

United Nations

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FOURTH COMMITTEE

2nd meeting

held on

Thursday, 27 September 1979

at 11.30 a.m.

New York

## SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

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Chairman: Mr. BOYA (Benin)

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1 October 1979

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The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. AGOSTINHO NETO, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

1. The CHAIRMAN paid tribute to the memory of Mr. Agostinho Neto, President of the People's Republic of Angola. He would remain for all progressive people a symbol of the determination of peoples struggling against oppression and exploitation.
2. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Agostinho Neto, President of the People's Republic of Angola.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

3. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for the confidence it had shown in him and the honour it had bestowed on his country by electing him. He assured members that he would seek to carry out his responsibilities with dignity. His country had always supported the cause of peoples struggling to free themselves from foreign domination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racism, zionism and all such odious systems.
4. He welcomed the delegation of Saint Lucia which, as a new Member State, was taking part for the first time in the Committee's work. He hoped that the United Nations would also soon be able to welcome the newly independent State of Kiribati.
5. Much remained to be done before the colonial system could be finally dismantled, especially in the light of the situation in South Africa. In the view of his country, the struggle of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) was one and the same. The régimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa both represented the interests of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism, and the fate of millions of people in southern Africa would never be improved until political power was wielded by the black majority.
6. Whatever the outcome of the constitutional Conference currently in progress in London under the auspices of the administering Power, it was necessary once more to reaffirm the inalienable right of the people of Zimbabwe to self-determination and independence and the legitimacy of their armed struggle against the white racist minority. The London Conference should not serve as a pretext for any weakening of the measures adopted against Southern Rhodesia. The international community should strictly comply with United Nations decisions by intensifying the sanctions imposed by the Security Council in order to compel the illegal Muzorewa-Smith régime to hand over power to the people of Zimbabwe.
7. With regard to Namibia, the General Assembly, in resolution S-9/2, had strongly condemned South Africa for its continued exploitation of the natural resources of

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Namibia. Maximum pressure should be exerted on South Africa to compel it to comply with United Nations decisions in order to bring about the independence of Namibia, including Walvis Bay. The international community should support SWAPO in the current critical phase in the history of Namibia.

8. The objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples could not be achieved without putting an end to the activities of foreign economic and other interests which directly or indirectly supported the colonialist régimes.

9. Referring to the question of Western Sahara, he said it was important for the Committee to devise practical measures to enable the people of Western Sahara, under the leadership of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el Hamra y Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. There was already an objective basis for such action, as was shown by the findings of the Visiting Mission which had gone to Western Sahara in 1975 and the peace agreement concluded on 5 August 1979 between the Frente POLISARIO and Mauritania. The cause of the Saharan people should now be heard by all. Furthermore, his country considered that all colonial Territories, whatever their size or population, had a right to the same freedoms.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

10. Mr. SAMIL (Afghanistan) nominated Mr. Loeis (Indonesia) for the post of Vice-Chairman.

11. Mr. Loeis (Indonesia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the election of the other Vice-Chairman would take place after the necessary consultations had been completed.

#### ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

13. Mr. MONTEMAYOR-CANTU (Mexico) nominated Mr. Morris (Australia) for the post of Rapporteur.

14. Mr. Morris (Australia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

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

15. Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization) said that it was a source of particular satisfaction to welcome the delegation of Saint Lucia, a newly independent nation. He also hailed the recent accession to independence of Kiribati and the forthcoming accession to sovereignty of St. Vincent. He congratulated the members on their choice of officers, and said that the Committee could count on the full co-operation of his Department in its task. He also added his tribute to the memory of President Neto, one of the great architects of freedom for the peoples of Africa.

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(Mr. Djermakoye)

16. The items which the Committee would have to consider involved some of the most important and pressing problems facing the United Nations. Whatever its form, colonialism was contrary to the principles of the Charter and was a major obstacle to United Nations efforts to further international co-operation and promote human rights. Although the United Nations could be justly proud of its part in decolonization, 19 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 10 million people in some 20 Territories had yet to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

17. The situation in Zimbabwe and Namibia, where institutionalized racism and years of pitiless oppression and exploitation had engendered bitterness and confrontation, was among the most disquieting. The refusal of the white minority to comply with international decisions and concede the right of the black majority to self-determination and independence had led to armed conflict and a war which was constantly in danger of escalation, with serious implications for the security and economic future of the whole region.

18. The situation in Zimbabwe was complicated by the internal settlement imposed by the illegal régime and the so-called elections held early in 1979, neither of which met the Security Council's conditions for genuine majority rule. Obviously, any lasting solution required the approval of the international community, as well as the consent and support of the parties involved. Hence, the potential importance of the recent meeting of Heads of Government of Commonwealth Countries, held in Lusaka, and the Conference currently taking place in London.

19. The plan for a settlement of the question of Namibia approved by the Security Council in September 1978, which provided for elections supervised by the United Nations, had the broad support of SWAPO, the five Western Powers and the front-line States, and it was earnestly to be hoped that South Africa could be made to agree to that plan. In the meantime, however, South Africa continued to challenge the decisions and authority of the United Nations.

20. Any decisions which the Committee might take with regard to the problems of southern Africa would hasten their settlement and at the same time strengthen the role of the United Nations in the search for a peaceful transition and lead to more effective international assistance to the liberation movements involved.

21. The Committee would, of course, also have to consider in detail the complex problems in more than 20 other dependent Territories scattered throughout the world. The fact that many were small and isolated did not relieve the United Nations of its responsibility to hasten their decolonization. The co-operation of the administering Powers concerned would facilitate the work of the United Nations, as experience had shown whenever visiting missions had been allowed into non-self-governing Territories to gather information and ascertain the wishes of the population.

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22. It would be a fitting tribute to the President of the General Assembly, who had for many years been the Chairman 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, if the current session were to mark a great step forward in the process of decolonization.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

23. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/C.4/34/1, containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee, and to document A/C.4/34/L.1, containing his suggestions regarding the organization of the Committee's work. It was his firm intention to continue the practice established with exceptional success at the previous session and begin meetings punctually, with the co-operation of members.

24. As noted in paragraph 10 of document A/C.4/34/L.1, it was suggested that agenda item 92, relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests, should be taken up first by the Committee, since the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee of 24 (A/34/23 (Part III)) had already been circulated. The tentative order suggested for the consideration of the remaining agenda items was, of course, subject to change, particularly in the light of the timing by the General Assembly of the consideration of the question of Namibia in plenary meetings.

25. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed in principle to the suggestions set out in document A/C.4/34/L.1.

26. It was so decided.

27. Mr. DUNFEY (United States of America), referring to paragraph 9 of document A/C.4/34/1, concerning agenda item 18 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, said it was his understanding that subparagraph (a) assigned responsibility to the Fourth Committee for those parts of the report of the Special Committee of 24 relating to specific Territories. It would thus have been clearer if the explanatory statement to that effect which appeared in square brackets at the end of paragraph 9 had been placed directly after subparagraph (a). He also took it that subparagraph (b), which read simply "Report of the Secretary-General", referred to the report entitled "Question of Western Sahara" in document A/34/483.

#### REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

28. The CHAIRMAN reported that he had received three requests for hearings on the questions of Bermuda, East Timor and Western Sahara. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed that the requests should be circulated as documents of the Committee, to be considered at a later meeting.

29. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.