



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JAMAL (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Fourth Committee, welcomed the delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu, which was participating in the Committee's work for the first time. He also welcomed the admission of Belize to membership in the United Nations and the forthcoming accession of Antigua to independence.
2. He thanked the Committee for having elected him unanimously; that honour done to him proved that the international community suitably appreciated the efforts made by the people and Government of Qatar to help peoples to free themselves from the colonial yoke.
3. At the current session, the Committee would have to give priority to problems connected with the situation in southern Africa. That was because an equitable solution had to be found quickly in order to end the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa. In defiance of the resolutions of the United Nations, the racist Pretoria regime was continuing to oppress the Namibian people aspiring to freedom and independence and was using the methods of traditional colonialism - in other words, repression, terrorism, torture and humiliation. South Africa was attacking not only SWAPO, which was the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, but also the neighbouring independent States, and in particular Angola.
4. In that connexion, it should be recalled that the apartheid régime was able to continue defying the international community partly because of the fact that it enjoyed the military, economic and political support of certain Western countries which had interests in the region.
5. It was essential to put an end to the activities of foreign economic and other interests in that part of the African continent, because they were obstructing the decolonization process and ran counter to the true interests of the colonized peoples.
6. The United Nations should take the necessary measures to make South Africa observe the Organization's resolutions and decisions and thus to avert the threat to international peace and security created by that country in the region.
7. As for the United Nations specialized agencies and organs, it was urgently necessary for them to increase the volume and scope of the assistance which they provided to colonial countries and peoples.
8. In the case of the small Territories, the General Assembly had adopted a series of resolutions designed to accelerate their decolonization. At the thirty-sixth session, the Fourth Committee would be giving special attention to that question.

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(The Chairman)

9. In that connexion, he recalled that the United Nations had sent two visiting missions to the Tokelau Islands and to American Samoa; thanks to the efficient co-operation of New Zealand and the United States, which were the administering Powers, those missions had been able to amass useful information on the situation prevailing in those Territories.

10. He was quite sure that he would be able to count on the support and co-operation of all the members of the Committee in performing the tasks entrusted to him and that the Committee would make an effective contribution to the attainment of the aspirations of the colonial peoples, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

11. Mrs. MORRISON (Lesotho) nominated Mr. Vall (Mauritania) for one of the posts of Vice-Chairman.

12. Mr. KOVÁŘIK (Czechoslovakia) nominated Mr. Schroter (German Democratic Republic) for the other post of Vice-Chairman.

13. Mr. Vall (Mauritania) and Mr. Schroter (German Democratic Republic) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

14. Mr. VALL (Mauritania) and Mr. SCHROTER (German Democratic Republic) thanked the members of the Committee for having elected them and promised to do their best to contribute to the success of the Committee's work.

ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

15. Mr. LAL (Fiji) nominated Mr. Addabashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) for the post of Rapporteur.

16. Mr. Addabashi was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

17. Mr. ADDABASHI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Rapporteur, congratulated the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen on their election and thanked the Committee for having elected him unanimously.

18. He recalled that millions of people still suffering under the yoke of colonialism were placing great hopes in the Committee, whose main role was to end colonialism and help the colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination and to accede to independence.

19. He was convinced that, under the enlightened guidance of the Chairman, the Committee would successfully discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it. He himself would do his best to help the Committee in its task, with the co-operation of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the secretariat.

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

20. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization) welcomed the Republic of Vanuatu, which was participating for the first time in the work of the Committee as a sovereign and independent nation and which would thus be able to make an appreciable contribution to the work of peace-building in which the international community was engaged. The recent independence of Belize and the forthcoming independence of Antigua were also very positive elements which should be welcomed by the United Nations.

21. So-called colonial questions were obviously among the most important ones which the United Nations had been called on to consider and concerned an area in which the achievements of the international community were undeniable. Twenty years after the solemn proclamation of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, those achievements were a source of satisfaction and pride to the Committee.

22. However, those positive gains should not obscure the difficulties which still remained to be overcome in order to achieve the total elimination of colonialism in all its forms. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration contained in its resolution 1514 (XV), the General Assembly had at its thirty-fifth session adopted a Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in which it had reaffirmed the guiding principles for the action to be taken in that area. Some twenty Territories were still waiting to be able to exercise their right to self-determination and independence; among them, Namibia was continuing to wage a heroic struggle against the illegal occupation of its country by the South African régime. That Plan, which had been endorsed by all concerned, including at the time by South Africa, and had been conceived by the Security Council in its resolution 435 (1978), remained a dead letter and South Africa's neighbours continued to suffer cruelly from the constantly repeated armed incursions by the Pretoria régime, which endangered peace and security in the region, as could be seen from the bloody events that had recently occurred in Angola.

23. Despite the energetic efforts made by the Secretary-General, the countries in the Contact Group, the front-line countries, SWAPO and the entire international community, there was still a complete deadlock and any acceptable solution to the problem continued to meet with intransigence on the part of South Africa. That was why, as the recent discussion at the eighth emergency special session of the General Assembly had shown, the international community was convinced that there must be an end to South Africa's dilatory tactics and a rapid solution to the question based on the arrangements set forth in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which the Secretary-General had said should remain the corner-stone of Namibia's accession to independence.

(Mr. Djermakoye)

24. The question of Western Sahara was another important problem to which the United Nations, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, had for years been trying to find an equitable solution, in accordance with the principles of the Charter, in order to remove the tension which existed in the region.

25. The Committee would also have to consider the situation in some 20 other Non-Self Governing Territories whose evolution the Special Committee of 24 continued to study regularly. The fact that those Territories were generally small, sparsely populated and dispersed throughout the world in no way relieved the United Nations of its responsibility to hasten the process of decolonization in those Territories.

26. In that regard, the visiting missions of the Special Committee of 24 were of special importance since they made it possible to monitor the evolution of that process on the spot and to ascertain the views and aspirations of the local population; during the past year, visiting missions had been sent to Tokelau and American Samoa. In that connexion, he paid a tribute to the administering Powers for their valuable assistance to the Special Committee in the fulfilment of its task.

27. The work of decolonization was the work of everyone: it required from the international community concerted efforts, magnanimity, understanding and singleness of mind in order to ensure the realization of the principles embodied in the Charter. The Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, for its part, undertook to collaborate fully in the work of the Fourth Committee in order to hasten the time when colonialism in all its forms disappeared from the face of the earth.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

28. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.4/36/1) containing the list of items allocated to the Fourth Committee. He announced that, in keeping with rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure, he would submit at a later meeting a provisional time-table for consideration of those items. In the meantime, in order to facilitate the Committee's work and on the basis of his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee of 24, he suggested that the item relating to foreign economic and other interests (item 94) should be taken up first.

29. It was so decided.

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AGENDA ITEM 94: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION OF THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/36/23 (Part III))

30. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur of the Special Committee of 24, introduced the chapter of the report describing the activities undertaken by the Special Committee in 1981 in the context of agenda item 94 (A/36/23 (Part III)).

31. That document was submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/28, paragraph 22, by which the Special Committee had been requested to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its current session. The Special Committee had also been guided in its task by General Assembly resolution 35/119, in which, inter alia, the Special Committee had been requested to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which had not yet attained independence and to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism, and also by the relevant provisions of the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

32. Furthermore, the Special Committee had taken into account the resolutions relating to the colonial Territories in Africa and the information provided to it by the representative of SWAPO, who had participated as observer in its proceedings relating to Namibia.

33. In the recommendations contained in paragraph 9 of its report, the Special Committee had condemned the intensified activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continued to exploit the resources of the colonial Territories, particularly of Namibia, and had reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to the enjoyment of their natural resources, as well as their right to dispose of those resources in their best interests.

34. In that regard, Special Committee had noted with profound concern that the colonial Powers and certain States had continued to disregard United Nations decisions on the item, and it had reaffirmed that, in southern Africa, such activities constituted a major obstacle to political independence and racial equality, as well as to the enjoyment of the natural resources by the peoples of the region. The Committee had therefore condemned the policies of Governments which continued to support or collaborate with those foreign economic and other interests engaged in exploiting the natural and human resources of the Territories.

(Mr. Adhami, Syrian
Arab Republic)

35. At the same time, the Committee had called upon the oil-producing and oil-exporting countries to take effective measures against oil companies which supplied oil to South Africa. It had also condemned the continuing collaboration of certain Western countries and other States with South Africa in the nuclear field, and had called upon all Governments to refrain from all such collaboration with that régime. It had reiterated that the exploitation and plundering of the natural resources of Namibia was illegal and contributed to the maintenance of the illegal occupation régime, and had called upon all States to discontinue all economic, financial or trade relations with the racist minority régime of South Africa.

36. Furthermore, the Committee had invited all Governments and organizations within the United Nations system, having regard to the provisions of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the colonial Territories over their natural resources was fully respected and safeguarded.

37. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Committee would give its full support to the recommendations in the Special Committee's report.

38. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would begin the general debate on item 94 on the morning of Tuesday, 6 October. He invited those wishing to take part in the debate to have their names included in the list of speakers as soon as possible.

39. Furthermore, in order to maintain the practice established at the preceding session, he requested all delegations to be punctual so that the meetings could begin at the scheduled time.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

40. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received seven communications containing requests for hearings concerning various agenda items, and he suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, they should be circulated as Committee documents and considered at a subsequent meeting.

41. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at noon.