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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/8/Add.1 and 2)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that under the first item on its agenda the Committee had before it two documents, A/C.4/44/8/Add.1 and 2, containing requests for hearings on the question of the United States Virgin Islands. In the absence of any objection, he would take it that the Committee acceded to those requests.

1a. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 117: 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 (continued) (A/44/23 (Part III)); (A/AC.109/976, 984, 987, 989, 990, 994, 996 and 997)

2. Mr. AL-AJMI (Kuwait) expressed the hope that by the end of the present century all of the Committee's objectives would have been achieved and Territories under foreign domination would have attained independence and freedom. Since its accession to independence, Kuwait had pursued a policy aimed at the elimination of all forms of colonialism and, jointly with the other States members of the Non-Aligned Movement, had made efforts to ensure that the vestiges of racial discrimination and oppression in a number of regions and parts of the world were removed. In its fight for the right of people to self-determination and freedom, Kuwait was guided by the teachings of Islam and by belief in the ancient Arab traditions which proclaimed the equality of peoples and rejected all forms of racial discrimination and exploitation of peoples and their national resources, as well as by the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the resolution on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

3. Racial discrimination on grounds of creed and colour continued to be practised in South Africa and Israel. Oppression of peoples and exploitation of the natural resources of Trust Territories were continuing, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions.

4. The States administering such Territories must take all necessary administrative and legislative measures to conserve human and natural resources. They were responsible not only for protecting the Territories against economic exploitation and foreign domination, but also for the diversification of their economies in order to prevent a situation in which only one branch of the economy, for example tourism, would be developed. A guarantee of the well-being of the peoples of the Trust Territories was the creation of their own sound economic base.

5. Those Territories were of interest not only from the economic, but also from the strategic standpoint. That was because many Territories were bound to the Administering Power by military agreements, a situation which was in breach of the

(Mr. Al-Ajmi, Kuwait)

provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Kuwait supported the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in which the presence of military bases was regarded as an obstacle to the granting of independence to such countries and peoples.

6. Kuwait expressed the hope that an end would be put to the occupation of Namibia's territory and the exploitation of its resources by South Africa and other economic interests, and that the object of granting independence to Namibia through the conduct of just and equitable elections under effective international supervision would be achieved.

7. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) noted that a major obstacle to universal emancipation was the activity of foreign economic and other interests impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization and the eradication of colonialism, ~~apartheid~~ and racial discrimination in southern Africa. A striking example was the economic exploitation of Namibia by foreign economic interests operating in collusion with the occupying Power. It was self-evident that the prolongation of such exploitation might deprive Namibia, when it achieved independence, of the ability to exercise sovereignty over its own national resources. To forestall that possibility, the complex structure of economic domination and exploitation would have to be terminated forthwith and the existing agreements with transnational corporations annulled.

8. Indonesia, as a Member of the Special Committee against ~~Apartheid~~ and the Council for Namibia, would continue to work in concert with the other members to mobilize support from the international community for the building of a viable Namibian economy. Indonesia would continue, to the extent of its abilities, to extend assistance in the attainment of that objective and the training of Namibian cadres for the rational exploitation and utilization of Namibia's natural resources. Instead of being a source of future economic security and well-being for the Namibian people, Namibia's natural wealth had become a major causative factor in the tenacity with which South Africa continued its illegal occupation of that Territory.

9. The transnational corporations, motivated by their own economic interests in Namibia, continued to support South Africa, which in turn facilitated their reaping exorbitant profits. There could be no question that as a result of a century of ruthless exploitation of Namibia, its economic infrastructure had been drastically undermined.

10. It would be naive to assume that the decolonization of Namibia would rectify the situation in southern Africa. The ~~apartheid~~ system remained in place and seriously affected the economic well-being of the black majority. The impoverished situation of the Palestinian people in the territory occupied by Israel also gave grounds for concern.

11. Although those issues were of primary concern to the international community, the questions of the small Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, which had

(Mr. Rianom, Indonesia)

their own special characteristics, must not be pushed into the background. Innovative solutions must be sought which, without impeding their right to self-determination, would be guided by the interests of the indigenous population and facilitate their attainment of economic independence.

12. Mr. BAEV (Bulgaria) said that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had paved the way for the achievement of the aim of political emancipation of peoples under colonial domination. Evidence of that was afforded by the process of implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. Bulgaria shared the concern over the irregularities of the electoral process in Namibia created by the South African Administration. At the same time, it expressed the hope that the process would be brought to a successful conclusion.

13. Bulgaria supported the view expressed in numerous United Nations documents and resolutions that the activities of foreign economic and other interests were among the main obstacles to implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. As a result of those activities, Namibia, which possessed significant resources, had an unbalanced economic infrastructure not oriented towards ensuring the well-being and development of the majority of the Namibian people. The activities of those interests in dependent Territories indicated that they were not aimed at the economic development of those Territories and at ensuring the well-being of their peoples. In reality, with the connivance of the Administering Powers they were continuing to plunder their human and natural resources, in violation of the right of the peoples of colonial Territories freely to dispose of their heritage and of their right to self-determination and independence.

14. Even more disturbing was the fact that those Territories were used by colonial Powers for military purposes. It was well known that the activities of foreign economic and other interests were intended to strengthen South Africa's nuclear and military potential and had enabled the racist régime to preserve the system of apartheid and undertake the destabilization of other countries of the region. It was essential for the administering Powers to comply with the appeals of the General Assembly and immediately and unconditionally remove their military bases and installations from colonial Territories.

15. The current general debate had demonstrated that the overwhelming majority of States realized the need to unite their efforts to resolve major problems such as the protection of the environment, the gap between developed and developing countries and the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. Those problems represented an increasing threat to the well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, owing to their dependent status. Everything possible must be done to solve such problems, taking into account the interests of colonial peoples. Such measures could be incorporated in the future action plan for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

16. Mr. HOEHNE (German Democratic Republic) said that his country had always been and would remain on the side of those who were fighting for the eradication of all forms of colonial oppression and exploitation. Its activity in the United Nations had always been and would continue to be aimed at the attainment of the goal set forth in General Assembly resolution 43/47 of eradicating colonialism by the end of the millenium.

17. The German Democratic Republic attached particular importance to the process of Namibian independence and hoped that the elections for the constituent assembly would take place in an atmosphere that ensured a free and unrestricted expression of the will of the Namibian people. The United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), in which his country was participating, had a significant role to play in that process.

18. The apartheid régime represented a real danger to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). His delegation was convinced that the resolution would be implemented and it stood side by side with those who were fighting apartheid. Namibia was proof that even complicated colonial problems could be solved by political means.

19. With regard to the question of Western Sahara, too, the first signs of a political settlement were emerging. The German Democratic Republic favoured a peaceful solution to that conflict and appreciated the intermediary process between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO started under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

20. Transnational corporations continued to operate in colonial Territories. They trampled underfoot the right of peoples to control their natural resources freely and in their own genuine interests. That was why such activities had to be condemned and combated with vigorous resolution.

21. The administering Powers must promote the exercise by each people of its right to choose freely its political, economic and social system, and the development of dependent Territories in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). That required the cessation of the use of colonial Territories for military purposes, the location of military bases in them and their use as nuclear and military test sites. It was important to stress that point in view of the military activities going on in Micronesia, on Guam and the United States Virgin Islands, and in the so-called small Territories. Such activities constituted a serious obstacle to the completion of the process of decolonization and were incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

22. His country welcomed the resolution on decolonization adopted by the non-aligned States at their summit meeting in Belgrade and it supported the demands addressed therein to the colonial Powers.

23. Mr. BERMUDEZ (Cuba) said that, although his delegation had taken a direct part in the work on the documents now before the Committee (see A/44/23 (part III)), it was necessary briefly to recall Cuba's position on the item.

24. The opportunity now offered itself for implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and for the solution of a problem which had remained unresolved for the past three decades. However, after the attainment of independence by Namibia, the world would still have more than 20 Territories administered by foreign Powers.

25. In the majority of those Territories the administering Powers were trying to solve their own problems, and certain companies were exploiting unchecked the material and human resources, heedless of the impoverishment of the peoples of the Territories. Economic, financial and military activities were being stepped up, denying the indigenous population the right to dispose of their own wealth, as well as undermining the authority of the United Nations.

26. The suffering which was the lot of the Namibian people testified to the negative role played by foreign Powers in Namibia and underlined the importance of implementing the principles set out in resolution 1514 (XV). The Namibian people might continue for decades to feel the adverse consequences of such activities. It should never be forgotten that the international community must fight colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

27. The Cuban delegation thought it extremely important for the General Assembly at its current session, the last before the start of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, to condemn the colonial Powers which were denying the peoples of dependent Territories the right to control their own resources. All obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) must be removed.

28. Mr. NTONGA (Cameroon) said that the continuation of colonialism in the world and of apartheid in South Africa was due to political, military, economic, financial, cultural and scientific causes. The activities of foreign economic and other interests helped to perpetuate the colonial system and the policy of apartheid. Such activities had various forms and manifestations.

29. The activities of transnational corporations, which embraced literally every sphere, were carried on to the detriment of the interests of the Territories and their peoples with the main goal of extracting profits. Capital and investments were directed only to those branches whose development was advantageous to the monopolies. The transnational corporations made enormous profits, while unemployment grew among the indigenous population. Such activities did not promote the development of dependent Territories. In no way could they be called humanitarian or beneficial. Furthermore, the existing international banking system allowed drug dealers to "launder" unlawfully obtained cash, and dependent Territories were used as major transit points for drug shipments.

30. The excessive exploitation of natural resources, the deterioration in the terms of trade for raw materials, the attempts by the racist régime of South Africa

(Mr. Ntonga, Cameroon)

to transfer onto Namibia a debt burden estimated by South African authorities at 500 million rand - all that was used for the oppression, economic plunder and political blackmail of Namibia and its leaders, who would have to run the country after independence had been achieved. But for the activities of foreign interests, the various sanctions imposed by the United Nations against the racist régime of South Africa would have been effectively implemented. But for the investments and the transfer of sophisticated military-industrial technology, South Africa would not have the potential to produce nuclear weapons and thus threaten peace and security in Africa and throughout the world.

31. The maintenance by certain States of their links with racist South Africa helped the apartheid régime to continue to flout the fundamental rights of the black majority, to refuse to release Nelson Mandela and other African leaders and to carry out death sentences on other persons who opposed it. The so-called elections held on 6 September 1989 in South Africa had demonstrated that the essence of the apartheid régime could not be changed by means of reforms and that it must be liquidated.

32. The Government of Cameroon condemned the activities of foreign interests which were harming the environment, and the practice of dumping toxic wastes in the dependent Territories. It also condemned the co-operation with the régime and companies in South Africa of all foreign interests which were providing capital, know-how, arms, and nuclear technology and materials.

33. Cameroon was convinced that only the effective application of a boycott, of the embargo on the supply of armaments, and of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter could force the racist régime to comply fully with the provisions of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), to respect the independence and territorial integrity of Namibia, including Walvis Bay and adjacent islands, and to cease its political blackmail against SWAPO, the legitimate representative of the Namibian people, as well as its acts of aggression and destabilization against the independent Governments in southern Africa. In that connection, his delegation proposed that the Fourth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the proclamation the 1990s as the decade for the elimination of colonialism in the world and of apartheid in South Africa. The time for rhetoric and fruitless condemnations was past.

34. Mr. KAYUMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the positive changes taking place in the international sphere were in line with the new political thinking, the main element of which was freedom of social choice. In recent times, progress had been made in defusing conflicts and crisis situations in a number of areas of the world. The international community had come close to the decolonization of Namibia and its attainment of independence in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It was essential to ensure that all parties scrupulously observed the provisions of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

(Mr. Kayumov, USSR)

35. The activities of foreign economic and other interests constituted a serious obstacle to the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Many of them were engaged in plundering the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories. They regarded those Territories as a sphere for capital investment and a source of cheap raw materials and labour as well as of huge profits. The documents before the Fourth Committee testified to the fact that the monopolies continued to play a dominant role in the economy of the dependent Territories and impeded the growth of national consciousness among their peoples. Arguments to the effect that the population of those Territories were prepared to continue living in conditions of colonial dependency were untrue and far from the reality. They were being used in order to delay in every possible way the growth of the population's political awareness and the process of liberation of the colonial Territories.

36. The Soviet Union supported the demands for the removal of those obstacles to the prompt and full implementation of the Declaration. It advocated elimination of the obstacles created by the activities of economic interests to the national liberation and economic development of the colonial countries, preservation of the identity, culture and traditions of their peoples, and acceleration of the training of local national cadres.

37. The representatives of the developing countries were concerned at the spread of toxic technologies, products and wastes. That issue also concerned the dependent Territories, some of which were becoming dumps for toxic substances. In that connection, he stressed the timeliness of the idea of preparing, under the auspices of the Organization, programmes for ensuring the environmental security of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

38. The military activities of the colonial Powers in Territories under their administration impeded the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The military bases in those Territories represented a serious threat to the independence of those areas. Under current circumstances, when the elimination of all military presence from foreign Territories was becoming a practical proposition and equal comprehensive security for all was in process of formation, there were no legal or moral justifications for a military presence in colonial Territories which hampered the exercise by their peoples of the right to self-determination and independence.

39. Mr. TALAAT (Egypt) drew attention to the legal, moral and political obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations, to protect the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Non-fulfilment by the administering Powers of their obligations towards those Territories, whatever their strategic situation, was a flagrant violation of the Charter and international law and seriously prejudiced the legitimate interests of the inhabitants of those Territories. At the same time, Egypt supported activity for the use of natural resources which was carried out with due regard for the interests of the indigenous population.

(Mr. Talaat, Egypt)

40. An appropriate starting point for resolving the many problems confronting Africa would be the elimination in the southern part of the continent of the apartheid system, which was regarded by the international community as a crime against humanity. Egypt was firmly opposed to all forms of racial discrimination, which lay at the basis of the conflict in southern Africa, and supported the heroic struggle of the peoples against racism.

41. The positive changes taking place in South Africa afforded some hope of a solution to the current crisis. If that hope was to be realized, however, Pretoria must move from statements of its intentions to specific deeds, to a dialogue with the participation of all parties with a view to granting the people genuine political rights. To achieve peace, Pretoria should immediately release the political prisoners and call a halt to its terrorist activities against the opposition. Cynical tricks of the apartheid régime's leaders and their stubborn opposition to carrying out far-reaching changes only delayed the solution of the problem.

42. Mr. BADI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly over a quarter of a century the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were the heritage of the peoples of those Territories and their plunder constituted a crime against mankind and a direct violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter. Nevertheless, in violation of the Organization's decisions and the provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia and in defiance of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 1971, South Africa and its allies continued the rapacious exploitation of that Territory's resources.

43. The report of the Special Committee on Decolonization indicated that the administering Powers had set up a particular system which placed the economies of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a dependent position. Foreign interests were pursuing a similar policy with regard to the developing countries in general. According to statistics, more than 90 per cent of the population of Namibia and the other Non-Self-Governing Territories were living below the poverty line, while their natural and human resources continued to be mercilessly plundered.

44. In its report, the Special Committee condemned the collaboration of certain Western countries and the Zionist entity with the racist régime in the nuclear field, and called for an end to such collaboration, expressing its conviction that military bases and installations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories must be eliminated.

45. The South African régime, which had been illegally exploiting the resources of Namibia for many years, enjoyed the support of other colonial Powers, which were themselves involved in the plundering. His country expressed moral support for the people of Namibia, who were struggling against injustice and slavery under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole authentic representative, and affirmed that it was the duty of the international community to ensure that the Pretoria régime was not permitted to disrupt the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978)

/...

(Mr. Badi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

and to establish some kind of entity which would allow the exploitation of the Territory's resources to continue.

46. The Libyan people had achieved freedom from the foreign yoke as a result of a prolonged and unyielding struggle which constituted a real war for freedom. The consequences of that war were still being felt, and the question accordingly arose of the need for the colonial Powers to offer compensation for the damage they had caused. Libya's appeal to the colonial Powers to provide the colonial countries with appropriate compensation for the economic and social consequences which had held back their growth had been supported by the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries at their meeting in Belgrade.

47. His delegation once again affirmed its support for the efforts of the United Nations to implement the Plan for Namibia and the relevant resolutions. His country declared its support for SWAPO as the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people. It strongly condemned the policies and practices of States which permitted foreign interests to exploit unhindered the natural wealth of Namibia, and demanded that such activities be prohibited and that the racist entity afford appropriate compensation to Namibia.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/44/23 (part VI); A/44/139, 178, 236, 291, 303, 355, 463 and 477; A/AC.109/975 and Add.1, 976-978, 979 and Add.1, 980, 982-990, 992-998, 999/Rev.1, 1000 and 1007 and Corr.1)

AGENDA ITEM 116: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 ~~g~~ OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/44/23 (part IV); A/44/262, 553)

AGENDA ITEM 118: 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 (A/44/23 (part IV); A/44/297 and Add.1 and 2; A/AC.109/L.1705; E/1989/112)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/44/3 (chapters I and VI))

AGENDA ITEM 119: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/44/557)

AGENDA ITEM 120: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (A/44/613)

48. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking as 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 chapters of the Special Committee's report on agenda items 18, 116 and 118, contained in documents A/44/23 (parts IV and VI).

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

49. In response to the requests by the General Assembly in paragraph 12 of resolution 43/45, the Special Committee had once again given extensive consideration to the situation obtaining in the Territories concerned, and to other related questions, and had adopted a series of specific recommendations and proposals thereon.

50. The Special Committee reiterated that it was the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in those Territories as would enable their peoples to exercise, freely and without interference, their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

51. The Special Committee called upon the administering Powers to take measures with a view to strengthening and diversifying the economy of the Territories concerned, and stressed the importance of dispatching visiting missions in order to facilitate the speedy implementation of the Declaration with respect to those Territories.

52. The question of the extension of assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories by the organizations of the United Nations system continued to engage the close attention of the Special Committee. The Special Committee requested those organizations to render concrete assistance to the people of Namibia, in particular during the period of transition to and immediately after independence.

53. The Special Committee considered that the organizations concerned should initiate or broaden contacts and co-operation with the colonial peoples and the administering Powers in order to intensify programmes of assistance, and urged the executive heads of those organizations to submit to their governing and legislative organs concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions.

54. With respect to information transmitted by the administering Powers to the Secretary-General under Article 73 a of the Charter of the United Nations, the Special Committee, stressing the importance of its timely transmission, requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 a of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories, within a period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories.

55. Those and other specific recommendations had been incorporated in the draft resolutions and decisions, as set out in the chapters of the report.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.