



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General
23 April 2013
English
Original: French

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Sixty-seventh session

Summary record of the 1709th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 5 August 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Yutzis

later: Mr. Pillai (Vice-Chairman)

later: Mr. Yutzis

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The meeting was called to order 3.10 p.m.

Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention (agenda item 4) (*continued*)

Eighth to sixteenth periodic reports of Barbados (CERD/C/452/Add.5; HRI/CORE/1/Add.64/Rev.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairman, the members of the delegation of Barbados took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Mr. Clarke** (Barbados) said that the Government and successive generations of Barbadians had worked tirelessly to overcome the intolerance that had long characterized his country's national life. The current reputation that Barbados enjoyed as a country which respected human rights was one of its most precious assets, the result of a conscious attempt to develop a democratic culture, build fair and efficient institutions and give citizens the wherewithal to realize their full economic and creative potential.
3. Since the presentation of the seventh periodic report of Barbados in 1988, the Government had continued its efforts in the belief that the best way of combating the scourge of racial discrimination was to build a truly cohesive society based on human and social development, economic prosperity, democracy and the rule of law. On 5 July 2005, a draft national strategic plan for the period 2005-2025 had been presented to Parliament. Its primary objective was the promotion of social cohesion and a feeling of common identity uniting all races, social strata and generations.
4. Following independence in 1966, the country's solid economic and social progress had taken place in a postcolonial context marked by the frequent separation of communities in life and at work. However, the Government and people of Barbados were finally ready to undertake a cultural transformation across the whole of society so that Barbados could move into the new century as a fully developed society. Albeit constrained by limited human and material resources, that transformation, vital for the nation's future, was an ongoing priority for the Barbadian Government.
5. **Mr. Wilson** (Barbados), answering the general questions addressed to Barbados by the Committee in its list of issues, said that the Constitution Committee, chaired by the Attorney General, was examining a legal provision on racial discrimination in general and in its specific forms, to protect individuals from acts of discrimination committed by other individuals. Its findings had not yet been made public.
6. With regard to the replacement of the Judiciary Committee of the Privy Council by the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final court of appeal, he said that Barbados had amended its Constitution (arts. 79B to 79I) and passed legislation giving effect to the agreement establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice, signed in Bridgetown on 14 February 2001. The Court had powers, *inter alia*, to deal with cases filed with it by the national courts of the contracting parties or the parties themselves and appeals lodged by individuals pursuant to the Caribbean Court of Justice Act, and to opinions concerning the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including the creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The Court judges and staff were appointed by a regional commission. The Court was comprised of a president and at least nine judges, was financed by an independent fund designed to prevent any political interference and was based in Trinidad and Tobago but, in certain circumstances, it could meet on the territory of any other contracting party.
7. Barbados had not set up a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles but several bodies shared specific responsibilities for international human

rights obligations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs advised the Cabinet and made recommendations on human rights issues; legal matters and appeals came under the Ministry of Justice; the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education and the Government Information Service worked together on disseminating information on and providing education in human rights issues. The Barbadian Government was aware of the need to establish a national human rights institution, but lacked the means to do so. It would continue to ensure that the existing mechanisms functioned optimally.

8. Concerning the legal definition of racial discrimination, he said that such a measure was due to be adopted as part of the current discussions on planned legislation for combating discrimination.

9. **Mr. Belle** (Barbados), answering questions on article 2 about the conformity of domestic law with the provisions and principles of the Convention, said that the Barbadian Government believed that the fundamental concepts of the Convention matched the provisions of the Barbadian Constitution, in particular its chapter III ("Charter of Rights"). The only deficiency, concerning the protection of individuals from discriminatory actions by private persons and entities, was due to be resolved shortly when anti-discrimination legislation was passed. The legislation would impose the same requirements on individuals as the Constitution imposed on the State in terms of the protection of individuals from racial discrimination. It would give effect to article 4 (b) of the Convention on the prohibition of organizations promoting or inciting racial discrimination.

10. **Ms. Bend** (Barbados), referring to implementation of the provisions of article 5 of the Convention on guaranteeing equality before the law, *inter alia* in the exercise of civil and political rights, said that Barbados applied the principle of universal suffrage from the age of 18 and every Barbadian citizen meeting the residence criteria in the country could be elected to Parliament. As far as participation in public service was concerned, the Constitution stipulated that public service appointments and removal from public office could not be influenced by considerations of race, colour or national or ethnic origin. Individual civil rights were protected by the provisions in chapter III of the Barbadian Constitution.

11. Turning to the question of extending free education to all in addition to those with Barbadian citizenship or permanent residency, she said that there had been no developments in that regard as it would be too costly for the country's economy. The issue of education might be addressed during planned discussions between Barbados and other Caribbean countries, due to focus on the regional provision of social services in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.

12. Concerning the representation of minorities in Parliament and their participation in public affairs, she said that there was no minority representative in the House of Assembly but three members of the white minority sat in the Senate. Minorities represented 2.1 per cent of all public servants. The latest data on the representation of minorities in economic life were those of the 1990 census, according to which the relative share of minorities in the higher income brackets was often greater than that of blacks or the population as a whole. That backed the statement in paragraph 166 of the report that, within Barbadian society, minority groups tended to be privileged, rather than disadvantaged.

13. Barbados adhered to the principle of non-discrimination with regard to the rights of migrant workers and members of their families and the Constitution guaranteed the protection of the fundamental rights of everyone residing in the country regardless of their status. The constraints for countries like Barbados of, *inter alia*, presenting reports in order to comply with obligations arising from international instruments, meant that for the time being its Government could not accede to the International Convention on the Protection of

the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, but that did not rule out the possibility of a future accession.

14. The possibility of acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees had been the subject of extensive consultations that had lasted over two years and resulted in a national policy document on refugees, recommending accession to the Convention, due to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval by the end of the year.

15. **Mr. Belle** (Barbados), turning to the measures taken to ensure that everyone had the right to go to court to seek satisfaction or fair and adequate compensation for any injury they might have suffered as a consequence of discrimination as well as social and therapeutic services to facilitate the rehabilitation of victims, including the victims of racial discrimination, said that the victim support programme in place since 1995 was open only to victims of violent crimes. The programme, which included psychological support and legal aid for victims, had been implemented in 298 cases in 2002. The Government intended to review it at some time in order to increase substantially the assistance given to victims. Within the draft national plan for justice, peace and security, it was intended to broaden the range of psychological assistance services on offer to victims and amend the law to give the courts the means of forcing criminals to compensate their victims as far as possible.

16. For the time being, the Committee for National Reconciliation had no intention of establishing a permanent commission with quasi-judicial powers to receive complaints of human rights violations, including those related to racial discrimination. It had been decided that there were already a sufficient number of State services, departments and initiatives responsible for guaranteeing fair living conditions for all.

17. **Mr. Wilson** (Barbados) said that the High Court had heard no cases of racial discrimination since 1994. However, a conviction for incitement to racial hatred had been handed down by a district court in 2004. The absence of cases might be due to victims' unawareness of their rights. Often people could not be bothered to take action unless they were directly concerned or physically attacked. Most individuals who were verbally attacked preferred to retaliate rather than go to court.

18. There was no evidence that the absence of cases was due to a lack of confidence in the police or the police's lack of attention or responsiveness to cases of racial discrimination. The Barbadian police had been professional and shown integrity when dealing with complaints. There had been no complaints against the police itself under the 2004 Police Complaints Authority Act. Upon the receipt of a complaint, the correspondence of the Police Complaints Authority would be forwarded to the Office of Professional Responsibility, which would then hold a thorough investigation and, if the complaint seemed to be legitimate, transmit the file to the office of the Attorney General for a decision.

19. **Ms. Bend** (Barbados) said that the function of the Ombudsman was to investigate and report upon allegations of improper, unreasonable or inadequate administrative conduct. Pursuant to section 6.1 of the Ombudsman Act, the Ombudsman could investigate only complaints submitted in writing, unless he or the House of Assembly deemed it desirable to open an inquiry in the public interest. The Ombudsman could refuse to investigate or suspend an investigation if he found the complaint to be trivial, frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith or if the complainant had other legal means of redress. For the purposes of his investigation, the Ombudsman could question any public servant, minister or private individual, including the complainant. Pursuant to section 13 of the Act, the Ombudsman communicated his report to the complainant and justified his decision not to carry out a (full) investigation. Whether the Ombudsman carried out an investigation on his own initiative or by decision of Parliament, his report had to be submitted to Parliament.

He was competent to hear complaints concerning racial discrimination, but his powers were limited in that he could hear complaints against the State only and could offer no reparations to the complainant. He could do no more than draw up a report establishing whether there had been an injustice, and the State was not bound to reply to it.

20. Concerning the questions on implementation of article 7 of the Convention, she said that it was not the Barbadian Government's practice to communicate its official reports to civil society before they had been examined by the Government. Several academics had taken part in the preparation of the report, to check that it faithfully reflected the situation in Barbados concerning racism and racial discrimination. The Pan-African Commission had examined the draft report critically and proposed amendments based on concerns expressed by civil society organizations.

21. There was no specific programme on the provisions of the Convention for police officers, but the police training centre offered classes in human rights, including racial discrimination. Although the Immigration Department organized no awareness-raising programme on racial discrimination it addressed issues related to human rights and the treatment of persons in general in its continuous training programme.

22. There had been no dissemination activity concerning the Convention in recent years. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade had included in its work programme for 2005-2006 a question concerning the coordination of a programme to raise awareness of human rights. The details of the programme still had to be defined but its main aim would be to inform public opinion of the provisions of the Convention and the remedies available for the victims of racial discrimination.

23. **Mr. Belle** (Barbados) said, with regard to the pilot programme mentioned in paragraph 141 of the report, that primary and secondary schoolchildren were being taught about the African heritage and citizenship as part of the social studies programme. The question of citizenship was a key element of the new revised social studies programme. Education in family life was taught in all primary classes and at the first grade of secondary school. Barbados was taking part in the setting up of a pilot project on health and family life in cooperation with the CARICOM secretariat and UNICEF. The triennial programme would be launched in September 2005 in secondary establishments. The study of Spanish was fully part of all primary school curricula. Nineteen Spanish-speaking teachers with close links to Barbados went from school to school to help teach the language. The programme was also intended to raise pupils' awareness of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries, promote diversity and prepare them for living in a multilingual society.

24. The Centre for Multiethnic Studies had still not reopened. Barbados would examine the question of withdrawing its reservation to article 4 of the Convention as part of its work on draft legislation on the prohibition of discrimination.

25. **Mr. Thornberry** (Country Rapporteur) welcomed the resumption of dialogue between the Committee and the State party and thanked the delegation for giving detailed answers to the list of issues. In the periodic report and answers alike, Barbados had been very frank and realistic in its description of the race situation in the country and had been laudably self-critical of its "inability to eliminate racism", owing above all to the "inadequacy of the tools applied to the task and [...] the condition of the psyche of all actors involved" (para. 7 of the report). However, he was surprised to see a classic divide running throughout the report between "whites" and "blacks". He wondered whether the State party could not have used a slightly subtler racial classification. Other negative points included the lack of any reference in the report to economic, social and cultural rights; he asked if they were enshrined in the Constitution of Barbados. He requested more information on the attributions of the Pan-African Commission; the nature of the activities of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which, according to the delegation, had

taken part in the preparation of the report; and the outcome of the work of the Constitutional Review Commission established in 1998. He wished to know whether Barbados was a country of emigration or immigration as the report contained contradictory information in that regard. He also wished to have a rough idea of the proposals made by Barbados in the non-paper that it had presented to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (document mentioned in footnote 2). Among the main positive points, he highlighted the high standards of living and literacy rate of Barbadians compared with other inhabitants of the Caribbean, which meant that the whole population could benefit from education programmes in the field of human rights.

26. **Mr. Valencia Rodríguez** noted in paragraph 76 of the report that international instruments could not generally be invoked directly before the courts and asked if that was the case with the Convention. Although Barbados had acceded to most international human rights instruments, it was still not party to the Convention against Torture.

27. He asked whether the Ombudsman could receive complaints of racial discrimination. Noting with satisfaction that many NGOs operated in Barbados, he asked whether any of them were specifically concerned with the fight against racial discrimination. He wished to know whether the Congress Against Racism-Barbados Inc. (para. 88 of the report), entrusted with coordinating the participation of NGOs from Barbados in the Durban Conference, had undertaken other work since the Conference.

28. Section 33 of the Public Order Act addressed only incitation to racial hatred and did not meet all the requirements of article 4 (b) of the Convention. The State party should clarify whether it contemplated passing legislation to fulfil all its obligations in that regard. Turning to article 5 of the Convention, he welcomed the State party's establishment of an independent system of investigation of complaints against the police, but wished to know whether any complaints of ill-treatment or human rights violations had been filed. Generally speaking, he would have liked more information on the implementation of the different rights listed in article 5 of the Convention. The information provided by Barbados on article 6 was also terse; he would like to have further details.

29. **Mr. de Gouttes** found the first part of the periodic report of Barbados of particular interest. It contained a remarkable analysis of the historical context of racial discrimination in Barbados. The "exorbitant degree of fear on both sides of the racial divide" (para. 17.1), the persisting "obsession with endogamy among white Barbadians" (para. 17.4) and the authorities' acceptance that in Barbados there was a specific kind of racism that might be termed as "hidden/covert/unconscious/subtle/invisible/often self-inflicted crypto-racism" (para. 18), demonstrated the depth of stereotypes in Barbados. However, there were several very positive elements, including the remarkable living standards in the country, where the income per inhabitant was the highest in the Caribbean, and the literacy rate of 98 per cent.

30. The Public Order Act (para. 123 of the report) — limited to criminalizing the publication or distribution of threatening, abusive or insulting written matter and/or incitement to hatred or the use of words which may reasonably be interpreted as likely to incite hatred — did not seem to meet all the requirements of article 4 of the Convention. He wished to know whether, as paragraph 123.1 (b) of the report seemed to imply, the Act effectively applied only to sections of the public living in Barbados, which would exclude groups living outside the country from its scope, or whether there was a problem with the translation into French.

31. He asked the delegation of Barbados to inform the Committee of the main thrust of the planned legislation to protect individuals from discriminatory actions by private persons and entities (para. 117) and to state what action had been taken on the plan to establish a permanent commission that would be responsible for keeping under review and monitoring

progress towards the elimination of discrimination (para. 188). He requested more precise information on the work carried out by the Committee for National Reconciliation (para. 187).

32. Over the previous 20 years, no cases had been brought before the High Court in which racial discrimination was the primary ground for legal action (para. 181), although there had been cases in which racial discrimination had been raised as an incidental factor. In view of the endemic structural racism in Barbados, the lack of legal data on acts of racism was surprising and it would be helpful to know the reasons.

33. According to paragraph 85 of the report, pursuant to the Ombudsman Act, the function of the Ombudsman was to investigate and report upon allegations of improper, unreasonable or inadequate administrative conduct. He wished to know whether the Ombudsman could also intervene in cases of racial discrimination.

34. **Mr. Avtonomov** welcomed the resumption of dialogue between the Committee and the State party. He was struck by the highly self-critical tone of the report, which was quite unusual, as States mostly claimed that racism did not exist on their territory. It was one of the best reports ever received by the Committee and the concluding observations should reflect that.

35. In 2000, both houses of Parliament had passed a resolution taking note of the recommendations and proposals of the Constitution Review Commission (para. 111). He wished to know how, five years on, those proposals had been acted upon. He also requested more details of the work carried out by the Committee for National Reconciliation, established in 1999 to facilitate a wide-ranging consultative process on the state of race relations in the country (para. 112).

36. **Mr. Amir** noted with satisfaction that it was the first periodic report of a State party to devote a chapter to the answers to the Committee's questions. On the other hand, he was shocked to note that the domination of the upper levels of the corporate sector by the whites remained substantially intact (para. 11), that white Barbadians remained obsessed with endogamy (para. 18) and that until recently several exclusive clubs had still confined their membership to white Barbadians. He was also alarmed to learn of the "hidden/covert/unconscious/subtle/invisible kind of racism" existing in the country but congratulated the authorities of Barbados on having had the sincerity, courage and honesty to recognize it.

37. The country had manifestly made considerable efforts to remedy the situation and create a harmonious multiracial society. However, he wished to know how Barbadians experienced racism mentally and intellectually and whether the teaching of social sciences also dealt with the traumatic effects of slavery and the existence of residual crypto-racism.

38. **Mr. Kjaerum** said that the periodic report of Barbados was highly stimulating. Even though it was difficult to change the course of history, the past always influenced the present and its specificities had to be analysed in order to improve the future. He asked the delegation to specify the nature of current relations between Barbados and the United Kingdom and state whether those relations might explain in part the segregation of communities.

39. The question of compensating the victims of slavery and their reparations had been widely discussed at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. He wondered whether in fact reconciliation, one element in the process of nation building, should not be addressed as reconciliation with a common history.

40. The Ombudsman could investigate only allegations of improper administrative conduct but in many cases acts of discrimination were committed by individuals in a private capacity. He therefore asked whether, in the absence of a national human rights

institution, the Barbadian authorities were planning to change the Ombudsman's mandate and enable him to protect all human rights, in the private as well as the public domain.

41. **Mr. Pillai** said that the report of Barbados was uniquely sincere. While political will was necessary for combating the existence of heterogeneous racial societies and certain forms of racism, visible or not, other measures, such as encouraging sport, could also be powerful means of integrating communities.

42. According to the statistics on education in table 6 in the report, the percentage of persons who had pursued tertiary education was greater across all minority groups living in Barbados than that of the Black population: 38 per cent of white respondents had attended university, 36.9 per cent of Arabs, 22.4 per cent of East Indians, 34.8 per cent of Chinese and 26.9 per cent of the mixed population, but only 15.7 per cent of blacks. He asked for more information on initiatives taken to promote university or higher studies among blacks.

43. The statistics in the report showed that the demographic growth rate of Barbados had been only 0.3 per cent — almost zero — in 2002 (para. 31). According to some sources, that situation was due to the family planning policy and the high rate of emigration. He asked the delegation to provide the Committee with more statistical information on the kind of people wishing to migrate and describe the effects of the phenomenon on the already heterogeneous structure of the population.

44. **Mr. Tang Chengyuan** said that the periodic report of Barbados was excellent, notably for its analysis of the sociology of current race relations and the country's historical and cultural specificities. The authorities had manifestly been resolute in their attempts to root out the endemic racism in the island, but it was a cause for concern that racial segregation persisted in many domains. Apparently, there were commissions for blacks only and others reserved for whites; there were few whites in the Barbadian Government.

45. He wished to know which race was likelier to face discrimination in present-day Barbados. Whereas previously blacks had been discriminated against by slave-owners, the situation seemed to have been reversed. He asked the delegation to state what measures had been taken to enable all sections of the population to be heard and represented in State bodies.

46. He also wished to know what means were at the disposal of the Ombudsman, who could investigate cases of alleged discrimination by the administration, to oblige State bodies to react if they refused. He asked the delegation to provide the Committee with specific examples of cases dealt with by the Ombudsman.

47. **Mr. Lindgren Alves** welcomed the report, in particular its introduction, which contained very interesting anthropological analyses. Nevertheless he was surprised to read, in paragraph 6 of the report, that racism in Barbados was described as being "institutionalized"; perhaps a more appropriate term would be "structural".

48. At the World Conference Against Racism, the State party had advocated reparations at the national and international levels for the victims of the transatlantic slave trade and their descendants, who had a valid claim on moral and legal grounds (para. 121 of the report). He wished to know, with regard to the thorny issue of reparations at the national level, who should compensate whom in Barbados. Recalling that at the international NGO follow-up meeting to the World Conference Against Racism convened in Barbados in 2002 (para. 117), delegates had barred the participation of non-blacks in the deliberations (para. 116) — a decision often quoted later as one of the adverse effects of the Durban Conference — he noted that the unfortunate incident had nonetheless had positive effects, too, in that the Barbadian Government had subsequently decided to pass legislation to protect individuals from discriminatory actions by private persons and entities. Lastly, he

wished to know why, in the meeting title, the term “Afrikan” had been spelled that way and whether it was an indirect reference to South Africa.

49. **Mr. Herndl** agreed with Mr. Thornberry and Mr. de Gouttes that section 33 (b) of the Public Order Act (para. 123 of the report) was too restrictive as it prohibited the use of insulting terms likely to stir up racial hatred against part of the population only. Article 4 of the Convention had a broader scope in that it prohibited any insulting comment made about any group of the population. He called on the State party to re-examine that provision of its domestic law in the light of those observations.

50. With regard to the reservation to article 4 of the Convention made by Barbados upon accession, he noted that like other former British colonies Barbados had followed the example of the former colonial power, which had also made a reservation to the same article on the grounds that it wished to preserve the right to freedom of expression. It was true that article 4 of the Convention posed the problem of striking the right balance between the freedom of expression and prohibiting certain statements but, with regard to inciting racial hatred, he felt it was vital to limit the freedom of expression. Bearing in mind the obligations under article 4 of the Convention and the fact that Barbados was party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, whose article 20 prohibited all incitement to racial hatred, and bearing in mind that the reservation to article 4 was a throwback to the colonial era, he called on the State party to consider withdrawing it.

51. **Mr. Trevor Clark** (Barbados), replying to the comment made by Mr. Pillai about the role of cricket, recognized that in the former British colonies sport, and cricket in particular, could indeed act as a means of bringing peoples together, as demonstrated by the admirable matches played between India and Pakistan. He was impressed by the depth of analysis and commentary of the members of the Committee and thanked them for their praise of the report.

52. **The Chairman** thanked the delegation of Barbados and invited it to return at the next meeting to answer the Committee’s questions.

Follow-up procedure (agenda item 7) (*continued*)

53. **The Chairman** invited Mr. Amir to report on the meetings that he had held in New York with the Ambassadors of Papua New Guinea and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, both countries whose reports were long overdue and whose situation was being examined by the Committee as part of the follow-up procedure.

Papua New Guinea

54. **Mr. Amir** said that, as far as Papua New Guinea was concerned, he had based his efforts on the analysis of the situation in the State party presented by Ms. Dah at the previous session (CERD/C/SR.1695) and a letter sent by the Chairman of the Committee to the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea in New York. During a visit to New York, he had met the Chargé d’affaires of the Embassy of Papua New Guinea, who had acknowledged receipt of the Committee’s letter and stated that both the General Assembly and the Security Council had addressed the situation of human rights in Bougainville, without saying what the outcome of their deliberations had been. He had added that the political situation in his country was improving and legislative elections would be organized in 2005 in order to form a new Government. With regard to the late presentation of his country’s periodic reports to the Committee, he had suggested that it might need the technical assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as his Government lacked the resources to prepare them. He had therefore suggested that a representative of Papua New Guinea might request that assistance in person at one of the Committee sessions in Geneva. As he had still received no news on the matter, he proposed that the Chairman

of the Committee should sent the Mission of Papua New Guinea a letter welcoming the resumption of dialogue and inquiring as to the planned date of a visit to Geneva by a representative of the country's Government.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

55. Turning to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, he said that he had also met the Ambassador of that country in New York to raise the issue of the three men from the Hmong minority in detention and find out if the Laotian Government would be willing to release them. The Ambassador had told him that the three men were nothing but criminals working for the Hmong community in the United States of America and their aim was to destabilize the regime. Releasing them was out of the question as the overseas Hmong community would interpret that as a sign that the regime was weakening, which would encourage its action. Those arguments were also set out in a letter sent by the Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Chairman of the Committee, a copy of which the Ambassador had given to him.

56. The Ambassador had welcomed the meeting, which he called very instructive, and told him, for the attention of the Committee, that he would personally back any initiative by the Committee inviting the Laotian Government to send a representative to Geneva to meet it.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.