

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records *

UN LIBRARY

NOV 1979



UN/SA COLLECTION

FOURTH COMMITTEE

21st meeting

held on

Wednesday, 31 October 1979

at 3 p.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. BOYA (Benin)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)

(a) 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)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 89: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

(b) 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)

AGENDA ITEM 91: QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR: 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)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

(a) 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)

/...

* This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza (Alcoa Building), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/34/SR.21
14 November 1979
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

A/C.4/34/SR.21

English

Page 2

CONTENTS (continued)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 94: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 95: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/34/23/Add.3-5, 7 and 8, A/34/65, A/34/66, A/34/98, A/34/103, A/34/109, A/34/276, A/34/282, A/34/308, A/34/312, A/34/342, A/34/343, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/420, A/34/427, A/34/483, A/34/542, A/34/601, A/34/616; A/C.4/34/6, A/C.4/34/10, A/C.4/34/11, A/C.4/34/L.2)

- (a) 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 89: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/34/23/Add.9, A/34/311, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/554)

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)
- (b) 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)

AGENDA ITEM 91: QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR: 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/Add.3, A/34/311, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/439, A/34/542; A/C.4/34/3/Add.7 and 8, A/C.4/34/5 and Add.1-3, A/C.4/34/8)

AGENDA ITEM 93: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/34/23 (Part V), A/34/208 and Add.1-3, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/439, A/34/542)

- (a) 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/34/3/Add.28, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/542; A/C.4/34/5)

AGENDA ITEM 94: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/439, A/34/542, A/34/591)

/...

AGENDA ITEM 95: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/34/572, A/34/389 and Corr.1)

1. Mr. RYABOUNYENDE (Rwanda) noted with satisfaction that significant progress had been made in recent years in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). New Member States were being admitted to the United Nations each year while other colonial Territories were achieving political maturity, which would enable them to obtain their independence in the near future. The administering Powers should therefore be commended for their generous co-operation with the Special Committee and, in particular, for the assistance which they had offered to visiting missions to the various Territories.
2. Unfortunately, a new form of colonialism, one which was unacceptable and without precedent, continued to impose on the people of Western Sahara a deadly war aimed at the annexation of their Territory, in total disregard of the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the General Assembly resolutions reaffirming the inalienable right of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence and the sacred principle of territorial integrity.
3. On many occasions, the occupation of Western Sahara by the Moroccan forces had been condemned, in both international and regional forums. At the sixteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and at the latest summit conference of the non-aligned countries, held in Monrovia and Havana respectively, the right of the Saharan people to self-determination had been reaffirmed and a peaceful solution had been proposed inviting all parties concerned to begin peace negotiations immediately. Unfortunately, the Moroccan Government continued its stubborn policy of annexation by force and seemed to have decided to intensify its military operations. His delegation deplored the negative attitude of Morocco, a country which in other circumstances had courageously and decisively defended the right of peoples to determine their own destiny; it was convinced that the free exercise by the Saharan people of their right to self-determination was the only course which would lead to justice and a lasting peace in that part of the African continent.
4. Mr. DZOGBEKLO (Togo) said that the question of Western Sahara was part of the general problem of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and noted that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in Monrovia from 17 to 20 July 1979, had adopted a decision calling for the creation of a proper atmosphere for peace through a general and immediate cease-fire and for the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their right to self-determination in a general and free referendum.
5. His delegation regarded the principle of self-determination embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and that of the Organization of African Unity as sacred, and deplored the unjust war now being waged in Western Sahara. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Togo had recently stated in that connexion, in the General Assembly, that the recent agreement between Mauritania and the Frente POLISARIO constituted a new basis for a peaceful settlement of the problem and gave grounds

(Mr. Dzogbeklo, Togo)

for hope that a new era of peace in international relations might begin. His country appealed to Morocco to join that peace movement; it felt that self-determination through universal suffrage was the only possible course.

6. His delegation continued to believe that the States concerned in the region would find a satisfactory solution which would take into account the aspirations and interests of the Saharan people, led by the Frente POLISARIO, their legitimate representative, to which his country pledged its full support.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the decision adopted by the Committee at its 19th meeting, held on 30 October, the Committee would continue its consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/34/L.8 on the question of the New Hebrides. The delegations of Australia, India, Indonesia and the Philippines had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. The Committee also had before it, in document A/C.4/34/L.12, a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the administrative and financial implications of the draft proposals in documents A/C.4/34/L.5 to L.11.

8. Mr. BROCHENIN (France) said he would welcome the unanimous adoption by the Committee of the draft resolution concerning the New Hebrides, despite the usual reservations which his delegation had concerning the references to certain resolutions. He added that the rights mentioned in paragraph 6 would be exercised in conformity with international law.

9. After noting that the New Hebrides would achieve independence early in 1980 and would join the United Nations as a fully sovereign State, he said that France and the United Kingdom, the administering Powers of the Territory since 1906, were proud of having fulfilled their promise to bring the people of the New Hebrides to the stage of emancipation. The population of the New Hebrides had elected its first Representative Assembly in August 1975, although, recently, on 15 December 1978, all the parties had agreed to participate in a National Union Government to define the structures of the future State. On 18 September, the National Union Government had adopted a draft Constitution and had decided that on 14 November elections would be held for the Assembly, which would be the first Parliament of the future State. In inviting the Secretary-General to send a mission to observe the elections, France and the United Kingdom desired, first and foremost, that the presence of the United Nations should demonstrate to the people of the New Hebrides the interest which the Organization had in the birth of a new State and the solidarity of the international community.

10. On behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom and that of his own country, and on behalf of the National Union Government and the inhabitants of the New Hebrides, he expressed his gratitude to all those who, through their vote, would enable the United Nations to assist in the final stage of independence of the Condominium.

11. Draft resolution A/C.4/34/L.8 was adopted unanimously.

/...

12. Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana), on behalf of the sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/C.4/34/L.2/Rev.1 on the question of Western Sahara, which was based essentially on the principles set forth in the Charter and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

13. After referring to the various considerations which had been borne in mind in preparing the draft resolution, he drew attention to the various measures being proposed to the General Assembly for adoption, which were to be found in paragraphs 1 to 10 and pointed out that the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity had requested that a meeting of all the parties concerned, including the representative of Western Sahara, should be convened on the question of Western Sahara.

14. It should be noted that in resolution 33/31, the General Assembly had reiterated its fervent hope that, by the time of its thirty-fourth session, a solution would have been found to the question of Western Sahara in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV). Unfortunately, that was not the case and the draft resolution therefore requested the Special Committee of 24 to consider the question as a priority question and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The Secretary-General of OAU was also requested to keep the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed of the progress achieved with regard to the implementation of the relevant OAU decisions, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations was invited to follow closely the situation in Western Sahara and to submit a report on the question to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

15. The measures provided for in the draft resolution represented the minimum action which could be accepted and, in a general way, were in keeping with the aspirations of the people of Western Sahara. In a spirit of compromise, the sponsors had agreed to make significant accommodations in paragraphs 6 and 7 so as to meet the sensitivities of some delegations.

16. Mr. KAMIL (Indonesia) said that the petitioners who had spoken on the question of East Timor before the Committee had not contributed to a better understanding of the matter, since their statements had been completely unrelated to the realities existing in the province. In fact, the situation to which they had referred was non-existent, since East Timor was no longer a question of decolonization. The process of the decolonization of East Timor had been completed on 17 July 1976, when the people of the Territory had decided, through the People's Representative Assembly, to become independent through integration with the Republic of Indonesia. The Legislature of the Republic of Indonesia had accepted the statute of integration in Act No. 7 of 1976, which recognized East Timor as the twenty-seventh province of Indonesia, having equal rights and opportunities with the other provinces. The people of East Timor had thus exercised their right to self-determination in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and that act of self-determination had been duly reported to the appropriate organs of the United Nations.

17. The province of East Timor had now completed the stabilization phase of development, in which efforts had been concentrated on strengthening the

/...

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

administrative apparatus throughout the province, so as to facilitate its participation in the Third National Development Plan. In the political field, the province would participate in the next national general election, to be held in 1982.

18. East Timor was rapidly recovering from the neglect which had prevailed during the colonial period. In the agricultural sphere, irrigation systems had been built, renovated or modernized, especially in Maliana, Baucau and Ermera; that had led to a surplus of rice and other produce. The farmers had been receiving instruction in better cultivation methods and the manufacture of simple agricultural implements. As part of the "BIMAS" programme, production had been increased through guidance in the use of better seed and fertilizer. It was expected that the population of East Timor would reach self-sufficiency in food by the end of the current Third National Development Plan. East Timor had also been chosen as the site for experimental agricultural projects aimed at raising production and increasing employment opportunities.

19. Improvements had also been made in animal husbandry and fishing, and breeding stations had been established at Los Palos and Maliana. In 1978, 1,000 Bali cattle had been distributed to farmers. The fisheries programme involved the distribution of motor boats, nets and other fishing equipment, as well as the organization of training courses in fishing techniques and the establishment of the first fishermen's co-operative.

20. In the field of education, a programme had been launched to rehabilitate and construct school buildings and to overcome the shortage of qualified school-teachers. The construction of 150 new primary schools was under way and teachers had been brought in from other provinces in Indonesia. A programme had been established to upgrade the skills of teachers in East Timor and to instruct them in educational methods. Efforts had likewise been made to promote sports, the arts and social welfare activities. The Boy Scouts had a membership of 19,000 and, in addition to participating in the usual activities, its members provided community services, thereby preparing themselves to be responsible citizens.

21. In the field of transport, during the 400 years of the colonial period only 21 kilometres of paved roads had been built, whereas there were currently some 100 kilometres of roads, and the number of buses had increased.

22. In the field of public health, the rehabilitation of 13 hospitals had been completed and medical staffs had been assigned to them, nurses had upgraded their skills and mobile health units had been introduced to provide medical care to rural areas. As to social services, training in such fields as carpentry and radio repair had been made available for unemployed youths. There were programmes for orphans, widows and the disabled, and assistance was being provided for the rehabilitation and construction of houses of worship. Some 150 villages in East Timor had been provided with primary schools, primary health care units, co-operative, community centres and other services.

/...

(Mr. Kamil, Indonesia)

23. A problem that was closely related to the provision of public assistance and social services was that of displaced persons. The Indonesian Government had set up reception centres for persons returning from the mountains who were suffering from malnutrition and such diseases as beriberi, malaria and tuberculosis. In 1979 a bilateral agreement had been signed between Indonesia and the International Committee of the Red Cross relating to relief operations for displaced persons and, in response to an appeal from that Committee, the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, the Netherlands and Canada were providing assistance to East Timor or had pledged to do so. Assistance to East Timor was also being provided by UNICEF, Catholic Relief Services and World Vision International.

24. Indonesia would be the first to admit that much remained to be done and many difficulties had yet to be overcome. However, it was evident that in its three and a half years of integration the province of East Timor had made substantial progress in its development. The people of East Timor were living a new reality of freedom, peace and development in unity with their brothers in other parts of Indonesia. Consequently, any further discussion of the question of East Timor in the Committee would constitute interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State and was in contravention of Article 2, paragraph 7, of Chapter I of the United Nations Charter. Indonesia therefore would reject any decision or resolution which did not recognize the prevailing realities in the province of East Timor.

25. Mr. WAPENYI (Uganda) said that the Fourth Committee was not an economic committee, as might be thought from the statement by the representative of Indonesia. The item under consideration was the self-determination of a people who were under a new colonial yoke.

26. His delegation had great admiration for Indonesia and respectfully recalled the role which Sukarno had played in the movement to liberate the country from the former colonial Power. Indonesia had been in the vanguard of the struggle against colonialism, and for that reason it was inconceivable that it should have contracted the disease of expansionism.

27. Referring to the question of Western Sahara, he said that his Government had recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic because it considered totally unacceptable the occupation, subjugation, domination and exploitation of Western Sahara by Morocco. To accept that situation would be tantamount to a denial of the Saharan people's inalienable right to self-determination and independence and a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter. The new Government of Uganda would continue to consider Morocco a colonial Power as long as it continued its illegal and obstinate occupation of the Territory of Western Sahara. It deplored the fact that Morocco, a bona fide member of the Organization of African Unity, was defying the decisions of the Heads of State and Government of OAU. His delegation was pleased to note that, of the 34 States which had recognized the Government of the Frente POLISARIO, 20 were members of OAU; at the recent OAU Summit Conference, the participants had called upon Morocco to desist from its colonialist policy. His delegation believed that the General Assembly should take duly into account the

/...

(Mr. Wapenyi, Uganda)

OAU decision which recognized the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to the exercise of self-determination and independence.

28. His delegation commended the Islamic Republic of Mauritania for the agreement it had reached with the Frente POLISARIO, which constituted a fundamental step in the search for a just and lasting solution and demonstrated the willingness of Mauritania to work for the restoration of peace and tranquility in the region.

29. His delegation also welcomed the decision taken by the Government of Spain to dissociate itself from the so-called "Madrid Agreement" by which Spain had repudiated its obligation to decolonize Western Sahara, although it did not approve of the fact that Spain had handed the Territory over to another entity.

30. He reiterated his delegation's support for the Frente POLISARIO in its struggle against Moroccan colonialism in Western Sahara, and appealed to the States Members of the United Nations to refrain from any measure which might lead to the loss of more lives in the region and to adopt specific and meaningful measures to facilitate an acceptable and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara. He also called on governmental and non-governmental organizations which dealt with relief work, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross, to respond promptly to the urgent needs of the people of Western Sahara, who had been seriously affected by the war.

31. Reverting to the question of East Timor, he said that numerous facts demonstrated that the people of East Timor had not exercised their right to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In resolution 33/39, the Assembly had reaffirmed that right and had endorsed the legitimacy of the struggle of the people of East Timor. Uganda therefore rejected the annexation of East Timor by Indonesia, which it considered to be totally unrelated to the decolonization process in East Timor, expressed its unconditional support for the people of the Territory in their struggle against foreign domination and colonialism, and appealed to the international community to provide all possible assistance to East Timor.

32. Draft resolution A/C.4/34/L.3 concerning the question of East Timor, which Uganda had presented on behalf of the sponsors, contained a statement of the basic principles of the United Nations and fully reflected the suffering of an entire nation. According to information from various sources to which the Committee had given a hearing, approximately 20 per cent of the population of East Timor had died during the last four years. The international community could not remain silent in the face of such a holocaust, and the draft resolution therefore was of an essentially humanitarian nature.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.