

GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records\*



FOURTH COMMITTEE  
2nd meeting  
held on  
Monday, 11 October, 1982  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ROA-KOURI (Cuba)

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Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.4/37/SR.2  
14 October 1982  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN said that his election to the chairmanship of the Fourth Committee, apart from honouring him as an individual, was a recognition of the resolutely anti-colonialist stand of the Cuban Government and people, who had fought for independence for a century, first against Spanish domination, then against a neo-colonialist régime which had finally been overturned in the historic victory of 1 January 1959. Cuba's history, therefore, linked it to peoples which, in one way or another, were still under the colonial yoke.
2. He was determined to see to it that the work of the Committee hastened the process of decolonization and he was happy to be able to count on the valuable assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, Mr. Djermakoye, and of the Chairman of the Special Committee of 24, Mr. Abdulah, in that task.
3. Those who had spoken in the general debate at the current session had confirmed, as had the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization, the seriousness of the economic situation, which was reminiscent of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Without going so far as to share the apocalyptic outlook adopted by some, there was no escaping the realization that some countries were clearly bent on reversing the tide of history.
4. The deterioration in the situation in the Middle East with the invasion of Lebanon and the abominable slaughter of Palestinians, South Africa's aggression against Angola and occupation of part of its territory, the repeated attacks by the Pretoria régime against various front-line States, the senseless determination to keep the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) under colonial domination, the manoeuvres against the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua and the threats of intervention in Central America, as well as continuing hostile policies towards Cuba and Grenada should be seen in that light.
5. The process of decolonization had remained a dead letter since the previous year when the Committee had welcomed St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda and Belize to membership of the United Nations. The independence of Namibia had again been put off despite negotiations which had taken place in New York between the front-line States and the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) on the one hand, and the five Western countries of the "Contact Group" on the other. The demand by the Pretoria régime that the independence of Namibia should be conditional upon the withdrawal of Cuban forces from the People's Republic of Angola constituted an intolerable interference by that régime in the internal affairs of those two States and a new manoeuvre designed to bring about the collapse of the United Nations Plan for Namibia and impose an internal solution that served its own interests. At the current session the international community must demand strict and immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The members of the Committee would have the opportunity under agenda items 98, 99, 12, 100, and 108, to consider whatever additional steps could be taken to hasten the accession of Namibia to independence.

(The Chairman)

6. The Committee would also be considering the question of Western Sahara, where decolonization was threatened by the intervention of non-African Powers, as well as the activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia, Western Sahara and other Non-Self-Governing Territories, and would seek to put an end to those activities, which were impeding the emancipation of peoples and exhausting their natural resources.

7. The conflict which had recently pitted the United Kingdom against the Argentine Republic over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) underscored the particularly disastrous consequences of using force instead of applying the procedures provided in the United Nations Charter for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The international community must encourage the resumption of direct negotiations between the parties under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary-General.

8. Questions of priority such as Namibia, East Timor, Western Sahara, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the activities of foreign economic interests should not divert attention from the fate of the small colonial Territories in Asia, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean which had not yet achieved independence. Although some administering Powers were co-operating by facilitating the tours of visiting missions in those Territories, it should be noted that that was not always the case. Still, the annual reports of the administering Powers and the visiting missions to those Territories had proved useful as a means of hastening the process of decolonization.

9. He welcomed the activities of the specialized agencies and institutions of the United Nations system, particularly their programmes of assistance to colonial peoples on the way to liberation, but deplored the links some of them maintained with the racist Pretoria régime. That situation should be given serious consideration and the Committee should recommend measures for adoption by the General Assembly that would put a stop to it.

10. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the victims of apartheid, racism and colonialism.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

11. Mr. SCHRÖTER (German Democratic Republic) nominated Mr. Valtasaari (Finland) as a Vice-Chairman.

12. Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED VALL (Mauritania) informed the Committee that consultations on the designation of a candidate for the other post of Vice-Chairman were continuing.

13. Mr. Valtasaari (Finland) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

14. Mr. VALTASAARI (Finland) thanked the representative of the German Democratic Republic for having nominated him for the office of Vice-Chairman and assured the Committee that his delegation would spare no effort to contribute to the success of the Committee's work.

#### ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

15. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that consultations regarding the office of Rapporteur were still in progress.

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

16. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization) congratulated the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman on their election.

17. The Committee was meeting at a particularly crucial time when the established world order was being seriously challenged, and the consequences of colonialism were a major factor contributing to unrest in the world. The United Nations had, of course made important gains in decolonization over the past 30 years, but admittedly some manifestations of colonialism had not entirely disappeared. Indeed, more than 3 million people in a score of Territories had not yet exercised their right to self-determination and independence. The principles that should guide the United Nations in that sphere had been clearly expressed by the General Assembly in many decisions and resolutions.

18. One of the prime concerns of the United Nations was still the question of Namibia, for which the United Nations assumed special responsibility. It was urgent to find a permanent solution to the problem based on the application of all the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The Secretary-General had given the highest priority to achieving that objective and had reaffirmed on many occasions his determination to do everything possible to reach a settlement. It was to be hoped that, with co-operation from all sides, practical steps could soon be taken to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). There should be no attempt, however, to introduce extraneous matters for they could only delay the process and jeopardize not only the stability of the region but world peace.

19. Several months ago a disastrous war had erupted in the South Atlantic over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). As the Secretary-General had pointed out in his report on the work of the Organization (A/37/1), it had ultimately proven impossible to halt that major conflict, despite the intensive negotiations he had held in the hope of narrowing the differences between the parties.

20. The Special Committee of 24 had once again considered the situation in a number of other Non-Self-Governing Territories based on information furnished by the administering Powers under Article 73 (4e) of the Charter of the United Nations, on hearings of petitioners, and on the reports of various visiting missions. The Fourth Committee should give careful consideration to the recommendations that the Committee of 24 had made in that respect.

(Mr. Djermakoye)

21. Decolonization remained one of the Organization's primary tasks. It was all the more important, given the particularly difficult current international situation, to redouble efforts to achieve that goal. Progress towards the total elimination of colonialism could not but strengthen the foundations of international co-operation, thereby eliminating serious sources of tension in various parts of the world, and bring the international community closer to the goal of self-determination for all peoples established in the Charter.

22. He was convinced that the members of the Fourth Committee would act in a spirit of understanding and mutual co-operation and, through their concerted efforts, would usefully contribute to eliminating colonialism once and for all. The Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization would, for its part, spare no effort to assist the Committee in whatever way it could in carrying out its responsibilities.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

23. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.4/37/1) containing the list of agenda items allotted to the Fourth Committee, as well as a note by the Chairman on the organization of work (A/C.4/37/L.1/Rev.2) drawn up in accordance with the relevant decisions and procedures of the General Assembly.

24. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia) expressed his strong opposition to the inclusion of the question of East Timor on the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly and its allocation to the Fourth Committee. In exercise of their right to self-determination under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the people of East Timor had chosen independence through integration with the Republic of Indonesia, in full accord with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Indonesian Government had accepted that decision and, on 17 July 1976, East Timor had become the twenty-seventh province of Indonesia. The political status of East Timor having already been settled, any discussion of the matter would constitute unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Indonesia and would be contrary to the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 7 of the Charter.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that the view expressed by the Indonesian delegation would be duly reflected in the summary record of the meeting. He suggested that members of the Committee should accept the proposed organization of work.

26. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 98: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN, ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON 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 (A/37/23 (Part III and Part III/Add.1))

27. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic, Rapporteur of the Special Committee of 24) introduced the chapter of the report covering the work of the Special Committee in 1982 on agenda item 98 (A/37/23 (Part III and Part III/Add.1)).

/...

(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

28. That document had been prepared in accordance with paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 36/51 by which the Special Committee had been requested to continue its consideration of the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its current session.

29. Having considered the item, the Special Committee had adopted a resolution by consensus, the text of which was contained in paragraph 18 of the report. In that resolution, it had condemned the intensified activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continued to exploit the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories; it had reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to self-determination and independence, and to the enjoyment of their natural resources, as well as their right to dispose of such resources in their best interests.

30. In noting with profound concern that the colonial Powers and certain States had continued to disregard the relevant United Nations decisions on the item, the Special Committee had also reaffirmed that foreign interests operating at present in the colonial Territories constituted a major obstacle to political independence and racial equality, as well as to the enjoyment of their natural resources by the indigenous inhabitants. It had therefore condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial Territories, as well as the policies of Governments which continued to support those interests. At the same time, the Special Committee had condemned those Governments and transnational corporations which continued to invest in, and to supply armaments, oil and nuclear technology to, the racist régime of South Africa, thus buttressing it and aggravating the threat to world peace. Consequently, the Special Committee had called upon all States to terminate all collaboration with South Africa in the political, diplomatic, economic, trade, military and nuclear fields.

31. Furthermore, the Special Committee had reiterated that the exploitation and plundering of the natural resources of Namibia by South African and other foreign economic interests were illegal and contributed to the maintenance of the illegal occupation régime.

32. The Special Committee had called upon oil-producing and oil-exporting countries which had not yet done so to take effective measures against the oil companies so as to terminate the supply of crude oil and petroleum products to the racist régime of South Africa.

33. The Special Committee had likewise decided to monitor closely the situation in other Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories were aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interests of the indigenous peoples.

34. As explained in the addendum to chapter V of its report (A/37/23 (Part III/Add.1)), the Special Committee had decided to submit a draft resolution on the item for consideration by the Fourth Committee. It was a reformulation of the resolution already adopted by the Special Committee, and also took account of the corresponding



(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab  
Republic)

resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its previous session. The draft text, which was contained in paragraph 19 of the addendum, had been approved by the Special Committee by consensus at its 1227th meeting.

35. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the Fourth Committee would give full support to the recommendations made by the Special Committee in its report.

36. The CHAIRMAN said that, under that item, the Committee also had before it a note from the Secretary-General (A/37/405) transmitting a report prepared by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations pursuant to paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 36/51.

37. To ensure the smooth running of the proceedings, he invited members who wished to participate in the discussion to put their names on the list of speakers as soon as possible. In addition, in line with the practice established by the Committee at its previous sessions, he requested all delegations to be punctual so that meetings could start on time.

#### REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

38. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee of the receipt of five communications containing requests for hearings related to items on the agenda. In accordance with the normal practice, he suggested that they should be circulated as Committee documents and taken up at a future meeting.

39. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.