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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LOEIS (Indonesia)

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

AGENDA ITEM 90: QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA: 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.1, A/34/88, A/34/111, A/34/126, A/34/171, A/34/179, A/34/186, A/34/187, A/34/220, A/34/228, A/34/279, A/34/346, A/34/357, A/34/389 and Corr.1, A/34/439, A/34/499, A/34/542, A/34/599; A/C.4/34/L.26)

1. Mr. THUNBORG (Sweden) said that for the first time in a very long period one could point with some justification to a hopeful development in the continuing tragic and bloody struggle in Southern Rhodesia between the small minority fighting to protect privileges based on discrimination and illegal power and the oppressed majority fighting for their civil rights, liberation and independence. The parties involved in the London talks had, through their decisiveness, persistence and conciliatory attitude, demonstrated that there might be a solution, and their efforts deserved the unlimited support, appreciation, and understanding of the world community. The difficult transitional period would call for the utmost restraint and will to co-operate on the part of all the parties involved. If and when a peaceful settlement was reached that had the support of the administering Power and of the Zimbabwean parties concerned, the international community would have an obvious duty to accept and respect that solution.
2. A negotiated solution for Zimbabwe might be of importance also in connexion with another problem in Southern Africa - Namibia. He hoped that the mistakes, misjudgements and prejudices of the Smith régime would not be repeated by South Africa in Namibia, and that Pretoria would finally show some degree of statesmanship and political wisdom and pursue a constructive international policy. A free, peaceful and democratic Zimbabwe would be the clearest demonstration to those responsible for the apartheid system in South Africa itself that apartheid was a dying concept, that change was inevitable and that peaceful change was essential to the interests of the nation and its survival.
3. Mr. ZAGAJAC (Yugoslavia) said that the situation in Southern Rhodesia had not changed for the better; on the contrary, the conflict had intensified. The Patriotic Front had proposed reasonable and moderate conditions for a peaceful settlement of the issue, while the racist authorities and their allies had openly promoted the so-called internal settlement through the illegal elections held in April 1979 that had resulted in a puppet government elected on the basis of an unacceptable constitution. Frequent and unprovoked commando incursions and acts of State terrorism perpetrated against neighbouring sovereign and non-aligned countries showed that the racists intended to internationalize the conflict.
4. Various international organizations had responded to the negative developments in Southern Rhodesia during the past year. The non-aligned countries - which accounted for two thirds of mankind - had, on the basis of positions adopted by the Organization of African Unity and the Special Committee of 24, resolutely repudiated all the manoeuvres designed to maintain colonial

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(Mr. Zagažac, Yugoslavia)

relationships in a new form. Meanwhile, some prospects for a settlement of the question had developed, as a result of the initiative taken by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries at their meeting in Lusaka in August 1979. The final outcome of that initiative remained to be seen.

5. Yugoslavia supported efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem, but emphasized that all attempts to make use of such efforts to perpetuate existing colonial relationships and the oppression and exploitation of the peoples of southern Africa and of their natural resources would have catastrophic consequences not only for the population of the region, but also for the economic, political and military strategic interests of those who had contributed to such a development.

6. The international community should render all possible political, moral and material assistance to the Patriotic Front, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Zimbabwe, and to the front-line States threatened by the armed provocation of the racist régime of Southern Rhodesia. Yugoslavia saw that as its moral obligation and its contribution to peace and security in the world.

7. Mr. KIET (Viet Nam) said that increasing international support for the just cause of the people of Zimbabwe and the increasing strength of the Patriotic Front had driven the racist régime in Salisbury into even closer collusion with the racist clique in Pretoria. At the same time, a number of Western countries had become even more brazen in their political, economic and military support, whether direct or indirect, for the Southern Rhodesian administration. If the imperialist countries had not encouraged the Salisbury régime, Southern Rhodesia would by now have become independent and a black majority régime would have been established.

8. Despite the resolutions adopted by the Organization of African Unity, the non-aligned movement and the United Nations, the Salisbury régime was intensifying its policy of repression, enforcing the so-called internal settlement, which had been condemned by all progressive public opinion, and launching military attacks against neighbouring countries in order to weaken the Patriotic Front and discourage those countries from giving it assistance. In the meantime, the Western countries continued to claim that they were seeking a negotiated solution to the problem of Southern Rhodesia, while in reality they had deliberately prolonged negotiations and were using them as a cover to safeguard their colonial interests.

9. Viet Nam welcomed any peaceful negotiated solution to the problem, provided that it guaranteed genuine independence and a real transfer of power to the people of Zimbabwe and satisfied the conditions set by the Patriotic Front, which alone was authorized to represent the people of Zimbabwe. Viet Nam was in full agreement with the concern expressed at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries over any steps taken by the United Kingdom and United States Government with a view to recognizing the illegal régime and unilaterally lifting the sanctions. It strongly condemned the so-called internal settlement, and the acts of aggression committed by the Southern Rhodesian régime against neighbouring countries.

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(Mr. Kiet, Viet Nam)

10. The international community should take strong measures to put an end to the illegal state of affairs in the Territory, and to apply strictly the sanctions set out in Security Council resolution 253 (1968) and extend them to include the measures provided for in Article 41 of the Charter. Viet Nam was convinced that, with the increasing support all the socialist countries and all peace-loving forces throughout the world, including the non-aligned countries, the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe under the leadership of the Patriotic Front was bound to be victorious.

11. Ms. BOZHKOVA (Bulgaria) said that the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe had reached its final and decisive stage. Bulgaria was seriously concerned over the attempts by certain circles to use the Lancaster House talks in order to compel the Patriotic Front to accept constitutional and other provisions which were hardly directed towards an over-all settlement of the problem in Zimbabwe in accordance with the principles of the United Nations or with the legitimate aspirations of the vast majority of the people of Zimbabwe.

12. Events in Southern Rhodesia over the past year showed that the aim of the racists was to preserve their colonial domination at all costs. The illegal elections held in order to enforce the so-called internal settlement and thus exclude the sole authentic representative of the people of Zimbabwe, the Patriotic Front, had been neither free nor fair, because of the prior imprisonment of thousands of opponents of the Smith régime and the banning in September 1978 of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). Moreover, the elections had been held while acts of aggression against independent neighbouring States were being carried out. It was obvious, therefore, that they had been an elaborate fraud to create a black façade for white rule, and could not have been conducted without the tacit consent of certain Western States, which were doing everything possible to maintain the domination of their transnational corporations in southern Africa, and had even taken steps to recognize the results of the illegal election and to lift the mandatory sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Southern Rhodesia.

13. The moral, military, political, economic and diplomatic aid of the Western States and their transnational corporations continued as before. According to a paper presented to the International Seminar on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa, organized in London in November 1979 by the Anti-Apartheid Movement in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid, the role of the Royal Dutch/Shell Corporation in southern Africa was an important factor in the continuing repression in that region and that company was one of the Western concerns that had repeatedly violated the Security Council embargo, being the only supplier of oil and oil products to Smith's repressive army. Other large oil companies were also supplying oil to South Africa and had provided much of the capital needed to establish an oil industry in that country. It was therefore necessary to implement strictly all relevant decisions of the United Nations, particularly Security Council resolution 448 (1979), and the relevant decisions taken at the sixteenth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity in Monrovia

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(Ms. Bozhkova, Bulgaria)

and at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in Havana. Those decisions, together with the long struggle of the people of Zimbabwe under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Patriotic Front, had made the complete elimination of the racist régime inevitable. Nevertheless, that régime continued to disregard the rules of international law and the decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council in perpetrating acts of aggression against neighbouring independent African States Members of the United Nations. In Mozambique, for example, Southern Rhodesian troops had destroyed villages, hospitals, schools, bridges and factories. The report of the Special Committee of 24 (A/34/23/Add.1) and a news report in The New York Times of 4 October 1979, contained facts which were so unequivocal that they could hardly be rejected.

14. Moreover, mercenaries recruited from certain Western States formed the backbone of the Southern Rhodesian army. According to a report in the French magazine Jeune Afrique, by August 1979 there were some 15,000 mercenaries in the Rhodesian security forces, a figure which was 50 per cent higher than that for 1978 and which included 1,600 South Africans, 2,300 from the United States, 1,800 from France, 1,050 from the Federal Republic of Germany, 800 Israelis, and 2,800 from Portugal. The balance was presumably made up largely from the United Kingdom, always the main mercenary supplier to the Southern Rhodesian régime.

15. The sponsors of the current Constitutional Conference on Southern Rhodesia in London wished to blame the delay in reaching a settlement on the Patriotic Front. However, the real cause lay in the attempts by the sponsors to impose their settlement plan on the Patriotic Front, even though it did not take into consideration the Front's main demands with regard to the transitional period, but sought to preserve the essentially racist and colonial nature of the régime, in the hope of paving the way for its recognition and for the lifting of sanctions.

16. Her delegation was concerned by South Africa's recent acts of aggression against Angola, which could be interpreted as a further attempt to intensify the pressure on the Patriotic Front to accept all the proposals imposed upon it. Referring to a statement made by the representative of Angola in the Security Council, to the effect that South Africa hoped to rule over a constellation of subservient States (S/2169, p. 7), she said it was clear that the South African racists had once again resorted to the use of force on a massive scale to prevent any progress being made in Zimbabwe.

17. With the assistance of certain Western countries, South Africa had developed a nuclear capability. The racist régimes of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia thus threatened peace and security, not only in southern Africa, but throughout the world, as was amply illustrated by recent incursions into Zambia. It was therefore essential to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism and find a lasting solution to the Zimbabwean problem.

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(Ms. Bozhkova, Bulgaria)

18. Her delegation supported the demand for the transfer of power to the majority of the people of Zimbabwe, whose sole legitimate representative was the Patriotic Front, which had been recognized by OAU, the United Nations and the international community. Bulgaria also favoured the strict and full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and strict compliance with the sanctions imposed against Southern Rhodesia and its racist ally, South Africa.

19. Bulgaria supported the position of the Patriotic Front at the London talks that a solution to the problem of Zimbabwe required a comprehensive agreement involving both a constitution and transitional arrangements, including a cease-fire. The successful implementation of any new constitution depended on the nature of the interim arrangements.

20. Her delegation's position on the problems of decolonization was clear. It unreservedly advocated the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism and racism in southern Africa and whole-heartedly supported the right of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia to self-determination and independence.

21. Mr. CHAO Wei (China) observed that the people of Zimbabwe were continuing their struggle against colonialism and racism and were advancing along the road to national independence and liberation, supported by the African countries, particularly the front-line countries. Led by the Patriotic Front, the armed forces of the people of Zimbabwe had grown stronger and were dealing telling blows to Smith's racist forces, whose position was becoming increasingly difficult.

22. It was the habit of the brutal but weak racists to resort to the counter-revolutionary dual tactic of military oppression coupled with political deception in order to maintain their reactionary rule. After the spurious "internal settlement" which they had masterminded, the reactionary forces had staged a "general election" in April 1979, in the vain hope of deceiving the African people and the international community. Meanwhile, their brutal exploitation and repression of the Zimbabwean people continued unabated.

23. The régime's military expenditure continued to increase, and most areas of the country had been placed under military control. The régime also collaborated with the reactionary authorities of South Africa. In an attempt to deter the African front-line countries from supporting the just struggle of the Zimbabwean people, the régime had repeatedly organized incursions into neighbouring countries, causing severe loss of life and material damage. Yet such perverse acts would neither vanquish the heroic fighting people of Zimbabwe nor intimidate the great African countries. They were merely the death throes of the racists.

24. At its sixteenth session, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU had expressed its support for the Zimbabwean people, and had strongly condemned the Southern Rhodesian authorities for their "internal settlement"

(Mr. Chao Wei, China)

and the illegal elections. On the eve of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the non-aligned countries had also expressed their support for the Zimbabwean people. Those were but two indications of the widespread support which the people of Zimbabwe enjoyed throughout the world.

25. In August 1979, in an effort to find a just solution to the problem of Southern Rhodesia, the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries, meeting in Lusaka, had adopted an agreement providing for a constitutional conference to be convened by the United Kingdom, the drafting of a new constitution and the holding of democratic elections. The Constitutional Conference had been formally convened in September 1979, with the participation of all parties. The front-line and other African countries and the Patriotic Front, striving to achieve true independence for Zimbabwe on the basis of majority rule, had submitted positive and reasonable proposals for a settlement which had won extensive support and approval in the international community. The racist forces of Southern Rhodesia were, however, bent on disrupting the Conference and sought to undermine the prospect of a peaceful and just settlement in order to preserve their colonial rule. They had thus invaded Zambia with the intention of deterring the Patriotic Front and the front-line countries. The South African reactionary régime had also threatened military intervention. If they were to become truly independent, the people of Zimbabwe must heighten their vigilance and thwart all the machinations of the racist authorities of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa.

26. The Government and people of China had always firmly supported the just struggle of the Zimbabwean people against colonialism and racism. His delegation fervently hoped that the General Assembly would contribute to peace and stability in southern Africa by resolutely supporting the struggle of the Zimbabwean people against the forces of racism and foreign intervention in order to achieve national independence and liberation. By strengthening their unity, the people of Zimbabwe, with the support of the justice-loving countries and peoples of the world, were assured of final victory.

27. Mr. SEIFU (Ethiopia), after referring to the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia during the general debate (A/34/PV.20), in which he had expressed the hope that the London Constitutional Conference would lead to a speedy transfer of power to the African majority, said that his delegation was closely following the Lancaster House talks but had been disappointed at the high-handed manner in which the United Kingdom Government had conducted them. The United Kingdom Government's frequent use of devious manoeuvres had strengthened his delegation's serious doubts as to the impartiality of the administering Power. In marked contrast, the Patriotic Front had negotiated in a constructive and flexible manner, for which it deserved the commendation of the international community. The Patriotic Front had shown that freedom-fighters and revolutionaries could conduct peaceful negotiations with the same resolve and courage as they displayed in armed struggle.

(Mr. Seifu, Ethiopia)

28. Thanks to the goodwill of the Patriotic Front and the assistance of the front-line States, the Lancaster House Conference was now in its final stages. However, despite the promising efforts to end the bitter seven-year war, the situation in southern Africa was currently marked by unprecedented acts of aggression committed against independent African States with a view to eroding the resolve of those States to continue to support the Patriotic Front and stifling the process of liberation. The Salisbury and Pretoria régimes were making every effort to impede the current negotiations in the hope that a puppet régime would survive in Southern Rhodesia and sanctions would be lifted.

29. The holding of free and fair elections in Zimbabwe would sweep aside the Salisbury régime. It was not surprising, therefore, that that régime, having failed to foil the Lancaster House talks, should attempt to obstruct the implementation of arrangements agreed upon in London. Such concerns had moved the Patriotic Front to propose the participation of the United Nations in the implementation of arrangements resulting from the Lancaster House Conference. Unfortunately, those parties opposed to fair elections had resisted United Nations participation.

30. The Pretoria racist régime regarded Southern Rhodesia as a buffer to protect it from the advancing wave of liberation and it would do everything possible to influence developments within Southern Rhodesia in the hope of maintaining the colonial status quo. There had already been attempts to intimidate the front-line States through flagrant violations of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

31. He cautioned the United Kingdom and the racist régimes in southern Africa that another farcical election the legitimacy of which was challenged by the Patriotic Front and the international community could not and would not form the basis of a final solution to the problem of Southern Rhodesia. Any transitional arrangements would have to be fair and impartial or the armed struggle would continue.

32. The position adopted by the international community was bound to affect the speed with which an independent Zimbabwe would emerge. International pressure should be exerted on the United Kingdom Government to discharge its responsibilities as the administering Power in an impartial manner. The United Kingdom should prevent further aggression by the colonialist régimes against the front-line States. If the United Kingdom Government was willing to compromise and conduct the Conference impartially, the negotiations on the cease-fire arrangements could be speedily concluded. If, however, the United Kingdom Government refused to accommodate the reasonable demands of the Patriotic Front, then the responsibility for the breakdown in negotiations, with its ominous consequences, would fall squarely on its shoulders.

33. If the current negotiations failed, the only alternative left for the attainment of genuine majority rule in Southern Rhodesia would be the continuation and intensification of the armed struggle. The international community should therefore lend its full support to the legitimate armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, led by their sole representative, the Patriotic Front.

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(Mr. Seifu, Ethiopia)

34. The United Nations should continue to play its legitimate role in the complete decolonization of Southern Rhodesia. Ethiopia would continue to give material and moral support to the Patriotic Front until genuine independence had been achieved, and was ready to assist the United Nations in discharging its responsibilities towards the oppressed masses of southern Africa.

35. Mr. FRANCIS (New Zealand) said that there had been no sign of progress on the question of Southern Rhodesia for far too long. While the internal settlement negotiated by the Smith régime was a new element, it had been seen by many in the international community as little more than a device for maintaining power in the hands of the obdurate white minority. In the meantime, the new régime in Salisbury had stepped up its war against the Patriotic Front and had attacked the neighbouring States of Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. Despite all the efforts of the international community, the problem of Southern Rhodesia seemed as intractable as ever.

36. The international community now had its first real chance of finding a solution. The agreement on Southern Rhodesia reached by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries in Lusaka in August 1979 had represented a long-awaited breakthrough, since for the first time the views of the United Kingdom Government and the Commonwealth African States on Southern Rhodesia had been harmonized, and it had thus provided the first realistic framework for a negotiated settlement.

37. The convening of the Constitutional Conference in London in September 1979 had initiated difficult negotiations between the parties and the fact that a lasting and just solution to the problem of Southern Rhodesia now seemed at hand was a tribute to the significant efforts of the United Kingdom Government and to the flexibility and sense of compromise of all the parties concerned. Nothing should be allowed to jeopardize the outcome of the Constitutional Conference. He therefore deplored the recent Rhodesian incursions into Zambia, and any other acts which might imperil the outcome of the Conference. The Conference had to be given a chance to succeed, not only in the interests of the inhabitants of Zimbabwe, the majority of whom had suffered for too long, but in the interests of the front-line States, whose energies and resources had long been sapped by the Southern Rhodesian problem. A successful outcome would provide a much-needed example to the international community that it had the resources to solve seemingly intractable problems, where there was the requisite will and spirit of co-operation.

38. New Zealand stood firmly behind the Lusaka agreement on Southern Rhodesia. His Government fully supported the Constitutional Conference and the efforts of the United Kingdom Government, and was prepared to assist in any way possible during the transitional period. The way was clear for Southern Rhodesia to move towards genuine independence under majority rule in a way which would avoid conflict and suffering for all its inhabitants. The day was near when Zimbabwe would take its rightful place as an independent member of the international community, when it would be able to resume political, diplomatic and economic relations with the rest of the world, and when it would be able to concentrate its energies on promoting the interests of all its citizens.

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39. Mr. VLASCEANU (Romania) said that since the previous session of the General Assembly there had been new developments in the Rhodesian situation. In its capacity as administering Power, the United Kingdom had shown renewed interest in the quest for a political settlement and had initiated the current talks in London with the participation of all the parties concerned.

40. The new developments had, however, so far failed to achieve a breakthrough in meeting the aspirations of the Zimbabwean people for independence and satisfying United Nations demands for the transfer of power to the majority in Southern Rhodesia. Indeed, the situation there had continued to deteriorate so that it posed an ever-increasing threat to international peace and security.

41. The colonialist and racist forces had intensified their repressive actions against the peoples in the area, had resorted to dilatory tactics to perpetuate racist domination, and had committed repeated acts of aggression against the front-line African States, such as Zambia; those acts of aggression had been condemned by the Security Council and the international community. Such provocative acts emphasized the need for the United Nations to take more resolute action in support of the people of Zimbabwe and their liberation movement - the Patriotic Front.

42. The success obtained by the national liberation struggle in Southern Rhodesia had created new conditions in the search for a solution to the crisis through political channels and negotiations. It had been acknowledged that there was a need for a new and radical approach to the problem that would include the granting to the Zimbabwean people of their inalienable right to freedom, independence and social progress. It was with that understanding that world public opinion had been following the talks at Lancaster House, held in compliance with the decisions adopted by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries in Lusaka. Any outcome of the Lancaster House Conference would be supported by the United Nations only in so far as it resulted in total and genuine freedom and independence in accordance with the aspirations of the Zimbabwean people and the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions.

43. The requirements set forth by the patriotic forces in the search for a political solution included the dismantling of the political and administrative structures in Southern Rhodesia, the adoption of a new constitution following free elections, and the establishment of a representative Government in keeping with the aspirations of the African majority. The participation of the leaders of the Patriotic Front in the Lancaster House talks, and the fact that their requirements were being taken into consideration thus constituted a highly significant acknowledgement of the role to be played by the Patriotic Front and the two liberation movements in shaping the future of Southern Rhodesia.

44. Against that background, his delegation advocated the initiation at the current session of the General Assembly of new action to involve the United Nations directly in a just and final settlement of the Rhodesian problem. The United Nations could contribute effectively to the solution of that problem by strengthening the system of measures and sanctions established under United Nations resolutions and supplementing them with new measures to ensure full independence through the transfer of power to the majority.

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(Mr. Vlasceanu, Romania)

45. During recent talks with the Presidents of ZAPU and ZANU, both on African soil and in Bucharest, the President of Romania had expressed support for the people of Zimbabwe and their just struggle for national and social emancipation. Romania upheld the right of oppressed peoples, including the people of Zimbabwe, to use all available means against colonialism and racism. Indeed, victory required the simultaneous and continued use of various forms of action, including negotiations. At the same time, the unity of the national patriotic forces was an absolute requirement for the triumph of the people's struggle for independence. It was more than ever necessary to achieve on a national scale the unity of all patriotic and progressive forces interested in forging a truly free and independent Zimbabwe. Similarly, it was imperative that the international community should strengthen its support for and solidarity with the just struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and the Patriotic Front to achieve freedom and independence.

46. He strongly condemned the aggressive attacks of racists from southern Africa against Zambia and other independent African States, and joined with other like-minded delegations in calling for stronger support for the front-line African States in the rebuilding of their economic installations which had been destroyed, and in the consolidation of their independence. No acts of war and no racist terrorist raids could prolong the survival of racism and colonialism in Southern Rhodesia or prevent the fulfilment of the desire of the people of Zimbabwe for freedom and independence.

47. Mr. ABDEL FATTAH (Egypt) said that the discussions currently taking place in London with a view to a just and peaceful settlement of the question of Southern Rhodesia could determine the future of the whole of southern Africa since the achievement of self-determination and independence by the people of Zimbabwe would inevitably weaken the racist régime in South Africa and lead to the termination of its occupation of Namibia.

48. Despite the fact that the efforts to buttress the crumbling structure of the racist régime in Salisbury through the so-called internal settlement of March 1978, the formation of a transitional Government and the constitutional referendum of January 1979 had been condemned by the international community, a puppet Government had been installed in Salisbury, following the elections held in April 1979, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 445 (1979) which had declared any such elections null and void. The outcome of the elections had also been condemned in Security Council resolution 448 (1979) and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, meeting in Monrovia.

49. In the mistaken belief that the internal settlement had sapped the resistance of the people of Zimbabwe and reduced international opposition to his racist régime, Ian Smith had initiated a campaign to persuade the Western Powers to repeal their economic sanctions against Southern Rhodesia and to recognize the Muzorewa Government. Egypt was extremely concerned at reports that the United Kingdom Government might lift the economic sanctions before a real solution had been found to the problem of Southern Rhodesia. Only the Security Council had the right to lift those sanctions and any such unilateral action on the part of the United Kingdom would encourage other Western countries to follow its example, thereby causing a further deterioration in the situation in Southern Rhodesia.

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(Mr. Abdel Fattah, Egypt)

50. Events had proved that the attempts by the racist régime to impose the so-called internal settlement had neither brought peace to Zimbabwe nor improved the internal situation in the country. On the contrary, the armed struggle had escalated, the economic, political and military situation had deteriorated, and the exodus of white residents had increased. In a desperate attempt to remedy the situation, the Salisbury régime had launched savage attacks against the forces of the Patriotic Front and the Zimbabwean refugees in Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and even Angola. Those efforts to destroy the national liberation movements and undermine the independence of the countries of southern Africa had received the full support of the racist régime in Pretoria.

51. Faced with the prospect of a further escalation of the conflict, most of the international community had welcomed the agreement reached by the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries at Lusaka in August 1979, which had established a framework for a just and lasting settlement of the problem of Southern Rhodesia on the basis of a change in the existing constitution and the holding of free elections, following which the United Kingdom would exercise its constitutional responsibility by granting legitimate independence to the people of Zimbabwe based on majority rule. The Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries had also welcomed the proposal by the United Kingdom Government that all the parties concerned should participate in a constitutional conference.

52. Egypt held the view that a final and comprehensive solution to the problem of Southern Rhodesia should take the following factors into account: first, any eventual agreement should be clearly and unambiguously worded; second, any proposed solution to the problem should be compatible with the interests and wishes of the people of Zimbabwe and consistent with the procedures recommended by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations; third, democratic elections for the establishment of a truly independent Government in Zimbabwe should be held under the supervision of a strictly objective and neutral body which would have at its disposal sufficient forces either from the United Nations or from the Commonwealth countries to enable it to discharge its functions in an efficient manner; fourth, following the announcement of a cease-fire, all the people of Zimbabwe, both inside and outside the country, should be allowed to vote in their own electoral districts; fifth, the forces of the Salisbury régime should strictly observe the cease-fire and refrain from intimidating the population in any way.

53. His delegation noted with regret the recent attack launched by the forces of the racist Salisbury régime against Zambia which had already been condemned in Security Council resolution 455 (1979). That attack had been supported by the Pretoria régime which was determined to prevent the establishment of a nationalist Government in Zimbabwe and had regarded the internal settlement of 1978 as an ideal model to be applied in Namibia with a view to perpetuating racist domination in southern Africa. The recent attack on Zambia therefore gave cause to doubt the sincerity of the intentions of the Salisbury régime and its racist ally in Pretoria which were endeavouring to thwart the current endeavours to achieve a just and peaceful settlement.

(Mr. Abdel Fattah, Egypt)

54. However long and difficult the Lancaster House talks might be, they were in themselves an indication of the sincere desire of the Patriotic Front to reach a peaceful settlement, and their failure would lead to a disastrous escalation of the armed conflict. As the administering Power, the United Kingdom was responsible for ensuring a just settlement. Egypt wished to reaffirm its continued moral and material support for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, under the leadership of the Patriotic Front, to achieve self-determination and independence and it hoped that, at the following session, a delegation from an independent Zimbabwe would take its rightful place among the States Members of the United Nations.

55. Sir Anthony PARSONS (United Kingdom) said that he had been encouraged by the observations made during the debate by many African States, even though he might not agree with every word they had said. It was particularly gratifying that in the great majority of statements the good faith of the United Kingdom Government in the difficult negotiations which were in progress had not been challenged. Since a considerable number of delegations still wished to participate in the debate, he would wait until the end of the debate to bring the Committee up to date regarding the Lancaster House talks and to comment on points that had been raised during the debate. At that time he might possibly reply to the malevolent and at times incomprehensible misrepresentations made by one or two delegations whose geographical remoteness from the area of the problem was paralleled only by their apparent ignorance of recent developments.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.