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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12TH MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

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REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/3/Add.21-23)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received three communications (A/C.4/44/3/Add.21-23) with requests for hearings on the question of New Caledonia. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to those requests.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/C.4/44/3/Add.18-21 and 23)

Hearing of petitioners

3. The CHAIRMAN reminded the Committee that it had decided to accept requests for hearings on the question of New Caledonia (A/C.4/44/3/Add.18-21 and 23). He remarked that his consultations with the President of the General Assembly on the question of Namibia were continuing. After thorough discussions with delegations and the President of the General Assembly, it was proposed that the Committee should hear the petitioners who had submitted the aforementioned requests also on the general agenda item of the "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", which had been allocated to the Committee.

4. It was so decided.

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ukeiwe (Rassemblement pour la République) took a place at the petitioners' table.

6. Mr. UKEIWE (Rassemblement pour la République) said that he would like to reassert the truth about the political, economic and cultural situation in New Caledonia. He recalled that previous speakers on the question of New Caledonia in the Committee had included Mr. Uregei and Mr. Wamytan, who had claimed to represent the Kanaks advocating the independence of the Territory.

7. Those who had addressed the Committee had spoken about human rights in New Caledonia and about the need for measures to decolonize the Territory. However, all cultures and traditions were respected in New Caledonia and everyone enjoyed freedom of religion. New Caledonia was no longer a colony. The aforementioned Mr. Uregei, who purported to speak for the Front uni de libération kanak (FULK), was in fact excluded from that organization. As for Mr. Wamytan, he was speaking on behalf of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS).

8. In June 1988, the Chairman of the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR), the Chairman of FLNKS and the French Government had signed the

(Mr. Ukeiwe)

Matignon Agreement, which symbolized the reconciliation and recognition of the different components of Caledonian society. He would like to hope that despite the statements of its representative, FLNKS would be true to the pledge given by it together with RPCR and the French Government.

9. The Caledonians were being inculcated from outside with views which were alien to their convictions and to the notion of respect for man. New Caledonia had been the victim of much dissension. He urged members of the Committee to back the success of the Matignon Agreement which had opened the way to peace, freedom and happiness.

10. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) thanked Mr. Ukeiwe for the information that he had given to the Committee and, through it, to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (the Committee of 24). As he understood it, the petitioner had also provided information in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations on behalf of the administering Power. He would like to hear the petitioner say something about land reform and how it was affecting the indigenous population of New Caledonia. Those people had been displaced to arid areas and most of the cultivated land had been occupied by settlers who were, obviously, members of the party to which Mr. Ukeiwe belonged. In addition, he would like to have information about the development of education among the Kanaks since 1853.

11. Mr. MENAT (France) observed that the petitioner was speaking on his own behalf and not on behalf of any delegation.

12. Mr. UKEIWE (Rassemblement pour la République) said that the previous week, in Paris, a committee of representatives of the parties which had signed the Matignon Agreement had reviewed the question of implementing that Agreement and the measures that should be taken to that end. Land reform was one such measure. In the days ahead, 30,000 hectares of land would be redistributed in the interests of economic development and respect for human dignity. With regard to education, a start had been made on implementing a long-term programme of vocational training for those Melanesians who had been unable to obtain an education in the past.

13. In response to a further request for clarification from the representative of Papua New Guinea, he said that the quality of the land being redistributed was being monitored by the appropriate agency. In the Iles Loyauté, all of the land was tribal and belonged to Melanesians. On the island of New Caledonia, part of the land was privately owned and part was tribal land. The larger and better part of the land earmarked for redistribution would be made over to Melanesians and they would be able to take part in the economic development of their country. As for the number of Melanesians who had received higher education and been given an opportunity to occupy leading posts, 400 young people would study in Paris and 50 people had already been trained and had returned to the Territory, where they occupied important positions. Similar measures had also been implemented in the past.

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14. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that he would like the petitioner, who had stated that New Caledonia was no longer a colony, to define its current status. He also wondered why Mr. Ukeiwe had presented his petition to the Fourth Committee if New Caledonia was not a colony.

15. Mr. UKEIWE (Rassemblement pour la République) said that New Caledonia was now an Overseas Territory of the French Republic. A majority of votes in the 1988 referendum had been cast in favour of that status. Two of the three provinces of New Caledonia were controlled by FLNKS. There was a Territorial Congress in which Mr. Wamytan occupied one of the posts of Deputy Chairman.

16. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) observed that, since New Caledonia was part of France, the petitioner was a representative of the administering Power.

17. Mr. UKEIWE (Rassemblement pour la République) said that he was a Member of Parliament and did not represent any kind of administrative body. He was glad to clarify the question of the current status of New Caledonia because it was a source of confusion for many people.

18. Mr. Ukeiwe withdrew.

19. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Mealy (National Alliance of Third World Journalists) took a place at the petitioners' table.

20. Ms. MEALY (National Alliance of Third World Journalists) noted that, as the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples approached, it became increasingly vital to ensure that the right to self-determination was granted to those peoples which still remained dependent. It was essential to ensure that by the year 2000 the world would have no more dependent peoples.

21. Since 1966 the United Nations had courageously championed the just cause of the Namibian people. The final success of the international campaign to isolate the Pretoria régime had largely been due to the United Nations, and the Organization should continue to take an active position with regard to Namibia as it entered its final days of colonialism.

22. In that connection, great importance was attached to the news media, whose duty it was to break through the blanket of silence separating the Namibian people from the rest of the world. Harsh measures had been taken by the Pretoria régime to stifle media coverage of events in that Territory. It was largely for that reason that the public in the United States and other countries knew practically nothing about the true state of affairs in Namibia.

23. The organization which she represented was committed to disseminating true information, both in the United States and abroad, about the struggle of the peoples of the third world and the true state of affairs in their territories. In particular, the National Alliance of Third World Journalists had sent a representative to Namibia, whose reporting helped to ensure fuller press coverage in the United States of the situation in Namibia.

(Ms. Mealy)

24. At the core of Namibia's problem were South Africa's continued violations of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). South Africa's refusal to disband fully all military and paramilitary forces ran counter to the spirit and letter of the United Nations plan for a settlement in Namibia. Member States, and in particular the Western contact group, had a responsibility to exert the necessary pressure on Pretoria. The Namibian people must know that their inalienable rights remained protected.

25. Ms. Mealy withdrew.

26. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Payne (Congressional Black Caucus of the United States) took a place at the petitioners' table.

27. Mr. PAYNE (Congressional Black Caucus) said that he wished to honour the memory of his personal friend, Congressman Leland, who had lost his life in Ethiopia, while on a humanitarian mission, and he expressed his condolences on the recent senseless murder in Namibia of the activist of the South West Africa People's Organization, Anton Lubowski.

28. The work of the United Nations directed towards the attainment of independence in Namibia had entered its final stage. The Congressional Black Caucus, which sought to exercise a stronger influence on the foreign policy of the United States, attached great importance to the Namibian question. He and another representative of the Caucus had already visited Namibia on fact-finding missions. The situation there remained complex and the violence had not stopped. During the month of October alone, about 30 people had died as a result of such acts of violence.

29. There were, however, also positive developments, including the decision to count ballots in the electoral districts, rather than centrally at Windhoek. At the same time, the successful conduct of the election would probably necessitate additional manpower to ensure the inviolability of the ballot boxes at polling sites and during their transport. The Administrator-General of Namibia could do much to reduce the incidence of violence, which posed the greatest threat to the election process, by disbanding the Koevoet units.

30. Nearly 30 years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) the list of territories still under colonial rule remained disgracefully long. One of those Territories was New Caledonia, and the Congressional Black Caucus was prepared to give whatever help it could to its people.

31. In conclusion, he stressed the necessity to ensure the safety of independent foreign observers and noted that on 1 October a United States citizen in Namibia, who had been assisting with the registration of voters, had been assaulted by a group of armed men. He called on the Secretary-General and interested members of the Fourth Committee to take the necessary steps to protect all foreign citizens involved in the monitoring of the election process in Namibia.

32. Mr. Payne withdrew.

33. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Reverend Bernice Powell (Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ) took a place at the petitioners' table.

34. The Reverend Bernice POWELL (Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ) called upon France to grant full and unconditional independence to New Caledonia and to grant immediate permission for a United Nations mission to visit that Territory to assess the current situation there and accelerate the process leading to its full independence. She appealed to President Mitterrand to ensure respect for fundamental human rights and the right to self-determination, and to promote the speedy implementation of the process of granting full independence to New Caledonia.

35. There had recently been an increase in acts of violence and intimidation in Namibia, carried out by the racist régime of South Africa. New Caledonia, Namibia and all colonies must be freed from colonial oppression and must be given genuine independence.

36. The Reverend Bernice Powell withdrew.

37. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Scheiner (National Mobilization for Survival) took a place at the petitioners' table).

38. Mr. SCHEINER (National Mobilization for Survival) noted that in New Caledonia there were disagreements between different groups of the Kanak people, who had become a minority in their own land, and that all the Kanak people were struggling against the colonial Power for the right to shape their destiny. Despite all the dangers of this process, fraught as it was with the risk of violence and potential pitfalls, it could lead to a free and independent future for all the people of New Caledonia. He urged the United Nations to monitor the process very carefully. Although the Matignon Accords had led to divisions between groups of the Melanesian Kanak people. They provided the possibility for the emergence of an independent nation within nine years. A number of serious questions remained to be solved: the question of who would have the right to vote in the 1998 referendum; the question of immigration into New Caledonia during the period between now and 1998; and questions relating to the creation of governmental structures, economic development and control and the distribution of political power.

39. The French Government's affirmation that it was playing the role of a neutral, impartial mediator between the Kanaks, the Caldoches and recent immigrants did not inspire confidence. Only international monitoring could prevent the Matignon Agreement from becoming just one more step in the legitimization of colonial rule. If the Kanaks were to become independent or at least self-governing by 1998, it was necessary to effect major changes in the economic and political structures: the civil service bureaucracy had to be reduced and the economy, particularly the nickel mining and import-export businesses, had to become locally controlled, with profits remaining in the country.

40. In 1980, the Nuclear-Free Pacific Movement had renamed itself the Nuclear-Free and Independent Pacific Movement, in recognition of the interdependence between the

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(Mr. Scheiner)

ban on nuclear activities in the region and the true independence of its countries. Fifteen months ago, Louis Kotra Uregei, a Kanak, had presented the position of the movement at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. His statement had been censored, and he was told that the portions concerning the independence aspects of the nuclear-free question were irrelevant. Mr. Scheiner read out two paragraphs from that statement in which it was pointed out inter alia, "how naive and unscrupulous it would be to analyse the nuclear arms policies of the major world Powers in isolation from their practices in their historical and colonial spheres of influence".

41. The Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste had stated that any attempt to delete New Caledonia from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories would be a negation of the Matignon Agreement. The Melanesian people hoped that despite France's desire to preserve the remnants of its empire and its military-political control on every continent and in every ocean, the vigilance of the international community would ensure respect for their lawful rights.

42. Mr. Scheiner withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/44/23 (Part VI), A/44/139, 178, 236, 291, 303, 355, 463, 477 and 634; A/C.4/44/L.2; 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 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (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 (continued) (A/44/23 (Part IV); A/44/297 and Add.1-2; A/AC.109/L.1705; E/1989/112)

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

AGENDA ITEM 119: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/44/557, A/C.4/44/L.3)

AGENDA ITEM 120: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/44/613 and Add.1)

43. Mr. ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed the hope that the United Nations would devote greater attention to the activities of the administering Powers that impeded the achievement of the right to self-determination by the peoples of Western Sahara, New Caledonia, and the Falkland Islands. His country, as a member of the Special Committee of 24, considered that in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism a set of supplementary measures should be envisaged in addition to the measures already implemented. A mechanism should be

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(Mr. Zeinelddin, Islamic
Republic of Iran)

devised to place further obligations on the administering Powers to co-operate with the relevant United Nations bodies, such as the Special Committee of 24. In that connection, his delegation made the following recommendations: (a) availability of necessary facilities for the Department of Public Information (DPI) should be ensured and the administering Powers should assist DPI in discharging its functions relating to the enhancement of public awareness in Territories under their administration by providing the necessary services; and (b) greater attention should be paid to the work of the Special Committee, and the administering Powers should be urged to submit the latest reports on the situation in colonial Territories and the measures taken to achieve independence for those Territories within a specified time-frame.

44. In conclusion, his delegation endorsed the resolutions proposed by the Special Committee of 24 and reiterated its support for fair and free elections in Namibia.

45. Mr. DIARRA (Mali) noted that a number of administering Powers had, pursuant to their obligations under article 73 a of the Charter, submitted to the Special Committee of 24 information on the situation in the Territories they administered. The Special Committee of 24 had called on those administering Powers which had not replied to co-operate in the realization of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Fourth Committee should not be satisfied with the excuses frequently given by some administering Powers to the effect that the inhabitants of the respective Territories were pleased with the existing situation and rejected any interference by the United Nations in the process of their internal development.

46. The attainment of independence by many peoples had become possible as a result of their liberation struggle and through the influence of the international community on the colonial Powers. His delegation called on the international community to continue to exert pressure on South Africa with a view to ensuring its compliance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

47. With regard to the situation in Western Sahara, his delegation expressed its satisfaction at the positive developments resulting from the agreement in principle of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front to the joint proposals of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Western Sahara and the establishment in July 1989 of a technical commission on the implementation of the settlement plan. His delegation also valued highly the work of the joint technical missions in the field with a view to collecting the information required to prepare for a referendum. He was certain that both sides would demonstrate the political will required in order for the joint efforts of the United Nations and OAU to bring about a settlement of that question to continue.

48. Mr. PHAM NGAC (Viet Nam) said that over the last four decades of the existence of the United Nations, significant achievements had been recorded in the cause of decolonization as a result of the awakening of national consciousness and the

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(Mr. Pham Ngac, Viet Nam)

arduous struggle of the entire international community for independence and self-determination since the Second World War.

49. During the period following the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, some 59 former colonial Territories inhabited by over 80 million people had achieved independence and become Members of the United Nations. However, much remained to be done to carry out the task laid down in the Charter and the Declaration. More than 30 million persons and about 20 Territories were still not free from colonial rule, and many newly-independent countries continued to be subjected to interference from the colonial forces attempting to establish a colonial status of different kinds to the detriment of the independence and sovereignty of those countries. It was therefore essential to do everything necessary to eradicate colonialism in all its forms.

50. The Committee's agenda included questions concerning some 20 Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those Territories were still economically, politically, socially and culturally dependent on the administering Powers. Many Territories continued to be used as military bases. That situation in no way served to safeguard universal peace and security and the welfare of the inhabitants. The administering Powers should do everything necessary to ensure the free choice by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of their future socio-political structure.

51. After an arduous struggle under the leadership of SWAPO, the Namibian people had begun the process of transition to independence in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). That process continued to encounter many obstacles as a result of South Africa's policies. The international community should therefore ensure that South Africa complied fully with Council resolution 435 (1978) and the agreements concluded.

52. There had been progress in the peaceful solution to the question of Western Sahara, as was evident from the meeting held at Marrakesh between the two parties concerned. Further meetings of that nature would improve prospects for the successful conclusion of the peace process. At its Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government, held at Belgrade, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries had urged the Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU to continue and intensify their efforts for the holding of a free and fair referendum in order to enable the people of Western Sahara to achieve self-determination.

53. On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, joint efforts should be undertaken to work out a programme of action to achieve the speedy and total implementation of the Declaration. Viet Nam supported the declaration of 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

54. Ms. MARTINEZ (Nicaragua) said that it had already been 29 years since the General Assembly had adopted its historic resolution 1514 (XV). The contribution of that remarkable document to the struggle of liberation movements for freedom and self-determination was obvious. However, an examination of the current world

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(Ms. Martinez, Nicaragua)

situation made it clear that decolonization had not yet been completed and that there were still peoples which had not yet gained independence.

55. Nicaragua had learnt from its own experience what it meant to achieve genuine freedom and self-determination. Nicaragua was therefore fully aware of how important the struggle to exercise its legitimate rights was for a people.

56. In Africa, Namibia and Western Sahara continued to exist under colonial conditions. Her delegation advocated the completion of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), at which time an independent Namibia should become a member of the United Nations. Nicaragua reiterated that the people of Western Sahara should be given, without delay, the opportunity to exercise their right to independence and self-determination. The 14-year-old struggle of the people of Western Sahara had demonstrated that the conflict could be settled only through dialogue and negotiations. The new international situation and the restructuring of international relations confirmed the need for dialogue and negotiations and the withdrawal of foreign troops.

57. Nicaragua continued to believe that the two parties to the conflict should sit down at the negotiating table in order to work out a concrete agreement on a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. In that regard, Nicaragua welcomed the summit meeting between the King of Morocco and a high-level delegation from Western Sahara. That meeting had been a first step towards direct dialogue and contributed to the peace process. That process had also been strengthened by a number of goodwill gestures made by the Frente POLISARIO, for example, a unilateral cease-fire and the release of 200 Moroccan prisoners of war. The international community's broad support for the struggle of the people of Western Sahara should be welcomed with enthusiasm. Her delegation believed that the new resolution which the Committee would adopt on the subject would facilitate the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara.

58. In conclusion, her delegation supported the activities of the Special Committee of 24, as well as the Fourth Committee's efforts to end colonialism.

59. Ms. YEON CHEE YAN (Singapore) said that, since the beginning of the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), the United Nations had been faced with the important and delicate task of ensuring free, fair and democratic elections in Namibia.

60. The activities of the South West African Police Force (SWAPOL), particularly its ex-Koevoet members, had aroused concern, as had South Africa's continuing disregard for the implementation of some key aspects of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence. Singapore therefore supported the measures which the Secretary-General had taken to increase the number of UNTAG civilian police. There was a great need for vigilance, since the prestige of the United Nations and its ability to ensure Namibia's peaceful transition to independence through free and fair elections were at stake. Any successful manipulation by South Africa would only encourage other aggressive Powers to threaten the sovereignty of smaller and weaker States in defiance of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

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(Ms. Yeoh Chee Yan, Singapore)

61. Her delegation supported the right of the people of New Caledonia and all other Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with United Nations decolonization procedures. The success of many former colonies had shown that neither the size of a Territory or its population nor its geographical location or lack of resources should be used as a pretext for delaying the process of decolonization.

62. Increasing economic interdependence, the painful lessons of the two world wars, and the intervention in Afghanistan and Viet Nam by the super-Powers had reduced the practicality of war as a foreign policy option. That made a quick return to traditional forms of colonialism unlikely.

63. However, what remained unchanged was that international relations would continue to be characterized by relations among the strong and the weak, among those who dominated and those who were compelled to obey. The will to power was a natural aspiration of States. The other factor which remained unchanged was that geography had endowed some Territories with great strategic importance or rich natural resources, making them desirable targets for takeover. Furthermore, the desire to secure economic and strategic gains through domination still existed, although it was taking new forms.

64. Many countries were the victims of outright invasion, of regional domination by a new type of colonial Power. That involved the establishment of nominally independent Governments through which such Powers could exert influence and control. Economic influence was another trend of the future. Debt slavery and chronically disadvantageous terms of trade for mainly commodity-producing countries coupled with the rise of protectionism were constantly widening the gap between the North and South. The economically developed countries would play a decisive role in shaping a system of relations based on their own political aims, and the economically dependent countries would correspondingly have less freedom to determine their own national goals. Namibia was a case in point. Namibia would remain dependent on South Africa for its transport, trade and financial transactions. Such economic dependence could damage its political sovereignty.

65. Her delegation believed that two areas required closer attention: first, measures which would deter aggressive regional Powers and ensure the security of smaller and weaker States and, secondly, measures which would close the economic gap between the North and South. Although those issues could be substantively discussed in other committees, the Fourth Committee could identify areas of concern and measures which could prevent recolonization.

66. Mr. ANVIRE (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, by adopting the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly had reaffirmed and given concrete expression to the basic purpose of the Charter of the United Nations, namely, to uphold the principle of equal rights of all peoples and their inalienable right to decide their own destiny. Unfortunately, colonialism continued to exist in many regions of the world in the form of blatant racism in Namibia and of the abominable apartheid system in South Africa.

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(Mr. Anyiré, Côte d'Ivoire)

67. Namibia was the most tragic case. The illegal occupation régime had perpetrated an untold number of crimes. The fact that the South African Government had begun to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was encouraging and was evidence of the active role of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and Heads of State. The South African authorities should strictly observe their commitments to the international community so that free and fair elections could be held in Namibia in November 1989. The United Nations, in particular the Security Council, should maintain vigilance, preventing possible deviations and ensuring that all parties, particularly South Africa, respected the spirit and letter of the settlement plan, the details of which were contained in the Secretary-General's report (S/20412). The Secretary-General's report on the question of Namibia (S/20883 and Add.1) confirmed fears that the South African Administration would use tactics such as tampering with voters' lists and intimidation. The disbandment of the "Koevoet" unit would demonstrate to the international community South Africa's willingness to ensure impartiality and neutrality, as well as a peaceful atmosphere, in the forthcoming elections.

68. His delegation was pleased that Namibia, the last bastion of colonialism on the African continent, would gain independence within a few weeks. The United Nations had an important role to play at the current, decisive stage. Namibia should be granted not partial but genuine independence, with all the attributes of sovereignty.

69. The situation in Western Sahara remained worrisome. Peace had prevailed there for the past several months. However, recent events in that Territory had violated the peace. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of OAU, there was hope that reason would triumph and the parties to the conflict would not abandon the peace plan which they had accepted with a number of reservations.

70. His delegation had considered the draft resolution on that question. In its opinion, the draft resolution did not adequately reflect the final goal and all aspects of the agreement reached by the parties, which was described in the Secretary-General's report (A/44/634). Joint efforts were needed to work out a generally acceptable text designed to encourage the parties, which had completed work on conditions for a cease-fire and a referendum, to continue negotiations on unresolved issues. In order to reach a consensus, Côte d'Ivoire would abstain in the vote on any document unless the Fourth Committee's adoption of that document helped to reconcile the positions of the parties. His delegation called upon the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of OAU to continue their mission of good offices.

71. At a time when international relations were marked by an atmosphere of calm, it would be tragic and incomprehensible if peace, which Africa needed for its harmonious development, eluded that continent. He therefore hoped that the dynamics of dialogue and negotiations would prevail, throughout Africa and in other regions, over open confrontation. Africa could not develop without peace. It was striving for freedom and genuine independence. Africa wished to control its own destiny so that it could, with the disinterested aid of true friends, make use of its vast resources in its own interests.

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72. Mr. GBEHO (Ghana) said that the Secretary-General's report on Western Sahara, which described recent events in that Territory, aroused mixed feelings. It was gratifying to note that Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO had responded positively to the General Assembly's request in its resolution 43/33 that they undertake direct negotiations. Ghana also commended the meeting between King Hassan II and a high-level delegation of the Frente POLISARIO in February 1989, which had taken place in a spirit of compromise. His delegation further noted the measures which the Secretary-General had taken in order to ensure the earliest implementation of the proposals which he and the Chairman of OAU had formulated, the appointment of a Special Representative for Western Sahara and the establishment on 30 June 1989 of a Technical Commission under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General himself.

73. Ghana was seriously concerned at the developments reported in the Secretariat working paper and at the recent outbreak of hostilities between the two parties. The conflict had begun again. His delegation called upon the two parties to reconsider their positions and resolve their differences in a spirit of compromise. While negotiations might not lead to the resolution of the conflict, they were essential for the promotion of mutual trust, goodwill and peace. That was an important requirement for the success of the peace process and the referendum. History confirmed that military might did not always win wars. For that reason, Ghana shared the hope of the Secretary-General that the parties would continue the process of negotiations. That would be the litmus test of the good faith of the two parties.

74. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the draft text of consensus on the question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/44/L.2) and a draft resolution on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (A/C.4/44/L.3). With regard to the question of Western Sahara, the parties concerned had submitted requests for an extension of the deadline for the submission of proposals. He suggested that the deadline should be extended until 1 p.m., Monday, 23 October 1989.

75. It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

76. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received four more communications containing requests for hearings on New Caledonia. He suggested that, in keeping with customary practice, those communications should be circulated as Committee documents, so that they could be considered at the following meeting, on Monday.

77. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.