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Agenda item 64

QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Horacio SEVILLA-BORJA (Ecuador)

1. At its 1843rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1970, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/8100), decided to include in the agenda of its twenty-fifth session an item entitled "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", and to allocate the item to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report.
2. At its 1874th meeting, on 1 October, the Fourth Committee decided to give priority to the present item (item 64), together with the two other items on its agenda, namely, the question of Namibia (item 62) and the question of Territories under Portuguese administration (item 63). At the same meeting, it decided further that a general debate should be held covering these three items, it being understood that individual draft resolutions on matters covered by the items would be considered separately after the conclusion of the general debate and following the hearing of petitioners who might appear before the Committee concerning those items.
3. The Fourth Committee considered this question at its 1875th to 1886th, 1888th, 1892nd and 1898th to 1900th meetings, between 5 October and 20 November.

4. At the 1875th meeting, on 5 October, the Rapporteur 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 introduced the chapter of the report of that Committee relating to Southern Rhodesia (A/8023/Add.1).

5. In connexion with its consideration of the item, the Fourth Committee also had before it chapter IX, section J (Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights) of the report of the Economic and Social Council,^{1/} which the General Assembly had suggested might be of interest to the Fourth Committee (A/C.4/726).

6. The general debate covering the present item, together with the two other items referred to in paragraph 2 above, took place at the 1876th to 1886th meetings, between 7 and 21 October.

7. At the 1898th meeting, on 16 November, the representatives of Guinea and Mali introduced a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.970) which was finally sponsored by the following member States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

8. The Fourth Committee considered the draft resolution at its 1898th to 1900th meetings, between 16 and 20 November.

9. At the 1899th meeting, on 18 November, the Fourth Committee voted on the draft resolution. A proposal by the representative of France for a separate vote on operative paragraph 3 was rejected by 59 votes to 19, with 27 abstentions. The Committee then adopted the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.970) by a roll-call vote of 90 to 10, with 11 abstentions (see paragraph 10 below). The result of the voting was as follows:

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No.3 (A/8003 and Corr.1).

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, People's Republic of the Congo, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of Southern Rhodesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Southern Rhodesia,

Having examined the chapter 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 relating to the question of Southern Rhodesia,^{2/}

Bearing in mind the views expressed by representatives of national liberation movements,^{3/}

^{2/} A/8023/Add.1, chapter V.

^{3/} See the report of the Ad Hoc Group established by the Special Committee at its 740th meeting, on 21 April 1970 (A/8086, annex II).

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Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling further all previous resolutions concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia adopted by the General Assembly and by the Special Committee,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, and particularly its resolutions 232 (1966) of 16 December 1966, 253 (1968) of 29 May 1968 and 277 (1970) of 18 March 1970,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of its resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 containing the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in Southern Rhodesia, which the Security Council in its resolution 277 (1970) reaffirmed as constituting a threat to international peace and security, resulting from the introduction by the illegal racist minority régime of new measures, including the purported assumption of republican status, aimed at entrenching itself as well as repressing the African people in violation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and at the continued presence of South African forces in the Territory, which poses a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring African States,

Noting with deep regret that the sanctions adopted by the Security Council have so far failed to put an end to the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia, owing primarily to the continued assistance which that régime receives from some States, in particular South Africa and Portugal, in violation of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations and of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council,

Reaffirming its conviction that the sanctions will not put an end to the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia unless they are comprehensive, mandatory, effectively supervised, enforced and complied with, particularly by South Africa and Portugal,

Bearing in mind that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, has the primary responsibility for putting an end to the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and for transferring effective power to the people of Zimbabwe on the basis of majority rule,

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1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Zimbabwe to freedom and independence in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the legitimacy of their struggle to attain that right by all the means at their disposal;
2. Declares illegal all measures taken by the racist minority régime, including the purported assumption of republican status, to deprive the people of Zimbabwe of their legitimate rights and to entrench its policies of apartheid in Southern Rhodesia;
3. Affirms that any attempt to negotiate the future of Zimbabwe with the illegal racist minority régime would be contrary to the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV);
4. Condemns the failure and refusal of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take effective measures to bring down the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia and to transfer power to the people of Zimbabwe on the basis of majority rule, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and calls upon that Government to take such measures without further delay in fulfilment of its responsibility as the administering Power;
5. Condemns the intervention of South African armed forces in Southern Rhodesia in violation of Security Council resolution 277 (1970);
6. Condemns the policies of the Governments of South Africa and Portugal and other Governments that continue to maintain political, economic, military and other relations with the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia in contravention of the relevant United Nations resolutions, thus violating their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, and calls upon these Governments to discontinue all such relations;
7. Deplores the failure of the Government of the United Kingdom to report to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as requested in paragraph 16 of General Assembly resolution 2508 (XXIV) of 21 November 1969, on action taken in the implementation of that resolution and calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom to submit the said report to the Special Committee during its next session;

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