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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ADOUKI (Congo)

CONTENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH RASHID BIN SAEED AL-MAKTOUM,
VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND RULER OF DUBAI

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

AGENDA ITEM 112: 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 TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS
TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

General debate

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH RASHID BIN SAEED AL-MAKTOUM,
VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND RULER OF DUBAI

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the Committee, expressed sympathy in connection with the death of His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed al-Maktoum, Vice-President of the Federation of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.
2. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed al-Maktoum.
3. Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates) thanked the Committee for its expression of sympathy.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING (A/C.4/45/2/Add.3-5)

4. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received requests for hearing relating to New Caledonia (A/C.4/45/2/Add.3-5). If he heard no objection he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the requests.
5. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 112: 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 TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID, AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/45/23 (Part IV); A/AC.109/1018, 1020, 1024, 1027, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034 and 1035)

General Debate

6. Mr. ANVIRE (Côte d'Ivoire) said that one of the challenges faced by the United Nations was the liberation of the world from colonialism by the end of the century. It was to be hoped that with the help of the détente between the great powers that challenge would be met as soon as possible. The primary responsibility for meeting it fell on the administering Powers, which must help the populations of the territories not only to take political and economic decisions but to foster human rights and cultural values. Abusive exploitation of the natural resources of the colonial territories was unacceptable. Only the provision of external capital could help the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories overcome their poverty. It was urgent also to make the international community aware of the need to help the people of those Territories in their struggle against natural catastrophes such as hurricanes and the rise in the ocean level caused by the warming of the planet.
7. The end of the cold war also gave grounds for hope that the not-too-distant future would see the dismantling of military bases and the end of nuclear testing in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

8. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) urged the Administering Authorities of the colonized Territories to ensure that economic and other activities in those Territories did not hamper the socio-economic and cultural development of the colonized peoples. He appealed to their colonial masters to free the colonized peoples everywhere in the world immediately or during the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.
9. Among the remaining dependent Territories was New Caledonia, which was rich in resources. It was the wish of the indigenous inhabitants to gain access and control over their socio-economic and political life in order to determine their own destiny. He appealed to the Administering Authority to enable the Kanaks and other New Caledonians to freely exercise their right to self-determination. The Matignon and Oudinot Accords had been agreed to, and their provisions had been implemented, but United Nations visiting missions should be allowed to verify them.
10. Colonialism was an experience Papua New Guinea had lived through. Since its accession to independence in 1975, the land and properties exploited by outsiders under the colonial system were being returned to the people by and with the help of the Papua New Guinea Government.
11. The apartheid system in South Africa was an extension and deepening of the colonialist system. The international community must continue to apply the necessary pressure, including economic and other sanctions, until apartheid and colonialism were completely eradicated from South Africa. He appealed to the Government of South Africa to continue its positive efforts to completely dismantle apartheid.
12. The work of the Special Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee was to be commended. Although only a few Non-Self-Governing Territories remained, the uniqueness of each Territory and its people could not be overlooked. Each of the remaining Territories required as much commitment, imagination and perseverance as the international community had demonstrated to date. Moreover, there were still many people and communities who continued to suffer from colonialism, economic exploitation and racism, but were not included in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly had been reminded recently that Tahiti should be included among those Territories. There were many cases of that kind, and a real effort should be made to identify them as soon as possible. In the new era the United Nations had just entered, it was to be hoped that the Administering Authorities would seize the opportunity to forgo their old colonial ways and help build a world completely free of colonialism, racism and apartheid as well as economic, social, political and cultural exploitation.
13. Mrs. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that the Fourth Committee had an important role to play in setting out guidelines for the remaining Territories under its consideration and encouraging their progress to self-determination. Unfortunately, the draft resolutions which had been submitted to it by the Special Committee at its current session were dismaying. At a time when all the other organs of the United Nations had been working effectively to produce resolutions which reflected contemporary reality and were capable of gaining consensus, the Special Committee continued to submit anachronistic resolutions irrelevant to

(Mrs. Tahir-Kheli, United States)

current issues which would have the effect of creating polarization rather than consensus. What was saddest about those resolutions was that they in no way served the interests of territorial peoples. Her delegation was deeply concerned by the Special Committee's inability to bring its work into line with thinking elsewhere in the United Nations and was saddened by the language of the resolutions the Fourth Committee was being asked to consider. In fact, it seriously questioned if there was any utility in continued efforts to work with the Special Committee given the retrogressive nature of the draft resolutions at its August session.

14. The draft resolution on activities of foreign economic and other interests was an embarrassment. It made no attempt to integrate the new thinking and concepts on development approved by the General Assembly in a consensus resolution at its 1990 Special Session, instead devoting a major portion of its text to South Africa and apartheid. But it had nothing to contribute on that subject, as the text was a relic of the past and had been surpassed by far superior consensus language in the General Assembly. Where the resolution did discuss the role of foreign economic interests, it reiterated blanket condemnations of those interests which had never been accurate and were even less appropriate at present, when the developing world was crying out for foreign investment. What was needed in the resolution were creative, forward-looking ideas, pragmatic guidelines and balanced language. While her Government joined in the condemnation of foreign interests that were exploitative in any way, it considered that a distinction must be made between the beneficial and the harmful. Moreover, it was convinced that the people of the territories would object to the blanket condemnations contained in the draft resolution as harmful to their own search for foreign investment leading to growth.

15. The draft decision on military activities lent itself to the same objections. It employed name-calling and outmoded language on apartheid that ran counter to the General Assembly's consensus views and maintained that focus for at least half the text. Where it did discuss military activities, it did so with blanket statements regarding their nature which were simply not supported by the facts. Her Government would vote against the resolution and decision as it had in the past, but would do so with special sorrow at the current session. Those texts in no way reflected the United Nations of the 1990s, did nothing constructive for the peoples of the Territories and revealed an unwillingness to deal with contemporary reality. Her delegation hoped that, together with the other delegations opposing those resolutions, it would be able to convey to the Special Committee that it must move with the times or become totally irrelevant. Most importantly, it hoped to convey the message that the concerns of the Territories deserved more serious treatment than had been offered in those texts.

16. Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain) said that, as a result of United Nations efforts, many countries had gained independence in the 1950s and 1960s and that the previous year, Namibia had become independent. However, there remained a number of countries colonized against their will, partly as a result of foreign economic interests. The United Nations had repeatedly stressed the illegality of the economic activities of colonial powers, which deprived peoples of their most basic right to conserve and benefit from their natural resources. Article 16 of the

(Mr. Al-Faihani, Bahrain)

Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States had stressed the right of peoples to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and all forms of foreign domination and held that the exploitation and depletion of natural resources constituted an obstacle to the liberation of those territories. Such economic activities were a mainstay of the racist minority-rule régime in South Africa. In 1975, his country had imposed on South Africa an economic boycott and trade embargo which also extended to all companies and institutions doing business there.

17. Military activities and arrangements were no less harmful to the rights of colonized peoples, in particular their right to self-determination and independence. It was therefore important to devote attention to such activities and arrangements, in particular in view of the co-operation between the racist régimes of Israel and South Africa, whose possession of weapons of mass destruction threatened international peace and security. The current climate of consensus would favour international co-operation to eliminate the activities of foreign economic and military interests, and especially nuclear military co-operation between racist régimes, which impeded the granting of independence to colonized countries and peoples.

18. Mr. BARAL (Nepal) said that the world appeared to be entering a new phase in its history, where the principles of self-determination and equality were increasingly becoming the essence of human development. The independence of Namibia had brought the colonial era virtually to an end and also served as a model of direct and effective United Nations assistance in the process. However, some vestiges of colonialism remained. Colonial exploitation used political power for the attainment of its primary objective, the exploitation of resources for the economic or strategic interests of the colonizing country.

19. The increasing use of the United Nations as an instrument of change and as a vehicle for international political and economic co-operation was gratifying. As self-determination was the most sacred right of the peoples under colonial domination, each Member of the United Nations should make every effort to dismantle all forms of colonial links. The perpetuation of such exploitation contradicted the spirit of the emerging world order.

20. Regarding the racist régime in South Africa, some positive developments had occurred recently, such as the release of Nelson Mandela and negotiations between the Government and black African leaders. However, the international community should continue to maintain pressure on the apartheid régime until meaningful negotiation for establishment of a democratic and multiracial society became real and irrevocable.

21. His delegation urged intensive negotiations to expedite the decolonization process, in the spirit of respect for human rights. Strategic considerations of some influential Member States should not be linked to the perpetuation of colonial rule. The resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1053 adopted by the Special Committee had emphasized the prevention of depletive exploitation of natural resources, which would create serious environmental problems for colonial

(Mr. Baral, Nepal)

Territories after independence. His delegation also called upon the administering Powers to abolish all discriminatory and unjust wage systems and working conditions in colonial territories.

22. Though his Government could not remain indifferent to the environmental problems facing such Territories, the major objective should be the liberation of the peoples themselves. His delegation fully endorsed the recommendation of the Special Committee that the Secretary-General should intensify his campaign to mobilize international public opinion against the perpetuation of colonialism in South Africa and elsewhere.

23. Mr. NASIER (Indonesia) said that, in order to insure against policies of depletive exploitation of natural resources and repatriation of profits by foreign interests, the administering Powers must implement comprehensive measures to augment the economic infrastructure of colonial territories by co-operating with the indigenous population to strengthen, diversify and promote their interests towards the realization of the goal of decolonization. The Secretary-General should play a role in the process by disseminating information among members of the international community. His delegation urged the administering Powers to closely monitor and safeguard the economic birthright of indigenous inhabitants in order to strengthen their economic status and facilitate the transition from colonialism to independence.

24. The international community must address urgently the ominous issue of military collaboration between the racist régime in South Africa and the State of Israel to produce nuclear material and equipment. His delegation reiterated its strong condemnation of apartheid and urged that sanctions be maintained in order to compel the Pretoria régime to adopt profound and irreversible changes.

25. With regard to Palestine, efforts must be increased for a just and durable settlement so that the Palestinian people could exercise its legitimate right to self-determination.

26. Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to co-operate fully with the Committee towards the completion of the final chapter in the decolonization process. It was of paramount importance that the United Nations assist colonial territories to strengthen and make viable their economies in order to fully enjoy economic benefits when they achieved freedom and independence.

27. Mr. RAHMAN (Pakistan) said that the declaration by the General Assembly of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism represented a call to the international community to renew its efforts to remove the last vestiges of the colonial era. It should capitalize on the momentum generated by the independence of Namibia.

28. Time and again the United Nations had affirmed that apartheid was incompatible with the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and seriously undermined international peace and security. The adoption by consensus of

(Mr. Rahman, Pakistan)

resolution S-16/1 had been another signal to the international community that relentless pressure on the Government of South Africa must be maintained. A few positive steps had been taken but much remained to be done before relaxation of international pressure would be justified.

29. Mrs. AGUILERA (Mexico) said that her delegation would have welcomed more information on the possible benefits of foreign economic activities to the inhabitants of Trust Territories, such as data on per capita income, the number of jobs generated by foreign companies, median salaries and cost of living. Information regarding the management both by the Government and the administering Powers of the funds obtained through bids from foreign companies would also be useful. From the information presented to the Committee, it could be implied that the conditions which made such Territories attractive to foreign investment would automatically cease if political change occurred. Her delegation believed that change in the political status of Territories under colonial administration should not be interpreted as the inability to sustain conditions favourable to foreign investment. The reasons for considering foreign economic activity an obstacle to the independence of Non-Self-Governing Territories had not been made clear. If policies and regulations remained favourable to investment, there was no valid reason to speak of obstacles to independence.

30. While foreign investment carried out in a spirit of co-operation and social benefit was helpful, however, in most colonial Territories the peoples were gaining no apparent benefit from such involvement. The obligation of the administering Powers to develop infrastructure and promote balanced and co-ordinated economic growth of the peoples under their control had been ignored and even reversed to create socio-economic structures which satisfied only the needs of the colonialists.

31. Her delegation reaffirmed its support of the right of all countries and peoples to self-determination and independence. The growing exploitation of natural and human resources for the exclusive benefit of colonial Powers and transnational corporations and the use of colonial Territories for military purposes not only seriously hindered the decolonization process, but represented a threat to their security. The struggle for independence had meaning only when it was accompanied by a struggle for the economic independence that would lead to true self-determination.

32. The administering Powers had particular responsibility to prevent such Territories from becoming involved in acts of aggression against other States, including any attempt to test or base nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction or to dispose of nuclear waste in colonial Territories.

33. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that Namibia's accession to independence marked the beginning of the final stage of the decolonization process. If the last remnants of colonialism were to be eradicated by the end of the century, it was essential to ensure the full implementation of United Nations resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

(Mr. Slaby, Czechoslovakia)

34. Economic prosperity was of overriding importance for Non-Self-Governing Territories and had a direct impact on their social rights as well. But development, depending on the form that it took, could be either beneficial or harmful for the cultural identity of the populations of those Territories. Czechoslovakia was strongly opposed to any economic activities of foreign interests that were prejudicial to the local populations. Fortunately, such practices had increasingly become a thing of the past. For example, foreign investment helped to foster tourism in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, thereby stimulating the entire services sector and raising the living standard of the population. The same applied to the increased activities of banks and other sectors of the economy. The economic assistance given to the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the administering Powers had a positive influence too.

35. But increased tourism and a higher standard of living had also given rise to more crime, in the form of smuggling, drug abuse and prostitution. The traditional sources of income of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been dying out, thus jeopardizing cultural identity. Environmental issues had taken on heightened importance, the dumping of toxic waste constituting a serious danger. The administering Powers should strive to offset such negative aspects of foreign economic and other interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The development of the economies in such Territories must not be one-sided, and their natural resources must be utilized in a rational way.

36. Czechoslovakia was opposed to the misuse of the Non-Self-Governing Territories for military purposes. The populations in those Territories must have a say regarding the presence of military bases, as the issue involved the right to self-determination.

37. His delegation was dissatisfied with the text of the draft resolution contained in paragraph 11 of document A/45/23 (Part IV). It retained many provisions that had grown obsolete and disregarded the fact that foreign investments might also be an asset for the economic development of the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The wording of the draft resolution included many paragraphs of a purely rhetorical nature that were irrelevant to the situation as it currently existed in the world and failed to reflect the current international climate. His Government was concerned that the Special Committee might well become anachronistic.

38. Mr. ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that Namibia's accession to independence was an encouraging sign that colonialism could be eradicated early in the 1990s. His delegation welcomed the delegation of Namibia, whose contribution would undoubtedly help the Fourth Committee in discharging its task.

39. The end of apartheid was in sight, and there was now a growing hope that the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa would create a positive atmosphere for negotiations on the dismantling of apartheid and for the formation of a non-racial Government in South Africa based on the free will of the people.

(Mr. Zeinelddin, Islamic Republic of Iran)

40. His delegation had been pleased to note that progress had been made in the quest for a settlement of the question of Western Sahara, New Caledonia and Falkland (Malvinas) Islands. Such positive developments notwithstanding, the item currently under consideration by the Fourth Committee had not lost its importance. Those who represented the interests of foreign companies and transnational corporations continued to defend economic and military activities in Territories under the colonial yoke, arguing that foreign economic enterprises stimulated the economy and created employment opportunities, whereas in actual fact, such activities violated the rights of the inhabitants of colonial Territories, the United Nations Charter and the relevant United Nations resolutions.
41. The economic activities of the South African régime in Namibia had had an adverse impact on the economy of that country. For example, the current status of Walvis Bay would continue to be an element of uncertainty in the development of the Namibian fishing industry. An alternative harbour could only be built at great expense and would inevitably make Namibia dependent upon foreign assistance.
42. The South African régime's nuclear and military collaboration with certain Western countries and Israel was a threat to world peace, particularly in the Middle East and southern Africa, and impeded efforts to eliminate apartheid.
43. Despite the limited size of the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific region, the activities of the United States and the United Kingdom, the administering Powers, must not interfere with the economic growth of the indigenous populations. The establishment of military bases on those Territories was a violation of the original mandate of the administering Powers and threatened regional and international stability.
44. Mr. KOUGBLENOU (Togo) said that Namibia's accession to independence and the liberation of Nelson Mandela served as confirmation of the ideals of the United Nations, in particular with regard to the respect of the right of peoples to self-determination and human dignity, and underscored the importance of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Despite such progress, however, efforts must continue to eradicate colonialism completely. A number of peoples throughout the world continued to be subjected to colonial domination, and the apartheid system persisted, the liberalization measures adopted in South Africa notwithstanding.
45. The intensified activities of foreign economic and other interests was a source of grave concern to his Government, because they denied the peoples of the dependent Territories their independence, their right to self-determination, and the enjoyment of their natural resources.
46. Such activities were based primarily on the logic of profit and the safeguarding of strategic interests. The dependent Territories were being used to reinforce the economic and financial power of the various colonial countries. There was a serious risk that the natural resources of those Territories would be exhausted and their environment destroyed, particularly through the illegal dumping

(Mr. Kougblenou, Togo)

of toxic waste. The military bases there were a threat to world peace and security.

47. The activities of foreign interests were as damaging as colonialism itself, because they aimed to exploit the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories and to repatriate enormous profits to the detriment of the indigenous inhabitants, thereby preventing prosperity and violating the right of those peoples to self-determination. It was therefore essential that urgent measures should be taken to create the conditions needed for granting independence to colonial countries and peoples. The administering Powers must encourage political, economic, social and educational progress in the Territories they administered and must protect their natural resources from abuse. A broad information campaign must be launched to inform the public about the pillage of natural resources in the colonial Territories and the exploitation of the local populations by economic interests.

48. The administering Powers must meet their obligation to provide regular reports to the United Nations on the manner in which they administered the dependent Territories, indicating in particular the concrete measures adopted and planned to guarantee the inalienable right of the populations of those Territories to dispose of their natural resources in accordance with their best interests.

49. The continued existence of the abhorrent system of apartheid was a challenge to the values of civilization. It was essential to marshal all efforts to eradicate that scourge, whose survival was of enormous benefit to economic, financial and military interests. Those States that co-operated with the racist régime of South Africa in the nuclear, technological and military sectors must bring their policies into line with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular those concerning the oil embargo, the embargo on weapons and the implementation of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against Pretoria.

50. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that his Government attached considerable importance to the dismantling of apartheid and to the eradication of colonialism, which was both an act of occupation and exploitation. The concept that had crept into the Committee's deliberations that not all colonialist activities were bad represented an attempt to perpetuate exploitation on the archaic pretext of a civilizing mission. The activities of foreign economic and other interests inevitably served the interests of colonialism, so that the real point at issue was to minimize the adverse effect of those activities on the struggle to end colonialism while ensuring, in the interim, that they benefited dependent peoples. The Special Committee on decolonization had heard ample evidence of the continued exploitation by foreign economic interests of dependent Territories. It should be noted that divestment policies in South Africa in the mid-1980s had contributed significantly to the positive political developments which had taken place there.

51. It was imperative for Member States to adhere to all resolutions intended to eradicate apartheid. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the draft decision proposed by the Special Committee in its report (A/45/23 (Part IV)), since

(Mr. Dankwa, Ghana)

foreign economic interests were still impeding the struggle to end apartheid. The draft decision also reflected the importance of the need to mobilize world public opinion against foreign economic interests impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

52. His Government welcomed recent improvements in East-West relations and the consequent improvements in the prospects for peace. His delegation hoped that the new world order would maximize opportunities for colonial Territories and peoples to freely determine their futures, since only respect for fundamental human rights, freedom, justice and equality would guarantee peace.

53. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq) said that despite the important role played by the United Nations in decolonization and promoting the right of self-determination there was no doubt that some countries were still being plundered by foreign economic interests. The illegal activities of administering Powers prevented the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories from benefiting from their natural resources.

54. Similar factors characterized the situation in racist South Africa, whose atrocities were similar to those perpetrated by Israel. In fact, there was co-operation in all fields, including the development of chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction, between those two countries to the detriment of international peace and security. It was incumbent upon the international community to take a stand against the activities of foreign economic interests, since they harmed the interests of dependent peoples and impeded implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

55. Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait) said that there was no end to the audacity of Iraq, which condemned foreign interests and occupation while itself occupying Kuwait. Iraq, before expressing its support for the peoples exploited by South Africa and Israel, should put its own house in order, and end its invasion and denial of the self-determination and human rights of the people of Kuwait and the despoiling of their country.

56. Kuwait had always proved its willingness to work with those who sought to achieve the aims expressed in United Nations resolutions through its work in enforcing the embargoes against South Africa and its political and economic support for the people of the occupied Territories, support which it would continue to provide.

57. Mr. KADRAT (Iraq), speaking on a point of order, said that the statement by the so-called representative of Kuwait was out of order: the item before the Committee was the activities of foreign economic interests and not the situation in the Middle East. In that region, the double standard adopted by the United States in the face of Israel's denial of the rights of the Palestinian people lay at the heart of the problem. A consistent approach should be taken to the Middle East and all other issues before the United Nations.

58. Mr. MENAT (France), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had already responded in the General Assembly to the points raised by the representative of Papua New Guinea. The right to self-determination was a fundamental principle of the French Constitution, and the populations of French overseas territories had an opportunity to express their views in free, regular elections.

59. Miss AL-MULLA (Kuwait), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Iraqi criticism on a point of order of her statement and the very presence of the Iraqi representative were themselves out of order.

60. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that his delegation welcomed the willingness of France to contribute to the debate on all issues of decolonization. There were cases of colonial situations other than those of Non-Self-Governing Territories normally considered by the Special Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee, a fact which had been generally recognized. Action should be taken to respect the cultures of the peoples of the Pacific and to ensure their freedom and allow them a genuine opportunity to achieve self-determination. Papua New Guinea looked forward to continued co-operation with the French Government in addressing those concerns.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.