



FOURTH COMMITTEE  
3rd meeting  
held on  
Monday, 17 October, 1983  
at 10.30 a.m.  
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

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19 October 1983

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

1. Mr. RAMADAN (Egypt) nominated Mr. Karepa (Papua New Guinea) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
2. Mr. Karepa (Papua New Guinea) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.
3. Mr. MOLTENI (Argentina) nominated Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) for the office of Vice-Chairman.
4. Mr. Hermida Castillo (Nicaragua) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.
5. Mr. GARCIA (Philippines) nominated Mr. Yossiphov (Bulgaria) for the office of Rapporteur.
6. Mr. Yossiphov (Bulgaria) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 103: 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 NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; 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 (continued) (A/38/23 (Part III), A/38/444; A/AC.109/731, 736, 737 and Corr.1, 738, 742, 743, 744)

7. Mr. PULZ (Czechoslovakia) said that the use of colonial Territories to serve the military and strategic purposes of the imperialist Powers constituted the very essence of colonialism. The economic exploitation and enslavement of colonial Territories and their use for military purposes had motivated all seizures of such Territories by colonial Powers. The profits extracted from the exploitation of the labour, raw materials and natural resources of colonial Territories, and the inclusion of colonies in the systems of strategic bases of the imperialist Powers, continued to be the real reasons for the attempts of those Powers to perpetuate colonial domination.

8. The exploitation inherent in colonialism was clearly demonstrated by the activities of economic, financial and other interests in colonial Territories. Transnational corporations profited from the existence of colonialism, and by hindering the development of self-sufficient economies they were prolonging colonial domination. They were thereby backing the political and military measures adopted by the Governments of their States in pursuit of the same goals. For that reason the colonial Powers were themselves creating the most favourable conditions for the activities of monopolies in their colonies, and at the same time safeguarding the interests of their ruling classes.

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(Mr. Pulz, Czechoslovakia)

9. Despite a whole series of United Nations resolutions concerning the adverse effects of foreign economic interests on decolonization, foreign monopolies continued to control the economies of dependent Territories.

10. The economy of Namibia, was dominated by imperialist capital. Foreign monopolies concentrated on developing natural resources, particularly the mining industry. They were plundering Namibia's mineral resources and prospecting for oil, and they controlled Namibia's marine resources, in violation of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the National Resources of Namibia, enacted by the Council for Namibia. The appeal made to Western States by the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence calling for an end to that plunder was fully justified. The Governments and monopolies of those States must cease their illegal activities in Namibia and pay compensation to an independent Namibia.

11. The monopolies of the largest imperialist Powers played a leading role in controlling Namibia's economy. Document A/AC.109/744 listed the countries of registration of the 90 companies most active in the Territory. It provided examples of the objectives pursued by foreign monopolies in Namibia, and revealed the high proportion of Namibia's gross national product which was extracted by Western monopolies. At the same time there was an unprecedented exploitation of, and economic discrimination against, the indigenous population. Figures obtained by the Commission on Transnational Corporations indicated that the average earnings of white workers were 12 times higher than those of black workers, and up to 25 times higher in northern Namibia.

12. The merciless attempts of foreign economic and other interests to gain maximum profits were also demonstrated in South Africa. United Nations documents and other materials showed that the co-operation of Western States with the apartheid régime was being strengthened. The predominant role of the imperialist monopolies in South Africa's economy explained the all-round support provided to the South African régime by Western Powers.

13. The documents 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, demonstrated that a similar situation existed in other colonial Territories, including the so-called small Territories. There, the activities of foreign economic and other interests were bolstering the colonial policy of the imperialist States and were in turn supported by that policy. The monopolies were pursuing their mercenary goals to the detriment of the economies of colonial Territories, thereby adding to the existing difficulties of colonial peoples.

14. His delegation welcomed the register drawn up by the Centre on Transnational Corporations indicating the profits that transnational corporations derived from their activities in colonial Territories (A/38/444). Although the register had been prepared mainly on the basis of information provided by transnational corporations themselves, and only a small proportion of such corporations had

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(Mr. Pulz, Czechoslovakia)

responded, it served as an eloquent illustration of the high profitability of the activities of foreign monopolies in colonial Territories. His delegation felt that it was useful to maintain the register.

15. A number of colonial Territories were being used for the construction of military bases or for other military activities of the administering Powers. The bases were used for action against national liberation movements, interference in the internal affairs of independent States and the perpetration of acts of aggression. The maintenance of such bases, in violation of repeated protests by the world community, represented a real threat to international peace and security.

16. The Territory of Namibia was being used by the South African racists as a bridgehead for attacks against neighbouring States, and as a range for testing new types of weapons and for military activities of the South African armed forces. His delegation strongly condemned the attack against Maputo perpetrated by the South African régime on the previous day. South Africa's military activities in Namibia were being intensified. Document A/AC.109/743 revealed that, since the adoption of Security Council resolution 385 (1976), the number of South African armed forces in Namibia had increased five times. South Africa was producing a whole range of weapons under licence from certain Western States and Israel, and a number of Western States were continuing to supply arms directly to South Africa, despite the arms embargo imposed under Security Council resolution 418 (1977).

17. Reports about South Africa's nuclear-weapon potential were particularly alarming. The intensive assistance in the arms field provided to South Africa by a number of Western States and Israel considerably facilitated South Africa's continuing occupation of Namibia, its armed suppression of the struggle of the people of Namibia for independence under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the escalation of its aggression and subversion against independent African States. Those military activities were clearly aimed not only against decolonization but also against international peace and security.

18. In a number of other colonial Territories, military bases, airports, ports and other installations were being built for use by the armies of the imperialist Powers, which were striving for domination over a number of regions of the world. Those Territories included Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Bermuda and the United States Virgin Islands, which were being drawn into the sphere of military manoeuvres of the colonial Powers and their allies. Parts of such Territories were being turned into ranges for the testing of nuclear weapons, for example, in Micronesia. All those activities were being carried out against the wishes of the population of colonial Territories and without taking into account the adverse consequences for the environment and human health. They demonstrated the militaristic course of imperialism and the pressure of the military-industrial complexes of Western States, which were striving for geographical expansion and an increase in the sale of armaments. The activities were carried out in direct disregard of the obligations of the administering Powers under Article 73 of the Charter and constituted a serious impediment to self-determination and independence.

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(Mr. Pulz, Czechoslovakia)

19. Czechoslovakia's position on the item under consideration was based on the United Nations Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and relevant United Nations resolutions, and the Plan of Action in General Assembly resolution 35/118. Czechoslovakia supported all effective measures aimed at ending activities which ran counter to the United Nations Charter and the Declaration. His delegation believed that the United Nations must take steps to eliminate all obstacles to decolonization. Czechoslovakia condemned all manifestations of colonial policy and fully supported the decisions of the Special Committee.

20. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation was deeply saddened that the Committee should once again be discussing the impact of the activities of foreign economic and other interests on southern Africa in circumstances which were, if anything, worse than those prevailing at previous sessions. The United Nations had declared the policies and practices of South Africa to be a threat to international peace and security and had repeatedly appealed to the imperialist States to put an end to investment by their nationals in colonial countries. In spite of that, Namibia was still not independent and the activities of foreign economic and other interests continued to be directed towards the exploitation of its natural and human resources, harming the interests of the population and preventing attainment of its aspirations for self-determination and independence.

21. His delegation felt that it had both the right and the duty to ask why the international community had failed to make any tangible progress on the issue. The essence of the problem continued to be the continued existence of imperialism, a phenomenon which had no other purpose but to enable imperialist States and entities to enslave peoples, exploit their human and natural resources and plunder their wealth. The ability of the racist régime in Pretoria to challenge the will of the international community and the latter's inability to compel that régime to end its illegal occupation of Namibia were due, in the main, to the diplomatic protection provided by the Western States, particularly in the Security Council, and to the continued economic support by those States.

22. It was also a fact that South Africa obtained such support because of the opportunities it had provided to Western companies to monopolize the economic and commercial sectors in Namibia. Apartheid, while it was condemned ethically, was economically profitable.

23. The American Administration, in openly embracing the Pretoria régime, had proved that its strategic interests, South Africa's importance in relation to those interests, and the investments of its corporations were of greater importance to it than international legitimacy, human dignity and the right to freedom and independence. The United States was not prepared to sacrifice any such interests for the independence of Namibia or for the elimination of the racist régime.

24. Whereas the United States openly embraced the racist régime, the other Western States paid lip service to international efforts to end the occupation of Namibia. At the same time, they did all in their power to enable South Africa to continue

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(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

its colonization of Namibia and its exploitation of Namibia's wealth, in co-operation with their corporations. Consequently, the people of Namibia faced not only South Africa but the criminal, multilateral system of imperialism and exploitation.

25. The activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories were harmful in themselves, over and above the plunder of natural resources that they involved, since they set up an economy which perpetuated the economic subservience of the Territories. Such activities ultimately affected the ability of colonial peoples freely to decide the kind of economic activity they considered necessary for their development.

26. His country condemned all forms of military and nuclear collaboration with South Africa, which caused grave concern, increased tension in the region and could lead to an explosive situation.

27. His country had supported the call for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist régime under Chapter VII of the Charter. Even if the Security Council remained powerless, all States should, separately or together, impose a total boycott on South Africa. That would be a preliminary step towards its isolation, with a view to forcing it to implement United Nations resolutions concerning the termination of its illegal occupation of Namibia, the cessation of its aggression against neighbouring countries and the abandonment of its racist policy.

28. The Western countries which contributed to the support of the racist régime should understand that they could not expect to continue their co-operation with South Africa in its plunder of Namibia's wealth while enjoying normal relations with the African and other non-aligned States. Their continued support of the racist régime would oblige the non-aligned States to widen the scope of the conflict and extend the boycott to all who collaborated with the régime.

29. With regard to military activities, including the maintenance of military bases, his delegation felt that they presented a serious obstacle to the economic and political independence of the Territories concerned. His delegation condemned those States and corporations which violated the mandatory arms embargo imposed on South Africa by the Security Council. South Africa's continued occupation of Namibia and its determination to undermine the régimes of the neighbouring countries presented a threat to international peace and security.

30. The most disturbing developments were the strengthening of United States military co-operation with the racist régime, the lifting of the ban on the sale of American weapons to South Africa, the emphasis on the role of the Pretoria régime as an ally, and United States attempts to link the independence of Namibia with marginal and external matters.

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(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

31. In addition to the growing economic, cultural and political co-operation between the South African and the Israeli racist régimes, South Africa had become the biggest customer for Israeli arms and Israel acted as an agent for the United States in the sale of weapons to South Africa and other States. There was growing evidence of large-scale co-operation between Israel and South Africa in the nuclear field; Western, Israeli and South African news media continued to report such co-operation. It had awakened the concern of the international community and had been strongly condemned by the General Assembly. The Special Committee against Apartheid had given particular attention to that question in 1983 and had organized, in co-operation with a number of non-governmental organizations, the International Conference on the Alliance between South Africa and Israel. The Conference had contributed to the collection and analysis of information on that alliance and had adopted a Declaration (A/38/311). At the same time, that inauspicious alliance had been condemned in all international forums.

32. His delegation called once again for the adoption of resolutions condemning all economic and military activities that prevented colonial peoples from exercising their right to self-determination and independence, and would continue to call for the condemnation of all forms of collaboration with the racist régime. At the same time, it called for serious study of the means for increasing the effectiveness of resolutions, so that United Nations authority could be strengthened. Resolutions which remained a dead letter could never be a substitute for armed struggle, the sole means of liberating Namibia. The resolutions to be adopted should, in addition to reaffirming international legitimacy, the consensus of world public opinion and the will of the international community, jolt the conscience of those who still gave precedence to their own narrow self-interests over human dignity and the freedom of peoples.

#### REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

33. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received communications containing requests for hearings on items on the Committee's agenda. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

34. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at noon.