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FORTY-SIXTH SESSION  
*Official Records*

FOURTH COMMITTEE  
16th meeting  
held on  
Wednesday, 13 November 1991  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia)

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

AGENDA ITEM 19: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/46/23 (Part VI), chap. X, para. 23)

Draft resolution I

1. The CHAIRMAN observed that the Committee was almost three weeks behind the tentative timetable for the conclusion of its work, which was to have given the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee the lead time they required to consider the financial implications of action by the Fourth Committee. Several delegations, however, had requested additional time for consultations on the decisions the Committee was to take and, after he had consulted with all concerned, its final deliberations had been postponed until the current week. Bearing in mind also that some delegations had remarked that support for the resolutions adopted by the Committee had been decreasing, he had considered it his duty as Chairman not to miss any opportunity to allow members to agree on solutions that would carry the maximum weight. The Committee should not lose sight of the fact that its main objective was to assist the remaining Territories in their progress towards self-determination and independence, a task that required some flexibility on its part. Now, however, since the plenary Assembly must begin its consideration of agenda item 19 on 18 November, it had become imperative that the Committee should conclude its own work by 15 November at the latest.

2. With regard to the omnibus draft resolution I on the 10 small Territories (A/46/23 (Part VI), chap. X, para. 23), he was pleased to report that he was in a position to propose the following amendments to draft resolution I.B.X on the United States Virgin Islands, after extensive consultations with the parties concerned, namely the Government of the United States Virgin Islands and the administering Power. The sixth and seventh preambular paragraphs should be replaced by the following new sixth preambular paragraph:

"Noting further that discussions are continuing between the territorial Government and the administering Power over the transfer of the ownership of Water Island to the Territory at the end of its lease in December 1992, and noting that representatives of the territorial Government and representatives of the legislative branch of the administering Power have also undertaken discussions concerning the reclamation and development of submerged land at Long Bay in the Charlotte Amalie Harbour, and that the West Indies Company's title to the land was recently upheld by the appropriate United States judicial authorities."

At the beginning of paragraph 1, the words "Calls upon" should be replaced by "Requests" and, in the second line, the phrase "to consider a review" should

(The Chairman)

be replaced by the phrase "to provide the necessary advice to the Virgin Islands Status Commission in its review". Paragraph 2 should be amended to read:

"Invites the administering Power to review the options for the transfer of Water Island to the Territory at the end of 1992;".

Paragraph 3 should be amended to read:

"Requests the administering Power and the Government of the United States Virgin Islands to continue to hold discussions, within the framework of existing juridical provisions, with a view to securing the financial means to acquire the reclaimed and submerged land at Long Bay in the Charlotte Amalie Harbour from the West Indies Company;".

In the first line of paragraph 4, the words "as appropriate" should be added after the words "to facilitate", and at the end of the paragraph, the phrase ", in accordance with the terms of reference of such organizations" should be added.

3. With regard to draft resolution I.B.VI concerning Guam, he proposed the following amendments, after discussions with the administering Power and officials of the Government of Guam. The third preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following text:

"Taking note that the second round of negotiations between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guam aimed at transferring land and facilities at the Naval Air Station, Agana, opened in July 1991,".

In paragraph 1, the word "would" in the second line should be replaced by the word "should". In the second line of paragraph 3, the words "removing constraints to" should be replaced by the word "promoting".

4. Mr. MORENO FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said, as an initial reaction to the proposed amendments to the draft resolution on Guam, that Cuba would have no problem with the text proposed as the new third preambular paragraph if instead it were inserted as an additional fifth preambular paragraph. Thus, the current third preambular paragraph would continue to refer to the presence of military bases, the current fourth preambular paragraph would allude to the consequences of that presence and the proposed new preambular paragraph, the fifth, would refer to the attempt to resolve the problems raised in the two preceding paragraphs.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of the statement of the representative of Cuba, he would engage in further consultations with a view to retaining the integrity of the omnibus resolution on small Territories.

AGENDA ITEM 100: 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 TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/46/23 (Part III), chap. IV, para. 12)

AGENDA ITEM 101: 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/46/23 (Part IV), chap. VI, para. 18)

AGENDA ITEM 19: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)(A/46/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 11)

Draft resolutions and draft decision

6. The CHAIRMAN said that the second series of consultations was still in progress on the draft resolutions under agenda items 100 and 101 and the draft decision on military activities under agenda item 19. He appealed to the Group of African States, which was particularly involved, to conclude its consultations as soon as possible, bearing in mind the constraints the Committee was facing. He therefore requested the Secretariat to make any text to be processed available in time for the Committee to take action on it at its last meeting. He also requested the indulgence of members not to insist on the 24-hour rule for the submission of documents, since the Committee had to conclude its work on 15 November.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.