

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1758th  
MEETING**

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at 3.30 p.m.

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*Chairman:* Mr. P. V. J. SOLOMON  
(Trinidad and Tobago).

*Statement by the Chairman*

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the honour they had done him in electing him Chairman, which was an honour also to his country and to Latin America. The choice of a representative of a Latin American country as Chairman of the Fourth Committee was evidence that the General Assembly had come to accept that the struggle against imperialism was a universal and not a regional or local one.

2. If the Committee was to complete the heavy programme of work allocated to it in the allotted time, it must face the task with as much seriousness and determination as in the past and, at the same time, operate with greater dispatch.

3. The Committee might flatter itself that during the previous twenty years the membership of the United Nations had tripled, a fact which was an indication of the number of occasions that States had achieved their independence from imperial rule. Nevertheless, the forces of imperialism had not yet been completely dislodged and victory in the struggle against imperialism should not be taken for granted. He did not believe that there was at work in the world an inevitable historical process which must lead to the establishment of a well-regulated society where justice and peace automatically prevailed. That was an ideal that must be fought for and, if there was any relaxation of effort, the battle could and would be lost. The struggle must continue with unrelenting vigour until the last vestiges of colonialism were eradicated. While the imperial Powers were happy to grant independence to those territories from which they had extracted all exploitable economic value, they tenaciously maintained, or even tightened, their grip on those parts of the world that still held out the prospect of further profit. Where vested interests were still considerable, in Southern Rhodesia, in Namibia and in the Territories under Portuguese administration in Africa, the imperial Powers were still entrenched and were prepared to make their stand, and the last battle was likely to be the bitterest of all.

4. Although the Committee should not, of course, sacrifice the interests of colonial peoples by replacing thoroughness with speed, he hoped that members would co-operate in ensuring that work proceeded with a minimum of delay. It had been suggested that the Committee might agree to have a single general debate early in its deliberations to cover all the items on its agenda and that in dealing with the separate items it should confine itself to discussion of formal resolutions and amendments. Unfortunately, that suggestion could not be adopted during the current session since, with the exception of the chapter on Southern Rhodesia (A/7200/Rev.1, chap. VI), the report 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, on which much of the Fourth Committee's work depended, was not yet ready for submission and study. He suggested, therefore, that the Committee might aim at having a single general debate during the twenty-fourth session and urge the Special Committee to try to submit its report in good time, and that for the current session other ways should be found of compressing the Committee's work into the time available.

5. He congratulated and welcomed Mauritius and Swaziland, which had joined the international community of sovereign States since the previous session; he offered their Governments his own and the Committee's best wishes for their future development and invited them to join in the struggle to free others from the colonial yoke.

*Election of the Vice-Chairman*

6. Mr. CARTER (Guyana) nominated Mr. Buyantyn Dashtseren (Mongolia) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

7. Mr. KOTHARI (India) and Mr. KORNEENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia) was elected Vice-Chairman by acclamation.*

8. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia) congratulated the Chairman on his election. He thanked the Committee for its confidence in him and said that he would do his best, with the full co-operation of the Committee, to justify the trust placed in him. His election was an honour to his country, which firmly supported the cause of liberty, national independence and social justice.

*Election of the Rapporteur*

9. Mr. DASHTSEREN (Mongolia) nominated Mr. James Aggrey-Orleans (Ghana) for the office of Rapporteur.

10. Mr. METAFERIA (Ethiopia), Mr. CARTER (Guyana) and Mr. BERRO (Uruguay) supported the nomination.

*Mr. Aggrey-Orleans (Ghana) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

11. Mr. AGGREY-ORLEANS (Ghana) congratulated the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman on their election. He was conscious of the responsibilities of his new office, and would count on the Chairman's able guidance and the co-operation of the entire Committee in discharging his duties to the best of his ability.

*Organization of work (A/C.4/705)*

12. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a letter from the President of the General Assembly (A/C.4/705) presenting the list of items allocated to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report. The Committee would have to decide how to deal with the various chapters of the report 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, as well as the order of priorities for the various items allocated to it. Since the Special Committee had not yet completed its report, he suggested that those decisions should be postponed until a later meeting, but that the Committee should decide to consider separately and to give first priority to the chapter of the Special Committee's report relating to Southern Rhodesia

(A/7200/Rev.1, chap. VI) and to begin consideration of that item at its next meeting.

*It was so decided.*

13. Mr. PIÑERA (Chile) suggested that it might be useful to hold a short meeting, or informal consultations, in order to establish a tentative list of priorities for the twelve items allocated to the Committee. In considering the organization of its work, the Committee should bear in mind the suggestions made by the Chairman in his opening statement, suggestions which his delegation in general supported, as well as the fact that the Special Committee had not yet completed its consideration of some items. He hoped that the debate in the Fourth Committee on the Special Committee's report would not conflict with the general debate in the plenary meetings concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples but, rather, would be complementary. Although all twelve agenda items were important, he suggested that, after the chapter of the Special Committee's report relating to Southern Rhodesia, priority might be given to the question of Namibia and to the question of Territories under Portuguese administration.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that he would at all times be available for consultations with members.

*The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.*