

period concerned depended on the closeness of the connection with State secrets. It sometimes happened that permission was opposed by the applicant's parents who would find themselves without support if the application was granted. Under Soviet law, Jews were neither discriminated against nor given advantages. It was true that it had been easier for Jews to leave the country than for other groups and that 185,953 persons had left the Soviet Union for Israel, but that was due to the fact that the Second World War had split a large number of Jewish families, many of whom had subsequently been reunited. Jews were not deprived of their nationality in the Soviet Union. There was, however, a legal problem in the case of Jews emigrating to Israel because under Israeli law, citizenship was automatically granted to all Jews. The USSR did not recognize dual citizenship, so persons with dual nationality were in a difficult situation.

433. The representative of the USSR said that Jews held a high percentage of senior positions in medicine, science and the arts because they had played an active part in the Revolution, and after the Revolution they had taken advantage of the new educational facilities made available to them. The statistical situation was slowly changing, not as a result of any discrimination against Jews but through the advancement of other national groups. The Moscow synagogue was open to all Jews, but 90 per cent of them in the Soviet Union were atheists. He indicated that, although cases of abuse of authority might have occurred, the law and government policy favoured the equality of all minority languages, including Yiddish and Hebrew. Minority languages were used as the vehicle of instruction in both primary and secondary schools and sometimes in higher education as well. The figures for the northern nations given in the report related to all persons residing in the north, but primarily to the smaller nationalities. Minority groups received their vocational training in the three types of schools of the USSR, where children were guided into occupations suited to their capabilities. Before the Revolution, minorities were dying out, but now their numbers were increasing.

434. He added that the questions to which he had not replied would be transmitted to his Government.

#### Democratic Kampuchea

435. The initial report of Democratic Kampuchea (CERD/C/111/Add.4) was considered by the Committee at its 780th and 802nd meetings on 4 and 19 March 1987 (CERD/C/SR.780 and SR.802).

436. The report was introduced by the representative of Democratic Kampuchea, who referred to the Vietnamese war of occupation which had ravaged his country since December 1978 and to the fact that his Government would not be in a position to prepare a proper report until the foreign occupying forces had withdrawn. He drew the Committee's attention to the systematic efforts of the Vietnamese occupying forces to exterminate the Khmer race. He stated that Viet Nam, a party to the Convention, was not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. Finally, he referred to the peace proposal made by the three Democratic Kampuchea coalition leaders and their appeal, on 18 February 1987, to Viet Nam and the USSR.

437. Members of the Committee referred to the tragic situation in Democratic Kampuchea, where thousands of human beings had lost their lives. They said that that situation presented one of the gravest ethnic conflicts before the Committee. Democratic Kampuchea was a country occupied by foreign forces and its Government was unable to exercise power in its own territory. It was to be hoped that the

foreign occupation would end in the near future and that peaceful solutions could be found, enabling the Kampuchean people to exercise their right to self-determination and freely to elect a government of their own choice, without foreign interference. It was pointed out that Democratic Kampuchea did not exercise sovereignty over Kampuchean territory and could not claim to represent Kampuchea internationally. It was also observed that the allegations against Viet Nam emanated from a Government whose main component was an offshoot of the Pol Pot régime, guilty of the crime of genocide against its own people.

438. Members of the Committee drew the attention of the representative of Kampuchea to the provisions of article 11 of the Convention which provided for a State party, if it considered that another State party was not giving effect to the provisions of the Convention, to bring the matter before the Committee. However, the Committee had to be seized with a written communication to begin the procedure under article 11.

439. Members of the Committee requested information on the ethnic composition of the population, the functioning of the legal system in Democratic Kampuchea and the criteria used for the selection of judges. It was asked whether the Government was already preparing legislation which might be of interest to the Committee.

440. At the 780th meeting, a Committee member introduced a draft decision on the initial report of Kampuchea. At the 802nd meeting, he withdrew the proposed draft decision.

As the Committee had already declared, the occupation of the territory of a State party to the Convention constituted a grave breach of the Convention, particularly if the organs of that State were prevented from fulfilling their obligations under the Convention and if demographic changes in the population were imposed.

442. Consequently, some members of the Committee expressed the hope that the territorial integrity of Kampuchea would be re-established so that it could comply with its international obligations under the Convention.

443. The representative of Democratic Kampuchea expressed his thanks to the members of the Committee who had shown their compassion for the tragic fate of his country and to those who had expressed the hope that peace and freedom would be restored in Kampuchea soon.

444. With regard to the national minorities, he said that it was estimated that until 1950 there had been 218,000 Chinese, 230,000 Vietnamese and 100,000 Chams of the Islamic faith, in addition to other smaller minority groups inhabiting the mountainous regions, the plateaux and the areas bordering on Viet Nam and Laos. In 1953, there had been 600,000 foreigners of various origins in the country.

445. He stressed that his Government had already responded on various occasions to the accusations of genocide of the Kampuchean people: the very survival of Democratic Kampuchea and the formation of its coalition Government constituted an incontrovertible refutation of the claims of the occupiers.

446. With regard to the fundamental law and other laws of the country, the coalition Government recognized only the common declaration made at the time the