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FOURTH COMMITTEE
13th meeting
held on
Friday, 23 October 1981
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JAMAL (QATAR)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

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AGENDA ITEM 97: OFFERS BY MEMBERS STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/36/580) (continued)

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. PIMENTEL (Philippines) said that his delegation was fully convinced that the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) had been fulfilled and the process of decolonization had been completed in East Timor when the people of that Territory, through their legitimate representatives in the Regional Popular Assembly, had of their own free will and in exercise of the right to self-determination, opted for integration with Indonesia. Under international law, the matter was a fait accompli and should therefore not be discussed any further in the Committee.

2. Indonesia had devoted considerable effort to developing education, agriculture, health and other social and economic programmes in East Timor as well as to alleviating the suffering caused by the civil war which had resulted when the administering Power had abandoned it. During that period, the United Nations and its agencies had not only been kept fully informed of developments in East Timor and been granted free access to information concerning the territory, but had also been invited to send missions there to make their own evaluation. The Government of Indonesia was taking gigantic steps to overcome the legacy of the past in East Timor and his delegation was convinced that, with the co-operation and understanding of the international community, the territory could attain economic and social stability. It was noteworthy in that connexion that the International Committee of the Red Cross, in co-operation with the Indonesian Red Cross, had agreed to continue their joint relief action in East Timor.

3. In short, since the process of decolonization had been completed in East Timor, any further consideration of the matter would constitute an unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and the United Nations should instead concentrate its efforts on assisting the people of East Timor in co-operation with the Government of Indonesia.

4. Mr. NIKULIN (Byelorussian SSR) said that, despite the considerable successes achieved by decolonization since the adoption of the Declaration on the granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations must not relent in its efforts to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid particularly, in areas such as southern Africa and the small Territories, and the attendant exploitation of their economic and human resources. These phenomena were not only incompatible with the United Nations Charter and the Declaration, but also constituted a serious

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threat to international peace and security.

5. The major obstacle to the implementation of the right of self-determination in the dependent Territories and to the protection of the right of the peoples of those Territories to dispose of their own resources was the activities of the imperialist Powers, whose transnational corporations had for many decades held back the political, economic and social development of the peoples of those Territories, however certain Western representatives might attempt to "whitewash" them.

6. The problem of decolonization of the small Territories was becoming increasingly acute with the efforts of the administering Powers to turn them into military bases and thereby threaten not only the peoples of those Territories but international peace and security in general. In the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and in the Caribbean, military bases had not only been set up the administering Powers but were actually being used for military purposes. The United Nations had on many occasions called upon the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones. In the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of The declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (resolution 35/118), the General Assembly had called upon member States to oppose all such activities. However, the administering Powers remained deaf to the appeals of the international community.

7. Both United Nations documents and the Western press provided evidence that the military activity of the colonial Powers in those Territories was increasing. The very presence of those bases, regardless of the extent to which they were being used at a given moment, was proof that those Powers wished to preserve their colonial hegemony there.

8. In many cases Territories administered by imperialist Powers faced the threat of being swallowed up completely by those Powers, as was the case of Micronesia, whose island components were being granted independence and then absorbed piecemeal, in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

9. His country was unrelenting in its support of the struggle of all peoples, whether large or small, to cast off the remaining shackles of colonialism and to secure their right of self-determination as guaranteed under the Charter and the Declaration. The achievement of that goal required the joint efforts of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and associated organizations. In many resolutions the United Nations had in fact called upon those agencies

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and organizations to provide material support to the peoples of colonial Territories and to their national liberation movements, especially, SWAPO, Yet, despite some progress in recent years, the help given so far was still far from adequate.

10. His delegation therefore supported the General Assembly's recommendation that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should intensify their efforts to insure the full implementation of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations decisions. They must develop more effective direct co-operation with the national liberation movements, and their aid programmes must be given priority and be geared as closely as possible to the needs of those movements. The national liberation movements should also be given observer status in the meetings of those agencies and organizations.

11. While many agencies were endeavouring to implement the relevant United Nations decisions, organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank had still not taken the necessary steps to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and other relevant General Assembly decisions; instead, they continued to co-operate with the racist régime of South Africa by granting it huge bank loans. Their action should be severely condemned. No specialized agency or organization of the United Nations system should be exempted from the obligation to work for the elimination of colonialism and all must take specific and effective measures to expedite the full implementation of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization.

12. Mr. SASSI (Libya Arab Jamahiriya) said that education and training were particularly important in dependent Territories, because the sooner the peoples of such Territories became literate, the sooner they would achieve liberation, development and progress. His own country had suffered greatly under colonialism and understood the methods still being used by the colonial Powers to plunder the resources of dependent Territories and to perpetuate ignorance. The colonial Powers realized that increased education and awareness on the part of dependent peoples would also increase their resistance to colonialism.

13. It was a common practice of the colonial Powers to impose their culture on the citizens of colonial Territories and to educate some of them abroad in order to brainwash them and turn them into their own agents. Many citizens in Namibia and South Africa had refused to be exploited in that way and had been forced to leave their country in numbers far exceeding the absorptive capacity of their host countries. The United Nations should therefore focus attention on the educational needs of such displaced persons and provide them with scholarships.

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14. He had been astonished to read in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (A/36/147) that the Programme had received an offer of scholarships for training in Israel. He was curious to know what sort of training students would receive in the Zionist entity and whether it would include education in self-determination.

15. The Programme could provide significant support to its beneficiaries by giving them an opportunity to study, by raising their professional capacity and standard of living, by heightening the national awareness of the citizens of southern Africa and by creating cadres to administer the Territories and contribute to their development after independence.

16. His Government was fully aware of the realities of colonialism and its harmful impact in the educational cultural fields. It was, therefore, to the best of its ability, providing scholarships for persons from colonial Territories and newly independent countries, through the appropriate liberation organizations, governments or international agencies. In the educational field, his country had received more than 3,000 students from third-world countries, including many from southern Africa, who were attending universities, technical institutes and schools. Students were provided with full board and lodging and a monthly allowance during their period of study.

17. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the efforts made by the administrators of the Programme despite the lack of financial resources. In view of the increased demand for educational and training awards and the rising cost of scholarship brought about by inflation, the Programme was facing a grave financial situation. The problems confronting it were due not to any shortcomings in the Programme itself, but rather to the lack of response from member countries to the appeals for contributions. Paragraphs 6, 29 and 30 of the Secretary-General's report made it clear that, consequent upon lower contributions received in 1981, the Programme faced a serious setback unless supplementary contributions were received during the year. His Government would take measures to finance its own share of the Programme but he appealed to all Member States to implement General Assembly resolution 35/30, which had recognized that a substantial increase in contributions was required in view of the increased demand for assistance and rising costs. He supported the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to remedy the situation (A/36/147, para.26).

18. The members of the Fourth Committee had a duty towards their brothers who continued to suffer under the yoke of colonial domination, to which so many of them had themselves been subjected in the past. The General Assembly should therefore urge Governments, particularly those of the industrialized countries, to contribute generously to the Programme. The colonialist countries should assume their responsibilities by providing aid for training

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and education for persons from southern Africa as a means of making some small restitution for their plundering of the resources of those countries in the past.

19. Mr. DE FIGUEIREDO (Angola) said that the majority of Member States had passed through a colonial stage in some form or another and had accordingly been victimized by colonial exploitation, oppression and foreign military occupation. The best known and most blatant examples were Namibia, under illegal occupation by the racist South African régime, and Palestine, under the occupation of Zionist Israel. There were still, however, a number of other situations around the world where colonialism and military occupation were the reality of the day.

20. The saddest colonialism was that practised by a country which had itself known the horrors of a colonial past and which had been one of the founders of the non-aligned movement. The people of East Timor were linked to the people of Angola because both had had the same colonizers and the same mother country. Furthermore, the revolutionary path on which the Angolan people had embarked made the liberation of all peoples an extension of their own revolution. In the name of third-world unity and in the interest of the strength and unity of the non-aligned movement, his delegation appealed to the Government of Indonesia to withdraw its troops from East Timor. Since the withdrawal of the Portuguese, the people of East Timor had on many occasions made the international community aware of their wishes, based on the concept of self-determination; they had opted for independence but had been denied their inalienable rights by the presence and action of the thousands of troops sent by the Indonesian Government to occupy the land and forcibly integrate it into Indonesia.

21. Despite overwhelming odds, the people of East Timor, led by their liberation movement, the Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN), had continued to fight. The military aggression against them, the siege which had resulted in the death of thousands through starvation, the bombing of towns and villages and the naval blockade had all been reported to the international community. The situation had not changed: Indonesian troops were still in occupation, the people of East Timor were still fighting and FRETILIN was still in a state of diplomatic, political and military mobilization against the foreign forces.

22. The defenders of colonialism had argued that the people of East Timor had chosen to be incorporated into Indonesia, that the Territory was too small and the people too few to be a viable State, that the foreign troops were there to stay and that the people of East Timor and international community should accept the fait accompli. If such arguments had been blindly accepted

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by all colonial peoples, the membership of the Fourth Committee would be small indeed.

23. He hoped it would be possible to register some progress on the path to independence for East Timor during the current session of the General Assembly. His delegation appealed to the Government of Portugal not to abdicate its involvement in the issue. It was time to implement the United Nations Charter and the principles espoused by the States Members of the United Nations and by the non-aligned movement.

24. He also expressed the solidarity of his Government and people with the struggle for liberation of the people of Puerto Rico. He unequivocally supported the aspirations to self-determination and independence of all peoples of other Non-Self-Governing Territories and demanded that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be fully implemented throughout the world.

Question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/36/L.3)

25. The CHAIRMAN announced that Togo had joined the list of sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.3.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.