

539th meeting

Tuesday, 11 August 1981,  
at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BAHNEV

FILLING OF VACANCIES IN THE COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8, PARAGRAPH 5 (b), OF THE CONVENTION AND RULE 13 OF THE PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE (CERD/C/83) (agenda item 2) (concluded)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the note by the Secretary-General (CERD/C/83) concerning the communication from the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Secretary-General of the decision of the Government of Senegal to submit for the approval of the Committee the appointment of Mr. Jacques Baudin as member of the Committee to replace Mr. Goundiam, who had resigned. He then invited members of the Committee to approve the appointment of Mr. Baudin.

In accordance with rule 13 of the provisional rules of procedure, a vote was taken by secret ballot.

The appointment of Mr. Baudin to membership of the Committee was unanimously approved.

2. At the invitation of the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BAUDIN made the solemn declaration provided for in rule 14 of the provisional rules of procedure.

3. The CHAIRMAN took note of that declaration.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION (agenda item 3) (continued)

Sixth periodic report of Mongolia (CERD/C/66/Add.34)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) took a place at the Committee table.

4. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia) proposed a number of changes in the English translation of the Mongolian report in order to bring it into line with the original Russian. In the fifth paragraph of the report, the word "attend" in the first sentence should be replaced by the word "hold". In the sixth paragraph, the word "such" should be added after the word "and" in the first sentence. In the eighth paragraph, the expression "injured party" in the third sentence should be replaced by the word "victim", while in the ninth paragraph, the word "wages" in the second sentence should be replaced by the words "labour earnings". The

/...

(Mr. Enksaikhan, Mongolia)

translation of the title of article 69 of the Criminal Code reproduced in the annex should be changed from "wilful homicide" to "intentional homicide" and the adjective "intentional" should be used in place of "wilful" throughout the translation. Similarly, the word "exile" should be used in preference to the word "banishment" wherever it occurred in the translation. Lastly, the word "nature" in paragraph (a) of article 77 should be replaced by the word "pressure".

5. Since the submission of Mongolia's fifth periodic report in 1979, no new legislation had been enacted having a direct bearing on the elimination of racial discrimination and the implementation of the Convention. All the legislative provisions referred to in previous reports remained in force and were strictly observed. As there had been no violations of the relevant legislative provisions, no case involving racial discrimination had been brought before the courts.

6. The sixth periodic report was being considered during the year of the 60th anniversary of the people's revolution in Mongolia, which had freed the country of its colonial and feudal yokes and enabled the people to build a new society free from exploitation and discrimination. Mongolia had been transformed into a dynamically developing State with a modern diversified economy, a flourishing culture and constantly rising living conditions. Since the first days of the revolution, the Government had taken effective measures to abolish exploitation of man by man and inequality in general, and its first legislative acts had been directed at eliminating discrimination on grounds of race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin. However, legislative acts alone were not enough and the Government had had to take practical measures to ensure strict observance of its legislative acts, especially by the deposed feudal lords and former nobility. At the same time, the Government had taken a number of economic and social measures aimed at guaranteeing equality.

7. In the international sphere, the Mongolian People's Republic pursued the policy of promoting peace and international security, developing mutually beneficial co-operation among all States, and supporting the struggle for national liberation against colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and all forms of discrimination. At the 18th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, President Tsedenbal had reaffirmed the country's commitment to the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa for national and social liberation and

/...

(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

against imperialism, colonialism and racism, and its condemnation of the policy of imperialist and hegemonic elements backing the inhuman apartheid régime.

Mongolia fully supported the policy of refraining from diplomatic, trade or any other relations with the racist régime of South Africa and the imposition of comprehensive sanctions against it. Wide publicity was given in Mongolia to measures adopted by the United Nations and other international organizations in connection with the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

8. The sixth periodic report consisted primarily of replies to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the fifth periodic report. As indicated in the report, every citizen, including members of national minorities, enjoyed the constitutional right to work. The 1967 regulations governing the residence of foreigners and stateless persons in Mongolia on a private basis provided for the enjoyment by such persons of the rights to work during their stay, to payment for their labour, and to labour protection and medical services on an equal footing with Mongolian citizens. Like Mongolian citizens, such persons concluded labour agreements with the relevant organization, institution or enterprise, and received remuneration in accordance with the quantity and quality of the work done. Also like Mongolian citizens, they were obliged to observe labour discipline, to protect public property and faithfully to fulfil their duties under labour agreements.

9. Justice in Mongolia was administered by an independent Judiciary and everyone was equal before the courts and the law. According to articles 66, 67 and 68 of the Constitution and articles 26, 35, 42 and 45 of the 1979 Judicial System Act, the officers of people's courts at all levels were elected. Of those elected in 1981, for example, 41.67 per cent were representatives of national minorities. The rights of people who did not know or speak the Mongolian language were set forth and guaranteed by the Constitution, the Code of Criminal Procedure (arts. 18, 20, 47, 64 and 139) and the Judicial System Act (art. 10).

10. The Mongolian people constituted one nation with more than 20 minorities. As a result of the elections held in June 1981, almost 23 per cent of the deputies to the Great People's Khural and almost 24 per cent of deputies to the local khurals were representatives of national minorities.

11. As was evident from all six reports submitted by Mongolia, the provisions of the Convention were being fully implemented by the Government.

/...

12. Mr. DEVETAK observed that the report reflected the continuing efforts of the Mongolian Government to comply fully with the provisions of the Convention. He welcomed the new information and figures provided in the report and especially appreciated the Government's willingness to continue its dialogue with the Committee, which was the proper way to improve implementation of the Convention.

13. The report contained information on the conditions for the termination of a work contract by a worker; he asked under what conditions a contract could be terminated by the employer or enterprise.

14. He noted that, under the Mongolian Constitution, such political rights as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, could not be exercised to the detriment of the social and State system or of law and order, or against the legitimate interests and rights of citizens. That position was understandable but he wished to know what specific procedures had to be followed in order to curtail those freedoms.

15. He would welcome further details concerning the procedures for declaring an idea nationalistic or chauvinistic.

16. The harmony which prevailed among the more than 20 national minorities living in Mongolia was commendable. The report contained excellent information about the Kazakhs but he would welcome information concerning the other 19 or so national minorities. Information on programmes for the economic and social development of minorities would be especially appreciated. He would also be interested in learning what possibilities existed for the members of national minorities to seek redress from courts or other State institutions when their rights were infringed.

17. Mr. DECHEZELLES observed that information had been provided in the report concerning the rights to work and to free choice of employment but not concerning other important economic and social rights covered by article 5 of the Convention. In particular, he wished to know whether the right to form and join trade unions was guaranteed in Mongolia.

18. The information furnished concerning the nationality of children who crossed into the territory of Mongolia and whose parents were unknown was only loosely related to the subject-matter of the Convention.

19. The Government should have expatiated on the fifth paragraph of the report, which specified the limits which existed on the exercise of the freedoms of the press, assembly and speech. A definition of what precisely constituted "detriment"

/...

(Mr. Dechezelles)

to "the social and State system or of law and order" and the "legitimate interests and rights of citizens" would be particularly helpful to the Committee. He asked whether there was any legislation regulating the press and whether in general people had the right to hold unorthodox opinions or espouse views which were at variance with those of the Government.

20. Concerning the prohibition under the Mongolian Constitution of "advocacy of chauvinistic and nationalistic ideas", he acknowledged that such ideas could "arouse hostility and hatred between peoples of different races and nationalities", but would like further explanation as to how such ideas in themselves could be controlled; how mere sentiments, when not translated into criminal acts, could be dealt with by the criminal law. The relevant legal provisions - article 83 of the Constitution and article 53 of the Criminal Code - appeared to fall far short of the requirements of article 4 of the Convention. In order for a judgement to be reached, crimes had to be delineated and defined very precisely. The provisions quoted confused a number of concepts and left a wide latitude for interpretation.

21. There was a similar imprecision in the report on the subject of the means of protection and redress available to a private citizen. The report asserted that the rights of citizens were effectively protected by law, and indicated the various levels of jurisdiction to which they might apply in the case of an act of racial discrimination against them. However, no indication was given of the competence of the various courts, or of whether, if the State procurator refused to prosecute an alleged violation, the victim could have recourse to a civil action. That gave rise to the fundamental question of what recourse was open to a victim in the event of an act of discrimination perpetrated by a servant of the Government.

22. Lastly, he would like to have clarification of the extent of citizens' rights to freedom of movement within national territory, and to leave and return to it. The report stated that travel abroad and return to the country were governed by the regulations on the issue of passports and visas; it would be useful to know precisely what the provisions of those regulations were, in order to establish whether or not they complied fully with article 5 of the Convention.

23. Mr. VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ referred to the discussion in the report of article 83 of the Constitution and article 53 of the Criminal Code, and in particular to the statement that a victim of an act of racial discrimination had the right to apply

/...

(Mr. Valencia Rodriguez)

to the judicial or other competent organs in order to obtain compensation. He would be interested to see the text of the legislation which provided for such applications. In the same connection, the view of the Committee in the past had been that Mongolian legislation complied with article 4 (a) of the Convention, but that there was a lack of information on its implementation of article 4 (b).

Clarification in that regard would therefore be very helpful. However, he welcomed the fact that the text of articles 69 to 79 and 90 to 96 of the Mongolian Criminal Code had been reproduced in the annex to the report.

24. He also welcomed the information given on the regulation of the legal status of aliens. He was particularly interested to see that their civil rights, including the right to own personal property, were no different from those enjoyed by citizens, and that, as far as conditions of work were concerned, they were also on an equal footing with Mongolian citizens. There would thus appear to be no basis for discrimination. However, it would be helpful to have more information as to the extent of the legal assistance granted to citizens of foreign States with which Mongolia had no agreement for that purpose.

25. Information had been provided in the report on the separate administrative unit set up for the Kazakhs. It would be interesting to know whether similar provisions and facilities existed for any of the other numerous national minorities living in Mongolia.

26. Lastly, there was very little information in the report concerning the obligation in article 7 of the Convention, which was particularly important given its purpose of combating prejudices which led to racial discrimination. He hoped that the Government would provide the fullest possible information.

27. Mr. BRIN MARTINEZ, referring to the system of regulations on the issuing of passports and visas, both for citizens and aliens, inquired what grounds would be regarded as justifying a refusal to issue such a document.

28. He also had a question concerning articles 72 and 74 of the Criminal Code, which dealt with homicide and grievous bodily harm "as a result of exceeding the limits of self-defence". Those articles implied to him that in all such cases the offender was punished. Did the Code contain any provision enabling an accused person to be acquitted on the grounds of legitimate self-defence?

/...

29. Mr. STARUSHENKO said that the report gave a very good impression of the situation prevailing in Mongolia, where clearly no racial discrimination existed. The achievement of such a situation was the major objective of the work of the Committee. Mongolian legislation, especially article 83 of the Constitution and article 53 of the Criminal Code, strictly forbade all activities involving racial discrimination. There was no confusion in those provisions, since the propagation of ideas was closely related to the other activities described, all of which were subject to the same penalty, and the previous paragraph made it clear that any manifestation of nationalism and chauvinism in whatever form was illegal.

30. In view of the general tone of criticism in other members' comments, he felt it necessary to stress, as a remark relevant to the Committee's work in general, that a "system" was a system precisely because all its parts were closely interrelated. The people of a country chose a specific legal system for their own reasons and in accordance with their own weaknesses; it should not be expected that such systems would necessarily resemble each other very closely. It was not sensible to take an isolated principle or institution from a given system and expect it to fit into a different one. Thus, in considering the legal system of an Eastern country, it was unreasonable to wish it to contain all of the same institutions that were found in the West.

31. On the question of passport regulations, the representative of Algeria had earlier demonstrated that the question of citizens' rights to leave a country was governed by numerous factors, including the question of convertible currencies. It was not possible simply to ask "who receives a passport and who does not?". That was a decision for the national authorities, acting in accordance with the internal legislation, which every State had the sovereign right to draft according to its needs.

32. As to the statement in the report concerning the exercise of rights "to the detriment of the social and State system or of law and order", certain limitations on personal freedoms were essential in the interests of "ordre public", a concept similarly to be found in the legal system of almost all Western States. The Committee's task was to consider to what extent the country's legislation was effective in preventing racial discrimination, and the provisions existing in Mongolia were clearly very successful. The Government was to be commended for its rational implementation of national policies; many of its methods could usefully be followed by other States.

/...

(Mr. Starushenko)

33. The provisions for the Kazakh minority, involving territorial autonomy, a measure matched by very few other States, and the provisions in general for the protection of national minorities, were already quite effective; he was sure that in the future the Government would continue to extend such protection, and to contribute to the elimination of discrimination on an international level.

34. Mr. NETTEL said that, until the full text of article 53 of the Criminal Code was provided, it would be impossible to determine to what extent article 4 of the Convention had actually been implemented in Mongolian criminal law.

35. The report indicated that, in the event of a violation of the laws governing the elimination of racial discrimination, the victim had the right to apply to the judicial or other competent organs with a view to obtaining compensation for damages. In that connection, he requested further details about such "other competent organs" and their powers.

36. Mrs. SADIO ALI drew attention to the fact that, under article 3 of the Law on Mongolian Citizenship, children who had crossed into the territory of Mongolia and whose parents were unknown were recognized as citizens of the Republic until the age of 15, at which time they were free to decide their own citizenship. Accordingly, she asked whether that procedure was automatic or whether in certain circumstances such children were required to remain stateless or were not free to take such a decision.

37. From the information provided in the report it seemed that the national minorities living in Mongolia enjoyed a certain degree of autonomy. However, she asked how the provisions applicable to minorities affected the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights set forth in article 5 of the Convention, in particular the right to free choice of employment. She wondered, for example, whether people living in one region had difficulty finding employment in another region because of language and cultural barriers. Moreover, while national minorities were free to use their own languages and to express their cultural diversity, she asked what policy the Government was pursuing to bring such minorities into the national mainstream, for example in terms of language. She also asked whether the laws of every region were the same or whether they reflected cultural and social differences and, if so, how such differences were resolved at the national level.

/...

(Mrs. Sadiq Ali)

38. Additional information would be appreciated on the implementation of article 7, in particular with regard to the inclusion of information on the United Nations in school curricula.

39. Mr. INGLES expressed appreciation for the information provided on nationalism and chauvinism in response to a question he had asked during the Committee's consideration of the fifth periodic report. Clearly, in a country composed of more than 20 different national minorities, nationalism could lead to the disintegration of the Republic. In that connection, the information contained in the sixth paragraph of the report showed that Mongolian laws prohibited restrictions on the basis of nationality, in accordance with the Convention.

40. However, previous requests for the texts of legislation implementing article 4 of the Convention had not yet been fulfilled. For example, the seventh paragraph contained merely a description of the provisions of article 53 of the Criminal Code and, if that description covered all the provisions of that article, the Committee was justified in expressing concern about the adequacy of both article 83 of the Constitution and article 53 of the Criminal Code as measures in implementation of article 4 (a) and (b). Accordingly, as a first step, the full texts of those two articles and of other relevant provisions of the Criminal Code should be provided. While articles 69 to 79 and 90 to 96 of the Criminal Code were included as an annex to the sixth periodic report, the provisions contained therein only partially fulfilled the requirements of article 4.

41. With regard to the implementation of article 6, he read out the description of the relevant provisions contained in the fifth periodic report of Mongolia, which indicated that, under article 85 of the Constitution, two types of remedies were available to individuals claiming to be victims of racial discrimination. Accordingly, he requested the text of article 85 as well as the text of any provisions providing for other remedies, for example under the Code of Criminal Procedure or the Law on Supervision by the Procurator's Office. He also requested the texts of the laws concerning the "other competent organs" which judged applications for compensation for damages.

42. The Committee was competent to consider the question of the rights of citizens to enter and leave their own country, specifically by virtue of article 5 (d) (i) and (ii) and, in general, in accordance with the obligation of States parties to

/...

(Mr. Inglés)

guarantee the right of everyone to equality before the law. The report indicated that permission to enter or leave the country was granted by the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic missions and consulates and the Central Office of the State Militia, by issuing visas and foreign passports. Accordingly, he requested information about the conditions governing the issue of such visas, and asked whether there was any discrimination in the granting of permission to enter or leave the country. He also drew attention to the provisions of article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning the freedom to enter or to leave one's own country, subject to certain reasonable restrictions.

43. Mr. BAUDIN endorsed the views expressed by Mr. Dechezelles and looked forward to the replies to the questions he had asked.

44. With regard to the question of exit visas, he pointed out that, although such visas had previously been required in his country, Senegal, on the recommendation of the Committee, the Senegalese Government had decided to lift that requirement.

45. Referring to the provisions concerning the national minorities and those concerning judges, he asked how the election of judges was conducted and how a person could become a candidate in such elections. In view of the large number of national minorities, he asked how the State Procurator was able to summon individuals for questioning and "supervision". He also asked for details concerning the legal defence of Mongolian citizens, whether they had the right to counsel during such "supervision", which was apparently similar to a preliminary investigation, or whether they were entitled to counsel only in court.

46. Mr. PARTSCH, referring to the provisions governing the granting of legal assistance to foreigners from States with which Mongolia had no relevant agreement, noted that such provisions went far beyond the requirements of the Convention. Although criticism had previously been expressed in connection with such agreements on the ground that they might create privileges for the citizens of certain countries, he felt that the Convention did not stipulate that the citizens of all countries had to be treated in the same manner. It was the sovereign right of States to treat the citizens of some countries better than the citizens of others. However, in view of the fact that, according to the tenth paragraph of the report there was absolutely no distinction between the overall civil rights enjoyed by aliens residing permanently in Mongolia and those accorded to citizens of the Republic, he asked why legal assistance agreements were necessary.

/...

47. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia), replying to the questions of members, read out an unofficial English translation of article 53 of the Criminal Code, which provided that propaganda or agitation for the purpose of arousing nationalistic or racial hostility or dissension, as well as the direct or indirect restriction of rights or the establishment of direct or indirect privileges for citizens according to their nationality or race, would be punished by the deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding three years, or by exile.

48. With regard to questions concerning nationalism, he pointed out that, in the Mongolian language, there were two words used for "nationalism"; one denoted national identity, of which people should be proud, and the other the sense of national exclusiveness and superiority, which was prohibited under the Convention. In official Mongolian texts, the second word was used to refer to nationalism as prohibited under the Constitution. In that connection, he read out excerpts from article 83 of the Constitution, which clearly indicated that nationalism, in the pejorative sense, was prohibited, whereas feelings of national identity were encouraged.

49. As to the questions concerning visas, he explained that, in accordance with the Regulations on the issue of passports and exit and entry visas, a person wishing to enter Mongolia had to submit an application to the appropriate diplomatic representative, together with the necessary documents indicating, for example, the length and place of his stay. If he planned to stay with relatives, he must also indicate that they could provide accommodation for him. His application was then transmitted to the Central Office of the State Militia, which reviewed it and verified the consent of the relatives concerned; the visa was then issued. A person could be denied permission either to enter or to leave the country, for example if he was under investigation or on parole or was suffering from some mental disorder or had not submitted all the necessary documents. If an alien permanently residing in Mongolia wished to leave and not to return, the authorities would also require proof that he did not have any debts outstanding. After all the necessary conditions had been met, such a person was authorized to leave. Children and disabled people were allowed to travel with guardians, who represented their interests.

/...

(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

50. He said that, according to the Labour Code of the Mongolian People's Republic, labour agreements could be terminated on the initiative of the employer, on the initiative of the worker himself or on the demand of the trade unions, which monitored the legality of the employer's actions. The specific grounds on which an employer could terminate a labour agreement - closure of the enterprise, unfitness or lack of skill on the part of the employee, or failure of the employee to carry out his duties - were laid down in article 33 of the Labour Code. Under article 38 of the Labour Code workers had the right to terminate a work contract concluded for an indefinite period by giving two weeks' written notice to the management. After those two weeks had expired, the management was obliged to give the worker his work record card and make all other necessary arrangements. A contract signed for a fixed period could be terminated at three days' notice on the grounds of sickness, systematic non-observance of the labour legislation by the management or for other valid reasons.

51. Turning to the question of national minorities, he emphasized that, with the exception of the Kazakhs, all those mentioned in the report spoke the same language. The report supplied information only on the Kazakhs since they alone had their own language. The other minorities were all Mongols, who differed only in their dialects, traditions and customs. All citizens of his country were equal before the law and the country's legislation established no distinctions between the various nationalities. One of the functions of the Procurator was to see that the law was applied in a uniform way throughout the country.

52. The right to work was guaranteed by the Constitution and the Labour Code. The Labour Code also provided for the protection for women and teen-aged workers and specified the rights and duties of workers and management.

53. With regard to the treaties on legal assistance concluded between his country and other States, he said that their provisions did not grant privileges to citizens of the contracting parties. Their purpose was to facilitate interaction between the legal authorities of the contracting parties. He reaffirmed that citizens of one contracting party enjoyed in the territory of the other party the same rights, freedoms and duties as citizens of that State. The treaties in question laid down provisions for such matters as the transmittal of documents and the performance of specific judicial actions, and their main purpose was to enable the authorities of the contracting States to render assistance to each other.

/...

(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

54. According to the law, anyone involved in judicial proceedings who did not speak Mongolian would be provided with an interpreter. Article 10 of the Code of Criminal Procedure guaranteed the right to defence, while article 18 stated that, while the language of criminal proceedings was Mongolian, a person who did not speak that language had the right to have the relevant documents in the case translated into a language he understood, and to speak his own language. Article 64 of the Code of Criminal Procedure specified that an interpreter could not take part in judicial proceedings if he was related to one of the participants in those proceedings, and that an interpreter could be challenged by any party. Article 47 of the Code stated that where a person had no knowledge of Mongolian, his defence would be ensured through an interpreter. Even in the preliminary proceedings, a person who did not speak Mongolian could acquaint himself with all the documents and would always be provided with an interpreter.

55. Acts committed in self-defence were dealt with in articles 9 and 10 of the Criminal Code, which specified those cases in which such acts were considered justified and those cases in which they were not.

56. There were several constitutional provisions relating to the courts and the Procurator's office. They included the principles that proceedings should be open and that judges should be accountable to the electorate. A judge could be recalled if he did not fulfil his obligations under the law. People's assessors were present at all judicial proceedings. Judges and people's assessors had to disseminate the law by teaching, holding consultations and so forth. The Procurators had the same obligation. Judges were independent in considering cases and were subject only to the law. The State Procurator was appointed by the Great People's Khural for a four-year term while those under him served for three years. Their task was to maintain legality, protect the rights of citizens, and ensure that all organs of the State administration functioned in accordance with the law. They also had to ensure that the law of Mongolia was interpreted in the same way throughout the country. They were also obliged to carry out research work on the causes of crime and other legal questions, and to ensure that law and order were maintained in places of detention. If a citizen did not agree with the decision of the court, he could petition the Procurator, who was obliged to reply within 10 days, having duly considered all relevant documents. If there was found to be a

/...

(Mr. Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia)

violation of the law, the Procurator could question the authorities and persons responsible, who in turn would have to reply within 10 days. If no reply was received within that period, the Procurator could question the authorities and ask for the persons concerned to appear before the court. Each Procurator was obliged to renew his license to practice law every three years.

57. In conclusion, he assured the Committee that his country would strive to reflect the concerns of members of the Committee when it drew up its next report.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee appreciated the sixth periodic report of Mongolia and looked forward to the next report from that country. He drew attention to the revised guidelines contained in document CERD/C/70, which he hoped Mongolia would follow in compiling its seventh periodic report.

Mr. Enkhsaikhan (Mongolia) withdrew.

59. The CHAIRMAN said that the Governments of Gabon and the Gambia had requested that consideration of their periodic reports be postponed to the Committee's next session. He said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to such a postponement.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

/...