when opinion at the grass-roots level was alerted to the horrors of *apartheid* would the public be able to urge its leaders to take positive action, thereby ensuring that more Governments exerted the necessary political and other pressure on the friends of South Africa. If such action were to be combined with concerted global action by trade unions, students and other important elements of the international community and of society at large, it should help to advance the struggle against *apartheid* and racial discrimination. The United Nations should therefore provide adequate financing for regional and subregional meetings and other similar activities.

68. His delegation was in favour of convening the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He hoped that, with the experience of the common efforts undertaken during the first Decade, the United Nations would be able to devise more appropriate tactics and strategies, so that it could make deep inroads into the fortress of *apartheid*.

69. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his

purpose went well beyond that of merely replying to unjustified charges which had been made against his country by the representative of the Soviet Union and others. It was the long-standing policy of the United States Government to oppose racism wherever it existed and whatever form it took. The United States had worked peacefully to solve its racial problems and had witnessed nothing less than a revolution in race relations which had dismantled the legal and institutional underpinnings of racial discrimination. Since racism had to be fought wherever it existed and the new United States administration was committed to a consistent approach in its foreign policy, it followed that it would oppose racism wherever it was found. Unfortunately, certain issues of racism and racial discrimination had received inadequate attention in the Council. Those who suffered racism were painfully aware that discrimination was most virulent when it went unrecognized. It was in that respect that a contribution could be made to the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. His delegation submitted that it was racism to believe in the inherent superiority of a particular race or ethnic group and its right to dominate other ethnic groups. That was true not only in southern Africa but also in the Soviet Union with its continuing oppression of the non-Russian population.

70. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that the Soviet delegation had mentioned United States policy exclusively in connection with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The United States had been mentioned only in so far as its policy supported the South African racist régime. Yet the representative of the United States, in his comments about the Soviet Union, was speaking about matters which had no connection with the agenda item under consideration. He wished to draw attention to the fact that the subjects being raised were not relevant to the agenda.

71. The PRESIDENT said that he had two remarks to make. He would appeal to the representative of the United States to be pertinent and brief; and he would remind members of the Council that points of order should relate to procedural matters and should not discuss substance.

72. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America) said he believed that his comments about racism, an ugly problem which unfortunately raised its head everywhere, were germane to the item under consideration. His delegation's contribution would perhaps be to pinpoint places where that particular sore had not yet been identified. He had been speaking to the point and should be allowed to proceed. His delegation submitted that it was racism to believe in the inherent superiority of a particular race or ethnic group and its right to dominate other ethnic groups. That was true not only in southern Africa but also in the Soviet Union with its continuing oppression of the non-Russian population.

73. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, said that if the representative of the United States wished to discuss other countries' internal affairs, the Soviet delegation was ready to take part and would also have things to say about racial discrimination in the United States, with examples of how it affected the black and Indian populations and others. However, the Soviet delegation had spoken of United States policy only in so far as it was hampering the activities of the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The issues which the representative of the United States was raising were not on the agenda, and he would repeat that the

representative of the United States had no right to raise those issues.

74. The PRESIDENT said that discussions on the internal affairs of States were not in order, and he appealed to representatives to refrain from digressing from the Council's agenda. When delegations raised points of order, they were advised to speak on procedure only and not on substance, otherwise it would be impossible to curtail the discussion.

75. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America) said that, in exercising the right of reply, he was seeking to define racism in general terms. The Soviet authorities referred to their policy as the fusion of nationalities, but it might more accurately be described as the ruthless suppression and Russification of the non-Russian peoples of the USSR.

76. The PRESIDENT said that, before taking a point of order, he would appeal to delegations to confine their remarks to the subject-matter and to refrain from making charges and counter-charges.

77. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the view that delegations should not speak about other countries' internal affairs, which were not a subject for discussion.

78. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America) said that, to cite but one example of the destruction of non-Russian people, he would note the case of the Crimean Tatars, a Muslim group.

79. The PRESIDENT appealed to delegations to confine themselves to the debate and not to utter charges and counter-charges, otherwise it would be incumbent on him to curtail proceedings.

80. Mr. OVINNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, moved that the meeting be adjourned.

81. Mr. ZACHMANN (German Democratic Republic) supported the motion of the Soviet representative.

82. The PRESIDENT said that, according to rule 49 of the rules of procedure, no discussion on motions of adjournment should be permitted and they should be put to the vote immediately. The Council would therefore proceed with the vote.

*The motion was rejected by 15 votes to 7, with 21 abstentions.*

83. Mr. SORZANO (United States of America) said that, since his statement had already been distributed and his point made, he would, in the interest of brevity, confine himself to its final paragraph. The United States contribution to the fight against racism was to diagnose the presence of racism in those very countries which were most vociferous in attacking racism in others.

84. Mr. LAMDAN (Observer for Israel) said that certain delegations had once again taken advantage of Council proceedings to slander his country. Attacks on Israel on the ground of racism by those who deserved no credit for the respect of minorities and human rights in their own countries were cynical and grotesque. They were part of an unwarranted campaign by countries which regarded themselves as being at war with Israel. There was no connection between zionism, which was the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, and racism. Israel was firmly and totally opposed to racism and racial discrimination. The attacks were an expression of an old evil which sought to deny the Jewish people their rights and a manifestation of the racism which the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was designed to combat.

85. Mr. AL-GHAZALI (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the international community condemned zionism and regarded it as a kind of racial discrimination. The World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in 1978, had

condemned the Zionist entity for its close relations with the *apartheid* régime.

*The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.*

## 8th meeting

Friday, 24 April 1981, at 10.55 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Paul J. F. LUSAKA (Zambia).

E/1981/SR.8

### AGENDA ITEM 1

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)\* (E/1981/38)

1. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the suggestions made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on the type of report required on land reform and rural development (E/1981/38). The USSR delegation had supported them and, since there appeared to be general agreement in the Council on the suggestions, he suggested that the question should be considered by the Council at its second regular session of 1981 under the item entitled "General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments".

*It was so decided* (decision 1981/106).

### AGENDA ITEM 5

#### Regional cartographic conferences (E/1981/19, E/1981/20)

2. Mr. FALZON (Deputy Director, Natural Resources and Energy Division, Department of Technical Co-operation for Development) pointed out that document E/1981/19 merely contained information on the action taken to implement the recommendations of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas<sup>1</sup> and did not require any specific decision by the Council.

3. Document E/1981/20 contained the report of the Secretary-General on the Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which had adopted 24 resolutions on various activities.<sup>2</sup> The document summarized the main resolutions and he drew attention in particular to the four resolutions mentioned in paragraphs 11, 13, 16 and 27.

4. With regard to paragraph 27, the Conference had adopted a resolution recommending the holding of an interregional conference. Since that suggestion was to be seriously studied in one of the forthcoming sessions of the Council, a report on that subject should be submitted to it. With regard to the measures recommended to the Council by the Conference, as contained in para-

graph 28 of the report of the Secretary-General, he pointed out that so far no country of the region had expressed a desire to host the Tenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Consequently, the Conference could be held at Bangkok, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), some time during the first three months of 1983.

5. Mr. VELLOSO (Brazil) said he would like to comment on the measures taken in Brazil to implement the recommendations of the Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas. The Brazilian National Institute for Space Research was the biggest and oldest establishment of its type in Latin America. It could therefore make a significant contribution to the cartographic survey of the region. The Institute had already undertaken projects using technology developed in Brazil itself and in line with the technological realities of Latin America. They could therefore be effectively applied in technical co-operation procedures in the region as a whole.

6. Brazil took a special interest in the development of concrete measures to educate and train technical personnel in cartography. The role of the United Nations in that field should be limited to the co-ordination of regional efforts. Brazil was therefore opposed to the establishment of regional educational centres, as proposed in a document submitted to the Council the year before.<sup>3</sup> Apart from the budgetary implications, such centres would pose the problem of duplication, since it would be more realistic to use the infrastructure of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the Cartography Section of the United Nations Secretariat.

7. His delegation favoured the use of thematic mapping as a tool for the social and economic development of the Americas. The identification of priority areas would contribute significantly to viability studies for the exploration of natural resources and would also make it possible to project future needs in energy and transportation. Moreover, the co-ordination of the activities of the developing countries would be another positive factor contributing to the establishment of the new international economic order.

8. Mr. MUELLER (German Democratic Republic) said that cartographic conferences could make a decisive contribution to the implementation in the developing countries of projects which formed the basis for an increase in their economic potential, the advancement of social progress and the improvement of management and planning. The conferences also helped those countries to solve their own problems and to

\* Resumed from the 5th meeting.

<sup>1</sup> See *Second United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, Mexico City, 3-14 September 1979*, vol. I, *Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.4), chap. VII.

<sup>2</sup> See *Ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Wellington, New Zealand, 11-22 February 1980*, vol. I, *Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.2), chap. VII.

<sup>3</sup> E/1980/8.