



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

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Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/38/Add.4)

1. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Breika and Mr. Brahim took a place at the petitioners' table.

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2. Mr. BREIKA, speaking on behalf of those elected by the communes and those elected by the occupational chambers of the southern provinces of Morocco, said that he was happy to be able to address the international community, through the Committee, in order to dispel misunderstandings about the complex causes and facts relating to Western Sahara. Indeed, there were so many different schools of thought and such confusion about the issue that the truth was in danger of disappearing. Historically, the former Spanish Sahara had been returned to the motherland, Morocco, after decades of struggle, which had culminated in the unforgettable Green March. After the return of the Territory, local elections had lawfully been held in June 1983, and it was as a democratically elected representative of the population of the Territory that he was currently addressing the Committee.

3. The Saharans were surprised and bitter when certain international Powers confused good and evil and allowed mercenary groups having no ties with the region and enjoying no support among the indigenous population of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro to proclaim themselves to be the representatives of the population. He regretted the fact that such groups were heeded and that some even imagined them to be bodies with which to negotiate. The Saharan population must condemn all such measures and such hostile acts, which were aimed at obliterating the facts, distorting history and misrepresenting the struggle the Sahraoui people had been waging for decades to retain their immortal Moroccan identity. The Saharans were fighting for freedom and democratic values and were struggling to preserve the unity of the Moroccan territory. No lie or deception could make people forget that fundamental fact.

4. In scarcely 30 years, the work carried out by dedicated and efficient State agencies in the context of the development plan of His Majesty King Hassan II had produced remarkable results: roads, schools, housing and hospitals had been built, electricity had been installed and all public services had been provided to the entire population. The Sahraoui people could be proud of that effort. On the other hand, a look at what the so-called Liberation Front had done for the region revealed only bands of mercenaries, who had destroyed the land, oppressed an unarmed population and imprisoned hundreds of people in camps at Tindouf, where they suffered from hunger and where terrorism reigned. The same group tried to give its crimes a semblance of legitimacy and turned a deaf ear to every appeal for peace, truth and life itself.

5. Accordingly, the Sahraoui people were asking the United Nations only to examine the situation honestly, objectively and without preconceived ideas, to realize that the future could not be dissociated from the past and to understand that no attempt should be made to export foreign ideologies to a peace-loving land, which had had its own civilization for centuries. All that the Sahraoui people were requesting was a just and definitive settlement of the tense situation in north-west Africa. The decision taken should be based on reasonable criteria and on historical facts, as well as on the will of the people, who were and would remain Moroccan until the end of time.

6. Those elected by the communes and those elected by the occupational chambers, whom he and Mr. Brahim were representing, had already asked the international

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community to intervene so as to put an end to the foreign presence in the region. In fact, the traitors and mercenaries had called for the elimination of colonialism only after the Spanish had left. It was the Sahraoui people and they alone who had engaged in armed struggle until 1976. He drew attention to the fact that the views of the population he represented had already been expressed in various international forums, and he appealed to the international community not to neglect that problem any longer. Otherwise, the complexity of the situation might increase and the threat of tension might grow. The Sahraoui people would protect their Moroccan identity to the very end. It could not be negotiated. They would defend it at all costs, even at the cost of their lives.

7. The so-called POLISARIO Front, however, was composed only of mercenaries in the pay of Algeria, whose goal was to impose hegemony and inject into the Territory an ideology which was foreign to the region. Algeria, with its allies, was trying to establish a bridgehead in the region for propaganda purposes. The mercenaries were not true children of Moroccan Sahara: indeed, three of the people representing the group of mercenaries within the United Nations itself were in fact of Mauritanian origin, in other words, Moroccans who were traitors to their country. They were not Saharans and never would be. They claimed to represent the Saharan people but in fact had no connection with Moroccan Sahara. Moreover, they had collaborated with Spanish colonialism until the time of the Green March; they had then abandoned the Territory and subsequently returned to incite conflicts while the Saharan people were struggling against underdevelopment and hunger.

8. Algeria, the friend and ally of that entity, had submitted a draft resolution to the General Assembly. The adoption of that draft resolution could only increase the intensity and complexity of the problems; the Saharan people would not accept it and would struggle against any body which tried to implement the draft resolution by force, even if they had to take up arms. A solution of that nature was rejected by the entire Saharan people and, since they had right on their side, they would inevitably win victory.

9. King Hassan II had proposed that a referendum should be organized in the Sahara to refute any claim advanced by the enemies of the unity of Morocco and to preserve the good-neighbourly relations with African States. The Saharan people fully supported the proposal submitted by Morocco to the eighteenth summit conference of the Organization of African Unity and to the General Assembly. It was unacceptable to the Saharan people that a group of mercenaries who were opposed to the unity of Morocco should be accorded a status which was not their due; he and his associates were the legitimate representatives of the Saharan people, and they called upon the international community to recognize the truth of their statements; any visit to the Territory would be welcome and the visitors would see for themselves that prosperity, security and democracy prevailed at all levels in Western Sahara.

10. The principles of the United Nations were based on respect for human rights, the sovereignty of nations, peace and security. Thus the United Nations should not adopt any decision which violated those principles.

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11. The Saharans were Moroccans. They would welcome any measure which would help put an end to tension in the region, provided that it did not do so at the expense of the territorial unity of Morocco. Any referendum organized under the auspices of the United Nations or the Organization of African Unity, if legitimate, would completely discredit the Algerian mercenaries, and the results of that popular consultation would prove to the world the justice of the position he had set forth.

12. Mr. Breika and Mr. Brahim withdrew.

13. Mr. Karepa (Papua New Guinea) took the Chair.

General debate

14. Mr. OBUNYASI (Kenya) said that for many years the international community had been considering the question of the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and in particular the right of all peoples to determine their own destiny and pursue their economic, social and cultural development in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. Since then the General Assembly, in successive resolutions (including resolutions 37/28, 37/29 and 37/35 of 23 December 1982), had called for the acceleration of that process. Despite the many impediments, it was possible to achieve that goal by urging the administering Powers to comply more fully with their responsibilities and in particular to provide the Territories under their colonial domination with sufficient infrastructures and improve the health, education and social services. However, complete and total decolonization required the co-operation of the entire international community and in particular the colonized peoples who should be allowed to participate actively in shaping their destiny.

15. Kenya fully supported the principle of self-determination and independence for the peoples of the small Territories. It supported the objectives of the United Nations Charter and recognized the substantial contribution made by the United Nations to the cause of peace and decolonization, particularly through the work of the Special Committee on Decolonization.

16. In the case of Western Sahara, Kenya supported the efforts made by the Implementation Committee on Western Sahara of the Organization of African Unity to organize a referendum which would enable the people of the Territory to exercise their right to self-determination.

17. His delegation called upon the international community to offer study and training facilities to the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

18. Mr. MATUS (Hungary) said that his delegation fully supported the role played by the specialized agencies of the United Nations in eliminating the remnants of colonialism, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. In particular, his delegation welcomed the efforts made within the context of the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, the provision of assistance by UNDP to the

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national liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia and the approval by ITU of the request made by the United Nations Council for Namibia for the admission of Namibia to that organization which, in co-operation with UNESCO, was continuing to provide training courses for Namibians.

19. The specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, guided by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, should pursue their efforts and continue to support the national liberation movements which, while fighting against the colonial oppressors, must prepare their peoples for independence in order to be able to undertake the work of national reconstruction.

20. In the case of Namibia, assistance should be provided to the people through the South West Africa People's Organization, their sole legitimate representative. The almost unanimous rejection by the Security Council of the linkage between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was encouraging, but the reaction of the South African Government after the adoption of Security Council resolution 539 (1983) demonstrated the continuing intransigence of the racist régime. The specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system must take all necessary measures to terminate co-operation with the racist régime of South Africa in the financial, economic, technical and other fields until Namibia acceded to independence and the inhuman system of apartheid was destroyed.

21. The situation in Namibia was the most acute case of colonialism, but in other Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific and Caribbean regions certain obstacles continued to impede the decolonization process. Under the trusteeship agreement, the Administering Authorities were obliged to promote the political, economic and social advancement of the Territories under their jurisdiction, but the inhabitants of those Territories continued to face basic economic and structural problems, as the various missions of the United Nations had noted. The economies of those Territories were unbalanced, and the imperialist Powers maintained military installations which were detrimental to the interests of the peoples concerned and threatened international peace and security. The war in the South Atlantic and the invasion of Grenada by the armed forces of the United States were examples of how the imperialist Powers were trying to perpetuate their colonial domination and were using military installations for that purpose.

22. His delegation supported the idea expressed in many documents of the United Nations that the military installations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in other Territories such as the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the Indian Ocean region and the Caribbean region should not impede the process of decolonization and should not threaten international peace and security.

23. Mr. OGRYZKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), drawing attention to the role assigned by the General Assembly to the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, stressed that that responsibility was even greater at the current time when imperialist forces, particularly the

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United States, were becoming increasingly aggressive and, by means of acts of armed intervention such as the one carried out recently against Grenada, were infringing the sovereignty and independence of other countries. He expressed concern at the fact that, under the influence of those Powers, a tendency to limit activities in support of the national liberation movements was growing within the specialized agencies. Thus, the representatives of certain Governments and business circles were sabotaging the implementation of the 1981 ILO Declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid of the Republic of South Africa.

24. Nevertheless, most specialized agencies and United Nations bodies considered it their duty to assist the countries struggling for their independence, as was demonstrated by, inter alia, documents A/38/111/Add.1-4 and A/AC.109/L.1472. It was gratifying to note, for example, that specialized agencies like UNESCO, WHO and ILO had expanded their relations with the liberation Governments of southern Africa and that representatives of those movements had been invited to attend the meetings of those agencies. He also expressed satisfaction at the multiple activities carried out by UNESCO after its adoption of resolution 10.1 on UNESCO's contribution to peace, its tasks with respect to the promotion of human rights and the elimination of colonialism and racialism. UNESCO was also endeavouring to intensify the campaign to denounce the crimes perpetrated by South Africa against neighbouring States and to put an end to all aid to the Pretoria régime. It was gratifying to see that the second medium-term plan of UNESCO for 1984-1989 provided for the continuation of those activities. Other agencies, such as FAO, ILO, WHO and UNICEF, had adopted numerous decisions and programmes designed to improve the situation in the colonial territories and isolate the Pretoria régime. For example, South Africa had been excluded from WMO, WHO, and FAO and IAEA had refused to grant it membership.

25. Nevertheless, those measures should be expanded so as to exclude South Africa from the international scene altogether and institute mandatory sanctions against that country in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter to halt its shameful policy of apartheid and its aggression against the front-line States. Furthermore, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/121 D of 10 December 1981, all specialized agencies should grant full membership to Namibia, represented by the United Nations Council for Namibia, as IAEA and ITU had already done.

26. Nevertheless, he drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the fact that the assistance provided to date by the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to colonial peoples, particularly the Namibian people, fell far short of the real needs of the peoples concerned, as the General Assembly had already noted in resolution 37/32 and as confirmed in document A/38/23 (Part IV). Certain agencies refused to take measures to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and relevant General Assembly resolutions. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund continued to collaborate with South Africa, as was evident from the fact that South Africa was still a member of those two organizations and the fact that IMF had granted South Africa a loan of \$1.1 billion in November 1982. Those activities, which were designed to support the South African régime in complete disregard for international opinion and which were linked to the interests of the transnational corporations and the Western countries, including NATO, should be condemned.

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27. Lastly, he expressed satisfaction at the active role played by most of the specialized agencies and the other international bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The speedy elimination of the vestiges of colonialism and racism depended on their activities.

28. Mr. THEOPHILOU (Cyprus) stressed the importance of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)), which represented a turning-point in the lengthy process of decolonization, to which it had provided additional impetus and which had been guiding the work of the Fourth Committee for 23 years. Since the adoption of the Declaration a large number of countries under colonial domination had acceded to independence and had been admitted to the United Nations.

29. The question of Western Sahara had been on the agenda of the Fourth Committee for a number of years and, in spite of the resolutions adopted and the laudable change in the position of Mauritania approximately four years earlier, the situation continued to be alarming. Eight years after the withdrawal of the administering Power the Sahraoui people, whose liberation struggle was supported by Cyprus, had not been able to express themselves freely and democratically and exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. In spite of the repeated appeals of the United Nations to the two parties to the conflict, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, to respect the decisions of the Organization of African Unity and its Implementation Committee, the fighting was continuing.

30. Cyprus was one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on the question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/38/L.2). The draft repeated the text of resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX), adopted unanimously by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session in Addis Ababa in June 1983. The adoption of that resolution was a step forward and the fact that the two parties had accepted its provisions and that it had the unanimous support of the member States of OAU were undoubtedly encouraging signs. The draft resolution called upon the two parties to the conflict to reach agreement on a cease-fire in order to carry out a peaceful and fair referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, without any administrative or military constraints and under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations. His delegation would support without reservation draft resolution A/C.4/38/L.2 because the text of the draft was objective and moderate and contained all the necessary elements for a just, peaceful and permanent solution to the question of Western Sahara.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.