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FOURTH COMMITTEE
16th meeting
held on
Thursday, 8 November 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

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AGENDA ITEM 107: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/541 and Add.1, 581)

General debate (continued)

1. Mrs. BERMUDEZ (Cuba) paid tribute to the memory of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.
2. In the view of her delegation, the continued existence of colonialism and racism in many parts of the world represented a threat to international peace and security, particularly in South Africa, where the racist Pretoria régime, in defiance of the Charter and numerous United Nations resolutions, had persisted in its cruel policy of apartheid and had launched numerous acts of aggression against Angola and other independent African States. That situation continued to exist because certain Western countries had provided material support to Pretoria in exchange for substantial military and economic advantages in Namibia.
3. South Africa was a member of both the IMF and the World Bank and had received substantial loans with the support of the United States and other Western countries, notwithstanding the severe condemnation of the international community. Those countries had thus demonstrated clearly that they condoned the financing of the colonialist, racist oppression of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, the continued illegal occupation of Namibia, the South African aggressions against independent African States and the growing nuclear capability of the racists.
4. The draft resolution contained in document A/39/23 (Part IV) was moderate in that it did not directly condemn the United States, Israel and other Western countries for their support of South Africa. Paragraph 10 was, however, pertinent in that it praised the non-governmental organizations for their activities in informing public opinion in the United States and elsewhere about the collaboration between the IMF and South Africa, thus contradicting the spurious claim that the United States administration was contributing to the solution of the problem of southern Africa.
5. The Committee should maintain a high degree of vigilance to ensure that certain administering Powers did not fail to provide it with complete and accurate information under Article 73 e of the Charter.
6. Certain colonial Powers had claimed that colonialism had contributed to a high level of political, economic and social development in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The fact was that most of the small Territories had been converted into huge military bases or sources of wealth for foreign monopolies, to the detriment of the local population who, moreover, were threatened by the effects of nuclear tests.
7. Mr. RASON (Madagascar) said that, notwithstanding the accession to independence of many small Territories in recent years, certain administering Powers, employing a variety of pretexts, had continued to follow policies designed

(Mr. Rason, Madagascar)

to preserve their ideological, political and economic dominance in such Territories, thus impeding the effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In some cases administering Powers had incorporated such Territories into their own military strategies contrary to the wishes of the indigenous population and to the Charter.

8. While there was probably no single solution which could be applied to all cases of decolonization, what was essential was that the peoples concerned should express their will freely and without constraint. Administering Powers should fulfil their obligations under Article 73 e of the Charter to submit regular reports on the actions they had taken to promote the well-being and the economic, political and social progress of the populations concerned. The United Nations should pursue its efforts through non-governmental organizations to inform world public opinion of the situation in the Territories under colonial domination. His delegation therefore supported the conclusions of the Special Committee of 24 on the dissemination of information on decolonization contained in document A/39/23 (Part II).

9. It was clear from documents A/39/23 (Part IV) and A/39/293 that most of the specialized and related agencies, particularly UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, ILO and WHO, had made substantial efforts to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). Certain international organizations, particularly IMF and the World Bank, continued, however, to provide active financial support to the Pretoria régime, including a \$1.1 billion loan in 1982, notwithstanding the protests of the international community and United Nations resolutions. The South African régime had thus been enabled to strengthen its repressive and aggressive operations against the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. His delegation once again associated itself with the appeal to terminate every form of co-operation with South Africa until Namibia had achieved its full independence and the apartheid system had been eliminated.

10. Mr. KHAMMAVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the colonial Powers and their strategic ally, South Africa, continued not only to impede the decolonization process but, using a variety of pretexts and, in flagrant disregard of United Nations resolutions, were perpetuating their domination over colonial Territories in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

11. The continuing illegal occupation of Namibia represented the most flagrant impediment to the decolonization process. The Pretoria régime had continued its armed repression of the indigenous population of Namibia and South Africa; it had also mounted military operations from Namibian territory against the front-line States in an effort to destabilize them and to force them to cease their aid to the national liberation movement of the Namibian people. In order to impose a neo-colonialist solution in Namibia and to bypass the United Nations, the racists and their protectors had advanced the notorious proposal to link the granting of independence to Namibia with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The decolonization process would thereby be slowed. The proposal, moreover, represented gross interference in the internal affairs of Angola. His delegation

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(Mr. Khammavong, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

therefore supported the Security Council in its rejection of such linkage as incompatible with United Nations decisions. A fair and lasting solution to the problem of Namibia must be based on the immediate granting to the Namibian people of its inalienable right to self-determination and true independence on the basis of the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the country (including Walvis Bay and the coastal islands), the unconditional withdrawal of the South African troops and administration from Namibia and the transfer of full powers to SWAPO, which had been recognized by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the non-aligned movement as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

12. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands merited special attention as, for the past 37 years, the administering Power, in violation of its obligations, had followed a fragmentation policy in Micronesia with a view to converting it into a colonial possession. The people of Micronesia must be permitted to exercise their legitimate right to true freedom and independence.

13. Certain of the specialized and related agencies, particularly FAO, UNDP, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, had provided substantial support through their various programmes to the national liberation movements, with a view to improving the socio-economic situation of the colonial peoples. However, certain of those agencies, particularly the World Bank and the IMF, had continued to maintain close relations with Pretoria in disregard of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and had provided substantial material assistance, totalling \$1.66 billion between 1976 and 1982. The grant of such credits demonstrated the politicization of the IMF under the direction of a Western great Power; such politicization had also been demonstrated by the refusal of the agency to grant credits to Viet Nam, Nicaragua and Grenada.

14. His delegation once again associated itself with the appeal for an end to be put to all forms of co-operation with the South African régime until the Namibian people had achieved its right to full self-determination and until the inhuman system of apartheid had been completely eliminated.

15. His Government would continue to develop its co-operation with the national liberation movements of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America who were struggling in the cause of the elimination of all forms and manifestations of colonialism.

16. Mr. KIRICHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), speaking on agenda item 18, said that although the successes achieved in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples were undeniably very great, some countries and peoples, and in particular the so-called "small" colonial Territories in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and the Caribbean, still remained under colonial oppression. Micronesia was a case in point. As the administering Power, the United States was by no means quided by the provisions of the Charter, which required it to assist the progressive development

(Mr. Kirichenko, Ukrainian SSR)

of the Territory's peoples towards autonomy and independence, but by the desire to confirm the Territory in the status of its colonial and strategic appendage. As the Special Committee's report (A/AC.109/776) showed, the Territory was still economically and financially dependent on the administering Power. A matter for particular concern was the fact that, in defiance of the Charter and against the local population's will, the United States was using Micronesia, like Guam and other island Territories, for military purposes. The Bikini, Eniwetok and Kwajalein atolls had been transformed into testing grounds for nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, and the construction of new naval and air force bases and storage sites for nuclear and chemical weapons was planned in the Marianas and Caroline Islands.

17. Micronesia, which should have achieved independence by 1980 or 1981, was today on the threshold of de facto annexation. The Administering Power's actions in respect of the Territory could not be regarded as legitimate and having legal force. They constituted a direct violation of the Charter, which provided that any alteration or amendment of the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement had to be approved by the Security Council. The international community should not allow the administering Power's attempts to swallow up Micronesia to be crowned with success and should do everything in its power to help the people of the Territory to avail itself of its right to freedom and independence in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration.

18. United States policy with regard to Puerto Rico pursued similar aims. Ignoring United Nations appeals, the United States was continuing its colonial occupation of the island, having imposed the so-called "free association" status upon it. It had transformed Puerto Rico into a stronghold of intervention against peoples of the region which had already achieved or were struggling for independence. It was from the military bases on the island that the attack on Grenada had been launched.

19. Mr. FELDMAN (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that the question of Puerto Rico was not on the agenda and not under consideration by the Committee. He requested the Chairman to invite the speaker to confine his remarks to items on the agenda.

20. The CHAIRMAN requested the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to continue his statement bearing in mind the point which had just been made.

21. Mr. KIRICHENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the history of the conversion of Diego Garcia into a major United States military base in the Indian Ocean provided a further example of how the sacred rights of peoples to self-determination and independence were being denied for the sake of strategic interests. The colonial ambitions of Western States also extended to the South Atlantic, where instead of decolonizing the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the United Kingdom was carrying through their accelerated militarization with the assistance of the United States, which hoped that, as had been the case with Diego Garcia, the

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(Mr. Kirichenko, Ukrainian SSR)

United Kingdom would eventually cede the Falklands to it for the construction of a new "unsinkable aircraft carrier". Such actions by the imperialist Powers were incompatible with the ideals of the Charter and the Declaration or with the process of positive restructuring of international relations, of which the complete elimination of colonialism was a characteristic feature. His delegation would continue to support all measures designed to ensure the Declaration's early and complete implementation.

22. Mr. MATUS (Hungary) said that the historic Declaration on decolonization had changed the political map, but the process of decolonization was not yet complete because there were people still under colonial domination in southern Africa and in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. Without international support, it would never be possible to eliminate all remaining forms of colonialism, including neo-colonialism.

23. The reports of the Secretary-General and the role on activities of the specialized agencies in the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization showed that most of the agencies had contributed actively to that cause. Hungary, as the Special Committee had done in its report A/39/23 (Part IV), commended UNESCO for the effective support it provided to national liberation movements in educating the populations of colonial Territories concerning self-determination and for the programmes undertaken in co-operation with the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) with a view to preparing the Namibian people for independence. Education was very important for an effective struggle against colonialist and racist ideologies. FAO and UNDP had also provided considerable assistance to SWAPO under the Nationhood Programme for Namibia, in the form of training in agricultural production, food processing, nutrition and other related fields. Unfortunately, not all specialized agencies within the United Nations system were complying with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on decolonization and on cessation of all relations with South Africa.

24. With regard to the other Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was the obligation of the administering Powers to prepare the local populations for self-determination and independence by ensuring that they had a clear understanding of their own interests and could make the appropriate political choice. The military, economic and political interests of the administering Powers must not stand in the way of that choice.

25. The most urgent task before the United Nations in the field of decolonization was to achieve the independence of Namibia. The appropriate international legal instruments existed, and the time had come to take action in accordance with them. There existed a plan for the independence of Namibia, Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which had been obstructed by South Africa for years. If the racist régime continued its illegal occupation of Namibia, the United Nations must impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions on South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter. South Africa would not be able to continue its defiance without the support of its allies, foremost among them the United States. The only result of the policy of so-called constructive engagement had been to encourage the racist régime in its intransigence.

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26. Mr. YOSSIPHOV (Bulgaria) said that the struggle of the international community against the colonial rule of the racist Pretoria régime in the Territory of Namibia was of particular importance in the struggle for the final eradication of colonialism in all its forms. Certain of the specialized agencies, particularly UNESCO, WHO, UNDP, FAO, ILO and UNICEF, had achieved appreciable results in their efforts to support the legitimate struggle of the Namibian people and their sole authentic representative, SWAPO. Others, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, had failed to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. They had refused to provide assistance to the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements and had continued to maintain relations with the South African racists. Furthermore, in contravention of General Assembly resolution 37/2, the IMF had granted a loan of \$1.1 billion to South Africa, thus giving a new dimension to its collaboration with the racist régime and providing financial support for its oppressive military machine. South Africa's military expenditure in Namibia had been fully covered by the various loans from the IMF.

27. The specialized agencies and institutions should intensify their efforts to support the legitimate struggle of the Namibian people since that support had been far from adequate in relation to actual needs. Those basic requirements must be fully met before it would be possible to speak of a truly satisfactory performance by those organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). It was evident that such measures should be unequivocally coupled with the discontinuance by those agencies of all kinds of assistance to and co-operation with the racist régime of South Africa.

28. His delegation welcomed the draft resolution calling upon the specialized agencies to take appropriate steps in 1985 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

29. Mr. BANERJI (India) said that even before the adoption of resolution 1514 (XV) in 1960, and more so after that historic event, the United Nations could claim that one of its proudest records lay in the field of decolonization. Credit for the impressive advances achieved in that field was due in no small measure to the Special Committee on decolonization, which had worked untiringly to promote the interest of peoples in Non-Self-Governing Territories and to guide them towards self-determination. As a member of the Special Committee, his delegation looked forward to the day when that body's task could be considered completed. Today, however, the challenge of decolonization still existed and forces were at work which attempted to stem the tide of history. The most obvious instance was Namibia, whose freedom continued to be held to ransom by a racist régime even in the face of intense pressure from the international community.

30. The report of the Special Committee concerning the various Non-Self-Governing Territories on the agenda (A/39/23 (Part VI)) bore witness to continuing efforts being made to tackle the remaining problems, which, although small in number, were complex in nature. Clearly, no single formula could be universally applied. It was for the people of each Territory to determine the nature of their own future

(Mr. Banerji, India)

status and the time frame within which it was to be achieved. What mattered was that the will of the people concerned should be freely and fearlessly expressed and that it should be respected. In that connection, he reiterated his delegation's wholehearted support of the resolution on the question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands adopted at the preceding meeting (A/C.4/39/L.3) taking note that the people of the Islands had voted by a substantial majority for integration with Australia. His delegation wished the people of Cocos a happy future.

31. Referring to the question of the Western Sahara, he drew attention to the relevant portion of the Final Communiqué adopted by the Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries to the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly (A/39/560, para. 44), adding that his delegation hoped that the forthcoming Summit Conference of the OAU would make headway in resolving that divisive issue.

32. India took pride in its association with the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for South Africa which had come over the years to be a significant instrument of support for the emancipation of the oppressed people of South Africa and Namibia through the provision of educational opportunities for deserving students from southern Africa. It was distressing that pledges and contributions to UNETPSA continued to decline in real terms. The Programme needed urgent and generous support, particularly from the developed countries, in order to meet existing commitments and better to fulfil its noble objectives.

33. Mr. OCHIENGHS-WELLBORN (Uganda) said that the role of the United Nations and the Special Committee on decolonization had been and continued to be crucial for the complete and universal eradication of colonialism. Recent developments showed that, owing to the complex nature of some of the dependent territories still in existence, the process of decolonization had become more difficult. Nevertheless, and whatever the nature of the problems which those territories continued to face, his delegation maintained that the people of each territory should be enabled freely to determine their own future.

34. With reference to agenda item 105, he noted that a number of specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, UNDP, UNHCR, ILO, UNICEF, WHO and others, had made sustained efforts and achieved appreciable results in their assistance to colonial peoples and their liberation movements. It was to be regretted, however, that the assistance extended thus far by certain specialized agencies and other institutions associated with the United Nations to colonial peoples, particularly the peoples of Namibia and their liberation movement SWAPO, was far from adequate in relation to the Namibian people's actual needs. He also regretted that, despite repeated appeals by the United Nations, some organizations had continued to maintain relations with racist South Africa. He appealed to them to refrain from any action which might imply recognition of the legitimacy of the domination of Namibia's territory by racist South Africa. All specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should increase, as a matter of urgency, their moral and material assistance to colonial peoples struggling for liberation from colonial rule.

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(Mr. Ochienqhs-Wellborn, Uganda)

35. Referring to agenda items 106 and 107, he said that Uganda considered the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to be a vital means of preparing the peoples of those Territories for independence. Within the limits of its modest resources, his country had continued to offer educational opportunities in Uganda to peoples from dependent territories. The Advisory Committee of UNETPSA deserved particular commendation for its efforts to promote the Programme, which had been of great assistance to the oppressed peoples of southern Africa. In view of the increasing demand for educational opportunities by the people of South Africa and Namibia and the rapidly increasing costs of higher education and training, his delegation hoped that a sustained effort would be made to increase contributions and offers to the Programme. Uganda for its part pledged to continue making educational assistance available to the peoples of Namibia and South Africa.

36. Mr. WOLFE (Jamaica) said that his delegation supported the valuable activities of the Special Committee on decolonization in expediting the decolonization process and shared the concern expressed by some delegations that Administering Authorities should work more closely with the Special Committee to ensure that visits might take place more frequently. The efforts being made by UNDP, FAO, WHO, UPU and UNESCO to provide assistance to Namibian and South African refugees, especially in the area of technical assistance and training and the upgrading of professional skills, were to be commended. His delegation supported calls made upon the international community to assist the peoples of southern Africa by contributing to the United Nations Education and Training Programme for southern Africa. Within its limited financial resources, Jamaica had, in collaboration with the OAU, provided training opportunities at the vocational and technical levels for students from the national liberation groups in southern Africa and would continue to do so in the future.

37. All specialized agencies and institutions of the United Nations should deny the racist régime of South Africa any assistance and co-operation until the people of Namibia had been allowed the free exercise of their right to self-determination. His delegation supported the Special Committee's recommendation that all organizations concerned should broaden contacts with the colonial peoples and should introduce greater flexibility in their procedures with respect to the formulation and preparation of assistance programmes.

38. Jamaica was especially concerned about the particular problems of the small colonial Territories. While the General Assembly had repeatedly reaffirmed that questions of territorial size, geographic location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the implementation of the Declaration, a principle which his delegation fully supported, it had to be recognized that those factors constituted grave difficulties for the inhabitants of the territories concerned. In the case of territories choosing integration within the territory of the administering Power, the transition stage was relatively easy; in that connection, he noted the freely exercised act of self-determination of the people of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in deciding to opt for integration with Australia.

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(Mr. Wolfe, Jamaica)

In other cases, however, serious difficulties remained, and Administering Authorities would be well advised to seek closer involvement by the specialized agencies in strengthening the remaining colonial territories' fragile economic and social structures.

39. Referring specifically to the Caribbean region, he noted the report of the visiting mission to Anguilla in 1984 (A/AC.109/799). Some of the observations contained in paragraphs 174 and 178 of the report underscored his delegation's concerns regarding the particular difficulties faced by small Territories. The Visiting Mission's recommendation that the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, should continue to develop and diversify the economy of Anguilla was worthy of note as being applicable to other small colonial Territories as well. Similar problems were highlighted in a report on island developing countries prepared by UNCTAD in response to General Assembly resolution 37/206 (A/39/463, para. 72), which referred to the narrow resource base of those Territories' economies, their inadequate manpower resources and the smallness of their domestic markets. His delegation especially supported the recommendation in the UNCTAD study that the regional commissions and regional development banks should provide the island developing countries with specific assistance for their needs. Lastly, in commending the activities of the Special Committee on decolonization, he urged that the special problems of small Territories should be given greater attention and consideration.

40. Mr. JASSNOWSKI (German Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda items 18 and 103, said that the United Nations had achieved impressive results in decolonization. At the time of its founding, approximately half of the world's population had lived in colonies, while now it was 0.063 per cent. Yet the fact remained that about 3 million people still lived under the colonial yoke, which meant that the United Nations had to maintain its commitment to decolonization.

41. Its efforts would undoubtedly focus on Namibia. Valuable proposals had recently been made at the Symposium on a Century of Heroic Struggle of the Namibian People Against Colonial Occupation, sponsored by the United Nations Council for Namibia. It would take a hard struggle to implement them.

42. In the small Territories, the colonial Powers showed no readiness to allow the people to exercise their right to self-determination. That was particularly true of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the last strategic Trust Territory. Approximately four decades had passed since the United States had been entrusted with its administration, a period sufficient to fulfil the obligations undertaken to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. Instead, the United States had impeded the establishment of a viable economy in Micronesia, to the point that the population of the Territory was currently less self-reliant than in the first years of the Trusteeship. Moreover, petitioners had reported that thousands of people had been expelled from their native islands in Micronesia so that the land could be used for military purposes. Bikini Atoll was only one such case, but it could be regarded as a symbol of the

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(Mr. Jassnowski, German
Democratic Republic)

inhumanity of the Administering Authority's policy. The Pentagon considered the Pacific Islands as ideal "unsinkable aircraft carriers" and gave high priority to their military development. The destiny and the wishes of the people weighed little against such plans, which were an expression of an imperialist hegemonist policy. The plans to use Micronesia also for the deployment of weapons of mass destruction and to turn some islands into missile-testing fields were a menace to the security of the people of Micronesia and at the same time a serious threat to international peace and security.

43. To legitimize its neo-colonialist plans, the Administering Authority had conducted so-called plebiscites in arbitrarily divided areas of Micronesia. All Member States must, like the German Democratic Republic, call upon the United States to allow the Micronesian people the unhindered right to self-determination and independence.

44. As long as there were colonially dependent Territories, the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization remained a timely issue. Efforts towards decolonization were part and parcel of the world-wide struggle for peace and for the cessation of the arms race.

45. Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom) said that since 1980 seven more former Non-Self-Governing Territories, all of them either wholly or partly administered by the United Kingdom, had achieved independence, the latest to be welcomed to the United Nations being Brunei Darussalam. Perhaps an even greater cause for satisfaction was the fact that the independence of those seven Territories had been achieved in most cases peacefully and in all cases by constitutional means. Of the 43 Territories originally under British administration, the total had dwindled to 10.

46. The Territories that remained had all expressed a wish to maintain their constitutional links with the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future: they were five small island Territories in the Caribbean - the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Anguilla; two in the South Atlantic - St. Helena and the Falkland Islands; one in the Pacific - Pitcairn Island; and Gibraltar.

47. The United Kingdom maintained a constructive and collaborative relationship with the Special Committee, although it did not agree with the Special Committee on all counts: the language on military activities in the current draft resolution on Bermuda, for example, caused disquiet, and the wholly inappropriate reference to Ascension Island in the draft decision on St. Helena was regrettable. Such texts should avoid polemical language which owed more to ideological preconceptions and political animosities than to concern for the real problems of dependent peoples.

48. There was no single model for decolonization. Thus, there could be no blueprint for economic and political development in British dependent Territories because each one must be allowed to follow its own freely chosen and individual

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(Mr. Maxey, United Kingdom)

path. The United Kingdom saw its role as the administering Power to encourage and give guidance but not to chart a particular course. It was not for outsiders to dictate what was in the best interests of a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

49. The United Kingdom took most seriously its obligations under Article 73 e of the Charter. Arguably the most important area of responsibility was the political, economic, social and educational advancement of dependent peoples. The United Kingdom believed that it had generally managed to combine respect for the culture of the dependent peoples with promotion of their political and social advancement, and that it had ensured their protection against abuses when necessary. In one particular instance two years earlier, his Government had come to understand only too well what abuse of a non-self-governing people could mean.

50. The United Kingdom also took particular pride in its record in the area of developing self-government, in accordance with the very varied circumstances in each Territory under its responsibility. His delegation was pleased to say that successive United Nations visiting missions to United Kingdom dependent Territories had concluded that his Government had by and large fulfilled its obligations well. The report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Anguilla was a case in point. The United Kingdom agreed with most of the Mission's conclusions and recommendations and would do what it could to see that they were implemented. It welcomed visiting missions to all of its Territories since they provided a means for the United Kingdom to co-operate with the United Nations, and gave the United Nations an opportunity to see what self-determination meant in action.

51. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) said that despite the progress that had been made in decolonization, there were still some peoples being denied their legitimate right to self-determination and independence. Their cause would eventually triumph, but the international community should redouble its efforts to speed up the process.

52. Geographic location, limited resources or population limitations could be no excuse for impeding decolonization. Administering Powers had an obligation to create the necessary political awareness among the people of the Territories to enable them to determine their future freely. They had an obligation to protect the cultural heritage of the people, to protect them against economic exploitation or colonial domination and to develop economic infrastructures and diversify their resources.

53. Kuwait supported the efforts being made by the United Nations Council for Namibia and by the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. All Member States should support the Programme. Kuwait had regularly made voluntary contributions to it by providing scholarships for students from southern Africa for study, and occasionally for technical and professional training, in Kuwait.

54. Kuwait appreciated the work being done by the agencies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. It commended all those which had severed relations with South Africa and hoped that the International Monetary Fund would follow suit. The support by the International Monetary Fund for the South African régime was helping it continue its occupation of Namibia and was imposing a greater burden on the front-line States, which had to

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(Mr. Al-Sabah, Kuwait)

divert their limited resources from their own development to defence against South African attacks. Thus, the International Monetary Fund had a specific responsibility towards decolonization.

55. Ms. JACOB (Guyana) said that the steady series of advances in decolonization had been the most far-reaching achievement of the Organization. It could justly be said that the old colonial empires had passed away and that the Committee's debate on the issue in 1984 was to some extent quite different from that of 1960, the year of the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization. The same concerns were still valid; however, what was heartening was that the attitude of the colonial Powers had evolved towards a comprehension, if not full acceptance, of the fact that a system of relations imposed by the strong upon the weak could find no accommodation in the societies of the day.

56. The broad areas of agreement on the question of decolonization had been forged by the struggles and sacrifices of the peoples of current and former colonial Territories. Yet the persistence and commitment of the United Nations to its stated goals had also been well tested.

57. There was a clear consensus that factors such as size, geographic location, population or limited natural resources should in no way be allowed to impede the full and speedy application of the Declaration and that the administering Powers had a solemn obligation to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration, and also to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses. Colonial relationships, however, were still disquietingly present in new forms. Economic co-operation, which could indeed be constructive for the Territories, often overshadowed the other obligations of the administering Powers and was used to create situations of domination and exploitation. There was also a growing determination on the part of colonial Powers to use the Territories to serve their military and strategic interests. Such developments were a serious challenge to the authority of the United Nations and impeded the political development of the Territories.

58. Namibia was experiencing an open manifestation of the colonial relationship in all its forms, coupled with the double yoke of occupation and apartheid. Pretoria would not be able to retain its stranglehold over the Territory were it not for the support it received from certain Western States in a number of areas. Such support had enabled South Africa to step up its repression of the Namibians and also to embark on a campaign of intimidation of neighbouring States. Countless numbers of Namibian people had sacrificed their lives in a century of heroic struggle against colonial domination and exploitation. It was incomprehensible that the citadel of racism and colonial domination should be impregnable to action by the international community. South Africa and its powerful Western allies were in the process of distorting the Namibian question and drawing Namibia into the sphere of big-Power rivalry. The United Nations plan for a peaceful settlement of the question in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was now being openly ignored. The Organization was diminished by the continuing denial of the freedom and fundamental rights of the Namibians.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.