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**GENERAL
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FOURTH COMMITTEE
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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN welcomed the participation of the new States of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Zimbabwe for the first time in the work of the Committee. He also expressed his profound satisfaction at the emergence of the sovereign Republic of Vanuatu in the Pacific region. He expressed gratitude to the Committee for his unanimous election. That election represented for his country, Guyana, the acknowledgement of its abiding political and emotional dedication to the cause of the decolonization of peoples.
2. During the 1970s notable progress had been achieved in the field of decolonization and the United Nations had made great strides towards achieving the goal of universality with the admission of 28 new African, Asian and Latin American States as Members. Particularly noteworthy was the accession of Zimbabwe to independence following years of frustration, bloodshed and sacrifice. The victory of the people of Zimbabwe was testimony to the indomitable nature of the desire for human freedom, but that victory, to which the Committee was paying tribute, was also a victory and an encouragement for the oppressed peoples of Namibia and Western Sahara in their protracted struggle against tyranny.
3. In the case of Namibia, the members of the Committee were aware that, despite the prolonged and intensive efforts of the Secretary-General and the international community, South Africa continued to impede the implementation of the proposal for a settlement contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It was clear that South Africa had been using the negotiations simply as a cover for its own designs with respect to Namibia. While appearing to negotiate, the Pretoria régime had been consolidating its illegal presence in the international Territory, for which the United Nations had assumed direct responsibility.
4. The situation in Western Sahara also continued to be a source of concern to the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, and he hoped that the Committee's work during the current session would advance the cause of peace in that Territory.
5. Support could be given to dependent peoples in numerous ways, not the least of which consisted in bringing pressure to bear on those foreign economic interests whose activities in colonial Territories were helping to perpetuate relations of domination. The Committee should redouble its efforts to curb those activities which impeded the process of decolonization. In the particular case of Namibia, the Committee would no doubt wish to take account of the new information regarding the involvement of certain interests in the large-scale mining and export of that Territory's uranium.
6. With regard to the implementation of the Declaration in respect of other colonial Territories in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean, at the thirty-fourth session the Committee had given extensive consideration to the decolonization of small Territories and had submitted to the General Assembly a

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series of recommendations designed to expedite the decolonization process. In examining the conditions in those Territories, the Committee had been able to count on the co-operation of the administering Powers concerned. As a result of that co-operation and the close working relationship between the Special Committee and the administering Powers, the Committee had been able to send visiting missions to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

7. With regard to the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, the establishment of a UNDP office in Harare and the fact that most of the agencies had extended or initiated concrete programmes of assistance for colonial countries and peoples were worthy of note. Nevertheless, there was a pressing need for a massive increase in the volume and scope of assistance from those sources, and the Committee should do its utmost to achieve that objective.

8. In view of the fact that the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples would be observed in December 1980, the Committee at the current session should renew its dedication to the principles of the Charter and reaffirm its determination never to cease to oppose all vestiges of apartheid, racism and colonialism in southern Africa and elsewhere.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

9. Mr. SURYOKUSUMO (Indonesia) nominated Mr. František Peňázka (Czechoslovakia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

10. Mr. VARELA QUIROS (Costa Rica) supported that nomination.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that, since no other candidate had been nominated, he took it that the Committee wished to refrain from holding an election by secret ballot and to elect the Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

12. It was so decided.

13. Mr. Peňázka (Czechoslovakia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

14. Mr. CHAN (Australia) nominated Mr. Aryoday Lal (Fiji) for the office of Rapporteur.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, since no other candidate had been nominated, he took it that the Committee wished to elect the Rapporteur by acclamation.

16. It was so decided.

17. Mr. Lal (Fiji) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TRUSTEESHIP
AND DECOLONIZATION

18. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization) welcomed the delegations of Zimbabwe and of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, whose admission to the Organization coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The recent attainment of independence by Zimbabwe at the time of the twentieth anniversary demonstrated that right always finally triumphed over oppression, even at the cost of great sacrifices. Lastly, he also wished to welcome the Republic of Vanuatu, which had just attained its independence.

19. It was usual at anniversaries to review the past in order to appreciate the distance travelled and to survey the road ahead, and the balance sheet of the 20 years that had elapsed since the international community had solemnly proclaimed the right of peoples to self-determination and independence was undoubtedly a cause for considerable satisfaction on the part of the Committee. Suffice it to recall that, in 1960, at the time of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)), the Organization had consisted of only 99 Member States, whereas it now comprised 154, mostly former colonial Territories that had attained independence.

20. That positive balance should not, however, conceal the obstacles to be overcome in order to achieve the full elimination of colonialism in all its forms, and the Special Committee had sought to take advantage of the twentieth anniversary in order to reaffirm the principles that should guide United Nations activities in the following years. That was the purpose of the document entitled "Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/35/413, annex II), which had recently been adopted by the Special Committee of 24 and which the General Assembly would no doubt examine very closely at its current session.

21. Twenty years after the adoption of the Declaration, millions of persons were still hoping to exercise their right to self-determination and independence; they included the Namibian people, which for more than 10 years had been fighting heroically against the illegal occupation of their country by South Africa. It was now a particularly crucial moment in the efforts of the United Nations to achieve its objectives in respect of the self-determination and independence of the Namibian people, efforts which for the past year had been aimed at creating favourable conditions for a settlement in keeping with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). However, as the Secretary-General had recently indicated, the implementation of the proposal for a settlement was still pending. That situation would be brought to an end only when South Africa acknowledged United Nations authority over Namibia and the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The unilateral action recently taken in the Territory to confront the international community with the fait accompli of an internal settlement had no legal justification whatsoever and could only place new obstacles in the path of peace.

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(Mr. Djermakoye)

22. The escalation of the fighting in that region was a cause for concern to all, and if a solution was not speedily found, the conflict could reach uncontrollable proportions. The recurrent acts of aggression by South Africa against Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, repeatedly condemned by the United Nations, had already caused the loss of many lives and had sorely tested the economies of those countries. Yet the current situation was not irreversible and the international community had been able to note that there was still a considerable convergence of views among SWAPO, the five Western Powers and the front-line States over the implementation of the plan for a settlement proposed by the United Nations. It could only be hoped that South Africa would soon take the final step leading to a peaceful solution. In the meantime, the mobilization of world public opinion should continue with a view to achieving the objectives of the United Nations and a better understanding of the sacrifices of the Namibian people.

23. But although the question of Namibia was one of the most urgent political problems of the United Nations, it was necessary not to lose sight of the problems of other Territories in Africa and the world over. In that regard, there was cause for satisfaction over the advances recently achieved in the search for a solution to the problem of Western Sahara, where the co-operation and collaboration of the Organization of African Unity, in the context of efforts to arrive at a peaceful and just settlement on the basis of United Nations resolutions and with the participation of all the parties concerned, constituted an important contribution to the cause of peace in the region and in the world.

24. Each of the remaining Territories presented specific problems which were analysed in the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee of 24 and in other documents before the Committee. While the solutions and the means of achieving them necessarily varied from one Territory to another, the guidelines for action must be based on the fundamental right of peoples freely to determine their destiny, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The Organization had never spared any effort to ensure that that should be so. In conclusion, he wished to thank the administering Powers which during the past year had facilitated the work of the many visiting missions sent to the Territories administered by them, and to assure them that their collaboration had been valuable in fulfilling the common task.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

25. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.4/35/1) which contained a list of the agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee. He announced that, pursuant to rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure, he would submit a provisional programme of work at a subsequent meeting. In the meantime, with a view to facilitating the work on the basis of the consultations held between the President and the Special Committee of 24, he suggested that the first item to be considered should be that relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests (item 86). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed with his suggestion.

26. It was so decided.

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27. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the decision just taken, the Committee would begin the general debate on the item at the following meeting, on Monday, 29 September, at 10.30 a.m. He wished to invite those members who intended to take part in the debate to assist the efficient organization of work by entering their names on the list of speakers if possible before Thursday, 25 September.

28. In conclusion, he expressed his confidence that he would receive the complete co-operation of all members in the full discharge of the tasks assigned to the Committee.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.