



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 67th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

EXPRESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE IN CONNEXION WITH THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the members of the Committee, expressed condolences to the Government and people of Italy in connexion with the tragic loss of human lives as a result of the recent earthquake.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

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2. Mr. AGUIRRE (Chile) said that his country had elaborated an economic and social strategy in which man was the prime mover and his spiritual and material well-being was the principal objective. Within that context, the fundamental aims of Chilean social development policies were to provide equality of opportunity for all Chileans and to eliminate extreme poverty, to promote employment, and to achieve full participation and integration of the population in the benefits of development.

3. An effort was being made to redistribute income by establishing a progressive taxation system and reorienting fiscal resources so that the entire population could have access to education, public health and housing services. 53 per cent of the 1979 fiscal budget had been allocated to programmes for improving components of the quality of life. Policies for eliminating extreme poverty were being implemented by the provision of subsidies through nutritional, social housing, social welfare and other programmes.

4. With regard to education, an attempt was being made to establish genuine equality of opportunity for the entire population, and the fiscal contribution to the sector had been substantially increased. In 1978 school attendance had been 96.3 per cent. With regard to health, the principal causes of disease and infant mortality had diminished, and infant mortality had declined from 63.5 per 1 000 live births in 1968 to 39.7 in 1978. Poliomyelitis had been eradicated and there had been a considerable decline in general mortality and maternal mortality.

5. Campaigns were being undertaken to eliminate child malnutrition, and extensive research on the subject was being carried out. The most obvious result had been the sharp drop in malnutrition in general; and in particular there were far fewer children in an advanced state of undernourishment. In the context of the activities of the United Nations University, Chile was participating in three subprogrammes of the World Programme to Eradicate Hunger and Malnutrition and had invited 18 fellows from other developing countries to undertake studies on the question. In the field of housing, a social housing programme had been under way since 1975 to meet the needs of the least advantaged sections of the population.

(Mr. Aguirre, Chile)

In 1979 10 000 housing subsidies had been granted, without prejudice to the country's housing plans.

6. Promotion of employment was to be achieved by implementing policies to improve social security and also the labour market. The high rate of unemployment of recent years was declining: in the period August-October 1970 it had fallen to 10.9 per cent, the lowest figure in the past four years. One of the principal causes of the high rate of unemployment was the abnormally rapid growth in the work force, resulting from massive employment of women, part-time working by students and the phenomenon of dual employment. Those phenomena in turn were due to the fact that, in a lively economy, broad sectors of the population could now obtain the purchasing power to acquire consumer goods which were formerly available only to a minority. Workers' real income had improved, as was recognized in the World Bank study on Chile. Real income had risen by 12.5 per cent as compared with 1970. Inflation had also dropped. Annual price increases, which had fluctuated between 700 and 2 000 per cent in 1973, were now approximately 35 per cent.

7. To allow every Chilean to achieve full personal development, his Government was implementing policies to enable workers to participate in the management of enterprises, policies for the development of community and trade union associations, sports and recreation policies, etc.. All that had been accompanied by a substantial growth in the gross national product which had risen by an average of some 8 per cent over the last three years, and was now equivalent to an annual per capita income of \$1,920.

3. His delegation attached particular importance to questions of social development, and thought that those questions were not receiving due priority in the work of the Third Committee. It was true of course that those questions pertained mainly to the national sovereignty of States; but the international community also had an important part to play, especially if the questions were approached in the light of the indivisible nature of the development process.

9. The report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Social Aspects of the Development Activities of the United Nations (E/1981/3) was the product of excellent work. His delegation had studied the report and agreed with the view that the development process should be oriented towards the different groups of society, since they were to be both its beneficiaries and its agents, and since in social matters the approach could not be reduced to the so-called "basic needs criterion". What was lacking was a scheme which reflected the priorities of social objectives, since the effectiveness of the whole system could be impaired by allocating the same amount of resources to different objectives.

10. The Chilean delegation had taken note of the reports submitted by Mr. Dhar, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, on improvements in the methodology for observing social trends and on income distribution in rural and urban areas. It also agreed with the final comments of the report contained in document A/35/231, because the Government of Chile was itself promoting an agrarian policy aimed at achieving a considerably higher level of production which would help the most backward and least favoured sectors.

11. Mr. MALTAKÉ (Netherlands), referring to questions of social development in the context of agenda item 12, said that his delegation had taken note with great interest of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Social Aspects of the Development Activities of the United Nations (E/1981/3). In its view, the problem of migrant workers was in principle a regional matter and, accordingly, the most effective means of providing adequate protection for migrant workers and their families was to conclude regional or bilateral treaties. There were indeed universal norms to be applied all over the world, but there would seem to be more appropriate fora to deal with the protection of migrant labour than the United Nations General Assembly. His delegation wondered whether it was fruitful to continue the work of the Working Group in view of the poor results it had yielded. If it was decided to continue the Working Group, the latter should try to draft a universally acceptable text which contained some general and not too detailed provisions and would not contradict existing international instruments. Existing fundamental rights and safeguards for migrant workers and their families should be reaffirmed, and special attention given to the question of the extent to which economic and social rights should be accorded to those workers and their families.

12. As regards the other Working Group, which dealt inter alia with the draft declaration on the rights of non-citizens, his delegation considered that the work accomplished so far had failed to do full justice to the importance of the subject. He hoped that the work would continue in 1981, and that the General Assembly would be able to adopt the text of a declaration. Such a text must include an article which would fully guarantee the existing fundamental rights and freedoms to which aliens were already entitled under national and international law. His delegation had submitted a draft article to that effect in document A/C.3/35/NG.2/CT.7 which it strongly recommended for adoption.

13. As a consequence of resolution 34/46, the Secretary-General had organized in June 1980 a seminar on the effect of the present unjust international economic order on the economies of developing countries and the obstacle which that constituted for the implementation of human rights, and an independent expert nominated by the Netherlands Government had participated in the seminar. Unfortunately the seminar had not contributed to a further clarification of the many intricate problems concerning the question, especially those relating to the right to development. His Government would continue to co-operate in the efforts to circumscribe the scope and significance of the right to development.

14. Mr. KAVIRATNA (Sri Lanka), referring to the subitem on the right to education, said that in 1979 Sri Lanka had co-sponsored resolution 34/170 and his delegation now gladly supported the efforts of the delegation of Romania to draw attention to the paramount importance of education for the full development of the human personality, as well as the major contribution it made to social progress and national development. The educational process broadened man's understanding of other cultures and social and political systems and thus became an essential pillar of international co-operation and an instrument for the strengthening of peace and international security. The importance of the achievement of universal and compulsory basic schooling and the elimination of illiteracy had been recognized. The right to education as a basic human right was currently so widely accepted that it was difficult to remember how, less than 50 years ago, education had in many parts of the world been a privilege enjoyed only by a limited stratum of society.

(Dr. Yaviratna, Sri Lanka)

15. Sri Lanka recognized the importance of the right to education and enjoyed a comprehensive system of free education, including education at the university level, which was available to all citizens without discrimination. In the previous year the Government had decided to provide school text-books to students completely free of charge. As a result of such measures, the level of literacy in Sri Lanka was 30 per cent for men and women alike and there was now therefore an extremely well developed sense of political consciousness on the part of the population and a desire to participate actively in the political process. It had thus been possible to maintain the steady commitment to the system of parliamentary democracy which had prevailed in Sri Lanka since the achievement of independence in 1948.

16. His delegation welcomed the efforts made in the field of education by UNESCO, which had been able to adapt to changing global trends and new emerging needs. UNESCO had made its most significant contribution in the area of the philosophy of education. The relevance of the work pursued by UNESCO towards the realization of the goals of the international economic order was illustrated in the note on endogenous development, culture and society which had been prepared for the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy.

17. Mr. ZAINAL ABIDIN (Malaysia), referring to the question of narcotic drugs, said that the seriousness of the problem of drug abuse in Malaysia, where the number of addicts as well as illicit trafficking had escalated since 1975, had led his Government to commit approximately \$10 million to national programmes to combat that menace. His delegation was also concerned that the efforts of the international community, and in particular, those of the United Nations, to address the problem had not shown signs of success in containing, much less eliminating, a problem which in some cases had reached a critical stage.

18. Drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs had hitherto been regarded as a social problem and had been given inadequate attention. It was only now that abuse of and illicit trafficking in drugs had been recognized as evils which could be eliminated only by concerted international action. His delegation was convinced that a social or moral approach alone was not adequate to confront a problem whose corrosive effects were extremely grave and threatened the national security, stability, and resilience of Member States.

19. The international community should clearly recognize that new dimension of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs, which called for more determined collective action under the auspices of the United Nations to combat the danger. In the area of source of supply or production of drugs or psychotropic substances, consideration should be given to the possibility of placing every aspect of the production of such substances under effective international supervision while, in the field of education and research, any long-term plan must include programmes which would warn people of the destructive effects of drugs and induce them to renounce their use.

20. Together with other countries, Malaysia considered that the most successful efforts so far had been those designed to curb illicit trafficking and to rehabilitate and treat drug users. At best, however, those represented only partial measures; the willingness to consider common and effective strategies

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(Mr. Zainal Abidin, Malaysia)

depended to a large extent on a global change in attitude towards viewing drug abuse as a problem affecting national security and stability. That had already been recognized by the Commonwealth Heads of Government of the Asian Pacific region when, in September 1980, they had met in New Delhi and issued a communiqué which *inter alia* had recognized that drug abuse on a pervasive scale threatened the security, stability and resilience of a nation. They had noted also that drug abuse was not merely a social problem, but that there was a clear link between drug trafficking and other types of organized crime, including illegal trafficking in arms, which would pose a serious security problem in some countries.

21. It was therefore time for the United Nations to view drugs as harmful by definition and similar to the dangers presented by nuclear weapons and chemical and bacteriological warfare. There was a need for the United Nations to re-examine the magnitude of the problem, whose real impact on Member States called for an effective framework of action under United Nations auspices.

22. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia), referring to the efforts being made by a number of organs and agencies of the United Nations system to promote the further development and more consistent application of existing international instruments in the field of human rights, said that his delegation attached particular importance to the seminar on the effect of the present unjust international economic order on the economies of developing countries and the obstacle which that constituted for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. That seminar, which had been held at Geneva in July 1980, had further elaborated the concept of the right to development as a human right and had stressed the importance of creating the necessary conditions, at the national and international levels, for achieving a more complete realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms through the establishment of the new international economic order and other necessary measures.

23. However the achievement of those objectives should not entail the establishment of new bodies or the strengthening of the international human rights supervisory machinery, for two reasons: regardless of its strength, such machinery could not be effective in the absence of adequate conditions and excessive development in that direction would definitely encourage tendencies towards interference in the internal affairs of individual countries. Past experience had shown that the activities of United Nations bodies in that field required maximum flexibility and goodwill on the part of all concerned. For that very reason he commended the excellent work performed by the Working Group on Missing Persons, established at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

24. Turning to the question of the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families, his delegation believed that, despite the intensive activity of the International Labour Organisation in that field, discussions in the Third Committee and other United Nations bodies had confirmed the need to elaborate and adopt a convention on the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families. In order for a draft resolution relating to such a convention to succeed, it would be necessary for both the host countries and the countries of origin to show flexibility and goodwill.

(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

25. With regard to another aspect of human rights, his delegation had always believed that social and economic development represented two sides of the same coin and that social rights were an inseparable part of the totality of human rights. His delegation therefore attached great importance to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of experts, established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/45, whose activities were described in the Group's report (E/1981/3). The report laid emphasis on popular participation and the fact that social aspects should be treated in the context of development and, consequently, in the context of the establishment of the new international economic order. His delegation supported the view expressed in the report concerning the necessity for better co-ordination of the activities of various United Nations bodies and specialized agencies as well as co-ordination between those bodies and the regional commissions. An expansion of the Economic and Social Council's membership to include all Member States would strengthen the role of that organ and help to promote the consideration of social questions within the framework of the United Nations system.

26. Before turning to other matters related to human rights, his delegation wished to pay tribute to Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, who would soon be leaving her post as head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, for all she had done for the promotion of the social aspects of development within the United Nations and for the zeal with which she had carried out her responsibilities. At the same time his delegation welcomed the appointment of Mrs. Letitia Shahani, Ambassador of the Philippines and well-known in United Nations circles, as the successor to Mrs. Sipilä.

27. With reference to the situation of human rights in Chile, his delegation felt it necessary to point out that, in the seven years since the military coup in Chile had overthrown the democratically elected socialist Government of President Salvador Allende, the Chilean people had been condemned to a life deprived of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The latest report on the situation in Chile submitted by the Special Rapporteur in document A/35/522 showed that there had not only been no improvement in the field of human rights in Chile in the past year but that there had even been an aggravation of the situation in certain areas. The military junta had intensified its repressive measures, in particular by the enactment of new decrees, including Decree-laws Nos. 3,166 and 3,451, of January and July 1980 respectively. According to the report, in recent months there had been an increase in arrests, torture, including the torture of foreign citizens, intimidation and threats. Academic and trade union freedoms continued to be repressed, trade unions were being dissolved and trade union leaders arrested. The poorest strata of Chilean society were especially affected by poverty, illness, high mortality and unemployment.

28. In his view the elaboration and contents of the new Constitution, as well as of the plebiscite, constituted a flagrant violation of the fundamental human rights of the Chilean people. The results of the plebiscite suggested a defeat for the military junta, given the fact that those who had failed to participate in the plebiscite or had voted against the Constitution had exposed themselves to

(Mr. Anteljak, Yugoslavia)

considerable danger. The United Nations should continue to bring pressure to bear on the junta with a view to compelling it to restore human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile. As a minimum the Third Committee should adopt draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.61, in which the Commission on Human Rights was invited to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and should approve the Special Rapporteur's recommendations contained in his report (A/35/522). Anything short of that would only encourage the junta to continue and even intensify its policy of repression against the Chilean people. For that reason his delegation could not agree to the proposal contained in draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.66, which sought to extend the mandate of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chile and convert it into a Voluntary Fund of the United Nations for Victims of Gross and Flagrant Violations of Human Rights. His delegation believed that the Third Committee should continue intensifying its efforts to prolong the life of the Fund and make it successful. Although his country faced serious economic problems, it had contributed to the Fund within the limits of its capabilities, whereas other countries had not done so. In that connexion he pointed out that some delegations tended to overlook the fact that human rights, although universal in character, were implemented in different social, economic, historical and cultural environments and that, as a consequence, various aspects of those rights did not have the same value or priorities in different socio-economic systems. To ignore that fact could only lead to ideological confrontation, which would be very harmful to the cause of human rights and the work of the Committee.

29. Mrs. SU Yiji (China) said that it followed from General Assembly resolution 32/130, paragraph 1 (e), that Soviet and Vietnamese aggression against Afghanistan and Democratic Kampuchea, the illegal occupation of Arab territories by Israel and of Namibia by South Africa, the rivalry of the super-Powers for global hegemony and their interference in the internal affairs of other countries, which undermined the independence, sovereignty and right to national self-determination of those countries, constituted mass and flagrant violations of human rights that had led to a massive exodus of refugees in South-East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, and seriously threatened world peace.

30. Two of the gravest instances in which world peace and security had been undermined and fundamental human rights had been grossly violated in the past two years had taken place in Democratic Kampuchea and Afghanistan. However, despite the repeated appeals to the Soviet Union and Viet Nam in the General Assembly and other international forums to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan and Democratic Kampuchea, the Soviet and Vietnamese hegemonists continued to refuse to comply. Her delegation firmly supported all resolutions and proposals that concerned aggression, called for troop withdrawal and upheld the fundamental rights of the peoples of Afghanistan and Democratic Kampuchea. Her delegation also hoped that the United Nations would adopt effective measures to ensure the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

31. Another urgent human rights issue concerned the death sentence imposed in September 1970 on the South Korean patriot Pim Dae Jung by the Chun Doo Hwan military régime, which had also sentenced 23 other patriots to 2 to 20 years of imprisonment. Her delegation believed that the illegal trials and consequent

(Mrs. Gu Yiji, China)

convictions represented a political witch hunt and a challenge to basic human rights. Kim Dae Jung had always fought heroically for the cause of freedom and democracy and for the peaceful unification of the nation in the face of ruthless repression by the fascist dictators. When his sentence had been announced, there had been strong reactions, not only in North and South Korea but also in many other countries of the world. Furthermore, at the session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held in Geneva in September 1980, many delegations had expressed their grave concern over the sentence and had denounced the atrocious actions of the South Korean authorities. Her delegation urged the international community to appeal to the South Korean authorities to desist from their planned execution of Kim Dae Jung and to restore freedom immediately to him and all other detained patriots.

32. Ms. WELLS (Australia) said that her country had consistently demonstrated its strong conviction that international co-operation was the most effective means of combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. In addition to contributing to the regular budget of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control since 1973, her Government had recently made available the sum of \$A 700,000 for special projects sponsored by the Fund. It therefore considered that the problem of maintaining a world-wide balance between the supply of narcotic drugs and the legitimate demand for those drugs for medical and scientific purposes should be solved by means of international consultation and co-operation. In its view, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, and the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention must be the corner-stone for current efforts to attain a unified approach to the question of narcotic drug control at the international level. Her delegation awaited with interest the outcome of the study that the International Narcotics Control Board was to undertake, and, for the reasons just mentioned, it was pleased to co-sponsor draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.77.

33. With regard to the question of ways of improving at a practical level the protection of the rights of individuals, the debates on human rights that had taken place during the current year in the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council had been focused on systematic and flagrant violations of human rights and, in particular, on particular symptoms that tended to be prevalent in certain situations. In order to focus the debate on those symptoms, it was essential to have reliable and well-documented information available, and, in that connexion, the report of the Special Rapporteur had been invaluable for assessment of the human rights situation in Chile.

34. Despite the difficulties caused by the lack of reliable information on many issues, in the case of the specific question of missing and disappeared persons a large amount of information had been received, thus making it possible to take action in that regard. She awaited with keen interest the report on that question which the Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights was to submit to the Commission at its thirty-seventh session.

35. Her Government had noted with particular concern the growing political violence afflicting countries such as Bolivia, Guatemala and El Salvador, as well as the continuing repression of the people of Afghanistan, a situation that bor

(Ms. Wells, Australia)

witness to the extent to which certain States were prepared to violate human rights for political and ideological purposes. It believed, however, that it was not sufficient to study the symptoms of situations of gross violations of human rights; the causal factors must also be considered. It was evident that the local factors that gave rise to human rights violations were almost as diverse as the situations themselves. It served no purpose to make generalizations and to identify as the causes such factors as the capitalist system of the international economic crisis; it was necessary to analyse, assess and understand the true causes of human rights violations. Moreover, it must above all be recognized that the fundamental impulse and protection must inevitably come from the moral judgement and commitment of individuals, especially those in positions of power.

36. Her delegation recognized the validity of various philosophical approaches to the question of human rights. It was particularly concerned that a consensus should be maintained on such questions wherever possible. The breaking of that basic consensus was usually an indication of the introduction of extraneous issues serving a political purpose, almost invariably of a short-term nature. However, it was in the international community's long-term interest that States should co-operate in the promotion of respect for human rights. That truth was demonstrated by the trend towards the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. The European Commission of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights were extremely active in that connexion. Furthermore, the Organization of the Islamic Conference had established a committee of experts to consider a draft Islamic Charter on Human Rights, which would finally be considered by the Islamic summit conference. Progress had also been made in Africa, under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity, towards the establishment of an African commission on human rights. Her delegation had noted with interest from the introductory statement made by the Director of the Division of Human Rights that a Member State in the Asian region had offered to host a seminar that was likely to be held in 1981. Her country would gladly participate in such a seminar and awaited with interest further information concerning preparatory arrangements.

37. Mr. DUE (Norway) said that there was currently general agreement that the concept of development must include economic and social components and that the promotion of distributional equity was of particular importance in the improvement of living conditions for all population groups. The United Nations had an important role to play in that kind of work and in the promotion of co-operation between countries in that field. Monitoring of social trends was of the utmost importance to the international community's ability to evaluate the direction and quality of social development. Considerable progress had been made in the techniques for monitoring those trends since the United Nations had started publishing its reports on the world social situation in 1952. Document A/35/340 considered in a realistic manner the many methodological problems still to be solved. For example, the extensive use of gross national product per capita as a proxy indicator for socio-economic progress could be considered as a result of the lack of more exact social data and must therefore be complemented by data expressing the distribution of benefits and opportunities and data reflecting major aspects of social change.

(Mr. Due, Norway)

38. Like the corresponding report for 1974, the 1978 Report on the World Social Situation included an assessment of distribution of income among and within nations and a presentation of trends in patterns of official expenditure on social services. His delegation assumed that the Secretariat would pursue its work on questions of income distribution, particularly with regard to the effect of public policies. Over the past 10 to 15 years substantial resources had been devoted in a great number of countries to studies relating to income distribution, and the United Nations should take full advantage of those studies in its work on social development.

39. With regard to the report on the distribution of income between rural and urban areas (A/35/231), his delegation hoped that the Economic and Social Council would continue to devote attention to the problems dealt with in that document, since the report clearly indicated the need for further studies in that field.

40. His Government believed that, in order to achieve well-balanced regional development within a country, it was of the greatest importance to ensure equitable income distribution between urban and rural areas. Of course, the policies to be adopted would vary considerably from country to country, but it was useful to exchange experiences and views at the international level on the kind of mechanisms that could contribute to rural-urban economic imbalances and on the different options there were for rectifying such imbalances.

41. Mr. SPINELLI (Italy) thanked members of the Committee for their expressions of sympathy in connexion with the disaster that had struck his country and assured the Committee that they would be transmitted to the Government and people of Italy.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.