

Pretoria régime and continue to supply related material to that régime;

12. *Strongly condemns* all Governments which do not recognize the right to self-determination and independence of all peoples still under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably the peoples of Africa and the Palestinian people;

13. *Strongly condemns* the ever-increasing massacres of innocent and defenceless people, including women and children, by the racist minority régimes in southern Africa in their desperate attempt to thwart the legitimate demands of the people;

14. *Further condemns* the expansionist activities of Israel in the Middle East, as well as the continuous bombing of civilian Arab and, in particular, Palestinian populations and the destruction of their villages and encampments, which constitutes a serious obstacle to the realization of the self-determination and independence of the Palestinian people;

15. *Urges* all States, competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other international organizations to extend their support to the Palestinian people through its representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, in its struggle to restore its right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

16. *Demands* the immediate and unconditional release of all persons detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence, full respect for their fundamental individual rights and the observance of article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,³² under which no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;

17. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the material and other forms of assistance that peoples under colonial and foreign rule continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and calls for a maximization of that assistance;

18. *Further calls* for a maximization of all forms of assistance given by all States, appropriate United Nations organs, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to the victims of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* through their national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

19. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Council decision 1979/39 of 10 May 1979, by which the Council decided that the studies on the historical and current development of the right to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,³³ and on the implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination³⁴ should be printed and given the widest possible distribution, including distribution in Arabic;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to give maximum publicity to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to give the widest possible publicity to the struggle being

waged by oppressed peoples for the realization of their self-determination and national independence;

21. *Decides* to consider this item again at its thirty-fifth session on the basis of the reports which Governments, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have been requested to submit concerning the strengthening of assistance to colonial Territories and peoples under foreign domination and control.

76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979

34/45. International Covenants on Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/86 of 13 December 1976, 32/66 of 8 December 1977 and 33/51 of 14 December 1978,

Having noted the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³⁵

Noting with appreciation that, following its appeal, more Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,³⁶

Bearing in mind the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its sixth and seventh sessions³⁷ and expresses satisfaction at the serious and constructive manner in which the Committee is continuing to undertake its functions;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee when submitting their reports under article 40 of the Covenant and urges States parties which have not yet done so to submit their reports to the Committee as speedily as possible;

3. *Urges* States parties which have been requested by the Human Rights Committee to provide additional information to comply with that request;

4. *Welcomes* the information that the Economic and Social Council has now finalized arrangements for the consideration of reports submitted under the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³⁸ and expresses the hope that the Council will take steps to consider those reports as soon as possible;

5. *Again invites* all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to

³⁵ A/34/440.

³⁶ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/34/40).*

³⁸ See Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979.

³² Resolution 217 A (III).

³³ E/CN.4/Sub.2/404 (vols. I-III).

³⁴ E/CN.4/Sub.2/405/Rev.1; the study was published under the title *The Right to Self-Determination* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.5).

consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

6. *Welcomes* the entry into force on 28 March 1979 of article 41 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and invites the States parties to the Covenant to consider making the declaration provided for in article 41;

7. *Appreciates* that the Human Rights Committee continues to strive for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto and emphasizes the importance of the strictest compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Covenant;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and also to transmit the annual reports of the Human Rights Committee to those bodies;

9. *Notes with due attention* the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee regarding the holding of future meetings of the Committee in developing countries³⁹ and requests the Secretary-General to explore this possibility, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee, and to submit a report in this regard to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the report requested in Commission on Human Rights resolution 23 (XXXV) of 14 March 1979⁴⁰ concerning the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, to bear in mind the question of improving the publicity for the work of the Human Rights Committee;

12. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take all possible steps to ensure that the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat is able to assist effectively the Human Rights Committee and the Economic and Social Council in the implementation of their respective functions under the International Covenants on Human Rights, taking into account General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and 31/93 of 14 December 1976.

*76th plenary meeting
23 November 1979*

34/46. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations to achieve international co-opera-

tion in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁴¹ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights⁴² in further promoting international co-operation for respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that the acceptance by Member States of the obligations contained in those Covenants is an important element for the universal realization of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights,

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to the future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

Recalling also its resolution 33/104 of 16 December 1978, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue with high priority the over-all analysis of the alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which will contribute to the implementation of resolution 32/130,

Recalling further its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in particular paragraphs 5 (b) and 41 of the annex thereto, regarding the responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council to monitor and evaluate the implementation of over-all strategies, policies and priorities established by the General Assembly,

Noting with interest Economic and Social Council decisions 1979/29 and 1979/30 of 10 May 1979, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 4 (XXXV) and 5 (XXXV) of 2 March 1979,⁴³ in which the Commission reiterated that the right to development is a human right and that equality of opportunity for development is as much a prerogative of nations as of individuals within nations,

Recognizing the need to create satisfactory conditions at the national and international levels for the full promotion and protection of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Noting with interest that in the Political Declaration adopted by the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, the non-aligned countries called on the United Nations to continue working towards ensuring human rights in a comprehensive manner to ensure the dignity of human beings and, in this regard, reaffirmed their own willingness to work actively for the implementation of the steps outlined in General Assembly resolution 32/130 in the form which it prescribes, through the existing structures of the United Nations system,⁴⁴

⁴¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁴² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36), chap. XXIV, sect. A.*

⁴⁴ See A/34/542, annex, sect. I, para. 262.

³⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Third Committee, 31st meeting, para. 40.*

⁴⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 6 (E/1979/36), chap. XXIV, sect. A.*