



SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
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held on
Wednesday, 4 December 1985
at 10.30 a.m.
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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 45th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KORHONEN (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 82: QUESTION OF THE MALAGASY ISLANDS OF GLORIEUSES, JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA AND BASSAS DA INDIA

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, after consultations with the delegations concerned, in particular with the delegations of France and Madagascar, and in view of the talks being held between the Governments of France and Madagascar, the Committee had been requested to postpone consideration of item 22 to the forty-first session of the General Assembly. Accordingly, he was proposing that the Committee should approve the following draft decision: "The Special Political Committee decided to postpone consideration of the item entitled 'Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova and Bassas da India', and recommended that the General Assembly include that item in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session". If there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft decision.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 81: ISRAEL'S DECISION TO BUILD A CANAL LINKING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA TO THE DEAD SEA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/SPC/40/L.31; A/40/L.803).

Draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.31

3. Mr. HAMADNEH (Jordan) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.31 and said that Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Morocco had also become sponsors.

4. His delegation had studied the Secretary-General's report (A/40/803), to which was annexed the report of the United Nations mission to Jordan. Unlike Jordan, Israel had refused to receive the mission. The Special Political Committee had been discussing the item since the thirty-sixth session, and the concerns caused by Israel's decision had been reflected in General Assembly resolutions 36/150, 37/122, 38/85 and 39/101, all of which had condemned Israel's acts and had requested that the project be abandoned. The Secretary-General's reports, contained in documents A/37/328, A/38/502 and A/39/142, had described the adverse consequences that the project would have for tourism, the environment and many other areas. Furthermore, that project violated the principles of international law, the Geneva Conventions and the United Nations Charter. The adverse effects of the project were also outlined in a UNEP study (UNEP/GC.11/3/Add.4).

5. He read out paragraph 6 of document A/40/803 and emphasized that work on the canal would be resumed when the reasons which had led Israel to give instructions to the Mediterranean-Dead Sea Enterprise to suspend all work on the canal no longer existed. He then read out draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.31 and appealed to all delegations to support it so that it could be adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 76: INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE
(continued) (A/SPC/40/L.30)

Draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.30

6. Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria), speaking on behalf of the Working Group on International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the Special Political Committee, introduced draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.30 and said that the Working Group had held four drafting meetings and that although the negotiations had been difficult, a text had been drafted which was acceptable to all delegations, in particular with respect to the controversial question of defining the mandates of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee.
7. Regarding the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he said that the guidelines established by the General Assembly at the thirty-ninth session had been followed and as far as possible the interests and concerns of all Member States had been taken into account. With respect to the mandate of the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, an agreement might be reached on remote sensing for the developing countries, an issue to which the Sub-Committee would give special attention at its next session.
8. As to the choice of items for the Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee, it was hoped that the procedure recommended by the Sub-Committee at its twenty-second session would be followed. He drew special attention to paragraphs 17 and 4 (a) of the draft resolution.
9. In the opinion of his delegation, the work of the Special Committee on that item had advanced since the last session. It was, however, necessary to continue to strive to ensure that all States participated in the benefits of the exploration of outer space, and the role of the Committee in promoting that international co-operation would be increasingly important. More intensive use of outer space and the participation of an increasing number of countries in space activities highlighted the need to commence negotiations on the subject. In the opinion of Austria, the most important goal of the Working Group had been to establish the basis for the institutional framework of future work by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and it was hoped that that draft resolution would facilitate the Special Political Committee's important task of initiating constructive dialogue on relevant issues, bearing in mind the interests of all countries, particularly the developing countries.
10. Mr. KOLOSOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, according to paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/SPC.40/L.30, the Assembly would endorse the decision to grant permanent observer status to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the International System and Organization of Space Communications. The International System and Organization of Space Communications was better known as INTERSPUTNIK and therefore it would be fitting to add the acronym in brackets after the name of the System.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that that was a simple technical question which the Secretariat could certainly solve.

12. The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 78: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/40/L.29/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/SPC/40/L.29/Rev.1

13. Mr. DIMITRIJEVIC (Yugoslavia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, introduced the two draft resolutions contained in document A/SPC/40/L.29/Rev.1. The Working Group had held informal consultations with all the parties concerned and at its last meeting had stated that it believed that it had done everything possible to establish an atmosphere conducive to dialogue. The Group of 77 would give a more detailed report on the draft resolutions when they were put to vote at the next meeting.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.