



FOURTH COMMITTEE  
11th meeting  
held on  
Friday, 4 November 1983  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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 102: 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 104: 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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

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CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 105: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 106: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 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) 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/38/23 (Part VI and Add.1), A/38/23 (Part VIII); A/AC.109/724 and Corr.1, 725, 726 and Corr.1, 727, 728 and Corr.1, 729-736, 737 and Corr.1, 738, 739, 740 and Corr.1, 741, 742, 746, 749 and Corr.1, 753 and 754)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/555)

AGENDA ITEM 102: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/38/125)

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/477)
- (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) (A/38/23 (Part IV))

AGENDA ITEM 104: 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) (A/38/23 (Part IV)); A/AC.109/L.1472, L.1475 and Add.1, L.1487)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/111 and Add.1-2, Add.3 and Corr.1, Add.4; A/AC.109/L.1462)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/38/3 (Part II))

AGENDA ITEM 105: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/469)

AGENDA ITEM 106: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/38/549)

General debate (continued)

1. Mr. NDONG BINDANG (Equatorial Guinea), referring to the question of Western Sahara, said the Committee would recall that, on two occasions, sessions of the

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(Mr. Ndong Bindang, Equatorial Guinea)

Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had been postponed because of the way that item had been presented. At the nineteenth ordinary session, however, it had finally been possible to adopt a resolution on the matter. The King of Morocco's recent statement to the General Assembly (A/38/PV.8) declaring Morocco's readiness to hold a referendum on the future of Western Sahara and to grant all facilities to observers, showed that he was ready to implement that resolution. His delegation would oppose any action on the matter which was not in accordance with that resolution and with the decisions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

2. Mr. ASSOYAN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations had an extremely important role to play in implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and thereby hastening the end of colonialism, racism and apartheid. That role included providing help to the national liberation movements and to refugees from colonial Territories; and the training of qualified national personnel to help newly independent States to build up and strengthen their economies and social structures without falling prey to the neo-colonialist ambitions of their former masters.

3. The current situation in southern Africa required special efforts on the part of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The racist régime there - with the support of its Western sponsors, primarily the United States - placed one obstacle after another in the path of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa in their striving for freedom, and was working to destabilize the political situation in that region. The Pretoria régime persisted in the criminal practice of apartheid, continued its occupation of Namibia, was waging a war of extermination against the Namibian people and its only genuine representative, SWAPO, and was carrying out aggression against Angola, Mozambique and other African countries. Those circumstances threatened peace, and made aid to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa even more important.

4. A number of United Nations organizations had in the past pursued their commendable efforts to implement the Declaration. UNDP had provided help to the national liberation movements, and FAO, ILO and WHO had also been active in ensuring implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions. The establishment of close contacts between the United Nations and the national liberation movements and OAU was an especially important achievement, as was the expanding co-operation between the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on decolonization.

5. Those efforts were still insufficient, however, and it was deplorable that some international organizations continued to maintain contacts with and assist the apartheid régime in defiance of United Nations resolutions, the culprits in that case being IMF and the World Bank, which loaned money to South Africa and maintained business relations with it. They thereby enabled the apartheid régime to modernize its army and purchase new weapons, with which it was able to carry out large-scale aggression against the peoples of southern Africa. At the same time,

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(Mr. Assoyan, USSR)

those organizations denied help to peoples struggling for their freedom, or intrigued against those African States which supported the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. Special mention must be made of the role of the Western Powers, particularly the United States, which, in defiance of the international community and General Assembly resolutions, put pressure on IMF to loan money to South Africa despite the fact that that country did not meet the economic criteria for a loan.

6. The United States and other Western Powers protested that decisions relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions were politically motivated, and they objected to the alleged politicization of the organizations concerned. The fact was that the United States and its Western allies were doing everything they could to prevent the allocation of resources to countries which were trying to carry out an independent foreign policy. The United States had used all its influence to prevent countries like Nicaragua, Viet Nam, Cuba and Afghanistan from obtaining IMF loans - as it had Chile under the Allende Government, and now Grenada as well. That was the real meaning of the "depoliticization" of IMF and the other organizations. It went hand-in-hand with armed intervention, as in the recent invasion of Grenada.

7. In those circumstances nothing could be more hypocritical than for United States representatives to proclaim, as they had during the current session, that the United States opposed apartheid and supported the right of the colonial peoples to self-determination.

8. The United Nations must therefore undertake further measures to implement the Declaration and to prevent its prestige from being eroded by the co-operation of some of its organizations, particularly IMF, with the racist régime. The United Nations must make every effort to curtail the co-operation of such bodies with South Africa. His delegation considered that the draft resolution which the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly for adoption (A/38/23 (Part IV), chap. VI, para. 14) was a further step in the direction of galvanizing those specialized agencies into implementing the Declaration. His delegation accordingly would vote for that draft.

9. Mr. MARGETSON (United Kingdom) said that, although the number of Territories under United Kingdom administration continued to diminish, his country valued the opportunity provided by the discussion on dependent Territories because it took its decolonization responsibilities and its discussions in the Fourth Committee very seriously.

10. The United Kingdom firmly believed that the peoples of those Territories should make their own decisions about independence, which would not be a panacea for all peoples. Each had its own individual economic, social and political structure and the size of its population or lack of natural resources might make independence an unrealistic option.

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(Mr. Margetson, United Kingdom)

11. One criterion, however, must always apply, namely the principle of self-determination, which was recognized as crucial by the United Kingdom Government as well as by the United Nations. It was not synonymous with independence. The United Kingdom would not impose changes on a people against their will. The choice would always be theirs to make in their own time.

12. In 1983 the transition to full independence of Saint Christopher and Nevis had been completed and on 31 December 1983, Brunei would also accede to independence.

13. His delegation would continue to co-operate with the Special Committee, whose practice of sending visiting missions to the dependent Territories it particularly valued.

14. When the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories had been drawn up in 1946, 43 of them had been British. All but eight had attained independence, and those eight had widely differing geographical situations, needs and aspirations and their own ideas for economic development. He paid tribute to those members of the Special Committee who had taken such a helpful interest in the progress of those Territories, but regretted that some still saw those Territories as defenceless victims of faceless imperialists. It was insulting to the people concerned that so little serious attention should be paid their own political leaders, their well-established political process and their individual priorities. It was also patronizing for those delegations to assume that they knew best what was in a particular Territory's interest.

15. He greatly regretted the serious disagreement that had arisen between the United Kingdom and the Special Committee over the drafting of a decision on Saint Helena, which in past years had been adopted by consensus. In 1983, for the first time, there had been a proposal to insert into an entirely acceptable text a prejudicial sentence expressing the Committee's "concern" at the presence of a so-called military base on Ascension Island.

16. The aerodrome on that island had been built during the Second World War and had played an important part in the battle of the Atlantic. Ascension Island was not part of Saint Helena but a completely separate legal entity which happened to be administered from Saint Helena for convenience. The two islands were some distance apart and it was difficult to understand how the existence of military facilities on Ascension Island could impede the right to self-determination of the people of Saint Helena. In fact, Ascension Island contributed to Saint Helena's economy by providing employment for a number of its inhabitants. Ascension Island had never had an indigenous population and so it should not concern the Fourth Committee, whose responsibility was to non-self-governing peoples. His delegation therefore had serious reservations about the inclusion of the sentence in the draft decision and hoped that the Fourth Committee would be able to secure its deletion.

17. Mr. ADAMCHIK (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the situation in Africa seriously threatened peace and security, marked as it was by the increasingly repressive policy of the apartheid régime and its armed aggression

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(Mr. Adamchik, Byelorussian SSR)

against, and its attempt to destabilize, independent African States. The elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid required that the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system should provide all the necessary moral and material assistance to the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements, as provided for in the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration (General Assembly resolution 35/118).

18. He welcomed the fact that many specialized agencies and international organizations were now discussing colonialism, racism and apartheid on a regular basis, and what was even more gratifying, were increasing their contacts with the national liberation movements, OAU and the United Nations Council for Namibia and were inviting the representatives of the national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations and OAU to participate in their sessions to discuss matters relating to colonial Territories.

19. Some specialized agencies, such as the World Bank and IMF, not only refused to join in practical measures aimed at the full implementation of the Declaration but even collaborated closely with South Africa, despite General Assembly resolution 37/32.

20. IMF and the World Bank had not provided satisfactory assurances that they were taking the necessary measures to implement the relevant United Nations decisions. His delegation therefore supported the resolution adopted by the Special Committee (A/38/23 (Part IV), chap. VI, para. 13), particularly paragraphs 6 to 10, which were designed to correct that anomalous situation. Paragraph 10, which called on IMF to rescind its loan of \$US 1.1 billion to South Africa, deserved special attention. The denial of such a loan to South Africa would not mean politicizing that organization. On the contrary, it was precisely the granting of such a loan that reflected a specific policy of the Powers which controlled IMF. Such a loan could hardly be dismissed as a purely technical matter when it involved subsidizing the suppression of a national liberation movement by a criminal régime which used the money to finance aggression against neighbouring States, particularly Angola and Mozambique.

21. His delegation considered that IMF and the World Bank must not only end the co-operation with the Pretoria racist régime but must actively participate in implementing the Declaration. It therefore fully supported the proposals of the African countries which were designed to achieve those goals. It also supported the relevant General Assembly decisions and the call to strengthen the efforts of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to achieve those goals. Those agencies and organizations should do their utmost to co-operate with and assist the national liberation movements, and should formulate specific proposals to that effect for consideration by their governing bodies. The General Assembly should call upon those agencies and organizations to formulate and adopt specific measures designed to expedite the full implementation of the Declaration.

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REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

22. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received communications containing requests for hearings on item 25 (Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)). He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents and considered at a subsequent meeting.

23. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.