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FOURTH COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 3 October 1979
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BOYA (Benin)

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10.35 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

Question of Bermuda (A/C.4/34/2)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a request for a hearing concerning the question of Bermuda (A/C.4/34/2) which had been received from Mr. W. G. Brown, General Secretary of the Bermuda Constitutional Conference. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee acceded to that request.

2. It was so decided.

Question of East Timor (A/C.4/34/3)

3. The CHAIRMAN said that a request for a hearing concerning the question of East Timor (A/C.4/34/3) had been received from Mr. Paulo Pires, Secretary-General of the União Democrática Timorense (UDT).

4. Mr. JUWANA (Indonesia) reiterated his delegation's position that the people of East Timor had exercised their right to self-determination and had become independent through integration with the Republic of Indonesia. With the promulgation of the Act of Integration of 17 July 1976, the process of decolonization in that Territory had thus been completed, in accordance with the wishes of the people of East Timor and in full conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). Further consideration of the matter by the Committee constituted unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State and his delegation was therefore strongly opposed to the granting of a request for a hearing in connexion with the question of East Timor.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the statement of the representative of Indonesia would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting. If he heard no further objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request for a hearing contained in document A/C.4/34/3.

6. It was so decided.

Question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/34/4)

7. The CHAIRMAN said that a request for a hearing concerning the question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/34/4) had been received from Mr. Madjid Abdullah of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO).

8. Mr. HADDAOUI (Morocco) said that since his delegation had been unable to obtain a copy of document A/C.4/34/4 until just before the meeting, it needed more time to study the request before stating its position on it. Accordingly, he suggested that a decision on the request for a hearing should be postponed until the following meeting.

9. Mr. SEMICHI (Algeria) drew attention to the fact that at the previous meeting, the Chairman had announced that he had received a request for a hearing in connexion with the question of Western Sahara. The decision of principle regarding the request from the representative of the Frente POLISARIO should not be delayed; the substance of that problem would be discussed subsequently at length and, at that time, each delegation would have an opportunity to state its position. The Committee should therefore take a decision forthwith, in accordance with its usual practice, and the objections of delegations should be reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

10. Mr. SEIFU (Ethiopia) said that, if the request for a hearing from the representative of the Frente POLISARIO had contained anything of substance, he would have supported the suggestion of the representative of Morocco. However, since that was not the case and since the request had been mentioned at the Committee's previous meeting, he thought that the Committee should take a decision immediately and should grant the request.

11. Mr. HACHEME (Benin) pointed out that the request did not contain any new elements. He therefore supported the comments made by the representatives of Ethiopia and Algeria.

12. Mr. SAMIL (Afghanistan) said that, in previous years, the Committee had granted similar requests from the Frente POLISARIO. He therefore supported the comments of those delegations that were in favour of immediately granting the request now before the Committee.

13. Mr. RASON (Madagascar) expressed his opposition to any postponement of a decision on the matter. The Committee should grant the request and the comments of the representative of Morocco should be reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

14. The CHAIRMAN explained that, as a matter of principle, the Committee granted requests for hearings from petitioners. He appealed to the representative of Morocco to allow the Committee to take a decision in accordance with its usual practice.

15. Mr. HADDAOUI (Morocco) said that his country had always claimed Western Sahara as part of its national territory and had been the first to raise the question in the United Nations.

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16. Mr. SEMICHI (Algeria), speaking on a point of order, said that substantive questions would be considered at a later date and that the only matter before the Committee at present was a decision on the request for a hearing submitted by representatives of the Frente POLISARIO.

17. Mr. HADDAOUI (Morocco) said that that request for a hearing was a crucial issue for his country. His delegation had consistently refused to recognize the Frente POLISARIO, which could hardly be considered a liberation movement since it had never fought against the Spanish colonizers.

18. In accordance with the Madrid Declaration of 1975, the administering Power had transferred its powers to a temporary administration and in 1976, it had terminated its presence in the Territory, since then the population had been self-governing and had been irreversibly reintegrated with the population of Morocco. His delegation took the firm position that Western Sahara had been decolonized in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). It therefore categorically opposed the hearing of representatives of the so-called liberation movement.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the statement of the representative of Morocco would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting. If he heard no further objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request for a hearing in document A/C.4/34/4.

20. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 92: 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 SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND 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/34/23 (Part III))

21. Mr. HAYDAR (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking as Rapporteur 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, introduced chapter V of the Committee's report (A/34/23 (Part III)), which dealt with the item before the Committee.

22. In carrying out the tasks assigned to it, the Special Committee had taken into consideration the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 33/40, and the information provided by representatives of the national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in Africa who had participated as observers in the proceedings of the Special Committee.

(Mr. Haydar, Syrian Arab Republic)

23. In the resolution which it had adopted (A/34/23 (Part III), para. 13), 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 in southern Africa, and had reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to the enjoyment of their natural resources, as well as the right to dispose of those resources in their best interest. The Special Committee had noted with profound concern that the colonial Powers and the States whose economic interests were involved in the colonial Territories had continued to disregard the relevant United Nations decisions. It had reaffirmed that the activities of foreign economic and other interests contributed to the strengthening of the racist minority régimes in power and constituted a major obstacle to political independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of those Territories by the indigenous inhabitants and it had therefore condemned the policies of Governments which continued to support or collaborate with such interests. The Special Committee had also strongly condemned the continuing nuclear collaboration of certain Western and other States with South Africa and had called on all Governments to refrain from any collaboration with that régime which might enable it to produce nuclear materials and to develop nuclear weapons. It had also condemned the policies of States which violated the mandatory sanctions imposed by the Security Council, requested all States to take effective measures to end all assistance to those régimes which used such assistance to repress the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements, reiterated its conviction that the scope of sanctions against the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia should be widened to include all the measures envisaged under Article 41 of the Charter, and invited the Security Council to consider the adoption of appropriate measures in that regard. The Special Committee had also strongly condemned the South African Government's policy of continued collaboration with the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia, in violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and in contravention of South Africa's obligations under the Charter, and had called upon that Government to cease such collaboration. Furthermore, having regard to the provisions of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, the Committee had invited all Governments and organizations within the United Nations system to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the colonial Territories over their natural resources was fully respected and safeguarded.

24. On behalf of the Special Committee, he expressed the hope that the Fourth Committee would give full support to its recommendations.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to close the list of speakers in the general debate on the item on Thursday, 4 October 1979, at 6 p.m.

26. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.