

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
16th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 31 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. ADOUKI

(Congo)

CONTENTS

ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned
within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2/50,
2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/45/SR.16
16 November 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

90-56718 3043S (E)

/...

C. P.

The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

ADOPTION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/45/23, chap. IX, draft resolutions IX, X and XI; A/C.4/45/L.8)

Draft resolution "Question of American Samoa" (A/45/23, chap. IX, draft resolution IX)

1. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution "Question of Guam" (A/45/23, chap. IX, draft resolution X)

2. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to two amendments to the proposed text, as requested by the United States of America (A/C.4/45/L.8).

3. Mrs. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America) said that the amendments requested by her delegation were intended to ensure that the resolution reflected the situation as it really was. Relations between Guam and the United States military authorities had improved considerably, and the Governor of Guam himself recognized that the military bases were of benefit to the Territory - a fact entirely ignored by the resolution. Her country, which had for several months in vain been seeking to negotiate, regretted that a small group of delegations should have rejected any attempt at conciliation.

4. Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he would vote against the amendments requested by the United States because they were incompatible with the provisions reaffirmed by the Fourth Committee when adopting other draft resolutions relating to small Territories.

5. Mr. SHEIKH ZEINELDDIN (Islamic Republic of Iran) endorsed the remarks made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and said that he too would vote against the amendments requested.

6. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) expressed regret that there should be no agreement and hoped that in future all positions could be reconciled in the interests of the Territories awaiting decolonization. Since his delegation had not yet been able to ascertain the views of Guam itself, it was unable to vote for or against the amendments and would therefore abstain.

7. A recorded vote was taken on the amendment contained in paragraph 1 of document A/C.4/45/L.8.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chad, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Bahamas, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Kuwait, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates.

8. The amendment was rejected by 63 votes to 35, with 24 abstentions.

9. A recorded vote was taken on the amendment contained in paragraph 2 of document A/C.4/45/L.8.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela,
Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining: Bahamas, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire,
Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Kuwait, Maldives, Malta, Nepal,
Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi
Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Arab
Emirates.

10. The amendment was rejected by 62 votes to 34, with 26 abstentions.

11. Mr. EHLERS (Uruguay) said that he had voted against the proposed amendment - which in other circumstances would be perfectly acceptable - not only because he here preferred the original text but also because the most appropriate forum for the negotiation of proposals was the Special Committee on decolonization. The Fourth Committee as a whole should review a text deemed to be unsatisfactory, in order that all delegations might be enabled to give full expression to their points of view. The Special Committee would undoubtedly take note of the opinions which had been expressed, and no administering Power would then have any reason to refuse full co-operation. Dialogue and consensus were the only means by which to achieve the objectives and complete the process of decolonization.

12. Mr. HERNANDEZ MACHADO (Cuba) said he was pleased that the amendments requested by the United States had been rejected because they considerably altered not only the text relating to Guam but also the Committee's position with respect to all the Territories where administering Powers maintained military bases. Some were calling for a revision of attitudes in the light of changes which had taken place at the international level. However, the United States was maintaining its strategic installations in Guam in the same way as it had done in Viet Nam - as a means of stifling any inclination to protest among a population which did not wish to lose its livelihood - and might even reinforce them if it had to leave the Philippines. The United States had for several months not been displaying the necessary spirit of co-operation with the Special Committee and had even brought pressure to bear on certain small territories.

13. Mrs. TAHIR-KHELI (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that the remarks made by the representative of Cuba did not amount to an explanation of vote. She regretted that he should consider himself authorized to speak on behalf of Guam, which had not given such a mandate to anyone. It was not her country which was failing to show a spirit of conciliation.

14. Mr. HERNANDEZ MACHADO (Cuba) expressed the hope that the improved international political atmosphere would eventually encompass the United States.

15. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution X.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

16. Draft resolution X was adopted by 99 votes to 2, with 28 abstentions.

17. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand) explained that despite the rejection of the amendments requested by the United States, which met with the approval of his delegation, he had voted in favour of the unamended text because that text had been the object of a consensus decision the previous year. It had been a difficult decision for his delegation because the question was a delicate one. The treatment of remaining decolonization issues and the language used in connection with them should be re-examined to bring them into line with the spirit of the 1990s.

Draft resolution "Question of the United States Virgin Islands" (A/45/23, chap. IX, draft resolution XI)

18. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 18.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

20. The CHAIRMAN reviewed the work of the Committee during the current session. He noted in particular the need for the Special Committee on decolonization to readjust its approaches and the language of its recommendations. Given the new realities of an international situation in full flux, he too believed that, while continuing to be guided by the essential principles of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), it was necessary to show realism and flexibility in pursuing the final objectives of decolonization.

21. After an exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared that the Committee had completed its work for the forty-fifth session.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.