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Chairman: Mr. Leopoldo BENITES (Ecuador).

AGENDA ITEM 88

Question of boundaries between Venezuela and the territory of British Guiana (A/5168 and Add.1) (concluded)

1. Mr. FALCON BRICEÑO (Venezuela) said that since the Committee's last meeting, very cordial and conciliatory conversations had taken place between his Government and that of the United Kingdom. The result of those conversations had been communicated to the Chairman. The fact that the Venezuelan delegation had agreed to the procedure in question did not in any way imply a change in its position as expressed in his statement of 12 November 1962 (348th meeting).

2. Mr. CROWE (United Kingdom) was sure that the Committee would share his delegation's pleasure at the acceptance by the Minister of External Relations of Venezuela of the offer made by the Government of the United Kingdom with the concurrence of the Government of British Guiana. The conversations of the past few days had been conducted in a gratifying spirit of friendship that was characteristic of the relationship between the United Kingdom and Venezuela. He had noted that the Venezuelan's position had not changed; that of the United Kingdom Government remained as stated to the Committee on 13 November 1962 (349th meeting).

3. The CHAIRMAN then placed the following statement on record:

"The Committee has heard statements by the Foreign Minister of Venezuela and by the representative of the United Kingdom in which they have set out the positions of their Governments on this matter. The representatives of the Government of

the United Kingdom and Venezuela have authorized me to inform the Committee that as a result of the conversations held by them in the last few days with regard to the question of the boundaries between Venezuela and the territory of British Guiana, they have agreed, the first of the aforementioned Governments acting with the full concurrence of the Government of British Guiana, that the three Governments shall examine the documentary material available to all parties relevant to this question. For this purpose they will proceed to make the necessary arrangements through diplomatic channels.

"I am sure that I am interpreting the feelings of the Committee that in view of the possibility of direct discussions among the parties concerned, we should not proceed further with our debate here. I feel sure that the Committee will also wish me to express the hope that this procedure agreed among the three parties concerned will be fruitful.

"It is my understanding that the parties concerned will inform the United Nations about the results of these conversations."

4. Mr. MENSNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet delegation had intended to make a detailed statement on the matter. In view of the Chairman's statement, however, he would simply point out that it was because British Guiana was not an independent and sovereign State and thus was not a Member of the Organization that the matter could not be discussed in the United Nations. The immediate independence of British Guiana was, therefore, an obvious necessity.

5. Mr. BERNSTEIN (Chile) congratulated the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, on the part he had played in the negotiations. In view of the statements that had just been made, he suggested that the discussion of the item should be adjourned and that the Committee should proceed at its next meeting to the question of Oman.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.