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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. FLEMMING

(Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

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)

Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/46/7/Add.1)

1. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had decided to grant the request for hearing contained in document A/C.4/46/7/Add.1.
2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Corbin (Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee) took a place at the petitioners' table.
3. Mr. CORBIN (Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee) said that the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) had been established in 1975 as a permanent subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The CDCC worked closely with organizations of the United Nations system to facilitate increased participation by Caribbean countries in the work of the United Nations. The CDCC was interested in developing closer collaboration with the Special Committee on decolonization in implementing the relevant resolutions on fostering participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the specialized agencies and technical organs of the United Nations system. Currently the CDCC was focusing on identifying areas within the system which could assist the economic and social development of those Non-Self-Governing Territories; identifying any impediments to participation by the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations system; and promoting the increased access of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the United Nations system through implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. Since 1987, the CDCC had begun to focus on the difficulties encountered by the small island developing countries of the Caribbean, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, in particular, had included within its action plan a directive to review the access of non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with the aim of identifying areas within the system which could provide technical and other assistance to those countries in the furtherance of their development process. The initial review conducted by the CDCC in 1987 had revealed that compliance with those resolutions varied depending on the United Nations agency concerned. To further consolidate emphasis on that issue, the CDCC had established a working group of non-independent Caribbean countries in 1989.
5. The CDCC had taken the view that the unique characteristics of the individual Non-Self-Governing Territories were of paramount importance in the formulation of strategies for their socio-economic development, including the facilitation of their participation in United Nations programmes. At the

(Mr. Corbin)

thirteenth session of the CDCC, held in 1991, a resolution had been approved endorsing the continuation of the ongoing analysis with regard to Caribbean Non-Self-Governing and freely associated territories and initiating contact with the governing councils of the United Nations bodies concerned to determine modalities for increasing the participation of those countries in the work programmes of those bodies.

6. The CDCC was committed to carrying out the mandate given to the wider United Nations system by the General Assembly to increase the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the United Nations system. The work of the CDCC was therefore aimed at fulfilling that mandate in respect of the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories. One potential area of cooperation could be in the furtherance of the CDCC study on the access of non-independent Caribbean countries to programmes and activities of the United Nations system.

7. Mr. Corbin withdrew.

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 (Parts V and VI), A/46/201, 336, 344, 359, 409; A/AC.109/1056-1059, 1060-1063, 1064 and Corr.1, 1065-1067, 1068 and Corr.1, 1069-1071, 1073, 1074 and Corr.1, 1075, 1077, 1078, 1079 and Corr.1, 1082; A/AC.109/L.1761, E/1991/116, S/21360 and S/22578)

AGENDA ITEM 99: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 g OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/46/23 (Part IV, chap. VII) and A/46/516)

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) and A/46/229)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/46/3 (chaps. I and VII), sect. C)

AGENDA ITEM 103: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/46/344 and 517)

General debate (continued)

8. Mr. KUMAR (Singapore) said that the world was undergoing a period of transformation and in that context the question arose as to how the Committee should handle the changing circumstances. The Committee had unquestionably been a catalyst for decolonization and the realization of fundamental rights to self-determination and independence. There were currently less than 20 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories located mainly in the Atlantic and

(Mr. Kumar, Singapore)

Pacific Oceans. In 1990, Namibia, and in 1991, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, had become Members of the United Nations. As an island country, Singapore was happy to see other island countries becoming Members of the United Nations.

9. He noted that some progress had been made towards the independence of New Caledonia. Singapore welcomed and supported that peaceful evolution. It also welcomed positive developments such as the mediatory efforts of the Secretary-General in Western Sahara. Singapore sincerely hoped that the cease-fire in Western Sahara would pave the way for the self-determination of the people of Sahara.

10. As to the future of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, new approaches needed to be considered taking into account the unique circumstances of the remaining Territories. Singapore believed that those Territories required special attention in their evolution towards self-government.

11. One possible approach was a graduated scale for self-determination for those Territories, as propounded by the representative of Liechtenstein in the General Assembly. The first stage would involve the election of representatives for those Territories and the administration by those elected representatives of the funds which were allocated by the administering Powers. The next step could involve some autonomy in taxation. A financial compensation plan would have to be worked out at that stage, taking into account the income and the administrative functions of the Territories. The third degree of autonomy could involve some legislative power. At that stage of autonomy most administrative functions of the administering Powers could be turned over to the Territories. The final process would be full independence.

12. It might also be necessary to work out a time-frame for self-determination which could be fine-tuned to the prevailing circumstances and drawn up in consultation with the administering Powers. The objective remained constant - the establishment of an economically viable and politically stable Non-Self-Governing Territory.

13. To respond effectively to the new challenges and responsibilities facing it the United Nations, and the Fourth Committee in particular, must strengthen its capacities and adapt itself to a fast-changing and dynamic international situation. That called for reforms and administrative innovations in some important areas of the work of the Committee.

14. Two trends had emerged of relevance to the Fourth Committee: the rise of neo-colonialism on the part of regional Powers and economic colonialism. With the decline of the super-Power rivalry, the rise of regional Powers was likely. As direct rule was no longer internationally acceptable, neo-colonialists were setting up nominally independent Governments through which they could assert influence and control. Indirect colonialism was a

(Mr. Kumar, Singapore)

threat to weakened developing countries. As to economic colonialism, disadvantageous terms of trade coupled with the rise of protectionism were steadily widening the gap between the North and the South. Economically dependent countries would have correspondingly less freedom to determine their own goals. The era of political colonialization was ending and was probably being succeeded by one in which a small number of strong economic Powers would dominate a cluster of dependent countries.

15. The Fourth Committee must examine how it could prevent recolonization. In the view of his delegation, there were two areas that required close attention: firstly, a recognition that colonization had taken new forms, and in that regard, efforts must be made to curb aggressive new Powers that threatened smaller and weaker States, and, secondly, a combined attempt must be made with other committees to address the most formidable problem before the world community, the widening gap between the rich and poor countries.

16. There was merit in the proposal to merge the Fourth Committee with the Special Political Committee. That would inject new life into the combined committee and give its work new dynamism and direction.

17. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand) said that there was no longer any justification for colonialism to exist in its historical form. At the same time, the situation in many Non-Self-Governing Territories was hardly consistent with the notion of "colonialism" as traditionally perceived. It was difficult in today's world of economic interdependence and interaction to conceive of "independence" for a Territory of 60 or even 1,600 people. That right existed, of course, and was enshrined in numerous United Nations resolutions and in the Charter of the United Nations itself, but independence was only one option among several, and it was for the people of each Territory to decide upon its concrete form.

18. New Zealand was aware that self-determination required proper economic foundations. There was a real need to encourage foreign investment and support of a kind that did not exploit Non-Self-Governing Territories. Experience had shown that foreign economic activity could also have a negative side, in the form of investment that was insensitive to indigenous culture, that was associated with drug trafficking or that gave rise to irreparable environmental damage.

19. But threats to self-determination did not necessarily come from within a Territory or from those responsible for its political and economic development. In the case of Tokelau, the Territory that New Zealand had the honour to administer on behalf of the United Nations, efforts to minimize the "dependency syndrome" were jeopardized through the indiscriminate dumping of toxic waste and through nuclear testing activities in the region. In their statement earlier in the year before the Special Committee on decolonization, the leaders of Tokelau had appealed to the United Nations to help convince States that activities contributing to global warming should be curtailed.

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

Atolls like Tokelau stood in danger of being submerged if sealevels continued to rise as a result of unchecked global warming.

20. New Zealand's role with regard to Tokelau was to maintain a free and open dialogue on all issues of importance to the future of the Territory and not to urge the people of Tokelau to make changes or to embark upon a more rapid evolution than they themselves wanted. New Zealand fully acknowledged its obligation to prepare Tokelau for self-determination, but did not intend to force an externally imposed agenda upon the Tokelau people. The wishes of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were paramount, and a changed relationship between those Territories and the administering Powers did not necessarily mean that independence was the goal.

21. With regard to the question of New Caledonia, his delegation welcomed the 1988 Matignon Accords, but had heard disquieting accounts in the past week from representatives of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) and the Front uni de libération kanak (FULK) concerning slow progress in some areas, including the reallocation of property and the training of professionals from among the indigenous Kanak people. Education and training opportunities must be expanded to enable New Caledonians to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions.

22. Earlier in the year, on the initiative of the South Pacific Forum, ministers from two Pacific Island countries had visited New Caledonia to enquire into progress in implementing the Matignon Accords. That extremely useful visit had served to strengthen the links between New Caledonia and its neighbours in the South Pacific region, but as pointed out by the representative of FLNKS, it was also essential for the United Nations, and the decolonization committees in particular, to continue to monitor developments closely as preparations were made for 1998, when New Caledonia would exercise its right to self-determination.

23. An important challenge facing the Fourth Committee was to tailor its work and its resolutions to evolving circumstances. New Zealand applauded the useful initiatives taken earlier in the year by the Special Committee on decolonization to streamline its working methods.

24. In that connection, his delegation had a number of suggestions for rationalizing the Committee's work. First, separating the examination of foreign, economic and military activities from a consideration of the Territories themselves created an artificial distinction. His delegation suggested that in 1992 there should be a single general debate to allow delegations better to consider the question of decolonization. Secondly, it would be useful to invite representatives of specialized agencies closely involved in programmes in the Territories to give short statements before the Committee, which would facilitate more informed comments by delegations on the agencies' work. UNDP was a case in point. Thirdly, guidelines must be drafted for petitioners to assist them in preparing their statements. For

(Mr. O'Brien, New Zealand)

example, shorter statements might be encouraged, but with written information provided to all delegations on the detailed points that the petitioners were addressing. Fourthly, it was essential to continue the Committee's rationalization work in one form or another so as to lay the basis for a more focused agenda at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

25. Not all resolutions had moved with the times. The needs of Non-Self-Governing Territories were in danger of being swamped by language on issues that were more properly covered in other bodies. Support for the relevant resolution on the role of the specialized agencies had experienced a dramatic decline in recent years: it had received 142 votes in favour in 1989, but only 115 in 1990. Owing to the presence in the text of too many inappropriate formulations, it had been impossible to reach a consensus. His delegation was ready at all times to assist in the search for language conducive to remedying that situation.

26. Mr. AIT CHALAAL (Algeria) said that the current session of the General Assembly was taking place in a new international situation. The changes that had occurred were raising hopes for the establishment of a new order which would effectively promote the affirmation of the values proclaimed by the Organization, namely the freedom and equality of all peoples. In that new order, the commitment to the basic values would, in particular, be demonstrated by the degree of decisiveness and boldness of action to bring about the complete elimination of the remnants of colonialism.

27. Referring to the question of Western Sahara, he duly commended the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity for their contribution to the successful formulation of the plan to settle the conflict in Western Sahara. The consensus achieved in the Fourth Committee in 1990 had reflected the profound satisfaction of the international community with the completion and adoption by the Security Council of the plan for the holding of a referendum for self-determination, which was in keeping with the interests of the people of the Territory. The success achieved towards solving the problem of Western Sahara demonstrated already at that stage that the hopes of the international community were well founded. The adoption of Security Council resolution 690 (1991) and the entry into force of the cease-fire agreement had cleared the way for sending United Nations personnel to the region, which was a guarantee of the irreversibility of the peace process.

28. At the same time, the situation in Western Sahara was characterized by events which caused concern for Algeria since they might jeopardize the normal holding of the referendum for self-determination. Although Algeria's duty as a fraternal country and neighbour, as well as an observer of the process for settling the conflict in Western Sahara obliged it to provide frank information on its assessment of the situation as it evolved, that assessment in no way weakened his delegation's conviction that the peace process would be successful. A settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara in keeping with

(Mr. Ait Chalaal, Algeria)

the interests of the fraternal Moroccan and Saharan peoples was the aim of the peace plan adopted by the two sides and affirmed by the Security Council. The establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and the cooperation of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in its implementation also constituted an important factor in the peace process.

29. That firm conviction was demonstrated by the fact that Algeria was continuing to provide strong support for the good offices provided jointly by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and had decided to make a voluntary contribution of \$10 million for the implementation of the settlement plan. Those measures taken by his country reflected its desire to achieve a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, which would help strengthen the Arab Maghreb Union.

30. Algeria had been one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on the question of Western Sahara submitted for the Committee's consideration. The draft resolution aimed at ensuring the support of all the members of the General Assembly for the settlement plan, which had been agreed to by Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO and had been affirmed by the Security Council, in order to achieve finally a settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara through a just, free and honest referendum under the auspices of the United Nations. The draft resolution, which expressed complete support for the Secretary-General's peace mission in Western Sahara, was certain to be adopted by consensus in the Committee.

31. Mr. NOUANTHASING (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in the years since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples 60 Non-Self-Governing Territories, embracing a total population of over 100 million people, had been enabled to exercise their right to self-determination. Much of the credit in that decolonization process was due to the significant contribution and constant efforts of the United Nations, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on decolonization. In that regard, his delegation wished to recall the decisive role played by the Organization in assisting the peoples of Namibia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in achieving national independence and joining the international community as full members of the United Nations. His delegation was confident that under the auspices of the Organization and with the support of the international community the Palestinian people and the black people of South Africa would attain their right to self-determination and independence.

32. In spite of the results achieved, the decolonization process was far from complete. There were still more than a dozen Non-Self-Governing Territories on the list of the United Nations. Their modest size should not impede the efforts to help them gain independence and self-determination and decide their own destiny. The continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and apartheid, was incompatible with the

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

Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and principles of international law. His delegation fully supported General Assembly resolution 43/47, which declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In order to achieve that goal, all the administering Powers must cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee on decolonization by actively participating in its work.

33. It remained the position of his Government that peoples of all races and social strata were entitled to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Declaration. The experience gained from the recent developments in the world reinforced the conviction that the role of the United Nations in the decolonization process was of paramount importance and that problems linked to decolonization could be solved peacefully with political will and cooperation.

34. Ms. RUS (Malaysia) said that since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), considerable progress had been made towards the completion of the decolonization process. The rapid pace of decolonization in the 1960s and 1970s could be attributed to factors such as the determined struggle by liberation movements and assistance from neighbouring countries. In the current situation, however, armed struggle and liberation movements were not necessarily a prerequisite for accelerating that process, and a peaceful settlement could be achieved through negotiations in which innovative and flexible approaches were often necessary.

35. Malaysia welcomed any effort by the Special Committee or the Fourth Committee that might result in better cooperation with the administering Powers. Internal political developments within the administering Powers and the existing political environment in theory provided the basis for accelerating the decolonization process.

36. Under the Charter of the United Nations and numerous resolutions of the General Assembly, the administering Power had an obligation to prepare the people in the Territories under its administration for eventual self-determination through the free expression of their will. However, the existence of military bases in those Territories, their economic dependence and their lack of political education were developing into obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The administering Powers must therefore be reminded of their obligations under the Charter and General Assembly resolutions to undertake a gradual political transformation of the Territories, create a sound economic infrastructure to facilitate self-determination and promote awareness among the people of their inalienable rights. The people must also be given an opportunity to assume greater responsibilities in the management of their own internal affairs. In addition, political education must be made available.

(Ms. Rus. Malaysia)

37. The growing economic dependence of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was preventing those Territories from exercising their right to self-determination. Malaysia believed that not all foreign economic activities in a Territory had adverse effects on that Territory. However, economic activities in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were mainly concentrated in the services sector, and only expatriates participated in the decision-making process.

38. The administering Powers must also be reminded that they had an obligation to protect the natural resources of the Territories under their control and to diversify and develop their economies.

39. In resolution 35/118, the General Assembly had expressed concern over the influx of immigrants and settlers into sparsely populated Territories which could disrupt the demographic composition of those Territories and result in the indigenous population becoming a minority in their own land. The only way to protect the basic interests of the indigenous population was not to allow the new immigrants to participate in determining the future status of the Territory.

40. Another problem that now existed in some of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was drug abuse, a problem that would not only result in the local population becoming drug addicts but also lead to the use of those Territories for drug trafficking, money laundering and even arms smuggling.

41. On the question of Western Sahara, Malaysia welcomed the cease-fire agreement and fully supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to find a solution. Malaysia was honoured to participate in the peace process. A settlement of the problem under the auspices of the United Nations would bring about peace and greater cooperation between countries in the Maghreb region.

42. Mr. YOSSIFOV (Bulgaria), said that the United Nations, its Charter and the relevant resolutions had played a decisive role in the remarkable advances which had been achieved in the process of decolonization. In a number of cases, the concept of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination had become a reality and, in that respect, Bulgaria had made a direct contribution to the efforts of the international community. At a time of overwhelming changes in international relations, and in the current post-confrontation period, a period of good will and readiness for cooperation, fresh impetus had been given to the expectations of mankind for a just and secure world order, based on the universally recognized ideals of democracy. In 1990, the international community had welcomed the independence of Namibia, and in 1991 the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands had become full members of the United Nations.

43. The practical implementation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was yet another step towards the full and speedy decolonization of a dependent Territory. The people of that

(Mr. Yossifov, Bulgaria)

country would ultimately have the opportunity to exercise their right of choice. He noted with satisfaction that Bulgaria had participated in the work of MINURSO; that was a manifestation of its commitment to the underlying principles and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations.

44. Such significant events in the process of decolonization provided solid grounds for optimism with regard to the attainment of the goal of the complete elimination of colonialism by the year 2000. At the same time, they were a reminder of the need for a thorough review of the approaches and methods of work of the relevant bodies of the United Nations and for the necessary corrections to be made.

45. The universal validity of the principle that all peoples should be free to exercise their right to self-determination necessitated the establishment of effective international consensus in dealing with the problems of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Since those issues were no longer being seen in the context of the former East-West confrontation, the United Nations must prevent them from becoming another matter of dispute between North and South or within the South itself.

46. In the view of Bulgaria, there were several main ways of dealing with that set of issues. It was essential to increase cooperation between the administering Powers and the authorities of the Territories in the drafting and implementation of ad hoc programmes for the establishment of effective infrastructure and for stimulating and diversifying economic activities. It would also be advisable to make better use of the possibilities for integrating those Territories into regional trade, economic and financial structures. The specialized agencies could play an important role in that regard.

47. If the Committee was to adopt a more flexible and constructive approach towards the issues of decolonization, it must eliminate certain stereotypes and make its recommendations conform with the changing realities in the world at large, in the dependent Territories and in their relations with the administering Powers. Regrettably, his delegation was forced to note that some of the texts proposed by the Special Committee fell far short of meeting those requirements and would therefore stimulate little progress in that field. Their controversial character was a reminder of the name-calling practices of the past and were evidence that the Special Committee was far removed from the real developments, which it should study with greater care. A more positive and realistic approach must be adopted. In that connection, he commended the efforts of the former Chairman of the Committee who had initiated the consultations on the rationalization of the work of the Special Committee. Although the consultations had yielded no concrete results, his delegation considered the process encouraging and favoured its continuation.

48. The omnibus resolution on "small Territories" adopted by the Special Committee was a positive step in the right direction. It would certainly

(Mr. Yossifov, Bulgaria)

enable the Committee to address in a more appropriate manner the basic issues relating to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

49. As for the idea of merging the Fourth Committee and the Special Political Committee, his delegation would welcome such a decision provided that its practical implementation did not adversely affect the identity, efficiency and rhythm of work of the two Committees. It would be appropriate before taking a decision on the merger to conduct studies, including an estimation of the funds that would be released as a result. Such a step would help to promote the concept of the rationalization and improvement of the efficiency of the General Assembly and its main organs.

50. Mr. SUPHAMONGKHON (Thailand) said that the persistent and tireless efforts of all interested parties and the United Nations had achieved considerable success in the decolonization process. One milestone in that process had been the proclamation in 1990 of the independence of Namibia, where free and fair elections had been held under the supervision of the United Nations. Thailand had taken part in the work of the United Nations group by sending its observers to Namibia. In 1991 the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands had become Members of the Organization. The United Nations was currently participating in the process of decolonizing Western Sahara, where a referendum on self-determination was to be held in the near future. All those events had substantially reduced the workload of the Fourth Committee.

51. His delegation hoped that it would not be long before the decolonization process came to a final end. For that to happen the administering Powers must comply with their obligations and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

52. In an interdependent world, international cooperation was of vital significance. Although Thailand was a developing country with limited resources and capabilities, it gave assistance to other countries by providing educational and training scholarships and experts and equipment to several developing countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories. In 1991 his Government had decided to expand its assistance programmes under the Thai International Cooperation Programme and the Third Country Training Programme.

53. Notable progress had been made towards ending apartheid in South Africa, but much remained to be done before it was totally eliminated.

54. Mr. GÜVEN (Turkey) said that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted 31 years ago, had become a yardstick and touchstone of all initiatives in matters relating to decolonization; it had not only ensured the independence of more than 50 former colonial Territories but had also played a constructive role in securing recognition of the right to self-determination and equal rights for all peoples.

(Mr. Güven, Turkey)

55. In that context the independence of Namibia stood out as the culmination of concerted international efforts to make the right to self-determination a driving-force in the world. The proclamation by the United Nations of the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the new international atmosphere of cooperation replacing the cold war and ideological struggle gave grounds for optimism about the successful completion of the decolonization process by the end of the century.

56. Nevertheless, it must not be forgotten that a time of change was also a time of challenges arising from the need to adjust policies to the new circumstances. The problems of decolonization required a realistic and pragmatic reappraisal in the light of the new conditions, but that did not imply renunciation of the principles and objectives contained in resolution 1514 (XV) and did not release the administering Powers from their responsibilities. The goal of such an approach was to establish constructive cooperation between the relevant United Nations committees and the administering Powers, to prepare the political and economic framework for the exercise of the right to self-determination, and to rationalize the work of the committees in question.

57. In that context his delegation welcomed the discussions initiated in the Fourth Committee and the work done by the open-ended working group of the Special Committee in examining various proposals related to the review of its work, and it believed that those positive trends must be reflected in the resolutions of the Fourth Committee to be submitted to the General Assembly.

58. On the question of Western Sahara, Turkey supported the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their right to self-determination and welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), regarding the cease-fire agreement of 6 September as an important step towards attainment of the Mission's goals. It was ready to make available military observers to monitor the cease-fire and hoped that the parties to the dispute would cooperate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the plan for conducting a referendum in the Territory.

59. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia) said that, as an initiator and sponsor of resolution 1514 (XV), Indonesia believed that international peace and security could not be attained without freedom and equality for all States and peoples. Since the adoption of the resolution there had been a profound transformation in the geopolitical map of the world, and the United Nations had moved very close to its goal of universality. Notwithstanding the successes achieved in decolonization, the Declaration was still equally applicable to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. His country's position was reflected in part A of the omnibus resolution adopted by the Subcommittee by consensus on 13 June 1991, i.e. that an indigenous population had the inherent right freely to determine its own destiny and exercise its fundamental right to self-determination and independence. It was incumbent on the administering Powers to create the conditions for making the population of

(Mr. Wayarabi, Indonesia)

a Territory aware of the possibilities open to them without external interference.

60. Another source of concern was the activities of foreign economic and other interests operating in the Territories, for they had been a major factor of colonial subjugation. It was therefore important for the administering Powers to take due account of the need for effective measures to safeguard and develop the natural resources of the Territories. Priority should also be given to strengthening and diversifying the economies of the Territories through cooperative endeavours based on mutual trust and equality in order to promote their economic growth. Such endeavours must be aimed at securing self-sufficiency, and it was solely for the peoples concerned to determine the course of their social and economic development, including the extent of external participation in that process. Of equal importance was the obligation to refrain from military activities incompatible with the decolonization process.

61. The budgets of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system should be greatly augmented, for they played a significant role in ensuring the social and economic development of the Territories.

62. His delegation noted with appreciation the recommendations and conclusions of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1760), for they were an invaluable source of information which helped the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate successfully and effectively. The Department of Public Information also deserved commendation for disseminating information on the decolonization process and thereby mobilizing world opinion in support of all colonial peoples.

63. His delegation agreed in principle with the recommendations concerning rationalization of the Special Committee's work, in particular the proposal for the merger of the two subcommittees in order to prevent unnecessary duplication and consolidate identical resolutions.

64. It noted the establishment of MINURSO by the Security Council and welcomed the draft resolution on the question of New Caledonia adopted on 9 August 1991.

65. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the draft text of a consensus on Gibraltar (A/C.4/46/L.3) and announced that Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Rwanda had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/46/L.2 on the question of Western Sahara.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.