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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

later: Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/3/Add.7-11)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Committee wished to grant the requests for hearings relating to the question of New Caledonia contained in documents A/C.4/44/3/Add.7-11.
2. It was so decided.
3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received two additional communications containing requests for hearings under agenda item 18. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.
4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 117: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/44/23 (Part III); A/AC.109/976, 984, 987, 989, 990, 994, 996 and 997)

5. Mr. DASHUK (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) observed that over the past year there had been some progress in achieving the Committee's main task, the full implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. The United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, as set out in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), had begun to be applied, and the Security Council was following the situation closely.
6. Because of the long exploitation of its human and natural resources by South Africa and by foreign economic and other interests, an independent Namibia would face huge problems. It required the help of all States if it was to develop in accordance with the express will of its people. In that connection, his delegation favoured a proposal which had been made in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples regarding the working out of reliable safeguards for the economic security of newly independent States.
7. The transnational corporations active in the dependent Territories were continuing to siphon off huge profits thanks to the cheap labour available to them, while an enormous proportion of the hired workers themselves were living below the poverty level. The United Nations should make the ending of the harmful activities of foreign economic and other interests one of the main goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

(Mr. Dashuk, Byelorussian SSR)

8. Another serious issue of the times was the ecological problem. Heavily populated regions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were being turned into toxic waste dumps, and his Government therefore supported the idea of developing programmes to ensure the environmental safety of those Territories.
9. It was clear from the report of the Special Committee (A/44/23 (Part III)) that the administering Powers had taken no steps of any sort to comply with the demand that they immediately and unconditionally remove military bases and installations and refrain from establishing new ones in the Territories under their control. Any military presence beyond national borders was a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization, and the States parties to the Warsaw Treaty had proposed, as one measure to strengthen international security and ensure confidence-building, the elimination of military bases and the withdrawal of foreign forces from the territories of other States. The United Nations should be more active in that connection and should, in particular, insist on compliance with its decisions in the matter. His delegation commended the excellent work being done to that end by the Special Committee.
10. Mr. SARWAR (Afghanistan) said that the dark episode of colonialism had not yet been concluded, for there were still a few countries and peoples suffering under the unjust yoke of colonialism. In the movement towards decolonization, which had brought freedom and independence to many new nations that were now full-fledged members of the world community, the United Nations had played a unique role. It was the primary task of all Governments to assist it in launching a world-wide campaign for decolonization so as to achieve that humane and urgent objective. The Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries recently held in Belgrade had adopted a resolution calling for the immediate granting of independence to Non-Self-Governing Territories. Afghanistan itself had from the outset supported the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories and the right to dispose of them in their own best interests.
11. Recent developments had demonstrated that the ever-increasing military activities and arrangements in the colonial Territories were impeding decolonization, and General Assembly resolution 43/45 calling upon the colonial Powers to withdraw their military bases and installations and to refrain from establishing new ones must be implemented immediately.
12. The fact that Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was actually being implemented and that United Nations-supervised elections would be held had enhanced the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations. No efforts should be spared to achieve the long-cherished goal of independence for Namibia.
13. The current international political climate provided new cause for optimism and unprecedented opportunities for bringing decolonization to a successful conclusion, and all must unite to work towards that end.

14. Mr. ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, with the approach of independence and national sovereignty for Namibia, the Committee should proceed cautiously in order to forestall any further exploitation by South Africa and enable the future Government of Namibia to begin exercising sovereignty over its natural resources. The United Nations, after ensuring free and fair elections in Namibia, should aim to lay the groundwork for a sovereign government; otherwise, judging from the past history of the apartheid régime, its destructive activities would soon emerge in a new form.
15. In the Final Document of their Ninth Conference, the non-aligned countries, welcoming the commencement of the implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibian independence had, inter alia, urged the United Nations to ensure conditions conducive to free and fair elections, without intimidation and with adequate protection for all parties. Iran believed that the presence of representatives of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on an individual basis as observers in the elections could only further that goal.
16. Twenty-seven years of economic sanctions against South Africa had unfortunately failed to eradicate racial discrimination there, and undoubtedly an important reason had been the extensive collaboration of certain Western Powers and the Zionist régime with the Pretoria régime. The relations between the apartheid régime and the Zionist régime served their common goals of expansionism, plundering of natural resources, interference in the internal affairs of other States and the use of aggression and repression to deprive an indigenous majority of their fundamental rights.
17. Foreign economic activities also in the small Territories such as the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the British and the United States Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands should not impede their economic growth or hinder the initiatives of their indigenous populations. Their administering Powers should plan economic activities there with a view to advancing the goal of independence and self-determination, instead of making the Territories dependent on their own economic systems. Those Powers should, as required by the Charter, submit reports on their activities to the Special Committee. The replies offered by them to the Special Committee during its latest session had not been at all satisfactory.
18. Furthermore, military activities in small Territories like Bermuda, Guam, St. Helena, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands not only threatened international stability and security but also involved the Territories in regional or international conflicts, thus impeding their progress towards independence.
19. Mr. Bristol (Nigeria) took the Chair.
20. Mr. DERHEM (Democratic Yemen) said that the disastrous consequences of foreign economic and other activities upon life in the dependent Territories had been made abundantly clear in the Special Committee's report. Many resolutions had been adopted calling for measures to protect the rights and property of the peoples of those Territories, to prevent foreign intervention, to ensure that the presence of military bases did not prevent them from exercising their rights, and to bar the

(Mr. Derhem, Democratic Yemen)

two super-Powers from dumping nuclear wastes in the Territories. It would be difficult, however, to cite anything that had actually been done in response on any of those issues.

21. The main problem was that States with economic interests in the dependent Territories were continuing to exploit and pillage them through cynical laws that deprived the inhabitants of the basic rights and impeded their independence. Some States were continuing to collaborate with South Africa, in flagrant violation of General Assembly resolutions calling for an embargo and a boycott of that régime. More serious still, there was a growing military and even nuclear collaboration between South Africa and Israel, and it was urgent to put an end to that dangerous relationship. The Pretoria régime must also be urged to comply with the will of the international community if it did not wish all ties to be broken off.

22. Miss AGUILERA (Mexico) said that in reviewing recent achievements in the fight against colonialism, it was encouraging to see that important initiatives for application of the Declaration on decolonization had taken place in Namibia. Mexico supported Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the plan for Namibia's transition to independence, and was following the preparations for free and fair elections with great interest. Much work remained to be done to ensure that Namibia would receive the full co-operation required for its economic development once it had achieved independence. Foreign economic interests currently operating there should assist in that process to avoid compromising the self-determination and sovereignty of the Namibian people.

23. Her delegation hoped that the granting of independence to Namibia would encourage efforts for the elimination of colonialism. The activities of foreign economic and other interests, including military action in Non-Self-Governing Territories were being closely examined. Serious impediments to self-determination existed in several dependent Territories, owing in large part to the determination of the colonial Powers to protect their political, economic or strategic interests. While foreign investment made in a spirit of co-operation could be useful, in the case of the colonial Territories the benefits of foreign investments did not appear to be reaching the people, and such investments clearly played a role in the strengthening of the colonial system.

24. Her delegation believed that it should be left to the peoples to determine the direction of their socio-economic development and the degree and type of foreign participation desired. The responsibility of the administering Powers should be limited to aiding the development of the economies of dependent Territories with the goal of making them self-sufficient and able to decide their own destiny. The obligation to develop the infrastructure and promote balanced economic growth for the peoples under their control was ignored by many colonial Powers, which built socio-economic structures designed to satisfy their own needs instead.

(Miss Aguilera, Mexico)

25. That was only one of the many ways in which foreign economic activities bound the people of the Territories by ties of dependence. Paradoxically, the transnational corporations and other economic interests even of nations which held human rights in high regard had acted in collusion with the shameful apartheid system in order to enrich themselves.

26. The exploitation and economic imbalance that had so marked the colonial experience were also a dramatic legacy for newly independent countries, which had in addition to face an unjust international order. Thus, they required singular fortitude and more international co-operation than they were receiving. All colonial countries and peoples were entitled to self-determination and independence. The growing exploitation of their resources by the colonial Powers and the transnational corporations and the use of the Territories for military purposes not only impeded their decolonization but threatened their security. The struggle for independence was meaningful only if it went hand in hand with that modicum of economic autonomy that would allow genuine self-determination for a new nation.

27. Equally disquieting was the use of the dependent Territories for military or supposedly strategic purposes, which again impeded progress towards their independence and endangered their security by involving them in outside conflicts. The administering Powers had a particular responsibility not to allow the Territories under their control to become involved in offensive acts against other States, which included any attempt to test or stockpile weapons or dump nuclear wastes in or near the dependent Territories.

28. As long as foreign economic and military interests operated in Non-Self-Governing Territories it was necessary for the international community to act in concert to break with the colonial past and to help colonial peoples achieve their independence within an acceptable political, economic and social framework.

29. Mr. BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI (Morocco) said that in the past year, much consolidation and dialogue had occurred in international relations. In Namibia, unflagging efforts from many sources and the great sacrifices of the Namibian people had finally borne fruit, and the independence plan for Namibia was irreversibly under way. Despite obstacles which could arise, his delegation was sure that Namibia would accede to true independence after free and democratic elections. The democratic process should bring to a definitive halt the shameful exploitation by South Africa of the abundant natural resources of Namibia, which were the heritage of the Namibian people.

30. Foreign interests, particularly transnational corporations based in South Africa, had played a major role in mining, fishing, agriculture and finance without contributing to the economic development of Namibia. On the contrary, some transnational mining and fishing companies had exhausted those resources, and the profits had been sent abroad, most often to South Africa. Net investment in Namibia had been negative for some time. In addition, these companies had done nothing to train local manpower. Transfer of technology to Namibia appeared to

(Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi, Morocco)

have been negligible as well. To date, the activities of transnational corporations had generally benefited the companies and the South African economy more than they contributed to the development of the Territory or the improvement of the lot of the majority population.

31. Upon its independence, the task of nation-building would fall first to the new sovereign Government of Namibia, with the United Nations playing a supporting role in development and technical assistance. Transnational corporations could make a significant contribution to Namibia's economic development in accordance with the goals of its future Government by meeting some of its needs in capital, technology, human resources, and also the establishment of economic ties with other countries besides South Africa.

32. South Africa lay at the centre of the problems in the region owing to its apartheid system coupled with a policy of intimidation and aggression towards its neighbours, which represented a threat to international security and an obstacle to a lasting peace in the region. The intransigence of the minority Pretoria régime called for sanctions to be imposed against that country in order to hasten the demise of the doomed apartheid system. The severing of commercial ties and disinvestment would have immediate effects on the South African economy, which was extremely dependent upon foreign investment and trade. Between 1984 and 1989, 277 transnational corporations had disinvested in South Africa, and such efforts should be encouraged, but they were not sufficient.

33. Many transnational corporations had maintained some ties with South Africa in the form of licensing, franchises, concessions, or technology-transfer contracts which allowed them to maintain their visibility without risking their capital. The basic structure of the South African economy, dominated by mining and dependence upon foreign technology, was unchanged. As considerable resources were diverted to maintain apartheid, however, the burden of economic sanctions would be felt more strongly. Consequently, South Africa's economy would be incapable of sufficient growth to keep pace with the growth of its population. The selective sanctions imposed by some countries were a positive step, but his delegation remained convinced of the need for comprehensive and mandatory sanctions to combat apartheid effectively.

34. The position of Morocco remained clear and unwavering: total condemnation of apartheid, and continued and unreserved support to the peoples of southern Africa for the achievement of their legitimate aspirations to independence and for the unity of Namibia and the establishment of a democratic and multiracial society in South Africa.

35. Mr. RAJOURIA (Nepal) said that, contrary to the United Nations Charter, some administering or occupying Powers were intensifying their economic and military activities in dependent Territories. The natural and human resources of those Territories were the common heritage of the inhabitants, and any indiscriminate and depletive exploitation of those resources was a violation of the Charter.

(Mr. Rajouria, Nepal)

36. The violation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) was nowhere more pronounced than in South Africa. Continued collaboration of foreign economic and military interests allowed the apartheid régime to entrench itself and perpetuate colonial domination and racial discrimination. His delegation regretted the lack of enthusiasm for comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions shown by certain countries, and called upon them to abide by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

37. His delegation was deeply disturbed that certain foreign economic interests, financial institutions and transnational corporations were investing in the production of uranium and in nuclear technology in South Africa. They thereby strengthened the hand of the apartheid régime and plundered the resources that were the legitimate heritage of the indigenous peoples. His delegation considered such actions a violation of Security Council resolutions 418 (1977), imposing an arms embargo against South Africa, and 558 (1984), requesting all States to refrain from importing arms produced in that country.

38. Strict imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions was the only available means to force the racist régime to abandon apartheid. Half-hearted support for sanctions would only strengthen that régime and prolong its subjugation of the people of South Africa.

39. In violation of the rights of the inhabitants of Namibia, South Africa was plundering that Territory's vast natural resources, including uranium, in collaboration with foreign economic and financial interests. His delegation condemned the illegal occupation of Namibia and called upon the international community to continue political, economic and moral pressure against the apartheid régime until the Namibian people achieved freedom and independence.

40. Nepal reaffirmed its unreserved support for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

41. On an optimistic note, Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was finally being implemented. He urged the international community to continue its support to the Secretary-General and to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) for the speedy implementation of that resolution, to enable the people of Namibia to join the community of independent nations.

42. Mr. LAK (Pakistan) said his delegation firmly believed that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) would provide the ideal means for completion of decolonization and bring to fruition the efforts of the Committee. It was unfortunate that some of the momentum for the process had been lost. Nowhere had the rights, principles and norms of the United Nations Charter been violated with such impunity as in Namibia, whose vast natural wealth had been ruthlessly pillaged. While the coffers of transnational corporations swelled, the people of Namibia continued to live in abject poverty, watching as the rich heritage of future generations was stolen.

(Mr. Lak, Pakistan)

43. The inhuman exploitation of labour, as shown by the policy of forcing Namibians onto unproductive lands, and the creation of cheap labour for white-owned enterprises, as well as the transfer abroad of a considerable portion of Namibia's GDP, were further evidence of the colonial domination of the economy which would have far-reaching, negative effects in post-independence Namibia.

44. As the day of Namibia's independence drew nearer, he urged the international community to ensure that the plan for the independence of Namibia as embodied in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was implemented in letter and spirit and scrupulously adhered to by South Africa. His country was proud to be associated with the independence plan through the contribution of personnel to UNTAG. Full assistance should be extended to an independent Namibia for its socio-economic reconstruction and development, and Namibia's territorial integrity must be ensured at the time of its accession to independence.

45. His country, a living example of the struggle and victory for self-determination, remained uncompromisingly opposed to all interests, economic and otherwise, which impeded the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The hated system of apartheid must be eradicated. Yet the task of the United Nations would not be complete if even a single Territory remained under the colonial yoke. The Committee's crowning achievement would be to disband upon fulfilling its mandate and achieving the objectives before it.

46. Mr. TALAAT (Iraq), referring to the Chairman's introductory statement, agreed that the final phase of decolonization was crucial, and that the international community should redouble its efforts.

47. His delegation condemned the exhaustion of the natural wealth of dependent Territories for the benefit of the colonialists. It believed that Israel was in complicity with South Africa to build a new form of colonial domination through nuclear force, in order to preserve economic hegemony over southern Africa. Any denial by the occupying Powers of the inalienable rights of peoples under colonial domination was a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law.

48. On the eve of independence in Namibia, compliance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) must be ensured. There must be no further pillage by South Africa of Namibia's resources. Any attempts to store toxic wastes in dependent Territories would also constitute a danger to the health of future generations and must be halted immediately.

49. Mr. MIMOUNI (Algeria) said that despite the progress achieved so far in the emancipation of colonial peoples, in which the United Nations had played a significant role, it was none the less distressing to note the continued presence of colonialism in many regions of the world. The obstinacy of the colonial Powers and the activities of foreign economic and other interests placed many obstacles in the way of implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

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(Mr. Mimouni, Algeria)

50. In Namibia, for example, the activities of foreign economic and other interests, namely the Pretoria régime and transnational corporations, constituted an unprecedented example of the reckless exploitation of a colonial Territory's natural and human resources. The current economic and social situation in Namibia illustrated the destructive impact of foreign economic activities in colonial Territories. Nearly all Namibia's consumer goods were imported from South Africa, its mining industries were totally controlled by a single South African company, its only railway ran to South Africa and its only deep-water port remained under illegal occupation. Accordingly, the international community's efforts must be directed towards creating the conditions for Namibia's independent economic development in accordance with its sovereignty and the will of its people.

51. Although Namibia's imminent accession to independence was a cause for rejoicing, it was particularly important in the current phase for the international community to reaffirm its unswerving commitment to the freedom and independence of the Namibian people. The implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia was facing serious obstacles, and the efforts of UNTAG were frequently hampered by South African harassment and intimidation of the Namibian population. The United Nations must guarantee the holding of free and fair elections and the faithful and full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). His delegation reiterated its support for the Secretary-General's efforts to accomplish that task, particularly the recent decisions aimed at strengthening the election-monitoring process.

52. His delegation was concerned at the plunder of the natural resources of colonial Territories for the sole benefit of the occupying Powers and transnational corporations. It was the inalienable right of the peoples of those Territories to determine the course of their economic and social development and the extent and structure of foreign participation. The military activities of colonial Powers were also a source of concern since they entangled colonial Territories and peoples in the geostrategic designs of powerful countries, thus adversely affecting the legitimate rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. As the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration approached, the United Nations should reaffirm its strong condemnation of all activities which impeded the implementation of the Declaration and strengthen its efforts to achieve the full liberation of peoples still under colonial domination.

53. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that in the past Ghana had stressed the need for information about economic activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the control and ownership of resources there, the manner of their exploitation, the level of capital flows, the access of availability of economic opportunities for the indigenous populations and their involvement in running local economies. The absence of such information impeded a complete appraisal of the future of the dependent peoples and a realistic determination of the constraints that were imposed on them in their struggle for freedom by foreign economic and other interests.

(Mr. Dankwa, Ghana)

54. He strongly urged the secretariat to report on the activities of those interests in its presentation of developments in the Territories. Ghana was not attempting to justify the presence of foreign interests; in its successful fight for independence, it had been motivated by the principle that self-government with danger was preferable to servitude in tranquility. That eternal truth was applicable to the struggles in the Territories under discussion.

55. Ghana welcomed the initiative of the United Nations Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC) to grant the Non-Self-Governing Caribbean Territories access to programmes and activities of the United Nations system with a view to providing technical and other assistance. Such involvement would better equip the dependent peoples in their efforts to eliminate the impediments to their struggle that foreign economic and other interests had erected.

56. Agenda item 117 presented a unique opportunity to define the framework for the present stage of the Namibian struggle. It was the hope of all advocates of freedom and independence that the process which had been set in motion would smoothly and fairly lead to the emergence of Namibia as a sovereign Member of the United Nations.

57. He called upon the Committee to consider the support that should be given to a future Namibian Government in its efforts to receive compensation for the losses that Namibia had suffered through the repatriation of huge surpluses by foreign economic and other interests. In that regard, he drew attention to document E/1989/17, which identified some of the transnational corporations with interests in companies in Namibia. While his delegation would take part in any measures that were directed at such interests, it particularly wished the Committee to address its concern to the Governments in whose countries they were located.

58. The voluntary nature of sanctions accounted for their limited effect on South Africa. Sanctions had forced the régime to start talking about reforms. However, apartheid could not be reformed; it had to be eliminated. The total isolation of South Africa required the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. Therefore, the Security Council should be urged to take action under Chapter VII of the Charter to secure peace in southern Africa through the imposition of such sanctions.

59. Mr. MENON (India) said that the discussion in the Committee focused, as in previous years, on the economic greed which had always been a driving force behind colonialism. The lure of wealth and profit, captive markets and cheap labour remained paramount among those who now impeded the elimination of the remaining vestiges of colonialism.

60. The example of Namibia sprang to mind. South Africa's economic entrenchment in Namibia was perhaps even more damaging than its better-known attempts to derail the Namibian elections. The structure of Namibia's economy was characterized by the extraction of natural resources to serve the industrial needs of South Africa and its trading partners, a pattern also seen in the continuing outflow of Namibia's

(Mr. Menon, India)

GDP to South Africa, its severe shortage of skilled indigenous manpower and the monopoly held by foreign economic interests in major sectors, particularly mining. The world community must take steps to ensure that South Africa's vested interests did not divert Namibia from its historic political path.

61. The activities of foreign economic and other interests were no less damaging in the remaining Territories. The economic development of such Territories was frequently geared to the interests and requirements of the colonial Power, while the long-term and genuine interests of the Territory itself were ignored. In addition, the military activities of colonial Powers were an obstacle to decolonization. Such activities violated international conventions, were opposed by public opinion and were detrimental to international peace and security.

62. The United Nations must seek to ensure that political decolonization was accompanied by economic, social and cultural freedom.

63. Mr. CHORNY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that 1990 would mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which had proved to be one of the most effective United Nations instruments. While each new step towards independence had been difficult, the populations of all the dependent Territories would one day be able to exercise their legitimate right to social and political choice and to an independent future.

64. His delegation supported the Special Committee's decisions and recommendations in chapters V and VI of its report (A/44/23 (Part III)). Selfishness and the quest for profit, together with military and strategic interests, were determining, wrongly, the fate of the peoples under the control of the transnational corporations of several Western States. That was why many United Nations resolutions were being implemented so slowly.

65. Although the decolonization process had faltered, international conflicts were being settled and United Nations mediation had enabled a start to be made in implementing Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The international community had the important task of concluding the decolonization process in Namibia. The Secretary-General deserved full encouragement for solving numerous practical issues in the region. The signing of a set of agreements between Angola, Cuba and South Africa and between Cuba and Angola was a stimulus to a diplomatic settlement in southern Africa and was an example of the new thinking which increasingly dominated international affairs. He hoped that none of the remaining trouble-spots in the world would be deemed hopelessly beyond a solution.

66. While UNTAG in Namibia was endeavouring to ensure the necessary conditions for holding free and fair elections and establishing national political institutions, numerous problems remained. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was particularly significant during the tense pre-election period. It was vital for all Namibian political parties to co-operate with one another and with UNTAG.

(Mr. Chorny, Ukrainian SSR)

67. He welcomed the recent joint statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and the Secretary of State of the United States concerning the need to implement, on a timely basis, the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia, including the holding of free and fair elections.
68. The situation in southern Africa was borne of and perpetuated by racial conflict. Apartheid and the economic, social and political structures that sustained it must be eliminated in order for a political settlement to be reached in the region. While favourable trends had recently increased in South Africa, such palliative measures did not meet the urgent need to eliminate the apartheid system.
69. The international community was rightly concerned about the continuing state of emergency and the systematic human-rights violations in South Africa. His delegation supported the recent appeal by the Organization of African Unity and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for an intensification of the campaign to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa. Such measures were strong, peaceful weapons that could bring the belligerent party to reason. His delegation fully agreed that once South Africa had adopted a new constitution, establishing a democratic, non-racial State, the international community should lift all sanctions.
70. Criticism of the activities of foreign economic and other interests should focus on those activities which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In considering the economic future of the region, the Committee should take into account the significant achievements of some transnational corporations.
71. His delegation had proof of the continuing military and nuclear co-operation of several countries with South Africa. Such co-operation was incompatible with the United Nations Charter and should be condemned.
72. On the eve of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, appropriate action should be taken to bring about the independence of the dependent Territories. The international community must work to eliminate colonialism by the twenty-first century, thus putting an end to the entire colonial era. His delegation would endeavour to achieve that goal and would co-operate with all countries to that end.
73. Mr. Van Lierop (Vanuatu) resumed the Chair.
74. Mr. AL-BAHARNA (Bahrain) said that, despite the elimination of colonialism in most parts of the world, many peoples still remained under the tyranny of colonialist occupiers that had no regard for the resolutions adopted in the various international forums.
75. Many factors assisted the colonialists in maintaining their iron grip on the colonial peoples, and they included the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting

(Mr. Al-Baharna, Bahrain)

of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Those activities deprived the peoples of the countries in question of their basic right to retain ownership of their natural resources and to profit from them. They were therefore in breach of article 16 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, which stipulated that it was the right and duty of all States to eliminate colonialism, apartheid, and all forms of foreign domination and that the exploitation and depletion of the natural resources of colonial countries constituted an obstacle to their liberation. The provisions of the article were fully applicable to the activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia and South Africa.

76. In its resolution 43/29, the General Assembly had urged the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the colonial Territories to their natural resources. The foreign economic interests belonging to South Africa had nevertheless persisted in their illegal activities in violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971 and Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.

77. The racist minority régime in South Africa had granted mining concessions to many South African and other foreign companies operating in Namibia. That régime had made use of forcible displacements in order to serve the interests of foreign companies, and a vast number of Namibians had been moved into the less productive areas of the country.

78. All military activities and arrangements by colonial and occupying Powers in the Territories under colonial domination constituted an obstacle to political independence. It had become a matter of urgency to halt such activities unconditionally, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. The international community must make concerted efforts to achieve that goal before the situation in southern Africa deteriorated to the extent of jeopardizing the peace and stability of the region.

79. The nuclear-weapon capacity of the apartheid régime posed a threat not only to the stability of the region but to international peace and security. The continuing close co-operation between South Africa and Israel in the military and nuclear fields, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 418 (1977), was a matter of grave concern. The two régimes were a danger to the countries of their respective regions and had on more than one occasion been guilty of aggression against their neighbours.

80. In 1975, his country had imposed an economic and trade boycott on South Africa and had prohibited companies and banks operating in Bahrain from having any dealings with that country. Since that time, the boycott had been extended to include dealings with companies in Namibia.

(Mr. Al-Baharna, Bahrain)

81. His country looked forward to the day when an independent Namibia would take its rightful place in the United Nations. It was of the utmost importance that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should provide the necessary assistance to SWAPO so that it might prevent the Pretoria régime from interfering in the independence process and the free elections that were to take place under United Nations supervision.

82. Mr. SOMUDRACHIT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Special Committee (A/44/23 (Part III)) showed that the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia were facing serious obstacles. He forcefully condemned the continuing exploitation of Namibia's natural resources and the plunder of the other Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign economic and other interests in flagrant violation of the right to self-determination of the peoples of those Territories and the principles of the United Nations Charter.

83. The deliberate pursuit of foreign investment in uranium production and the increasing collaboration in the nuclear field between some Western countries and the South African racist minority régime, the aim of which was to give South Africa the capacity to produce nuclear weapons, was a serious threat to international peace and security.

84. Besides Namibia, there were other Territories, including Micronesia, whose peoples continued to suffer because of the economic and military activities of the administering Powers. In defiance of numerous General Assembly resolutions calling upon them to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones, the administering Powers persisted in such harmful activities as nuclear testing and the dumping of radioactive wastes, thus adversely affecting the rights and interests of the peoples of the Territories concerned.

85. His delegation joined with others in demanding that the administering Powers should terminate their harmful economic and military activities without further delay, and that the racist Pretoria régime should strictly implement the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia.

86. Economic co-operation for growth and development in a peaceful, non-nuclear world, on the basis of sovereignty and equality among peoples, would ultimately benefit everyone. Such a goal was attainable in the current climate of international relations, in which confrontation was giving way to the search for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.