

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

**SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, 754th
MEETING**



Friday, 8 October 1971,
at 3.20 p.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Cornelius C. CREMIN (Ireland).

*Tribute to the memory of Mr. Ramón Villeda Morales,
Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United
Nations*

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, expressed his condolences on the death of the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations.

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute's silence.

Organization of the Committee's work

2. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/SPC/143) which listed the five items allocated to it for consideration and report.

3. With regard to the first of those items, relating to the effects of atomic radiation (agenda item 36), the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation had already been circulated (A/8334).

4. The second item concerned the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa (agenda items 37 and 12); it was hoped that the report of the Special Committee on *Apartheid* would be circulated late the following week as document A/8422 and the reports of the Secretary-General would also be issued the following week; the report of the Economic and Social Council had already been circulated (A/8403).

5. With regard to the third item, concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (agenda items 38 and 12), the report of the Commissioner General of the Agency would be available early the following week as document A/8413. The report of the working group on the financing of UNRWA would probably be ready towards the end of October. The reports of the Secretary-General and the Economic and Social Council on the subject had already been distributed (A/8366 and A/8403).

6. With reference to the fourth item—Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects (agenda item 39)—there was as yet no indication of when the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations would complete its report.

7. Finally, with regard to the fifth item—Report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli Practices Affecting

the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories (agenda item 40)—this should be distributed about 18 October as document A/8389.

8. In the circumstances, he suggested that the Committee should decide to take up the first three items referred to it in the order in which they were listed in document A/SPC/143 and to reverse the order in which the last two items would be examined.

9. Mr. MAHJOUBI (Morocco) pointed out that four African Heads of State would be going to Cairo and Tel Aviv to hold conversations on the problem of refugees and on the occupied territories. As the results of those conversations would not be known until after 15 November, it would be advisable to deal last with the third and fifth items in the letter submitted by the President of the Assembly. His delegation thought that the second item should not be discussed until a week after the report on the item had been circulated. It was not likely that the discussion on the report on the effects of atomic radiation would take up more than three meetings, since a draft resolution (A/SPC/L.203) had already been prepared for submission to the Special Political Committee.

10. Mr. NUSEIBEH (Jordan) thought the proposal of the representative of Morocco unacceptable. The action of the African Heads of State could hardly resolve immediately the problems of the Palestine refugees. What the Special Political Committee had to deal with primarily was the conditions, the life and the welfare of the refugees and the amount of funds needed to improve their lot, and also the question of the populations of the occupied territories. The Secretariat should be asked to expedite the issue of the reports relating to those matters so that the Committee could discuss them as soon as possible.

11. Mr. BADIENG (Senegal) said that he would like the fifth item to be examined last, so as not to compromise the mission of the Organization of African Unity to the Middle East.

12. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) thought that the Special Political Committee should examine the first item first, and then the second. With regard to the other items, he thought the various groups should be allowed some time for consultations before deciding the order in which they should be examined. There was no doubt that agreement could be reached as a result of such informal consultations and that should save the Committee time.

13. Mr. BHATT (Nepal) thought that the various items should not be examined until about a week after the reports on them had been circulated, so that the delegations would have time to study those reports.

14. Mr. EDREMODA (Nigeria) supported the proposals of the representatives of Morocco and Senegal concerning the third and fifth items since it would be difficult to have a useful discussion of those items while the African Heads of State were away on mission.

15. Mr. BANGO BANGO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) expressed the hope that the representatives of Jordan and Lebanon would accept the Moroccan proposal on the third and fifth items and endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Nigeria.

16. Mr. JAISEY (Ghana) pointed out that there was nothing to prevent the Committee from examining the third item during the mission of the African Heads of State: even if that mission was successful, the 20-year-old problem of the refugees would not be solved as a result. However, it might be advisable to examine the fifth item last. He proposed that the three first items should be examined first and that a decision on the other two should be postponed.

17. Mr. SIMUCHIMBA (Zambia) supported the proposals of the representative of Morocco on the third and fifth items, since he felt that nothing should interfere with the effort made by the African Heads of State.

18. Mr. RAOUF (Iraq) thought that in accordance with the usual practice, the Committee should first take up the first two items, the consideration of which would probably last until mid-November. He formally endorsed the proposals of the representative of Lebanon on the third and fifth items, quoting in support the relevant rules of procedure.

19. Mr. OULD HACHÈME (Mauritania) agreed with the representatives of Morocco, Nigeria and Senegal that the consideration of the third and fifth items should be postponed.

20. Mr. COLERIDGE-TAYLOR (Sierra Leone) noted that there seemed to be general agreement that the first two items should be considered first, and that the third and fifth items should be considered together. Thus all that had to be decided was whether the fourth item should be dealt with before or after the third and fifth items. He supported the proposals of the representatives of Nepal and Iraq.

21. Mr. CHAMMAS (Lebanon) wished to make it clear that he had spoken neither for nor against the proposals of the Moroccan and Jordanian representatives. Since the representative of Senegal wished that the fifth item should be examined last, the group to which Lebanon belonged would carefully study that proposal. The delegations that wished to wait until the conclusion of the mission of the African Heads of States to the Middle East before examining the third and fifth items might well be right, but it was not for the Committee to debate such a problem. The postponement of the decision on the order in which the three last items should be examined in no way interfered with the work of the Special Political Committee, since there seemed to be general agreement that the first two

should be dealt with first. The groups should be given time to consult on the three last items. The agreement which they would undoubtedly reach on the order of examination of the items would be announced by the Chairman.

22. Mr. OSMAN (Egypt) supported the proposal of the Lebanese representative that the Committee should first study the first two items on its agenda and should then decide on the order in which the other three items should be examined.

23. The CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, noted that the members of the Committee seemed to be agreed that they should first take up the first two items, namely, those concerning the effects of atomic radiation and the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa. He suggested that his decision on the order in which the three other items should be examined should be postponed until consultations had taken place between the various regional groups.

It was so decided.

24. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, with regard to the summary records of the debates of the Committee, the General Assembly had approved the recommendations of the General Committee (A/8500 para. 7) that the practice should be continued during the twenty-sixth session enabling the Special Political Committee to obtain, by special request, a transcript of the debates for certain meetings or for parts of certain meetings. He also noted that in a letter dated 4 October addressed to the Chairmen of the Main Committees (A/8455), the President of the General Assembly had drawn attention to the need to consider proposals with financial implications as quickly as possible.

25. Mr. DE SOTO (Peru), referring to the statement made by the representative of Morocco, which mentioned the possibility of a draft resolution on the effects of atomic radiation, said that his delegation was ready to take part in any discussion on the matter.

26. Mr. SCALABRE (France) pointed out, in connexion with the item on the policies of *apartheid* of the Government of South Africa, that several members of the Committee would also have to take part in the work of the Fourth Committee on the same question. He would therefore request the Chairman of the two Committees to arrange between them that there should be no overlapping of the meetings dealing with that item.

27. The CHAIRMAN paid a tribute to Mr. Ralph J. Bunche, former Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, who had just retired. On behalf of the Special Political Committee, he conveyed his best wishes to him.

28. Mr. GUYER (Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs) thanked the Committee on Mr. Bunche's behalf.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.