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Chairman: Mr. Erik NETTEL (Austria).

AGENDA ITEM 62

International Year for Human Rights (continued)  
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1642):

- (a) Measures and activities undertaken in connexion  
with the International Year for Human Rights:  
report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) International Conference on Human Rights

GENERAL DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF  
DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.1623/REV.1  
(continued)

1. Mr. JONKER (International Labour Organisation) explained that the ILO approach to the practical implementation of human rights was based on three concepts: first, political freedom, civil liberties, economic progress, social justice and cultural vitality were mutually dependent upon and complementary to, each other; secondly, the fundamentals of human rights were universal and eternal, but the modalities of their application varied according to time and place; thirdly, precepts became practice by the continuous interplay of broad policies, obligations and standards defined by law, promotional and educational activities, inquiry and complaint procedures, and practical assistance in evolving and applying policies, standards and procedures.

2. Three conclusions could be drawn from the debates on the subject of human rights at the International Labour Conference: first, that the ILO should continue to insist that economic development and scientific progress must never become a pretext for deliberately flouting human rights; secondly, that growing material and economic prosperity should be used to broaden the scope of individual rights and

freedoms; thirdly, that, if the ILO was to continue to play a dynamic role in the field of human rights, it must insist that the effective and continuing enjoyment of those rights depended on the extent to which they were matched by acceptance of the highest sense of social duty and responsibility by those who guided and controlled the freedom of others.

3. In spite of the ILO's achievements, its goal was still considered to be far ahead, and it would therefore endeavour to inject into every field of its activity a greater awareness of the need to promote human rights.

4. An important aspect of the ILO's action must be further efforts to concentrate on the improvement of the economic and social situation of the groups which had been the object of discrimination and thus to relieve some of the effects of discrimination even before its causes had been removed. In view of the size and complexity of that task, it would be indispensable to associate in those efforts the organizations of the United Nations system and also the non-governmental organizations and other bodies which were actively involved in the fight against discrimination. The ILO could through its tripartite structure appeal to both employers and workers to make efforts to promote equality. Since employers and workers had serious problems to contend with in that respect, the ILO could provide them with weapons to fight discrimination where it often existed in its most acute form, namely, in places of employment. Moreover, many of the ILO's existing programmes could well be adapted to promote more actively the goal of equality of opportunity. The World Employment Programme, which the ILO was going to launch in 1969, would be of crucial importance in that respect, since it was, after all, the difficulty or impossibility of finding employment which was often the root of the poverty and misery among the minority groups.

5. The Governing Body of the ILO, at its 173rd session, had requested the Director-General, when preparing his programme and budget proposals for 1970-1971, to give continued consideration to possible ways and means of co-ordinating research, publicity, technical co-operation projects, advisory missions and standard-setting activities into a significant concerted human rights programme of the ILO. It had also requested him to consider measures including the raising of additional financial resources which would be necessary to implement effectively the long-term significant concerted human rights programme of the International Labour Organisation.

6. Mrs. RADIC (Yugoslavia) said that, during the twenty-five years of the existence of the new Yugoslavia, her country had achieved significant results

in the area of human rights. The realization of those rights had not been easy, because Yugoslavia was a community comprising different nations and nationalities. Nevertheless, all the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, further elaborated and adapted to Yugoslavia's specific conditions, had been embodied into its national legislation. The most important was the principle of self-management, guaranteed by the Constitution, which meant not only that the citizens exercised their political rights through the local government, social organizations and federal organs, but that the economic, social and cultural rights of all the people were also guaranteed. In addition, Yugoslavia had signed and ratified all the most important documents in the field of human rights.

7. With regard to the International Conference on Human Rights, held at Teheran, she wished first to express her delegation's gratitude to the Government and people of Iran for their exceptional hospitality and collaboration. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the Conference and hoped that it would mark a great step forward towards the establishment of a long-term, world-wide programme of work for the collection of information and for the formulation of objectives for the consequential application of the adopted principles and for full respect for human rights.

8. Speakers at the Conference had been unanimous in their appraisal of the beneficial impact which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had had and continued to have in national and international fields. Among the international documents of the greatest importance adopted in the period since the adoption of the Universal Declaration were, of course, the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Declaration of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

9. Obviously, however, that impressive result was somewhat impaired by the fact that today there were brutal violations of human rights. The Teheran Conference had not only condemned those violations and recommended measures to end them, but had also pointed to the incompatibility of the principles of the Declaration with the prevailing position of millions of men in some parts of the world, where hunger, sickness and misery also constituted violations of fundamental rights. Her delegation considered it essential to point out that there was no unanimity as to the measures to be used in the fight against such violations. Unfortunately, it was obvious that there was no readiness on the part of many who rightly condemned those violations; passivity favoured only those practising them.

10. She would like to speak of some areas which needed to be more accentuated in the work of the international community, and especially of the United Nations. In the first place, the struggle against racial discrimination must receive priority in the programmes of the organs concerned with human rights. The Seminar on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination held recently at New Delhi had highlighted the increasing violence and oppression in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and the Portuguese

consistent application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination must become a yardstick of the readiness of every country to pass from words to deeds. Nor must the struggle against other forms of discrimination, such as discrimination against minorities, discrimination against women and religious intolerance, be ignored. The resolutions of the Teheran Conference were a positive contribution towards that.

11. Secondly, special attention should be given to the implementation of social and economic rights, since the realization of the rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration required an adequate social, material and political basis which would prevent inequality, injustice, privileges and every other form of subjugation. Her delegation would stress once again the significance of socio-economic development of the developing countries as a decisive factor in the realization of human rights. It therefore hoped that the requests contained in resolution XVII of the Conference, of which her country had been a sponsor, would receive adequate attention.

12. Thirdly, the question of freedom of information, which had for years been appearing on the agenda of some United Nations organs, was most important. The repeated postponement of discussion of that question and of adoption of the convention on freedom of information had not always been due to shortage of time. Actually, there was resistance to the idea that the generally recognized principle of freedom of information should be defined in such a way that the right of man to be informed promptly and objectively would become an international law. The information media were a powerful force which should be used to promote international peace and co-operation and not, as was often the case, to encourage hostilities among peoples, to instigate hatred and to misinform. Evidence of the importance which Yugoslavia attached to that question was the symposium on mass media and international understanding that had been held in September 1968 at Ljubljana.

13. Lastly, she noted that the international community was now entering a phase when efforts must be concentrated on the implementation of what had been incorporated in various documents. The appraisal of those instruments would in great measure reveal whether the existing mechanism for implementation was really effective. It should also be borne in mind that implementation depended primarily upon Governments and peoples. What was important was to have those principles implemented by each country in the manner best suited to its conditions and needs, without any interference from outside.

14. Mr. OMEDA ALLIMADI (Uganda) said that, in his Government's view, the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reflected the desire of all men for justice. The Teheran Conference had been a victory over injustice and proof of the determination of all countries to co-operate more closely in the field of human rights. It was the declared policy of his Government to respect the fundamental rights of every individual. His country recognized the right of every person to live a life of

protected the individual as well as his property without distinction as to race, colour, creed or religion.

15. The present attitude of Governments towards the principles of the Universal Declaration showed that there was still much to be done. The doctrine of apartheid, protected by laws which were designed to accentuate injustice; was still being preached in southern Africa. A large segment of the international community was not only insincere in condemning that evil but was indirectly supporting it by diplomatic and commercial means. Colonialism and neo-colonialism continued to prevent certain peoples from fully exercising their inalienable rights. Human rights continued to be violated in the Territories under Portuguese administration, and it was a fact that much of the foreign investment in those Territories was of non-Portuguese origin. It was the duty of the international community to throw light on the real forces behind certain colonial Powers such as Portugal. In view of the many clear violations of human rights which were being committed at present, the fight for human rights would have to be intensified at a time when, unfortunately, those forces which placed their own interests above human rights could be expected to continue to take advantage of the situation, sowing confusion and dissension among men of goodwill. His delegation therefore felt that, as the Year for Human Rights approached its end, the Committee and the United Nations as a whole had two major battles to fight. One was the direct struggle against injustice, oppression and exploitation of man by man, while the other was the indirect struggle against those forces which were determined to frustrate the efforts of the international community. The latter struggle might well prove decisive, for it would determine whether all men were to have full enjoyment of their rights or whether slavery, oppression and exploitation were to be permanently institutionalized.

16. Uganda's stand on the issue was well-known. The Government respected all the provisions of the United Nations conventions on human rights and was particularly concerned about the position of refugees, who lived in such pitiful conditions. Moreover, it vigorously condemned the gross violations of human rights committed under the policy of apartheid, for it felt that all ideologies based on the false notion of racial superiority were intolerable. It was also opposed to all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism and maintained that the struggle against them was a just one and should be supported. It was for those reasons that his delegation had joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1, which confirmed the spirit of the Teheran Conference—a spirit which would, he hoped, continue to guide the Committee and the United Nations as a whole in promoting the cause of human rights.

17. Mr. BABAA (Libya) said that in his country, as in all other Member States, the year 1968 had been formally proclaimed as International Year of Human Rights; for the purpose of marking the occasion, a special committee had arranged an extensive programme which was summarized in the Secretary-General's report (see A/7195). During 1968, Libya had also acceded to a number of conventions, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In addition, pro-

grammes had been arranged to enlighten the public on the role of the United Nations and other bodies in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms and on Libya's present laws and constitutional provisions guaranteeing those rights.

18. His delegation shared the view that the greatest achievement in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration had perhaps been made in the matter of decolonization. He wished to recall, in that connexion, that the first positive action along those lines taken by the United Nations after the adoption of the Universal Declaration had been General Assembly resolution 289 A (IV) of 21 November 1949 granting independence to Libya. That had been the beginning of the process of decolonization, which had continued on the African continent and in other parts of the world, and the end of the ugly colonial era. It was natural that the Libyan Constitution, which had been among the first to be drafted after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, embodied the lofty and noble principles of the Declaration and the United Nations Charter.

19. In the Prime Minister's message delivered on 1 January 1968 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to mark the beginning of the International Year for Human Rights, it had been stressed that since its independence Libya had pursued a policy of giving both moral and material support to all peoples struggling for their fundamental rights. His country had denounced and condemned the policy of apartheid and racial discrimination practised in South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. It also supported the legitimate struggle of those peoples which were still under the colonial yoke and of all other oppressed peoples struggling for their freedom and independence and for the enjoyment of their human rights. Peace in the world clearly depended on man's respect for his fellow men. It was in the light of those considerations that his delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/L.1637 and Add.1.

20. Attention should also be drawn to the gross violations of human rights which were occurring in the occupied territories in the Middle East. That occupation represented the ugliest type of colonialism and exploitation and was a violation of all the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter.

21. During the general debate at the Teheran Conference, it had been rightly pointed out that the past twenty years had represented the stage of defining human rights and that the next twenty might represent the stage of implementing those rights. The Committee should therefore translate its remarkable achievements in defining human rights into action and into condemnation of all violations of those rights wherever they occurred.

22. Finally, his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1 and hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

23. Mr. RAPOS (Czechoslovakia), emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, said that that significant document embodied the basic concepts in the field of human rights, which had their roots in the great revolutionary movements

of history and particularly in the French Revolution. However, those concepts had been joined by new principles initiated in the world socialist movement when the latter had entered a new epoch as a result of the October Revolution. What was involved was a new concept of human rights and fundamental freedoms which was reflected in the creation of the essential conditions for the full liberation of man and thus gave a new content to political and civil rights.

24. Czechoslovakia had been guided by that new concept in supporting United Nations efforts in the field of human rights and in taking an active part in the drafting of a number of important documents, particularly the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenants on Human Rights. It was continuing to strive for the creation of a modern socialist society in which socialist theory and practice were in full harmony, and it had made significant progress towards that goal during the past twenty years. The present Constitution protected not only the traditional civil and political rights but also the economic, social and cultural rights which were inherent in the socialist system. It was true that there had been violations of those principles in the past, but that did not detract from the results achieved by the Czechoslovak people in the political, economic and cultural fields and in the development of civil rights, since the violations in question had resulted from the use of incorrect methods and had been affected by the cold war.

25. The present period was essentially one in which an effort was being made to achieve further development of the forms of socialist life and to eliminate the shortcomings and distortions which had existed. Developments since last January and the whole process of renewal in his country had brought about a deeper understanding of the significance and functions of human rights and freedoms emanating from the internal sources of socialist society. He regarded that as his country's contribution to the International Year for Human Rights.

26. The goal towards which Czechoslovakia was striving in practice was a system that would be able to satisfy on a broad scale the needs and aspirations of the people in all spheres of life in a better and more complete way than the system which had existed in the pre-Munich Republic. It was a process of seeking new and better ways, a process which was developing intensively even during the present period.

27. On 28 October of the current year, the National Assembly had passed the Constitutional Act regulating the federative organization of the State in two nations, the Czech and the Slovak, based on the principle of equality within the framework of the right to self-determination. The Act on Nationalities specified and further guaranteed full respect for their specific interests to all national groups living in the country. The National Assembly had also passed an Act which would rectify the injustices which had been perpetrated against the country's citizens in the earlier period of deformations.

28. The results of the post-January development process had been embodied in an action programme

of the situation, the basic aims of the programme remained the focal point of the national efforts. Thus, in September of the current year, the Government had made a declaration in the National Assembly in which it had emphasized *inter alia* that it considered the full and true application of civil rights and freedoms to be an indispensable prerequisite for the further development of socialism in the country. The Government had, on the other hand, declared that it was also necessary for the interests of the Republic to be duly protected and that civil freedoms could not be misused to jeopardize the interests of the State and the socialist society. The Government had in that spirit adopted some partial measures mostly of a temporary character.

29. Having in mind the purposes and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, his country could not choose any other road than that of the closest mutual co-operation of nations in the implementation of the Declaration and other documents in the field of human rights. While his delegation appreciated any sincere efforts to understand the problems and strivings of Czechoslovak people, it could not, at the same time, fail to see that some delegations were approaching those problems from the point of view of their own political objectives and interests.

30. The Teheran Conference, as well as the documents adopted there, could be considered an important step forward in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. His Government greatly appreciated the work done at the Teheran Conference and regarded the Proclamation of Teheran as a significant means of support to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the further development of United Nations activities in the field of human rights in general. That support was very necessary because, in spite of the considerable progress that had been made in regard to the recognition and implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the situation was still far from satisfactory as was evident from such violations of those rights as colonialism, racial discrimination and the policy of *apartheid*. His delegation wished also to stress the danger inherent in the growth of neo-nazism, which should not be underestimated and the toleration of which could not be justified on the basis of civil rights and freedoms. As long as there existed vast racial discrimination, as long as there existed colonialism explained also by theories of racial supremacy, and as long as there existed racist and neo-nazi organizations, the international community could not and must not halt its struggle against those evils. Until that time, it must exert intensive efforts and take the most effective measures to bring about the complete eradication of those nefarious practices which constituted a vital danger to the whole of mankind.

31. Proceeding from a positive evaluation of the results attained at the Teheran Conference, his delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1 because it believed that the ideas which it contained truly reflected the present needs. His delegation also fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1626 and Add.1. which reflected the just demands of the

32. He wished in that connexion to refer to certain attempts which had been made in the Committee to alter the position of leading representatives of the Czechoslovak people against anti-Semitism in certain contexts and which could not be described otherwise than as a clumsy effort motivated by political aims.

33. The international situation undoubtedly required of the United Nations that it should continue to strengthen its role in the field of support for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a world scale. As the Teheran Conference had rightly pointed out, it was necessary to emphasize the primary responsibility of States for ensuring the implementation of human rights and the respective international norms and standards. That objective was not, however, being served if the United Nations, contrary to the principle of the universality of human rights embodied in the Charter and Universal Declaration, prevented a number of States from participating in the international co-operation in that important field. What was more, special attention must also be paid to the urgent problems of youth, which represented a broad and important social group.

34. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that, even after the end of the International Year for Human Rights, the activities of the United Nations would develop in the direction of the fulfilment of the aspiration of mankind to live in a world without wars and based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, on the dignity and value of human beings and on equal rights of all people and nations large or small.

35. Miss KHUHRO (Pakistan), after welcoming the delegation of Equatorial Guinea, said that Governments in the modern world sometimes tended to become impersonal bureaucracies and to lose sight of their basic function, which was to provide the essential framework and background to enable the individual to live in freedom and peace and to exercise such rights as did not impinge on the rights of others. The international community therefore needed to be reminded forcibly and repeatedly of the *raison d'être* of the world—the individual and his well-being, a well-being he could attain only if his individuality was recognized and his human rights protected by the State. The General Assembly was to be congratulated on its decision to celebrate the current year as the International Year for Human Rights. It was necessary, however, for people to rely more on themselves than on the Governments in the pursuit and attainment of human rights, and that could be achieved only through the widest possible dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and throughout the co-operation of Governments in educating the people and making accessible to them literature dealing with their rights and obligations.

36. Her country attached special importance to promoting and publicizing the Universal Declaration in harmony with the provisions of its Constitution which guaranteed fundamental human rights and freedoms irrespective of race, sex, colour, language or religion.

37. In order that the International Year for Human Rights might be celebrated in a fitting manner, the Government of Pakistan and many private bodies had organized various activities. Special postage stamps

had been issued to commemorate the Year; meetings, seminars and symposia had been held throughout the country; and special programmes had been arranged over television and radio to acquaint the people with the significance of the International Year for Human Rights.

38. As she had previously said, grave breaches of peace, justice and human dignity continued to exist in many parts of the modern world. The historical injustice of the situation in the Middle East was obvious, and the ranks of the first generation of refugees was being swelled by a continuous stream of new refugees who had been forced to abandon their homes because of the overt and covert acts of the Israel authorities who were bent on projects to create a greater Israel.

39. Also, the situation in South Africa continued to worsen, so that it had become imperative for the world community to take effective action to safeguard the rights of the non-white majority of that country.

40. Her delegation wished to congratulate the Shahshah and the Government of Iran on their initiative in inviting the United Nations to hold the International Conference on Human Rights at Teheran and on the generous hospitality displayed by them in the course of the Conference. Her delegation was a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1, which, *inter alia*, expressed satisfaction with the work of the Conference, confirmed the views of the Conference on the urgency of eliminating denials and violations of human rights, endorsed the Proclamation of Teheran as a reaffirmation of the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and called upon all States and organizations to take further action with a view to the full implementation of human rights in the light of the recommendations of the Conference.

41. Mrs. PRIKHODKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the multilateral agreements in the field of human rights reached under the auspices of the United Nations served as the legal basis for the struggle of peoples to protect their fundamental rights and freedoms and revealed the determination of countries to end violations of such rights. However, evils like neo-nazism, colonialism, *apartheid*, racism and so on would not be eliminated by the mere elaboration of international instruments; that required the strict implementation of such instruments, a responsibility which, as stipulated in the United Nations Charter, rested with each Member State. The promulgation of laws which strengthened and protected human rights was a subject which came within the national jurisdiction of States. In order to carry out the provisions of international conventions it was essential to take into account the peculiar characteristics and structures of each State.

42. In operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2081 (XX) Member States were invited to ratify before 1968 the Conventions already concluded in the field of human rights. She regretted that in the Secretary-General's report on measures and activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights (A/7195, A/7195/Add.1 and Add.3-6) there was no more than a mere reference to that resolution and no mention at all of operative para-

graph 3, which contained the most important provisions. True, at the 1620th meeting, the Director of the Division of Human Rights had spoken in detail on that subject but it would have been more useful to include such information in the Secretary-General's report. In making that statement she had no intention of criticizing the Secretary-General but merely wished to bring the matter to the attention of the Committee, for the best contribution to the International Year for Human Rights would be the signature and ratification of the pertinent Conventions by the greatest number of countries. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that the interference of supra-national organizations in the internal affairs of States was prejudicial to international co-operation in that field.

43. The holding of the Teheran Conference was one of the principal measures adopted by the United Nations for the celebration of the International Year for Human Rights. It was the first time that an international conference had been convened with the explicit aim of considering international co-operation for ensuring the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Her delegation had considered that the results of the Conference were very encouraging and particularly resolution II on measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance; resolution VIII which recognized the legitimate rights of peoples fighting for freedom in colonial countries; and resolution XXI on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. In her opinion, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as all States, were duty bound to adopt the measures necessary to implement the recommendations of the Teheran Conference.

44. Although her delegation supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev. 1, she felt that it had certain stylistic deficiencies. In order to correct them, she suggested that the expression "a solid foundation" in operative paragraph 1 should be replaced by such wording as "a set of standards" and she would prefer another adjective to replace "historic" in operative paragraph 3. With regard to operative paragraph 5, she considered that States should be urged not only to give wide-spread publicity to the Proclamation of Teheran but also to the resolutions of the Conference.

45. At the 1622nd meeting the representative of Israel had referred to so-called anti-Semitic activities in the information media of the USSR. The remarks had been based on an article which had appeared in the Ukrainian Press in 1964 and in which several errors had inadvertently occurred. On the basis of that publication, the Israel delegation had put forward provocative generalizations in which it not only sought to deny the author, Trofim Kichko, the right to express his opinions but also insulted him and charged him with being a nazi collaborator. Obviously, such an attack could only be interpreted as a manoeuvre to distract world attention from the flagrant violations of human rights which were being committed in the Arab territories occupied by Israel and its failure to fulfil the pertinent resolutions of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

46. Finally, she advised the Australia delegation, with reference to the remarks it had made at the 1624th meeting, not to concern itself with non-existent prob-

tion in Australia itself, where the indigenous population had decreased in recent years from 300,000 to 45,000.

47. Mrs. OGATA (Japan) said that the Third Committee should complete the work of the International Conference on Human Rights; examine, confirm and endorse the Proclamation of Teheran; and decide what measures it should urge Governments to take to implement the resolutions of the Conference. Nevertheless, the debate on the subject had given rise to heated discussions over alleged violations of human rights in several parts of the world. No one could remain indifferent to the deplorable policies of racial discrimination in southern Africa, the recent large-scale denial of freedom of opinion and assembly in central Europe, and the failure to provide protection and security for the refugees in the Middle East. All those situations resulted from the political actions of certain Governments. The Third Committee must therefore consider its attitude towards questions of human rights which had strong political implications. Obviously, it was impossible to divorce human rights from politics, because the very principle of human rights had been established through the hard-won struggle of peoples against tyranny and oppression. When political measures were not effective in preventing Governments from pursuing oppressive policies, the last recourse of the oppressed was to appeal to the world for the return of justice.

48. Fifty years ago the Japanese delegation had proposed that a racial equality clause should be incorporated in the Covenant of the League of Nations. That proposal had been rejected by the great Powers of that time, which feared the effect it might have on their relationships with colonial peoples. Today, in every major document of the United Nations and in many of the Teheran resolutions the principle of racial equality was firmly established. Nobody questioned its validity. Differences arose only over its implementation.

49. The voices of representatives could not be too loud nor their tone too severe when condemning violations of human rights wherever they might occur. But the question was how to prevent the Committee from turning into a political forum. His delegation appealed to representatives to concentrate on social, humanitarian and cultural matters and to focus their attention on the human rights which were in jeopardy. They should bear in mind that the aim of the International Year for Human Rights was to promote and bring to life the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

50. Although the more flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms were a subject of common concern to all States, the primary responsibility for upholding those rights rested with individual Governments. The adoption of efficient machinery in each country was crucial for the effective implementation of human rights. In 1948, Japan had set up the Civil Liberties Bureau as part of the Ministry of Justice and more than 9,200 Civil Liberties Commissioners, appointed by the Minister of Justice, had been given the task of protecting the people's fundamental rights by constant vigilance and of disseminating the idea of universal respect for human rights.

51. A survey of human rights in Japan reflected the

first there had been violations of human rights by government officials. Later, problems had arisen involving the control of student and labour demonstrations. Following the improvement in the standards of living, there had been protests against public hazards or against mass information media. From that survey two conclusions could be drawn. Firstly, the denial of human rights which had been traditionally attributed to political oppression was frequently caused by socio-economic conditions. Secondly, the promotion of human rights was an educative process: the more the people were enlightened about their rights, the more alert they would be to any infringement. She could not foresee a cessation of, or a decrease in human rights violations but rather a change in the types of violation and new approaches to remedy them. It was in that educative process that the United Nations could play its greatest role. Every resolution it adopted, every convention that it concluded, would help to awaken millions of people of the world to the value of themselves and of their rights.

52. She fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1 and thanked the Italian delegation for having brought to the Committee's attention the need to enlighten teachers about the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

53. Mrs. TSERENNADMID (Mongolia) said that the Mongolian People's Republic, which had legally affirmed and materially guaranteed the fundamental rights of the citizens by its Constitution of 1924, attached great importance to the General Assembly's decision to designate the year 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights.

54. To promote the implementation of that decision, a national committee had been set up in the Mongolian People's Republic which had carried out a number of measures. She mentioned a few of those measures: on 5 June 1968, the Mongolian Peoples Republic had signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women had been published in Mongolian; a postage stamp had been issued to commemorate the International Year for Human Rights; on Mongolia's initiative, an international seminar on the situation of peasant women in Asia had been organized at Ulan Bator in July 1968; special radio and television programmes to mark the International Year for Human Rights had been arranged; the International Human Rights Day—10 December—was planned to be observed throughout the country through the Press, on radio and on television.

55. She noted that the Mongolian Government gave full support to the decision to hold the International Year for Human Rights, whose object, *inter alia*, was to assist Member States to undertake necessary measures for the practical implementation of the principal provisions of the important international instruments adopted by the United Nations in the field of human rights. The significance of the International Year for Human Rights had assumed a special importance in the light of the stubborn struggle of peoples for the full guarantee of and respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights and in their struggle against

imperialism, colonialism and racism, for peace, national independence and social progress.

56. However, it was not enough to proclaim lofty principles and rules, even with the best of intentions. The true implementation of fundamental human rights was most closely linked with certain social and economic conditions. The Constitution of the Mongolian Peoples Republic not only proclaimed the equality of basic rights of all citizens in all spheres, but guaranteed those rights in practice. Before the country's liberation Mongolian women were oppressed and slighted but today, thanks to the care of the people's government they took an active part in the development of society and worked on equal terms with men in industry, agriculture, education, science and other fields. What was very characteristic of the Mongolian women today was their active and broader participation in the political life of the country. It was clearly seen from the fact that 21.5 per cent of the deputies in Parliament and 28.9 per cent of the deputies in the local organs of state power were women.

57. She expressed satisfaction that the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international legal documents in that field already had been put into practice in Mongolia.

58. In her view, the Teheran Conference which her country had attended, was an important event in United Nations activities to popularize and implement the measures that it had adopted in the field of human rights. The Mongolian delegation attached a great significance to the Conference's resolutions on the respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories, measures to be taken against nazism and racial intolerance, human rights in armed conflicts, and others. The Conference had paid great attention to the problem of total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

59. The Mongolian delegation hoped that those decisions would play a positive role in the continued efforts of the United Nations and other international bodies against the violation of human rights. In that connexion, the Mongolian delegation stressed that the continuation of the barbarous war by the United States against the Vietnamese people, the unliquidated consequences of the Israel aggression against Arab countries, the criminal actions of racists in the United States of America, trampling of the fundamental rights of the Negro population, the policy of racism and apartheid in the Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia, were not only the most flagrant denials of human rights but represented a dangerous threat to international peace and security. Under the circumstances the United Nations should take effective steps to ensure strict respect for human rights. The Teheran Conference had developed further to a certain extent the main directions of the United Nations activities in the field of human rights.

60. She supported in principle draft resolution A/C.3/L.1623/Rev.1 despite the weakness in its present wording. It did not fully cover the most important resolutions of the International Conference on Human Rights.

*The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.*