



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
31st meeting  
held on  
Friday, 20 November 1987  
at 10 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman8 Mr. AL-KAWARI (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 75, REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (A/42/650) 1 REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/454, 455, 459-463)

1. Mr. WALTER (Czechoslovakia) said that the Special Political Committee was compelled to note every year that Israeli practices against the population of the occupied territories were tantamount to a State policy of violence, intimidation and repression, characteristic of occupying régimes resorting to force, in order to hold the oppressed nations An subjection.

2. His delegation was indignant at the information contained in the Special Committee's report (A/42/650) on the repressive measures being applied against the population of the occupied territories. In particular, it condemned the physical terror, murder, torture of detainees and other forcible acts perpetrated by the Israeli military and law-enforcement organs and by various extremist groups, including armed • otllora. The Palestinians' living conditions and economic situation had deteriorated. The occupied territories were becoming increasingly vulnerable to external economic and political influences,

3. Israel had been attempting for two decades to complete its annexation of the occupied territories and to change their demographic character by force. The climate of tension and violence had intensified recently, and seemed bound to deteriorate in future.

4. At a time when an overwhelming majority of Member States sought to strengthen the role of the Organization, the United Nations had to make further efforts to settle the Middle East crisis, including its core problem, the question of Palest ine. The fact that the Palestinian people lacked a sovereign State was not only a tragedy, but also a challenge to the international community, especially to Israel which, through its policy of aggression and violence, and with United States assistance, prevented the Palestinian people from exercising its inalienable rights.

5. Czechoslovakia stood for a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine through an international peace conference on the Middle East urdr United Nations auspices, with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the permanent members of the Security Council. It insisted on an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli occupational forces from the territories occupied since 1967. It unreservedly supported the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the establishment of its own State.

6. Czechoslovakia would continue to provide, through the PLO, political and material assistance to the Palestinian people. It believed that the Palestinians' struggle for national independence would succeed, and that the current deliberations would further that goal.

7. Mr. BAALI (Algeria) said that the Special Committee's report objectively and clearly revealed the horror of the Israeli occupation. His delegation hoped that the Special Committee would be able to carry out its original mandate in full as soon as the financial situation so permitted.

8. More than previous years, 1987 had been characterized by particularly brutal repression against the population in the occupied territories, while the policy of settling Arab lands with a view to their permanent annexation continued with impunity. The sole objective of the policy of settlements, expropriation and blackmail was to empty the occupation territories progressively of their legitimate inhabitants, in order to encourage citizens to establish new settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through subsidies and propaganda. More than 20,000 new Israeli settlers had thus settled in the West Bank in less than two years, bringing the number of Jewish inhabitants there at the end of 1986 to 60,500. The goal was to increase the Jewish population to 100,000 before 1990, and thus considerably change the demographic composition of the West Bank and to expedite the process of annexing that territory. Indeed, as numerous Zionist leaders had stated publicly, formal annexation was unnecessary, presumably on the grounds that it was a historical part of "Eretz Yisrael". On the other hand, the Golan Heights and the Holy City, Al-Quds, had been the subject of official acts of annexation, which the General Assembly and the Security Council had declared null and void.

9. The "iron fist" policy took its toll on all aspects of daily life. The objective was once again to wear down the Palestinians' resistance in order to induce them to leave their homes and seek refuge in the camps of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. In view of the ineffectiveness of their threats and arbitrary arrests, the Israeli forces increasingly resorted to expulsions and various restrictions.

10. Palestinian civilians were also subjected to the violence of armed settlers, who acted with total impunity, and even with the blessing of the Israeli leaders, as well as of terrorist groups acting with the complicity of some parties in power in occupied Palestine. The terrorists publicly professed their racist philosophy and sought to force the Arab population to seek exile. When arrested, they were celebrated as heroes.

11. In such conditions, the freedoms of expression, movement, association and religion were trampled underfoot, while the freedom of education was seriously hindered. The root of the problem was the denial of the Arabs' national rights. It could be solved only by the total and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories and by the restoration to the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights, including its right to self-determination, return and the establishment of its independent State. In that regard, the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, in which the PLO would take part on an equal footing as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, seemed to Algeria to be the only appropriate framework for a just and lasting settlement.

12. His delegation wished to express its full admiration for the struggle of the Palestinian people. Despite the repression of which it was the target, it provided

(Mr. Baali, Algeria)

an **example** of bravery to the **Zionist occupier**, and proved that nothing could stifle a people determined to **regain its freedom**.

13. **MC. HIELSCHER** (German Democratic Republic) said that the Special Committee's report (A/42/650) contained ample evidence that Israel's ruling circles continued their policies of occupation and oppression and were establishing new facts designed to **perpetuate the annexation of the occupied territories**, in defiance of international law. There was an urgent need for realism and common sense, as well as for a firm determination to settle conflicts exclusively by peaceful means, taking into account the legitimate interests of the State and peoples concerned. The immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967 and the **exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights** were essential for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict. As international support for the convening of a peace conference on the Middle East had been **growing**, practical opportunities to reach that objective were **emerging** more clearly.

14. In defiance of international law and all the relevant Security Council and General Assembly decisions, Israel pursued its policies unhindered, because it received full political, economic and military assistance from its strategic ally, despite **declarations** and political manoeuvres designed to hide that fact. Such a course was bound to aggravate tensions in the region and to prolong the suffering of the afflicted people. It was thus imperative that all forces of peace should unite to frustrate the imperialists and to achieve a just settlement.

15. Attempts to suppress the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO underscored the determination of the imperialists to use any means to attain their hegemonistic objectives. However, in the long run they would be unable to prevent the Palestinian people from exercising its inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of its own independent State.

16. The Palestinians' resistance showed that their yearning for freedom could not be stifled. His country reiterated its pledge that, together with all peace-loving forces, it would continue to support the Palestinian and other Arab peoples.

17. One lesson learned from the attempts to end the conflict was the need to implement proposals aimed at a comprehensive solution. The growing international response in favour of a Middle East peace conference, in which all parties concerned, including the PM, would take part, encouraged the forces of common sense to continue their endeavours. Direct arrangements by the Security Council for a negotiating mechanism could bring about such a conference. The relevant United Nations decisions and proposals should be implemented without further delay.

18. His country would be a reliable partner in efforts to find a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict, the core of which was the question of Palestine. It supported all steps which served that goal and strengthened the cohesion of the PLO and the Arab States. The German Democratic Republic was firmly convinced that the Middle East could be transformed into a region of security, stability and co-operation.

19. **Mr. GLAIEL (Syrian Arab Republic)** said that the current report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) concentrated only on the most serious aspects of Israeli practices during the period covered. It presented those practices impartially, relying, in part, on continued monitoring of statements by members of the Government of Israel reflecting the policy of that Government in the occupied territories and reports on measures taken to implement that policy,

20. Israel's repeated assertion that it was because of the bias of the Special Committee that it withheld its co-operation was manifestly false. The Zionist occupation authorities sought to enlist all the resources of world Zionism in the Service of their basic objective of gathering all those in the world professing Judaism into occupied Palestine after clearing it of its indigenous inhabitants. The belief of the founders of Zionism that the Jews were God's chosen people was reflected in Israel's policy. Consequently, like the Nazi régime, Israel carried out massacres, established concentration camps, launched blitzkriegs and committed numerous individual and collective crimes against the population of the Arab territories it had occupied.

21. In its resolution 3314 (XXIX), the General Assembly included in the definition of aggression any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from invasion of or attack against the territory of another State. There warn, however, little point in invoking United Nations resolutions when, despite such resolutions and in defiance of the will of the international community, Zionist gangs had usurped all of Palestine and significant parts of the territories of the neighbouring Arab countries.

22. With the expansion of their occupation, the Zionist authorities had begun to use the well-known Nazi procedure of depopulating the land. A cursory glance at the Special Committee's report, which the representative of the Zionist entity had naturally described as prejudiced, revealed that there was indeed a policy in place of annexing and settling the occupied Arab territories and of expanding at the expense of the neighbouring Arab States. There were schemes to implement that policy by depriving the indigenous population of its fundamental freedoms and thereby forcing Arab citizens to emigrate so that new settlers could fill the vacuum. The Israeli policy of depriving the Arab population of its means of livelihood by seizing natural resources had led to the deterioration of agriculture, industry and all other economic activities, had subjugated the local economy to that of Israel and had diverted those involved in agriculture into industry and the crafts.

23. Under the Israeli occupation, Arab workers were subjected to racial discrimination and arbitrary practices, and their terms of employment were far less favourable than those of Jewish workers. They did not enjoy the right to exercise trade-union freedoms, and the offices of the trade unions were constantly subjected to police raid., cepcated acts of aggression, and closure at the whim of the authorities. The occupation authorities encroached on the inviolability of Cultural and educational institutions and impeded their activities. Israel had failed to comply with successive UNESCO resolutions condemning such flagrant violations, on the grounds that they were biased, and had persisted in those

(Mr. Glaiel, Syrian Arab Republic)

practices, had engaged in intimidation and had practised racial discrimination against atudenta.

24. The Israeli occupation of the Arab territories had been effected by armed force in contravention of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the United Nations Charter. The Tel Aviv authorities had publicly adopted an irrevocable policy based on the no-called right of Israel to settle in any part of the occupied territories, the proliferation of settlements and creeping annexation. Numerous General Assembly resolutions had condemned Israeli actions aimed at changing the geographical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories. They had condemned the annexation of those territories and had considered Israel's decisions in that regard illegal and hence null and void.

25. Israel had pursued a comprehensive and aggressive strategy based on the assertion that the Syrian Golan was an integral part of Israel. Its practices aimed at the Judaization and annexation of the Golan had included the establishment and expansion of settlements, the alteration of the demographic composition of the area, the destruction of its economic structure, the seizure of its water resources and attempts to change its social and cultural structure and undermine the national identity of its inhabitants.

26. His delegation regretted the failure of the Special Committee to annex to its report in full the written information that the Syrian Government had provided on the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in the Syrian Golan. The information that had been included was merely a sample of Israeli practices carried out against the Syrian Arab inhabitants because of their allegiance to their homeland. Such allegiance was alien to the Zionists since they themselves had left the places in which they had been born and raised in order to settle in the so-called promised land,

27. The information in the section of the report concerning the Golan Heights was essentially the same as that regarding the overall Israeli policy in the occupied Arab territories. Typical practice of the Israeli occupation of the Golan included the expansionist scheme aimed at installing 30,000 to 35,000 settlers under the supervision of the Israeli army, the issuance of military orders confiscating Syrian Arab land for military purposes and for the establishment of Jewish settlements, and the diversion of water sources to new settlements while preventing the Arab population from digging new wells.

28. The occupation authorities had raised the taxes imposed on the Syrian Arab population to the level of 50 per cent of local production. They had confiscated large areas of agricultural land for Jewish settlements, had attempted to prevent the Syrian Arabs from raising cattle and had blocked their access to pastures. They had sought to obstruct the emergence of a local economy, had discouraged Arab investments and had prevented the opening of credits. Furthermore, they did not permit the establishment of agricultural or industrial projects,

29. The World Health Organization had confirmed the deterioration of health conditions in the Golan Heights as a result of the continuing Israeli occupation.

(Mr. Claiel, Syrian Arab Republic)

The Arab inhabitants had **been deprived of access to health facilities because they refused to carry an Israeli identity card**; the costs of private medical care were exorbitant. There were no hospitals in the Golan, while the four clinics available **were unable to meet the needs of the citizens. Moreover, there was not a single pharmacy in the territory, and only one pharmacist, whom the occupation authorities had not allowed to practise his profession.** The occupation authorities did not allow the inhabitants to **seek treatment in Syria, and had also prevented philanthropic organizations from providing assistance to needy patients.** Moreover, they had obstructed the arrival of food and medical assistance from Syria and from **organizations in Palestine.**

30. Educational conditions in the Golan had **greatly deteriorated, with respect to both the quality of the curriculum and the condition of school buildings, which lacked appropriate sanitary facilities and the ability to accommodate the growing number of Arab students.** The occupation authorities had imposed the Israeli curriculum in place of the Syrian Arab curriculum. Students **were prevented from pursuing higher education in Syrian universities, other Arab countries or socialist countries.** The authorities had dismissed teachers arbitrarily, raided **schools and arrested students.**

31. The report under consideration was a constant warning to the conscience of the world. **As long as occupation, injustice and oppression continued, there would be a valiant resistance aimed at liberating the land and putting an end to those conditions.** There could be no peace and security in the Middle East unless **Israel recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, withdrew from the territories occupied since 1967, renounced its racist practices, gaired the population of the occupied Arab territories and displayed its readiness to respect the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law.**

32. **Mr. AL-SABAH** (Kuwait) said that Israel's continued refusal to co-operate with the Special Committee **testified from its belief that it was not responsible before the international community for its actions in the occupied Arab territories.** It behaved as though its illegal practices were merely an internal matter. **In order to preserve its freedom of action, it did not allow international law or any international body to stand in its way.** It had thus **embarked on a course that impelled it to escalate its violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories.**

33. The report of the Special Committee clearly demonstrated the kind of repressive measures and inhuman practices in which the Israel occupation authorities **continued to engage.** Their crimes constituted flagrant violations not only of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention but of all the other pertinent international instruments.

34. Israel persisted in its occupation, arrogantly **disregarding the numerous resolutions on the matter.** Its inhuman practices were closely linked with Zionist ideology. The underlying philosophy of Zionism was that the **land of Palestine was Eretz Yisrael and that the departure of the Palestinian people must be brought about either by outright force or by the gradual annexation of its land.** Zionism

(Mr. Al-Sabah, Kuwait)

had been responsible for many abominable acts and repressive measures aimed at making the lives of the inhabitants of the occupied territories unbearable and forcing them to emigrate and make way for additional Jewish settlers.

35. The Israeli authorities had taken a number of actions with a view to obliterating the Palestinian identity. They had attempted to undermine the political structure of the occupied territories by banishing mayors, dissolving councils and suppressing the symbols of Palestinian nationalism; they had sought to break their cultural and social backbone by closing educational institutions, banning books, imposing press censorship and harassing writers and intellectuals; and they had set out to destroy their economic structure by gaining control of water resources and agricultural production and by harassing farmers.

36. Constant attempts were being made to intimidate the population through military might and the use of brute force by the police, and Jewish settlers had formed civil-defence units which attacked the unarmed civilian inhabitants.

37. A number of painful anniversaries of relevance to the question of Palestine occurred in 1987: it was the twentieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation; the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the partition resolution; and the seventieth anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration. The justice of the Palestinian cause would not, however, diminish with the passage of time and nor would the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people or the intensity of its struggle to restore its legitimate rights.

38. The international community must assume its responsibilities and strive diligently for the alleviation of the suffering of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories by the withdrawal of Israel and the restoration to the Palestinian people of its legitimate rights, especially its right to self-determination and to establish its own State on its own soil. There was a clear international consensus on the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, and his delegation was certain that the Conference would constitute an effective contribution by the United Nations to the achievement of a solution to the Palestine problem.

39. The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Kuwait in January 1987, had adopted an important resolution on the question of Palestine and the Middle East. The Conference had reaffirmed its recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and its conviction that the question of Palestine was the core of the Middle East conflict. It had affirmed the commitment of its member States to the convening of an International Peace Conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices and attended, on an equal footing, by all parties concerned, including the PLC, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the permanent members of the Security Council. It had also called for the convening of a meeting of a preparatory committee to be attended by the permanent members of the Security Council.



40. Mr. AL-KHOLAIFI (Qatar) said that Israel's refusal to co-operate with the Special Committee was unacceptable on the part of a Member State, which was bound to carry out the resolutions of the Organisation. Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people were aimed at: expelling the Arab population and establishing a purely Jewish State throughout the land of Palestine. The Israeli Government, which claimed that the resistance by the Palestinian people to its policies constituted terrorism, behaved like Hitler's Nazi régime. His delegation condemned that position as it condemned the Nazi reaction to the resistance by the brave Europeans under German occupation during the Second World War.

41. There had been recent reports about the physical and psychological torture used by the Israeli intelligence services against Arab detainees. In one case a number of Palestinians had been forced to make confessions through the use of torture. As a result of increased protests, the Israeli authorities had formed a commission to investigate the incident. In its report, the commission had confirmed that the intelligence services had used various methods of torture. Nevertheless, the commission had reached the startling conclusion that torture which was labelled "physical pressure" was permissible in certain cases during the interrogation of suspects. The term "certain cases" referred of course to those involving Palestinians. The Israeli Cabinet had approved the commission's report and its recommendation concerning "physical pressure" or torture. It was shocking to learn of such violations by a Member State, which was bound by the universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 5 of which prohibited torture.

42. That shameful policy indicated the extent to which the rights of the Palestinians in Israel and the occupied Arab territories were violated. The oppressed Palestinians in those areas expected the United Nations to take steps in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in order to ensure the enjoyment of their rights.

43. Mr. SHEVCHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted from the report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) that Israel had no intention of changing its expansionist policy. Its "creeping" annexation of the occupied territories had had a disastrous effect on the political, social and economic life of the population. The establishment of settlements in those territories was a serious violation of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, the applicability of which had been reaffirmed in Security Council resolution 465 (1980). Israel was striving to integrate the occupied territories by extending to them its civil and legal infrastructure.

44. The record of crimes committed by Israel was extensive. There was abundant evidence of blatant and massive violations of human rights in the occupied territories. Israel would, however, be unable to perpetuate its occupation. That was evident from the international community's virtually unanimous condemnation of its policies and practices and the courageous struggle of Arab patriots for the liberation of their land and the implementation of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

(Mr. Shevchenko, Ukrainian SSR)

45. The Special Committee and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People were making a significant contribution to that struggle. Zionist aggression would have ended long ago and peace would have been restored to the Middle East if Israel had not enjoyed the all-round support of its partner in "strategic co-operation". His delegation therefore shared the view that the United States also bore responsibility for Israel's actions in the occupied Arab territories.

46. The Ukrainian SSR did not recognise any of the changes brought about by Israel in the occupied territories. The United Nations must take the most decisive measures to halt Israel's policies and practices in those territories. An authentic settlement in the Middle East could be brought about only through the collective efforts of all parties concerned, including the PLO, on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, implementation of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine to self-determination and the establishment of an independent State, and implementation of the right of all States of the region to secure an independent existence and development. That could be affected through an international conference on the Middle East, the convening of which was supported by almost all States Members of the United Nations.

47. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that the question of human rights violations in the Arab territories occupied by Israel was an important element of the problem of the Middle East, which in turn posed a most serious threat to international peace and security. The occupation of those territories was illegal, and such measures as the extension of Israeli legislation, jurisdiction and civil administration to the territories must be regarded as null and void. Israel's persistent refusal to acknowledge the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the occupied territories would not change the fact that Israel was responsible for the protection of the human rights and well-being of the population living there.

48. The continued Israeli settlement policy was a very disturbing manifestation of tacit annexation. In the past year, there had been a trend towards the establishment of new settlements and an increase in the number of settlers. That Policy aggravated the overall atmosphere in the occupied territories and in the region as a whole. Austria called upon Israel to put an end to that illegal policy.

49. The report of the Special Committee (A/42/650) provided ample information on the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories and the increase in the frequency and intensity of daily incidents. Although Austria did not condone violence in any form, it was not surprised by it, considering the understandable feelings of frustration among the Arab population after 20 years of occupation. For those reasons, his country urged Israel to conduct its policies in the occupied territories in accordance with international law and respect for human rights. That would be an important contribution to any future political settlement.

50. Mr. TEKAYA (Tunisia) said that Israel's continued occupation of the Arab territories was a flagrant violation of human rights. The annexation of those territories was designed to eliminate the Palestinian identity. Under the yoke of occupation, the Arab population was daily subjected to arbitrary measures in all spheres. The military authorities had the right to enter and search all homes, places of worship, schools and other cultural or social institutions. The press was censored. Palestinian inhabitants could be interrogated at any moment concerning their political views and affiliation and were subjected to discriminatory administrative and legislative measures. Elderly persons, women and children were brutally apprehended for the slightest reason. The sole pretext for the arbitrary arrests and inhuman punishment was so-called State security.

51. The desecration of Christian and Muslim places of worship were among the most unacceptable violations of human rights in the occupied territories. The Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock were being more and more frequently attacked with the knowledge of the Israeli authorities.

52. The Israeli Government was conducting a settlement policy aimed at confiscating Arab land and establishing Israeli settlements. Prime Minister Shamir himself had expressed support for the idea of settling "all the regions of the land of Israel". According to an Israeli newspaper, the Jewish population in the West Bank had increased to more than 60,000 inhabitants by the end of 1986.

53. Clearly, Israel was continuing its settlement policy aimed at changing the physical and demographic character of the occupied territories in violation of international law. The international community should take steps to force Israel to put an end to its illegal practices, which were preventing a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question. Israel must recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish its own State. To that end, it must also withdraw all its forces from the occupied territories and halt the "iron fist" policy directed against the Arab population.

54. Mr. AL-FANNAH (Oman) said that each successive report of the Special Committee gave details of a specific stage in the precisely-organized Israeli plan to annex the occupied Arab territories and clear them of their indigenous inhabitants.

55. There were two reasons for Israel's refusal to permit the Special Committee to enter the occupied territories: its total disdain for the wishes of the international community; and the fact that it sought to prevent the Special Committee from placing before world public opinion additional information on the sufferings of the local inhabitants.

56. The fact that resistance continued was positive proof that Israel would have no respite as long as Arab territory remained under its occupation. That conviction was reinforced by the fact that the young generation of civilians in the territories, which had been born and brought up under the occupation rule, in constant contact with various measures of harassment, humiliation and restriction upon its basic rights and freedoms, seemed determined to oppose the occupant's rule.

(Mr. Al-Fannah, Oman)

57. Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the population of the occupied territories were a flagrant violation of Israel's international commitments as a party to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. His country therefore called upon the international community to urge Israel to take all steps to protect the inhabitants of the territories.

58. His Government was greatly concerned by the situation in the occupied territories and would therefore do all in its power to assist their inhabitants in resisting the occupation and remaining on their land. His country would support Jordan, which had strong historical and geographical links with the Palestinian people, in its many assiduous efforts to assist the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

59. Mr. RAMIN (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the report issued by the commission of inquiry established by the Israeli Government to investigate the interrogation methods of the Israeli internal security agency had addressed a severe dilemma faced by Israel since its establishment - the need to preserve the existence of the State and the safety of its citizens while maintaining the basic moral principles on which its democracy was founded. The use of that report by some delegations to attack his country had come as no surprise. It was difficult for those delegations to understand the intricacies of democracy and morality, concepts which they consistently disregarded. Their countries had no investigative commissions because they had no freedom and no inherent respect for human rights. Only societies which truly believed in those principles could act to correct their abuses.

60. His country was a State under constant siege, fighting an unending war against terrorists who did not abide by the same ruler of law and morality as the Israelis. When such persons were arrested, interrogators faced the need to obtain information quickly in order to prevent further terrorist attacks, without surrendering to the abhorrent methods practised by other régimes. For that reason, guidelines had been established to govern methods of interrogation. The commission's report had detected some abuses and had recommended steps to remedy the situation. The Israeli Government owed such an inquiry to Israeli society, not to the enemies who sought to eliminate it. Yet any infringement of the basic concepts of justice, law and morality must be redressed. That was what separated his country from its attackers.

61. Mr. GLAIEL (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the previous speaker's remarks revealed the arrogance and racism which he had inherited from nazism, what separated the Zionists from the rest of the world was their arrogance, which was matched only by that of the apartheid régime. According to the norms followed in the Committee and in the United Nations, delegations should address one another through the Chairman, not directly.

62. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer, Palestine Liberation Organization), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had taken note of the acknowledgement by the Zionist representative of the report investigating the

(Mr. Mansour, Observer, PLO)

behaviour of the Israeli internal security agency, which concluded that the agency had been lying about the use of torture to obtain confessions since 1971 and fabricating confessions which had been used to imprison 4,000 Palestinians Since that time. His admission reflected the current concern of the Israeli Government that the report would provide explicit confirmation of the traditional charges by international organizations, such as Amnesty International and various United Nations committees, alleging Israeli abuses of human rights.

63. The Zionist representative's attacks against the Special Committee were an insult not only to that Committee but to the members of the Security Council and the General Assembly. Security Council resolution 465 (1980) had been adopted unanimously, while General Assembly resolution 41/63 B, on the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the occupied territories, had been adopted with only Israel voting against.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.