

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTIETH SESSION

Official Records

**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1554th  
MEETING**

Thursday, 11 November 1965,  
at 11.10 a.m.



**NEW YORK**

CONTENTS

Agenda item 23:

	Page
<i>Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: reports 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: A/5800/Rev.1, chapters VII, IX, X and XIII-XXVI; A/6000/Rev.1, chapters IX-XXV (continued)</i>	
<i>General debate (continued)</i> . . . . .	211
<i>Organization of work</i> . . . . .	212

*Chairman:* Mr. Majid RAHNEMA (Iran).

AGENDA ITEM 23

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: reports 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: A/5800/Rev.1, chapters VII, IX, X and XIII-XXVI; A/6000/Rev.1, chapters IX-XXV (continued) (A/5959 and Corr.1, A/6084, A/6094)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. DEL CARRIL (Argentina) said that, before exercising his right of reply, he wished to emphasize that his delegation considered the unilateral declaration of independence proclaimed by Southern Rhodesia in defiance of the appeals by the United Nations, which had always been supported by Argentina, to be a danger to relations between States and a challenge to the free and democratic nations of the world.
2. He then announced that his delegation considered it a duty to inform the Fourth Committee that, as the representative of the United Kingdom had stated at the 1552nd meeting, on 9 November, the United Kingdom Embassy had sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina a reply, dated 4 November 1965, to the invitation extended by the Argentine Government to the Government of the United Kingdom to initiate negotiations in accordance with the recommendations made by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/5800/Rev.1, chap. XXIII, para. 221).
3. The United Kingdom reply had been sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina at Buenos Aires the very day before the Fourth Committee had begun its discussion of the problem under considera-

tion. Unfortunately, because of unforeseen circumstances, the Argentine delegation had not been able to communicate with Buenos Aires on the evening of 9 November and had not received the text of the United Kingdom note until the following morning.

4. In its reply to the Argentine Government's note No. 1651 of 21 September 1965, the United Kingdom Embassy had stated that Her Majesty's Government had no doubt of its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and did not consider that that question was subject to negotiation. However, the United Kingdom Government wished to minimize any adverse effect which the present controversy might have on the otherwise cordial relations between the United Kingdom and Argentina. The United Kingdom Government had also stated that, with due consideration for the reservations which it had made regarding sovereignty and the position which it had always maintained concerning the aspirations and interests of the people living on the islands, it agreed to start talks with the Argentine Government through diplomatic channels and would be pleased to receive any suggestions which the Argentine Government might make regarding the questions to be discussed. The United Kingdom Government had further stated that it was of the opinion that it would be useful to discuss, *inter alia*, the practical obstacles which were at present hampering free communication between the Falkland Islands and Argentina, and had added that in its view the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee concerned solely the Falkland Islands, and not South Georgia and South Sandwich.

5. The Argentine delegation welcomed the fact that the United Kingdom Government seemed finally to have decided to start talks with the Argentine Government. Those talks could be the first stage towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Special Committee. His delegation therefore hoped that the Fourth Committee would ratify and endorse the terms of those recommendations so that it might be possible, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter and in accordance with the resolutions in force, to keep the General Assembly constantly informed of the progress of the negotiations. His delegation considered this to be an undertaking on the part of the United Kingdom Government to the General Assembly.

6. His delegation also wished to make clear that the talks and negotiations which were to start between the United Kingdom and Argentine Governments must relate strictly to the decisions taken by the Special Committee, and that their main and basic objective must be the decolonization of the Malvinas on the basis of respect for the interests and aspirations of the inhabitants and for the territorial integrity of the

Argentine Republic, of which the islands in question formed a part.

7. With regard to the reservations made by the United Kingdom Government, which considered that the problem of sovereignty over the Malvinas was not subject to negotiation, the Argentine delegation reaffirmed the position which it had set out in its statement at the 1552nd meeting. The Government of the Argentine Republic, for its part, formally affirmed its sovereignty over the Malvinas and likewise considered that that sovereignty was not subject to negotiation.

8. The Argentine delegation also wished to reserve its country's rights over South Georgia and South Sandwich, to which the United Kingdom had referred in its note and which were dependencies of the Malvinas.

9. Argentina hoped that the talks to be held would have a successful outcome and would enable a just and fair solution to be found to all the issues in dispute.

#### Organization of work

10. Mr. LAIDI (Algeria), speaking on a point of order, said that, in view of the latest development in the Southern Rhodesian situation, he formally requested that the Committee should decide to resume consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia at the following meeting. That question was still on the Committee's agenda, and the African group was at that moment meeting to prepare for the resumption of its consideration.

11. Mr. THERATTIL (India) said that, in view of the gravity of the situation, his delegation associated itself with the formal request made by the Algerian representative.

12. Mr. BROWN (United Kingdom) said that the Committee members were probably already aware that the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, Mr. Ian Smith, had that morning, in a broadcast from Salisbury, made a declaration in which he had unilaterally and illegally proclaimed the independence of Rhodesia. They were doubtless also aware that the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, has suspended the Rhodesian Prime Minister and all his Ministers from office from the moment that the unilateral declaration had been made. In addition, the United Kingdom Prime Minister had that morning made a statement in the United Kingdom Parliament.

13. His delegation also wished to inform the Committee that on instructions from its Government, it had asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council and that the usual consultations for the organization of that meeting were at that moment taking place. The United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs intended to be present at the meeting and would arrive in New York in the evening.

14. In those circumstances, the United Kingdom delegation was not in a position to say any more at that time.

15. He nevertheless felt bound to draw the Committee's attention to Article 12 of the United Nations Charter. Since the Security Council was already seized of the grave problem of Southern Rhodesia, the United Kingdom delegation believed that it would be better, in the interests of orderly procedure, and particularly in view of the fact that the United Kingdom was not at that time in a position to make any further statement, for the Committee to await the outcome of the debate in the Security Council before taking any decision on further action.

16. Mr. THIAM (Mali) said that his delegation joined with the delegations of Algeria and India in requesting that the Committee should resume consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia at its next meeting. He would welcome a speedy decision on the matter.

17. Mr. DIAZ GONZALEZ (Venezuela), referring to the gravity of the news from Southern Rhodesia and the fact that many delegations would want to consult with their Governments and obtain instructions in preparation for the afternoon meeting, formally moved the adjournment of the meeting.

18. In reply to a request for clarification from the CHAIRMAN, Mr. BROWN (United Kingdom) said that, without understating a situation which it considered to be very grave and concerning which it had decided to request a meeting of the Security Council, the United Kingdom delegation believed that it would be better to postpone a decision on the subject until the Security Council debate had taken place.

19. Mr. THERATTIL (India) said that he was unable to accept the proposal of the United Kingdom. In his opinion, the Committee should, before adjourning, decide to resume consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia at its next meeting, and the Indian delegation formally requested it to do that. The question was still on the agenda, and the Committee was therefore perfectly competent to take a decision on it.

20. After an exchange of views between the CHAIRMAN, Mr. DIAZ GONZALEZ (Venezuela) and Mr. THERATTIL (India), Mr. DIAZ GONZALEZ (Venezuela) stated that his motion to adjourn the meeting still stood.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that, under rule 120 of the rules of procedure, the motion of the representative of Venezuela had precedence over that of the representative of Algeria and must immediately be put to the vote under rule 119 of those rules.

*The Venezuelan representative's motion to adjourn was adopted by 48 votes to 5, with 9 abstentions.*

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.