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FOURTH COMMITTEE  
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held on  
Wednesday, 10 October 1979  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BOYA (Benin)

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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 (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

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 (continued) (A/34/23 (Part III))

1. Mr. RASON (Madagascar) said that there was no need for him to describe the evils of apartheid, racism and racial discrimination or the manoeuvres of the illegal minority régimes that were tyrannizing southern Africa; those minorities survived because of the vast network of economic and other relations they maintained with the Western Powers and the transnational corporations of the capitalist system. Chapter V of the report of the Special Committee (A/34/23 (Part III)) revealed the extent to which some foreign economic interests, by ruthlessly exploiting the natural and human resources of southern Africa in collaboration with the illegal régimes, were impeding the process of decolonization in the region and contributing to the maintenance of racism, colonialism and apartheid.

2. In Southern Rhodesia the illegal régime was using the large corporations to support the Territory's currency market, thus shielding itself from the effects of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations, and was encouraging the economic activities of financial institutions and investment corporations in the mining sector, which was a source of foreign exchange for the country. On the other hand, no measures had been taken to sustain the rural economy, because the racist régime cared little about the fate of the Africans, who provided cheap labour but lived below the poverty level. The illegal régime was, in fact, preparing a plan to secure the suspension of economic sanctions against Southern Rhodesia, and was hoping to execute it with financial help from foreign economic interests.

3. In Namibia, as the report indicated, South African and other foreign interests had for years controlled the commercial sectors of the Namibian economy; the huge profits made by foreign companies were not reinvested in the Territory but repatriated in the form of dividends paid to shareholders. There again, the Africans derived no real advantage from the country's resources, particularly the mineral resources, which were situated in the two thirds of the territory reserved for whites. Consequently, foreign investment benefited only the racist minority in power while keeping the majority of the people in a state of slavery.

4. His delegation fully supported the decision taken by the non-aligned countries in Havana to condemn political, economic and nuclear collaboration between racist and colonialist régimes and the Western imperialist Powers, which prevented the

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(Mr. Rason, Madagascar)

South African people from fulfilling their legitimate aspirations. The Democratic Republic of Madagascar was opposed to any initiative aimed at perpetuating neo-colonialist structures in southern Africa on the pretext of preserving the economy, and it was equally opposed to any scheme aimed at removing the sanctions adopted by the United Nations, which it alone could rescind. His delegation would support any proposal aimed at upholding the principles of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, independence and the benefits derived from the exploitation of their natural resources. More radical measures should in future be taken to bring the exploitation of those Territories to an end.

5. Mr. HUSSAIN (Iraq) vigorously condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in southern Africa. Economic exploitation was a new and more virulent form of colonialism in regions still afflicted by racism, despite United Nations efforts to eliminate it. Regrettably, from a reading of the report of the Special Committee (A/34/23 (Part III)), it was evident that the racist régimes continued to enjoy the economic and military support of many countries, generally former colonizing countries. The activities of foreign interests were closely connected with the existence of the racist and colonialist régimes in Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa; the natural resources of those Territories were very profitably exploited by capitalist companies, to the detriment of the indigenous population. The problem could not be solved until the people of those regions were liberated and could take full advantage of their own resources.

6. The report of the Special Committee revealed that the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia had had some effect on the economy of the régime, but that the racist régimes were trying to promote foreign investments in order to strengthen their economies. Capitalist companies completely disregarded all the United Nations resolutions concerning sanctions. Some capitalist circles had even asked for the sanctions to be lifted so that they might increase their profits. The racist régime of South Africa continued to plunder the wealth of Namibia's territory, while it sought to deceive public opinion by claiming it was trying to find a peaceful solution to the problem.

7. The Zionist régime of Israel had the same attitude towards the occupied territories of Palestine. The proven collaboration between Israel and South Africa was not limited to trade, it covered every aspect of economic co-operation and it was growing, to the advantage of both racist régimes. Israel was the only country in which South African citizens could invest capital, under an agreement which had been concluded three years earlier between the two countries and which would undoubtedly be renewed. Proof of collaboration between the Zionist régime and South Africa could be found in the development of programmes for exchanges of experts and technicians and in the tourism and cultural activities between the two countries. Equally deplorable was the fact that Egypt was supplying petroleum to Israel and that Egyptian petroleum was being made into fuel for the tanks of the Zionist army of occupation. Whether petroleum was being supplied to the Zionist régime or to the racist régime of South Africa, the consequences were virtually identical for the oppressed peoples.

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8. Mr. ANINIAGYEI (Ghana) said that the importance of the item under consideration had grown steadily since it was first included in the agenda of the General Assembly. Foreign economic and other interests continued to plunder the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories, to the detriment of the indigenous inhabitants, the rightful owners of those resources.

9. The efforts made by the United Nations to secure accession of those Territories to independence were aimed at enabling them not only to gain their political independence but also to utilize their natural resources to improve their quality of life. Those resources were in the hands of foreign interests. No African owned or operated any large commercial enterprise in Namibia. It was surely impossible to believe that those investments would lead to the economic development of the Territories concerned, when the huge profits that transnational corporations derived from their exploitation were repatriated and when Africans were ejected from their lands for the benefit of non-Africans and were obliged to work on farms or in mines for miserable wages that left them below poverty level. All the development activities undertaken in those Territories were designed solely to facilitate further exploitation of Africans and their natural resources.

10. In Southern Rhodesia sanctions and war had not discouraged foreign investors, who continued to provide moral and financial support for the illegal racist régime and were even preparing, in some cases, to expand their activities as soon as the country acceded to independence or sanctions were removed. Since the unilateral declaration of independence by Smith's régime in 1965, foreign investments had increased by more than £100 million. The situation was even more alarming in Namibia where all sectors of the economy were in hands of foreign interests, in collusion with South Africa.

11. The Pretoria and Salisbury régimes were also increasing their military potential in order to crush the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe and were perpetrating acts of aggression against neighbouring African States in order to prevent them from aiding the liberation movements operating from their territories.

12. His delegation supported United Nations efforts to decolonize the remaining non-self-governing Territories and strongly condemned the activities of foreign interests that were designed to prevent the indigenous populations from exercising their political, economic and social rights. In that connexion, he drew attention to article 16 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which stated that no State had the right to promote or encourage investments that might constitute an obstacle to the liberation of a Territory occupied by force and which established the economic responsibilities of States that exploited the natural resources of colonial territories.

13. Mr. SORENSEN (Venezuela) said that his country had always attached great importance to all questions relating to the decolonization process and had participated from the outset in the work of the Committee of 24, which had

(Mr. Sorensen, Venezuela)

led to the adoption of important resolutions and decisions. In his address to the General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Relations of Venezuela had reaffirmed his country's unreserved support for the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe and for all measures aimed at putting an end to all forms of racism, particularly apartheid.

14. His delegation was following with great interest the London negotiations on the constitutional future of Zimbabwe and hoped that they would lead to favourable results for both parties. However, it would be best not to remove too hastily the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against the illegal régime of Southern Rhodesia, which had never been observed by certain countries. The transnational corporations had repeatedly flouted United Nations decisions and they continued to help the illegal régime to perpetuate its domination over the country, thus raising doubts about the effectiveness of the United Nations. His country had always strictly observed the economic sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and it urged all members of the Committee to follow closely the progress of the negotiations on the future of that country.

15. In Namibia, the situation seemed much more tragic, perhaps because of the greater volume of information available on foreign economic activities and the vigilance of the United Nations Council for Namibia, of which Venezuela had the honour of being a member. Although the General Assembly had in resolution 33/182 A of 21 December 1978 condemned the activities of all foreign corporations operating in Namibia, they had continued, with the complicity of the South African Government, to plunder the natural resources of the country and to exploit its human resources. The living conditions imposed on the peoples of Namibia and Zimbabwe left them in a state of passivity which prevented them from exercising their legitimate right to self-determination.

16. The expansion of the economic ties between certain countries and the racist régimes of southern Africa, the manoeuvres of the transnational corporations, in co-operation with the racist Governments, hide their activities from world opinion, and speculation in South African gold by certain countries, which gave South Africa and its enterprises access to their capital markets and thus supplied it with more resources for perpetuating its policy of racist repression were sources of concern to the international community.

17. The report on the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa (A/C.10/51) showed that South Africa which was not a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would soon have a considerable nuclear capability thanks to the support it received from certain Powers in that field, thus creating an additional threat to international security.

18. His delegation deeply deplored the fact that certain countries continued to put their economic and other interests before their obligations under the Charter

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(Mr. Sorensen, Venezuela)

of the United Nations. It hoped, however, that current sanctions against both Southern Rhodesia and South Africa, including the oil embargo against South Africa, would be more strictly observed in future in order to enable the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia finally to exercise their right to self-determination. His delegation appealed to all countries which had relations with the racist régimes of southern Africa to break off relations.

19. His delegation pointed out that foreign economic and other interests were operating in other parts of the world (including, as a matter of fact, Latin America), where they controlled the principal means of subsistence of the indigenous population, treating the development of the infrastructure which future States would need for their own needs as secondary. It was the Administering Powers' responsibility to promote the economic and social development of such territories in order to ensure their political and social progress and the well-being of their inhabitants.

20. Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the question of the evil activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization had been before the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly for many years and rightly so, in view of its importance. It was essential that not only the United Nations but the entire international community should clearly realize that the plundering of the natural and human resources of colonial territories by the imperialist monopolies was the root cause of the problems experienced by the peoples of those territories in ridding themselves of the colonial yoke. Foreign monopolies, which continued to draw large profits from the plundering of the natural resources of southern Africa, in particular, wanted for obvious reasons to maintain the colonial and racist order; they were therefore the major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It was therefore essential for the United Nations to make renewed efforts to protect the interests of the peoples of those territories.

21. The General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted many resolutions categorically condemning activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial territories and in southern Africa that were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization, reaffirming the inalienable rights of their peoples to self-determination and independence and to the benefits from the exploitation of the natural resources of their territories, and inviting all Governments to take legal, administrative and other measures against the corporations whose activities stood in the way of decolonization. Unfortunately, those resolutions had remained a dead letter. Far from decreasing, the activities of foreign interests were increasing. Those of the member countries of NATO and their monopolies were particularly damaging to the economic and political life of southern Africa. While they loudly proclaimed their desire for a peaceful settlement in the region and drew up all kinds of plans supposedly aimed at transforming the colonial territories into sovereign States, those countries

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(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

were using those proclamations to disguise their true intentions, namely, to set up puppet régimes to their liking. By those so-called "peaceful manoeuvres", in the guise of so-called "internal settlements", they were trying to split the African countries and to prevent the territories from achieving true independence under the leadership of recognized national liberation movements such as SWAPO; what they sought, in fact, was not an independent Africa but a neo-colonialist Africa that would be advantageous to their military and strategic interests.

22. According to the information provided by the Commission on Transnational Corporations in its most recent report, foreign monopolies were continuing to strengthen their hold over the economies of the territories of southern Africa. The number of foreign corporations operating in the region had increased considerably, from 260 in 1974 to 1,833 in 1978; likewise, total foreign investment in 1977 had reached the record figure of \$US 24.5 billion. Loans granted to South Africa by Western countries were also steadily increasing (\$US 5.5 billion for the previous seven years). Those figures provided conclusive evidence of increasingly close co-operation between the Western States and their monopolies and the racist régimes of southern Africa. Those régimes provided many large monopolies in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and other Western States with the opportunity to reap, at the expense of the indigenous populations, huge profits far in excess of those they would be able to make elsewhere, and, in turn, the international monopolies, in order to keep their privileges, provided the régimes with economic, financial and military assistance.

23. For some time certain parties had been campaigning to have it accepted that the activities of the foreign monopolies were advantageous to colonial peoples. There was much talk of the so-called "codes of conduct" of transnational corporations operating in southern Africa, but it was only talk; it was impossible to give specific examples. Discrimination based on race continued to be practised in the matter of wages and working conditions, and the indigenous populations continued to be exploited according to colonialist criteria.

24. The collusion between foreign and South African interests also extended to the exploitation of the resources of Namibia, causing tremendous damage to the economy of that Territory. In that connexion, it should be stressed that the foreign monopolies, instead of reinvesting locally the enormous income they derived from their activities, which represented nearly half the gross domestic product of the Territory, repatriated it every year in the form of profits and dividends for foreign shareholders, thus helping to keep the standard of living of the African population extremely low.

25. Western monopolies were also very active in Southern Rhodesia. In spite of the Security Council sanctions, they retained their hold on the economy of that country. It was known that 80 per cent of the mining companies were controlled by British, American and South African capital. They were practically all registered in Southern Rhodesia but were actually subsidiaries of foreign monopolies.

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(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

26. It should be stressed also that the military alliance of Western interests with the racist régime in Pretoria constituted a grave threat to the security of the African continent as a whole. World imperialism assigned South Africa the role of "strike force" in the struggle against the African national liberation movement. The strategic role which that country was called upon to play in the Western defence system explained the economic and military aid given it by the NATO countries.

27. Furthermore, the efforts currently being made by Pretoria, with the aid of certain Western countries, to equip itself with nuclear weapons were particularly disturbing. South Africa was one of the few countries which had refused to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. A South Africa equipped with nuclear weapons would constitute an even greater threat to the neighbouring countries, compromise stability and increase tensions in the continent. It would, moreover, be a fatal blow against the African countries that wished to make the continent a denuclearized zone.

28. The big companies of the Western countries were also continuing to play a dominant role in the economy of the small colonial Territories, pillaging their natural resources and exploiting the indigenous population. The activities of foreign monopolies in the small Territories, encouraged by the colonial administering Powers, impeded the awakening of national consciousness on the part of their peoples and, as in southern Africa, constituted the major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In that connexion, it should be noted that the economy of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), which was entirely controlled by the Administering Authority, was stagnating and that the situation of the indigenous population was steadily deteriorating. Instead of concerning itself with the problems of the Territory and taking effective measures to resolve them in the interest of the population, the Administering Authority was directing its efforts towards enterprises which primarily benefited transnational corporations.

29. The Soviet Union, along with the other countries of the Socialist Group, had always supported the national liberation forces struggling against the racist régimes of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa and against colonial oppression and imperialist exploitation. The Soviet Government's policy was governed by the principles of proletarian internationalism and Marxist-Leninist ideology, which rejected the oppression of man by man and the subjection of one State by another. The USSR was therefore resolutely opposed to any policy of hegemony, whatever its manifestations or motives. At its Fourteenth Congress, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had declared that the complete elimination of the last hotbeds of colonialism and racism was one of the fundamental tasks before the international community. The Soviet Union was resolved to spare no efforts to that end.

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(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

30. With regard to the question under consideration, the United Nations must make new efforts to halt the pillage in which the imperialist monopolies were engaging and the military activities of the Western countries in southern Africa and the small colonial Territories, in order to eliminate the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration. The General Assembly should condemn categorically the activities of foreign economic and other interests in southern Africa and in all other Territories under colonial domination and call upon States Members of the United Nations to cease all economic and financial aid to the racist régimes in southern Africa, implement all United Nations resolutions on that subject and respect the embargo on shipments of arms to South Africa. The Security Council should also be asked to broaden the scope of the sanctions against that country, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and to take measures to prevent its acquiring nuclear weapons; it should also condemn any interference in the internal affairs of colonial island Territories and call upon the administering Powers to set a precise date for the granting of independence to their colonial possessions.

31. His delegation was ready to co-operate with the members of the Committee for the attainment of those objectives.

32. Mr. MIR MOTAHARI (Iran) said that the question of the activities of foreign economic and other interests had been on the General Assembly's agenda since the twenty-first session and had been the subject of many resolutions. His delegation was gravely concerned by the fact that the objectives set forth in those resolutions were still far from being achieved and that certain Western and other States were continuing to exploit and pillage, either directly or indirectly, through transnational corporations, the natural and human resources of non-self-governing and colonial Territories. The report of the Special Committee of 24 was irrefutable evidence of the intensification of the activities of foreign interests in those Territories. It was owing to the support of the latter that the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia had been able to stay in power and had obtained substantial loans which had enabled it to strengthen further its domination over the territory and prevent the achievement of genuine independence by the people of Zimbabwe.

33. His delegation noted with regret that, in violation of the mandatory economic sanctions adopted by the Security Council against the illegal minority régime in Southern Rhodesia, a number of Western oil companies were continuing to supply that country with oil, through South Africa. The latter could continue to violate United Nations resolutions with impunity, since the Security Council had not taken effective measures under Chapter VII of the Charter.

34. In Namibia, the apartheid régime was continuing to exploit the natural and human resources of the Territory, in contravention of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the United Nations Council for Namibia and in total disregard of the legitimate rights and interests of the Namibian people. As was indicated in document E/C.10/51, the activities of transnational corporations in southern Africa in the industrial, mining and military sectors, were continuing unabated. In order to protect their interests

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(Mr. Mir Motahari, Iran)

in Namibia, the transnational corporations were giving assistance to South Africa, which was illegally occupying the Territory, and were taking advantage of the policy of apartheid, which provided them with cheap labour.

35. Some argued that the activities of foreign interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories were not always detrimental to the population and were even sometimes beneficial. Those arguments were generally put forward by countries that were trying to justify their economic activity in those Territories. It was hard to believe that the sole objective of transnational corporations and foreign business enterprises was to develop the economy of those Territories. They were, in fact, much more concerned about repatriating huge profits, as was clear from document E/C.10/51. His delegation believed that the activities of foreign economic and other interests were one of the main obstacles to the full and speedy implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

36. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemned the abhorrent policy of apartheid and firmly supported the struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against colonialism and foreign domination. It had therefore broken all ties which had existed between the former régime of Iran and South Africa and had ceased its exports of oil to that country. It was interesting to note in that connexion that, as a result of that measure, the Pretoria régime was obliged to spend \$5 million more every day to get its supplies of oil. An embargo on supplies of oil to South Africa could therefore constitute an effective means of pressure to make that country respect United Nations resolutions on Namibia. His delegation therefore urged the Security Council to adopt mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa in all areas, including an oil embargo, and to tighten the scope of the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia.

37. Those countries which were making a mockery of the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations were those countries which, while hypocritically condemning the policy of apartheid, placed their economic interests before their moral and legal commitments to the principles set forth in the Charter. It was time for the international community to honour its obligations by undertaking every effort to put an end to colonialism in southern Africa. His delegation, for its part, pledged full moral and political support to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa in their struggle for self-determination and independence.

38. Mrs. GONG Pusheng (China) said that imperialism, colonialism and racism were still rampant in southern Africa, and that the economic exploitation of the territories of the region by economic and other interests was a serious obstacle to the struggle of the region's peoples for liberation and independence. The item under consideration was therefore particularly significant.

39. It was well known that southern Africa was rich in natural resources, but they had always been plundered by imperialists, colonialists and racists who resorted to various methods, such as using transnational corporations, installing factories or buying local enterprises, to derive excessive profits, in total disregard of the principles of the United Nations Charter and numerous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

40. Racial discrimination and apartheid in southern Africa were, in the final analysis, the result of colonialist and imperialist policies. The reason why the racist régimes in southern Africa had remained in power was that they enjoyed the support of foreign economic and financial interests. The countries of the third world and other justice-loving countries had repeatedly demanded that States with economic interests in southern Africa should break off their diplomatic, political, economic and military links with the racist régimes. That was an entirely reasonable demand which should be supported.

41. The poverty and backwardness suffered by the peoples of southern Africa resulted from the brutal oppression and exploitation practised by colonialists, imperialists and racists. In order to achieve economic independence, political independence must first be won. The just struggle waged by the peoples of southern Africa to achieve that end enjoyed the support of the whole world. In February 1979, at the meeting of the Group of 77, the participating Ministers had called upon the developing countries to reaffirm their steadfast support for the heroic struggle of the peoples of Namibia, Zimbabwe, Azania and Palestine to liberate their countries and regain control of their natural resources. The sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had called for increased aid to the national liberation movements.

42. At present, the super-Powers were contending for hegemony over the world, and in particular, each of them wanted to extend its sphere of influence in southern Africa, a region which abounded in natural resources and occupied an important strategic position. But the peoples of southern Africa would not be diverted from their goal and would link the struggle against colonialism, imperialism and racism even more closely to the struggle against super-Power hegemony in order to win their freedom and independence.

43. The Chinese Government and people had always firmly supported the just struggle of the peoples of southern Africa against colonialism, racism and hegemonism and for national independence. They had always strongly condemned the barbarous policy of racial discrimination and oppression practised by the racist régimes. Her delegation believed that General Assembly resolution 33/183 M, concerning the embargo on arms supplies to South Africa, should be implemented in good faith and that the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia should be strengthened. Because of the collusion between the two countries, the sanctions against Southern Rhodesia

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(Mrs. Gong Pusheng, China)

should be extended to South Africa. At the same time, the important principles and decisions contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the sixth special session of the General Assembly must be effectively implemented.

44. Her delegation wished to emphasize that the Chinese Government had no political, economic or trade relations with the South African régime and that it would adhere strictly to that position. Recently, one delegation had gone so far as to distort that position of China, but that was a totally futile attempt.

45. Her delegation was convinced that the peoples of southern Africa would not let themselves be divided; in spite of the interference and sabotage attempted by external forces, they would continue their struggle to obtain their political and economic independence.

46. Mr. TALUKDER (Bangladesh) thanked the Special Committee of 24 for its efforts in preparing the resolution in document A/AC.109/583, which gave a detailed picture of the situation in southern Africa. It was a matter of continuing and grave concern that the item on the activities of foreign interests remained on the agenda year after year and that the situation had deteriorated despite all the appeals for action.

47. An analysis of the resolution submitted by the Special Committee of 24 showed that the exploitation of the natural and human resources of southern Africa by the minority racist régimes remained unabated. Foreign economic and other interests continued to impede the political and economic emancipation of the countries concerned. In fact, the sole purpose of foreign investments in the region, which were continuing to grow and now amounted to billions of dollars, was to exploit the resources of the economy in order to obtain quick profits, and foreign companies, in collaboration with the oppressive minority régimes, virtually monopolized all local agricultural and industrial production. The interests of the indigenous people were completely relegated to the background.

48. He noted with profound concern that the colonial Powers and certain other States, through their activities in the colonial Territories, had persistently disregarded United Nations decisions on the question. It was very clear, in particular, that they had completely ignored the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2621 (XXV) and 32/35. Although the Assembly had repeatedly called on the colonial Powers and the Governments concerned to take legislative, administrative and other measures to put an end to activities which prejudiced the implementation of the Declaration in the colonial Territories, especially in Africa, those countries and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction continued with impunity to carry on enterprises detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories.

49. Bangladesh considered that attitude incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter. The administering and occupying Powers were violating the solemn obligations imposed on them by the United Nations. Their actions had dire political implications, as they not only represented a gross violation of human rights but also posed an ironic dilemma. On the one hand, those countries

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(Mr. Talukder, Bangladesh)

continued to make public statements condemning apartheid, while on the other, they were aiding and abetting racist minority régimes which flagrantly violated the basic principles of human dignity, equity and natural justice, to the point of bolstering the economic and military might of those régimes, even in the nuclear sphere. That was the gravest element of a situation which was already explosive.

50. Faced with condemnation by the third world, those countries assumed totally unacceptable positions, arguing that their executive power was limited by their legislative organs. That did not explain why they applied double standards, one set to their own citizens and another outside the country. Bangladesh condemned the discriminatory wage system and unequal working conditions which continued to prevail. A major part of the gross domestic product should be devoted to domestic consumption and to the economic development of the colonized Territories. The repatriation of profits for the exclusive benefit of foreign interests and Governments must be discontinued. The peoples of those Territories were not just cheap labour; they would become independent in the foreseeable future and would then want to enjoy the benefits of their own resources.

51. Some countries had asserted that a blanket condemnation of foreign economic investments was neither realistic nor reasonable, as some of the investments benefited the local population. But the main subject of concern was the end result: the local population was in a position of absolute dependence. The relevant question was whether those countries would accept the same position in their own territories. Clearly, the answer would be no. That being so, his delegation wished to express its sincere appreciation to the Government of Sweden for its decision to refrain from further investment in South Africa. He hoped that others would follow that example.

52. The position of Bangladesh on the issue had been consistent. Bangladesh protested unequivocally against the repression and exploitation which were only aggravating the situation in the colonial Territories of southern Africa. The argument that the presence of the administering Powers was helpful for the development of those Territories was spurious. In the light of recent developments, nothing could be further from the truth.

53. In conclusion, he wished to reaffirm that it was not enough to talk about morality or human rights; there must be action. The colonized majority must be helped to develop itself so that it could control its own destiny after achieving self-rule. Failure to do that would be a betrayal of the good intentions of the founding fathers of the United Nations.

54. Mr. BADI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that every year for more than 10 years the Committee had taken up the question of the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Each year, the General Assembly adopted resolutions denouncing and condemning those activities, but all the appeals calling upon the countries concerned to end those activities had remained fruitless.

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(Mr. Badi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

55. It was obvious that the racist and colonialist régimes had plundered the natural resources of the territories of southern Africa, increasing their investments and deriving huge profits without giving any consideration to the interests or well-being of the indigenous populations and without paying any attention to United Nations resolutions on that subject. The companies of colonizing countries had stepped up their activities; he mentioned, as an example, the Rössing company, a conglomerate composed of United Kingdom, South African, Canadian, French and other Western firms, which mined Namibian uranium in total disregard of the decree of the United Nations Council for Namibia concerning the protection of the Territory's natural resources. The advantage the Western countries stood to gain by encouraging the Southern Rhodesian and South African régimes was obvious: they wanted those régimes to protect their economic interests so that they could continue to strip the territories of their natural resources.

56. They did not hesitate to engage even in military, and indeed nuclear, collaboration. He referred in that connexion to the report of the United Nations Seminar on Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, according to which South Africa could never have reached its current nuclear capability without the substantial and comprehensive nuclear assistance it had received from the major Western Powers. Although those Powers claimed that such co-operation was limited to peaceful purposes, the participants in the seminar had concluded that it was virtually impossible to make a clear dividing line between nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and that used for military capability. Accordingly, France, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, Israel, Belgium, Switzerland and Japan were all directly responsible for aggravating the threat to peace. That threat was directed, first, at the people of South Africa and, secondly, at the people of the front-line States, as well as at all the African States supporting the struggle for liberation. The threat also had global dimensions.

57. The rapacity of the capitalist countries became clearly apparent when one considered the way in which indigenous African manpower was exploited at shamefully low wages. The activities of foreign economic and other interests represented a danger to Africa, and also to all peoples still struggling for national independence. The indigenous African population of Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa must constantly confront not only the racist régimes but also all those countries that had investments in their territories.

58. In the Security Council, the Western permanent members defended the racist régimes and used their veto to defeat any draft resolution condemning foreign economic interests or calling for the imposition of sanctions against countries that collaborated with Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. Economic interests were sufficient to explain why the Western countries blocked the independence of Namibia, Zimbabwe and other colonial Territories and why they had placed their puppets in office to defend those interests.

59. Similarly, all foreign interference in the internal affairs of other States must be condemned. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya condemned unreservedly the role France had played in that respect in recent years and its intervention in the

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(Mr. Badi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

internal affairs of several African countries, such an attitude on the part of a permanent member of the Security Council constituted a threat to Africa and a threat to international peace and security.

60. His delegation proposed that the Committee should adopt the following five measures: (1) condemn the racist régimes which, through the intermediary of their banks, companies or individuals, had economic or other interests in colonial Territories and call upon them to end all activities that impeded the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; (2) condemn South Africa and oblige it to bear the responsibility for the exploitation of the natural resources of Namibia, in other words, make the racist régime assume the debt to be repaid to Namibia after its accession to independence; (3) categorically condemn all colonialist countries and racist régimes engaged in military, especially nuclear, collaboration with South Africa, which was contrary to the Charter and to United Nations resolutions and constituted a direct threat to the entire African continent and to international peace and security; (4) declare immediately a comprehensive economic embargo against the racist régimes, in application of the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter; and (5) provide material and moral assistance to the national liberation movements in their struggle for independence; he had in mind, in particular, SWAPO and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

61. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his country's continuing support for the liberation movements of the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence and its readiness to co-operate in any measure the Committee might adopt with a view to attaining those lofty objectives.

62. Mr. FADHLI (Democratic Yemen) said the mere fact that the question of foreign interests was still on the agenda proved that their activities, which impeded the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, were continuing. The countries that had won independence through their own struggle should help those still under the yoke of colonialism.

63. The Western countries and Israel had violated the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions concerning the sanctions imposed against the racist régimes of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa, and such violations had enabled those régimes to stay in power and to exploit the natural and human resources of southern Africa. In addition to such exploitation, the Western countries and Israel provided South Africa with military support, including nuclear support, and they obstructed every measure designed to bring that situation to an end.

64. The black majority population of southern Africa was subjected to blatant racial discrimination in every area (employment, education, social services and the like) and was deprived even of the right to own property, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of United Nations resolutions.

65. His delegation therefore supported Zimbabwe and Palestine in their struggle against all forms of cultural, military and social exploitation. Increased support must be given to national liberation movements in order to ensure the achievement of the noble goal of eliminating all forms of oppression and racism.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.