

665th meetingThursday, 15 March 1984,
at 11 a.m.Chairman: Mr. VALENCIA RODRÍGUEZCONSIDERATION OF REPORTS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONVENTION (agenda item 7) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that, at the request of the Government of Uganda, consideration of that country's initial report (CERD/C/71/Add.2), which had been scheduled for the twenty-ninth session, would be deferred until the Committee's next session, to be held at Geneva in the summer of 1984.

Third and fourth periodic reports of Belgium (CERD/C/88/Add.5) (concluded)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Dever (Belgium) took a place at the Committee table.

2. Miss DEVER (Belgium), responding to the questions and observations of members of the Committee, said that the requirement, laid down in the Act of 30 July 1981, regarding the public nature of certain activities should be interpreted broadly, in accordance with article 444 of the Criminal Code of Belgium.

3. The Act would not apply in the case of a landlord who refused to rent a private apartment to a foreigner, because it would be very difficult to present legal evidence of the grounds for the refusal, unless there were witnesses. Objective protection for foreigners was hardly feasible, because a landlord was not obliged to show cause for his refusal even with respect to nationals.

4. The question of measures to counter the activities of organizations practising or advocating racial discrimination had to be considered in the specific context of Belgium, where the right of association constituted for Belgians a tangible manifestation of independence from the authorities. It was for the courts to determine the racist or discriminatory nature of such associations on the basis of evidence presented by the Public Prosecutor and on the basis of statements by the parties and the associations themselves.

5. One member of the Committee had pointed to an apparent contradiction between the current report and Belgium's second periodic report (CERD/C/16/Add.2), where reference had been made to the secret nature of such associations. What the second report had stated was that if excessively radical measures were adopted against those associations, there was a danger that they might be driven underground, which would naturally make it even more difficult to take action against them.

/...

(Miss Dever, Belgium)

6. The press was at liberty to adopt such measures as it considered useful in helping journalists to perform their duties within the framework of the Act of 30 July 1981. That Act was fairly recent, and it was still too early to assess the results of its implementation. Such information, would be provided in the next report.
7. The establishment of the communal advisory councils had been an experiment launched towards the end of the 1960s at the local community level. While the results had varied from commune to commune, a certain lack of interest on the part of the foreigners had been noted. Nevertheless, if immigrants had problems, they could always resort to the communal authorities even where there were no advisory councils.
8. Some of the information requested on the admission of immigrant workers, particularly statistical information, was contained in the annex to the current report. Further data would be provided in the next report.
9. It had been asked whether article 4 of the Act of 30 July 1981 applied to border control officials. The answer was in the affirmative.
10. The question of a possible conflict between Belgian legislation and the traditions of immigrants would be dealt with at greater length in the next report. It should be noted that, in criminal proceedings, it was possible to bring to the attention of the Belgian courts, for their consideration, the customs and laws of the offender's country of origin.
11. Belgium had enacted legislation to punish those who employed and exploited clandestine workers. The next report would provide further details in that connection.
12. To be sure, there was discord between Belgium's three major communities; however, ongoing institutional reforms were designed to offer a lasting solution to the outstanding problems.
13. As to the supremacy of the Convention and international instruments in general over domestic legislation, it was for the courts to rule on the executory force of such instruments. The courts gave precedence to the provisions of the international instrument when there was any conflict with domestic legislation.
14. With regard to apartheid, she reiterated her Government's position, outlined during the introduction of the report, that the Convention imposed obligations on Belgium in respect of persons or groups under its territorial jurisdiction. It was

/...

(Miss Dever, Belgium)

therefore inappropriate for Belgium's foreign policy to be the subject of scrutiny. It should be noted that Belgium had acceded to the Code of Conduct of the European Economic Community.

15. Belgium did not encourage investments in South Africa and did not grant any kind of economic or trade facilities to promote contacts. Official trade missions were not sent to South Africa. Sporting contacts were frowned upon, but depended on private initiative. In 1977, Belgium had suspended its cultural agreement with South Africa and had reintroduced the visa requirement for South African nationals. That measure was strictly applied.

16. As had been stated during the introduction of the report, Belgium, in keeping with the principle of universality, continued to believe that the maintenance of contacts and dialogue was preferable to the severance of relations with South Africa. The establishment of direct contacts was one way to make the South African authorities responsive and induce them to take action to eliminate inequality and injustice, especially with regard to racial discrimination.

17. Mr. PARTSCH said he was interested to learn that in Belgium the laws of a foreigner's country of origin could be taken into account. He believed, however, that that was impossible in some cases, especially when the principle of law and order was at stake. It would be useful if the next report could indicate to what extent such laws were taken into account when the customs of the country of origin were very different from Belgium's.

18. Mrs. SADIQ ALI requested that annex 1 to Belgium's report, which contained data on the 1981 census and had been submitted in French, should be circulated to the members of the Committee. They would find it very useful in monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

19. Mr. CICANOVIC thanked the representative of Belgium for her reply to the question about article 3 of the Act of 30 July 1981, which declared punishable by law the activities of organizations advocating or practising racial discrimination, when such activities were carried out in public.

20. However, he would like to know whether participation in such organizations was punishable by law, especially in view of article 4 (b) of the Convention, according to which States parties had an obligation to declare illegal and prohibit organizations and propaganda activities which promoted racial discrimination, and to recognize participation in such organizations as an offence punishable by law.

/...

(Mr. Cicanovic)

21. He requested clarification regarding paragraph 28 of the report, which stated that the application of article 3 of the Act was subject to two conditions: the group or association must advocate racial discrimination manifestly and repeatedly, and such activities must take place publicly, as specified in article 444 of the Criminal Code.

22. Miss DEVER (Belgium), replying to questions, reiterated the statement in her country's report that the aim of the Belgian authorities in implementing the provisions of the Convention was to discourage the existence of associations that advocated racial discrimination but, at the same time, to respect the freedom of association so dear to Belgian citizens.

23. With regard to the possibility of punishing membership in such associations, she wished to reiterate that the courts had the means and the powers to decide whether such associations were pursuing objectives punishable by law. With regard to the requirement that the activities of such associations be known to the public, that requirement would seem to be a matter of common sense since it was rather difficult to prove whether an organization or individual practised discrimination if its or his activities were not a matter of public knowledge. The questions raised in that connection would be taken into account in preparing Belgium's next report, however.

24. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the third and fourth periodic reports of Belgium. Members of the Committee had been of the view that the decision to present the two reports in a single document had been a correct one. They had also welcomed the fact that Belgium had acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights.

25. In considering the report, members had referred to, inter alia, the requirement that penal legislation connected with the implementation of articles 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Convention should be publicized and, in particular, to the Act of 30 July 1981; the representation of immigrants by advisory councils; Government policy with regard to education; the situation of foreign workers; Belgium's relations with South Africa; the rental of housing to aliens; the country's socio-economic situation in relation to the objectives and aims of the Convention; demographic composition; the relationship between the principal and the smaller population groups; the relationship between laws and traditions; the existence of neo-Nazi groups and racist groups in general; Government policy with regard to

/...

(The Chairman)

religion; judicial cases that had arisen; Belgium's relations with the European Commission of Human Rights and national policy with regard to languages.

26. In presenting her country's report, the representative of Belgium had drawn attention to the relationship between that document and earlier reports and had referred to legislative measures taken by Belgium to implement the provisions of the Convention. She had also referred to the granting of political rights to aliens; access to education; the condemnation of apartheid; and Belgium's contribution to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

27. Replying to questions raised by members of the Committee, the representative of Belgium had referred to, inter alia, the requirement that discrimination be a matter of public knowledge; racist organizations or associations and the function of the courts; the role of the press; the creation of advisory councils; the acceptance of alien workers; implementation of the Act of 30 July 1981; illegal aliens; problems arising between the different communities; the primacy of the Convention within the country's domestic legal order; Belgium's anti-apartheid policy and its relations with South Africa.

Miss Dever (Belgium) withdrew.

Sixth periodic report of Denmark (CERD/C/106/Add.9) (continued)

28. Mr. DE PIÉROLA Y BALTA noted that Denmark had taken various steps to implement article 4 of the Convention and had repeatedly condemned racism and apartheid.

29. The cases of insults based on race or nationality and tenancy restrictions imposed on aliens mentioned in paragraphs 29 to 31 of the report were cause for concern, as was the existence of certain schools where as could be inferred from paragraph 39, there seemed to be "tendencies to discrimination". While it was true that Denmark had taken legislative action to combat racial discrimination, it was clear that a Government policy in line with article 2 of the Convention was needed to neutralize and eliminate those tendencies in Denmark. Denmark's next report should give information in that connection.

30. With regard to appendix I to the report, on home rule in Greenland, he noted that home rule did not extend to foreign policy and treaty-making, which remained the preserve of the central Government in the interests of maintaining the unity of the Kingdom of Denmark. On page 7 of the appendix, however, it was stated with regard to the European Communities (EC), of which Greenland was a member, that if the population of Greenland so decided, Greenland could withdraw from membership in

/...

(Mr. De Piérola y Balta)

the future. That appeared to be a contradiction which the representative of Denmark might perhaps be able to clarify.

31. He also wished the representative of Denmark to confirm his interpretation that the indigenous inhabitants of Greenland, the Eskimos, enjoyed all the rights of Danish citizenship whether they lived in Greenland or moved to Denmark.

32. He would also welcome more information on the living conditions and educational and income levels of the approximately 50,000 members of Greenland's present population, as well as of the Danes of European origin who lived there, to see whether there were significant differences between the two groups.

33. With regard to the Faroe Islands, it would be useful for the Committee to have more information on the Islands' demographic composition, including the number of inhabitants, and to hear whether the statement in the report regarding high income and educational levels applied to the population in general or to isolated cases.

34. Mrs. SADIQ ALI, referring to the situation of immigrant workers in Denmark, commended that country's progressive policy of according immigrants who had been resident in Denmark for a three-year period immediately preceding local government elections the right to vote in such elections. Such participation in the political process gave greater protection and certain advantages to the immigrant population. It would be useful to have more information on that democratic process. For instance, she would like to know whether, as a result of the local government elections held in 1981, many immigrant leaders now participated in local government.

35. She noted that a ban had been imposed on immigration in 1973, and wondered whether the phenomenon of illegal immigrants had arisen in Denmark and, if so, whether persons residing illegally in Denmark could appeal against deportation or had the possibility of acquiring residence.

36. She also wished to commend Denmark's policy of allowing entry to immigrants' families on humanitarian grounds. In that connection, the Committee would be interested in knowing what was the legal status of immigrants' spouses and whether family members who immigrated in such circumstances were allowed to take up employment.

37. With regard to the question of refugees, she wished to know what Denmark's official policy was with regard to political asylum and how the legal status of any refugees or stateless persons was regulated.

/...

(Mrs. Sadiq Ali)

38. The instances of criminal proceedings mentioned on page 5 of the report gave a graphic idea of the forms that racial discrimination could take in a multi-racial society and, in that connection, the rapid and effective action taken by the Danish authorities was to be commended. It might, however, be appropriate to inform the public more fully about the various international instruments for the elimination of racial discrimination. She wished to know whether any special steps had been taken to make potential victims of discrimination aware of their rights under the Convention and of the discriminatory practices that could constitute a violation of article 5 (f) of the Convention. Cases of violation of the right of access to public places and services envisaged in that article had arisen repeatedly in the reports of developed countries.

39. The Committee would be interested to know whether the Danish Government had taken any steps to improve the education of immigrants' children and to promote study of immigrants' mother tongues.

40. Turning to the question of Greenland, she wished to know whether there were sub-groups among the Eskimos who constituted the main ethnic group and whether the minority group in Greenland was made up of Danes, what its economic situation was and what positions its members filled. That question was relevant in view of the fact that, on page 3 of appendix I, it was stated that Greenland society did not have the requisite number of educated Greenlanders.

41. She was interested in hearing about the economic situation of the Eskimos and believed that more data, for instance the literacy rate among Eskimos and the percentage of Greenlanders in higher education, were needed on the measures taken to put into effect the principle of equality between Danes and Eskimos, especially in the areas of education and language.

42. For example, page 19 of the appendix indicated that language was an integral part of the way in which the population of Greenland conceived its own identity, but there was no clear description of how the plan to make Greenlandic one of the two official languages was being implemented. The Committee therefore needed to know what steps had been taken to promote the use of the Eskimo language and, for example, whether dictionaries, books and magazines were published and whether there were radio programmes in that language. The Government of Denmark should also indicate whether there was a special body responsible for preserving the other indigenous languages and for promoting their use.

/...

(Mrs. Sadiq Ali)

43. She wished to know what percentage of administrative posts in Greenland were held by Eskimos, what type of posts Eskimos held and whether steps had been taken to enable Eskimos to take part in developing administrative policy.
44. The report of Denmark indicated that the Greenlanders were represented both in the Government and in the Parliament of Denmark. However, the following report should provide more detailed information on the representation of Greenland in other bodies and institutions, in order to ensure that the indigenous population did not feel that it had been relegated to an inferior position, particularly with regard to sovereignty over natural resources. It appeared that there was currently inequality in that respect, and it would be interesting to know what progress was being made in that connection, particularly regarding the functioning and membership of the proposed joint Danish-Greenland committee.
45. She would also like to have more information on the implementation of article 15 of the Home Rule Act, concerning legislation affecting the interests of Greenland, in order to establish what steps the Government of Denmark was taking to reconcile national interests with the clear wish of the majority of the population of Greenland regarding the membership of Greenland in the European Communities.
46. Section X of appendix I, concerning trade in Greenland, indicated that in conjunction with the Home Rule Act a Royal Greenland Trade Act had been adopted, which provided that steps should be taken upon its entry into force to transfer the production and sales activities of the Royal Greenland Trade Department to the home rule authorities. She wished to know to what extent the Greenlanders were prepared for taking over their responsibilities under the Trade Act.
47. Mr. EVRIGENIS said that, when read in conjunction with the previous reports, the sixth periodic report of Denmark confirmed the impression that Danish legislation was in keeping with the provisions of the Convention and that in Denmark there was a system of juridical and administrative recourses guaranteeing respect for the rights of the individual. The role of the Ombudsman was particularly noteworthy in that connection.
48. Denmark's immigration policy seemed to be firmly based on the principle of respect for human rights and combined the preservation of the cultural identity of the immigrants with their integration into their new social environment. The fact that immigrants had recently been granted the right to vote in local elections was also to be welcomed. It would be desirable to provide information on the new legislation in question in the following report.

/...

(Mr. Evrigenis)

49. He wished to emphasize one of the positive aspects of the report in particular, namely, the constitutional rights laid down in the Constitution of Denmark and recognized in the territory of Greenland. For example, article 9 of the Home Rule Act provided that Greenlandic should be the principal language, while retaining the teaching of Danish and the use of Danish on an equal footing with Greenlandic for official purposes.

50. It should be pointed out that, according to article 11 of the Act, the Danish national authorities were solely responsible for representation at the international level, which meant that Denmark assumed responsibility for implementing the Convention in the territory of Greenland and for reporting on implementation.

51. Particular attention should be paid to the way in which the jurisdiction of the authorities of Greenland over the matters referred to in the Act (appendix II, chap. 4), was recognized. Some of the matters in question were of special interest to the Committee, particularly relations with the Church and religious communities, social welfare and educational and cultural affairs.

52. He wished to have more information on the negotiations between Denmark and the European Communities and the question of the withdrawal of Greenland from the Communities.

53. Mr. OBERG, referring to paragraph 13 of the report, concerning equality before the law for immigrants and Danish citizens, said that States parties should recognize that, in addition to guaranteeing formal equality, they must take steps to guarantee de facto equality.

54. He wished to know whether Denmark was taking account of the tendency on the part of some foreign workers to remain in the country and to try to obtain a residence permit and, eventually, citizenship, thus forming ethnic minorities, and whether any steps had been taken to ensure that the mother tongue continued to be taught to the following generation. With regard to the reference in paragraph 11 to immigration of citizens from other countries, he wished to know whether refugees were included among the immigrants. Furthermore, in connection with paragraphs 20 to 24 concerning the dissolution of associations pursuing illegal goals, he wished to know whether the Police had ever been requested to open investigations with a view to dissolving an association.

/...

55. Mr. CICANOVIC, referring to paragraph 14 of the report of Denmark, which indicated that the primary aim of Danish immigration policy was, in the long term, to facilitate the integration of immigrants, said that he wished to know whether steps were taken to deal with the immigrants once they had become part of the population, in the form of an ethnic minority, and whether an endeavour was made to preserve their culture and mother tongue.

56. Mr. PARTSCH said that, according to paragraph 12 of the report, the right to vote in local government elections had been granted to immigrants having resided in Denmark without interruption in the three years prior to polling day. He assumed that it was a question of permanent residence in the Realm and not in the district in question, and he wished to know how long an immigrant had to have resided in a district in order to be able to vote in elections held there.

57. Turning to article 18 of the Home Rule Act (appendix II, chap. 3), he took note of the fact that for the purpose of settling any problems concerning the jurisdiction of the central authorities and the home rule authorities there was a board consisting of two members nominated by the Government, two members nominated by the home rule authorities and three judges of the Supreme Court. In his own country's experience, in cases where problems concerning the jurisdiction of the Federation and the individual states (Länder) arose, the States normally did not lay too much emphasis on their competence, particularly if financial considerations were involved. He wished to know whether in Denmark the three judges on the board in question could take any action in cases where the representatives of the home rule authorities accepted an interpretation that was not entirely in conformity with the Constitution and the Home Rule Act, with a view to avoiding a financial burden. He would like to know whether the Rigsombudsmand, for example, could intervene in such instances.

58. Mr. SHERIFIS stressed how prompt Denmark was in submitting its reports and said that he welcomed the fact that the current report had been drawn up in accordance with the Committee's revised guidelines.

59. He noted in connection with paragraph 6 of the report, concerning the demographic composition of the Danish population, that Denmark had been unable to provide a breakdown of the population because it did not have data on the ethnic origin of its inhabitants. It would therefore appear to be necessary, in connection with the statement made in paragraph 34 that all ethnic minorities in

(Mr. Sherifis)

Denmark had the same access as Danish citizens to free education, including advanced education, to establish what was meant by ethnic minorities and to clarify whether that statement referred to immigrants or to the inhabitants of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

60. Denmark reiterated that it had adopted all the necessary measures for implementing the provisions of article 3 of the Convention concerning racial segregation and apartheid. He noted that Denmark had made contributions to many funds to assist Namibia, for which it should be commended.

61. With regard to article 5 of the Convention, he took note of the new legislation permitting immigrants to vote in elections to local government councils and endorsed the remarks made in that connection by Mr. Partsch.

62. With regard to article 6 of the Convention, Denmark reported on cases in which there had been violations of the law and on the institution of criminal proceedings, which showed how sincere it was in implementing the laws promulgated in accordance with the Convention. However, it would be desirable to have more information on the implementation of article 7.

63. Paragraph 40 of the report indicated that racial discrimination seemed to be non-existent. Since that statement was not very convincing, he wished to have a clarification.

64. In connection with the previous report submitted by Denmark (CERD/C/75/Add.5), which indicated that the disparity between the level of economic development of Denmark and that of the Faroe Islands had become less pronounced, he wished to know whether there had been an even greater reduction in recent years in that disparity.

65. Mr. KARASIMEONOV said that the sixth periodic report of Denmark had followed the Committee's guidelines and taken account of the suggestions made by members of the Committee during their consideration of the previous reports.

66. He understood why it was difficult for the Government of Denmark to include a breakdown of the population in the report; as was stated in that document, persons were not registered according to ethnic origin. While he found the explanation convincing, he would like to know whether the reference to demographic composition in paragraph 6 included Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

67. Paragraph 13 of the report mentioned efforts to achieve de facto legal equality between immigrants and Danish citizens. He hailed the law which had been adopted to that end and gave non-Danes the right to vote in local elections.

/...

(Mr. Karasimeonov)

68. With regard to Denmark's immigration policy, he agreed completely with the view, expressed in paragraph 15 of the report, that integration was primarily to be regarded as the individual immigrant's own responsibility, but that, in the case of immigrants to whom integration might pose special problems, efforts must be made to facilitate integration through the implementation of special measures. Since some immigrants would be residing for many years in Denmark, it would be interesting to know the extent to which they would be able to integrate themselves into Danish society, while at the same time maintaining their customs and traditions. He asked what was the procedure by which immigrants could acquire Danish nationality.

69. While noting that, in its previous reports, Denmark had provided abundant information on its policies regarding the apartheid régime and the practices of racial discrimination in South Africa, he regretted that it had failed to provide such information in its sixth report, especially as it had made appreciable efforts in that area and could serve as an example to other countries.

70. The article by Mr. Foighel, Chairman of the Commission on Home Rule for Greenland, which was contained in appendix I to the report, was excellent. The article explained that Greenland had been a Danish colony which had, with the adoption of the Constitution of Denmark in 1953, become an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark. It was stated on page 2 of appendix I that, on 17 January 1979, the population of Greenland had approved by referendum the entry into force of the Home Rule Act in Greenland. Votes had been cast by 63.3 per cent of the electorate; 70.1 per cent of the ballot had been in favour of adoption of the Home Rule Act and 25.8 per cent against adoption, which meant that more than 50 per cent of the population had not voted in favour of the Act. Bearing in mind those results and Greenland's colonial past, he asked if the Constitution of Denmark made provision for the possibility of an eventual declaration of independence by Greenland.

71. Section V of the article, dealing with the scope of home rule, mentioned the fields which could not be transferred to home rule authorities. They included not only external relations and defence, but also the administration of justice, financial and monetary policies, criminal proceedings and imprisonment, all of which, under home rule legislation in other parts of the world, were customarily transferred to home rule authorities. In that connection, he was interested to learn to what extent Greenland participated in setting national policies. It would

/...

(Mr. Karasimeonov)

also be important to know if the population was represented in Parliament, in the Government and, in general, in those fields which were the exclusive domain of the national Parliament and Government.

72. Section VII of the article considered the question of natural resources, which were unquestionably important even when they were as yet unexploited. He wondered whether the natural resources belonged to the population of Greenland or to the Kingdom of Denmark as a whole. A reading of the report showed that there was not yet a common stand on that important issue, as reflected in the eighth paragraph on page 9 of appendix I. He asked the representative of Denmark to clarify his country's position on natural resources.

73. He referred to the procedure for dealing with conflicts between the central authorities and the home rule authorities concerning their respective jurisdictions, which was described in section 18 of the Home Rule Act (appendix II to the report). In view of the fact that three of the seven members of the board which reviewed conflicts over jurisdiction had to be judges of the Supreme Court, he asked if it was possible for the population of Greenland, given the general level of education, to have a representative on the Supreme Court.

74. Mr. SONG said that the report of Denmark was very satisfactory and had been drawn up in conformity with the guidelines established by the Committee.

75. With regard to the situation in Greenland, appendix I to the report presented information regarding the Eskimo population. However, more data were needed on the composition of the population of Greenland to permit an assessment of the participation of the Eskimos in local policies. He asked if it was possible for Eskimos to influence Denmark's national policy.

76. It would also be interesting to know if the Government of Denmark had adopted any specific measures to achieve genuine legal equality between Danes and Eskimos.

77. Concerning the implementation of article 7 of the Convention, paragraph 34 of the report stated that all ethnic minorities had the same access as Danish citizens to free education, including higher education. He wondered what the school enrolment rate was for Eskimos; if not many attended primary and secondary schools, there would be very few who could proceed to higher education.

78. The report stated that after three years of permanent residence in Denmark, immigrants had the right to vote in local elections. Some immigrant workers would

/...

(Mr. Song)

eventually become part of the country's population; it would be useful to have more information on that process, which was summarily described in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report.

79. He also hoped to receive more information regarding the Pensions Act mentioned in paragraph 27.

80. Mr. SHAHI said that aliens received exemplary treatment in Denmark. He was particularly interested in the provisions which had been adopted to give aliens the right to vote in local government elections, and in the measures regarding the right of recourse.

81. With regard to Greenland, he observed that the overwhelming majority of its inhabitants had been born there and considered themselves Eskimos. He asked what languages were spoken in Greenland. He noted further that, by virtue of the Home Rule Act, powers and responsibilities in various fields had been transferred to the indigenous population. The Home Rule Act was based on the philosophy that the population of Greenland did not want national independence, but rather better opportunities to strengthen and develop the identity of Greenland. The Act reflected the fact that the principle of equality between Greenland and the rest of Denmark had been abandoned, in acknowledgement of the impossibility of establishing equality between population groups living under such different conditions. The Act was based rather on the principle of equality of rights.

82. He had taken note of the problems connected with the issue of the mineral resources of Greenland. In his opinion, those resources belonged to the population of Greenland.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

/...