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**GENERAL
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TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1682nd
MEETING**

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at 3.30 p.m.

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Statement by the Chairman</i>	3
<i>Election of the Vice-Chairman</i>	4
<i>Election of the Rapporteur</i>	4
<i>Organization of work</i>	4

Chairman: Mr. George J. TOMEH (Syria).

Statement by the Chairman

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the honour they had done him in electing him Chairman, which he regarded as a tribute to his country and to Asia. He was conscious of the importance of the Committee's work and of the heavy agenda before it, but was encouraged by the example of his distinguished predecessors and felt sure that he could count on the support of all the members of the Committee in discharging his duties.
2. The greatest single historical event of the second half of the twentieth century had been the liberation of the majority of the peoples of Asia and Africa, who were playing an increasingly active part in shaping the future destiny of mankind. The struggle for the liberation of the peoples still in shackles was an arduous one but it was a noble struggle that had its own rewards.
3. It was a matter for regret that, almost seven years after the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, many Territories were still under colonial rule, despite all the efforts of the United Nations. The subjugation and exploitation of colonial peoples by alien forces continued, particularly in southern Africa, where the right to self-determination and independence was denied to the dependent peoples, in flagrant disregard of the Charter and of the many decisions of the United Nations. In Southern Rhodesia, the imposition of selective mandatory sanctions had produced no positive results and the United Kingdom Government not only had failed to take any effective steps to put down the rebellion but had maintained a dialogue with the illegal régime. The Committee should consider recommendations to ensure immediate action to establish complete freedom and equality of political rights in the Territory and to restore constitutional government under majority rule leading to independence.
4. The situation in South West Africa had continued to deteriorate as a result of the determination of the South African authorities to impose by force their illegal racist policies in the Territory and of their

refusal to co-operate in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) and 2248 (S-V). He hoped that at the current session the General Assembly would succeed in recommending effective steps to ensure the implementation of those resolutions and so enable the people of South West Africa to exercise their inalienable right to freedom and independence.

5. The continued refusal of the Government of Portugal to implement the resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples concerning the African Territories under its administration, as also the intensification of its military operations against the people of those Territories, remained a serious threat to international peace and security. It was essential to find ways of enabling the people of those Territories to enjoy the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized in the United Nations Charter.

6. With regard to Aden, no progress had been made in implementing the recommendations of the General Assembly, despite the efforts of the United Nations Special Mission on Aden. Since the previous session, the United Kingdom Government had announced that Aden would attain independence on 9 January 1968 and that it had recognized the nationalist forces as representative of the people following the collapse of the unrepresentative Federal Government. He hoped that, even at the present late stage, the United Kingdom would take the necessary steps for the full implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on Aden.

7. Many other Non-Self-Governing Territories would be considered by the Fourth Committee, and members would recall the provisions of resolution 2189 (XXI) in which the General Assembly drew attention to the problems of small Territories. For the first time, the Fourth Committee had on its agenda a separate item dealing with the "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, South West Africa and Territories under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa" (item 24). He hoped that the consideration of that item would enable the Committee and the General Assembly to gain a better understanding of the negative role played by foreign economic and other interests in those Territories and to make appropriate recommendations.

8. It was a tragedy for international relations that, despite the renaissance in Africa and Asia, pockets of reaction and discrimination remained entrenched in those continents and that any attempt by the United Nations to isolate them had failed owing to the lack of support by certain of the great Powers. The great events which had swept Africa and Asia could only be properly understood when seen in a universal historical context. To future historians, the attempts by the forces of imperialism and neo-colonialism to intimidate the forces of national liberation would provide a study of man's power to rise above reversals.

9. He would be at the service of the Committee at all times in its efforts to adopt recommendations to help the dependent peoples to realize their aspirations and he hoped that he would receive the full support of all members.

10. Mr. EL HADI (Sudan) congratulated the Chairman on his election and proposed that the full text of his statement should be issued as a Committee document.

It was so decided.^{1/}

Election of the Vice-Chairman

11. Mr. PARTHASARATHI (India) nominated Mr. Eustace R. Braithwaite (Guyana) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

12. Mr. KANNANGARA (Ceylon), Mr. BENITES (Ecuador), Mr. COX (Canada) and Mr. QUARLES VAN UFFORD (Netherlands) supported the nomination.

Mr. Braithwaite (Guyana) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

13. Mr. Braithwaite (Guyana) congratulated the Chairman on his election and promised him his wholehearted support. He thanked the Committee for the honour it had done him and said that he would do his best, with the support of members, to justify the trust placed in him.

^{1/} The complete text of the statement made by the Chairman was circulated as document A/C.4/688.

Election of the Rapporteur

14. Mr. BISWAS (Pakistan) nominated Mr. Buyantyn Dashtseren (Mongolia) for the office of Rapporteur.

15. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) and Mr. NEJEDLY (Czechoslovakia) supported the nomination.

Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

16. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia), Rapporteur, congratulated the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman on their election and thanked the members of the Committee for the confidence they had shown in him. His election was a great honour to his delegation and to his country, which, since gaining independence in 1921, had pursued a policy of constant support for the just struggle of the oppressed peoples for freedom, justice and dignity. He would serve the Committee to the best of his ability.

Organization of work (A/C.4/687)

17. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.4/687) giving the list of agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report. The Committee would have to decide how to deal with the various chapters of the 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, also the order of priorities for the various items allocated to it. Since the Special Committee had not yet completed consideration of all the items on its agenda, he suggested that those decisions should be postponed until a later meeting, but that the Committee should decide to consider separately and to give first priority to the chapter of the Special Committee's report relating to Southern Rhodesia (A/6700/Rev.1, chap. III) and to begin consideration of that item at its next meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.30 p.m.