



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. GBEHO (Ghana)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: 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: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/41/23 (Parts III and IX), A/41/341 and Corr.1; A/AC.109/850, 852, 854, 855, 858 and Corr.1, 860, 862, 863, 865; A/CONF.138/4-A/AC.131/179/Add.1, A/CONF.138/7-A/AC.131/203; E/C.10/1986/9)

1. Mr. POSTOWICZ (Poland) said that it was deplorable that 26 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, some countries and peoples were still suffering from colonial oppression. One of the fundamental reasons for that situation was the exploitation by foreign economic and other interests of the natural and human resources of the Territories in question. Despite all the United Nations efforts to bring about speedy and unconditional decolonization, the ruthless plunder of colonial Territories continued, particularly in illegally occupied Namibia. The extreme arrogance demonstrated by the South African racist régime towards all United Nations appeals had its direct source in the political, moral and material support and collaboration of some Western Powers.

2. The economic and social conditions prevailing in Namibia were alarming. Transnational and South African corporations continued to deplete non-renewable natural resources and to extract large volumes of mineral wealth. Although some delegations, especially those with vested colonial interests, asserted that the activities of transnational corporations provided employment for the local population, documents published by the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations provided irrefutable proof to the contrary and indicated that the corporations served directly and indirectly to sustain South Africa's illegal occupation of the Territory.

3. In other Territories still under colonial rule, transnational corporations were reaping huge profits and thus had a direct interest in perpetuating colonial domination and preventing the development of viable economic structures. It was appalling that the right of peoples to self-determination was being subordinated to the profit interests of the colonial Powers.

4. His Government also condemned the policy of establishing bases and other military installations in dependent Territories as totally incompatible with the Charter. In Namibia, South Africa had used its military installations both to repress Namibians and as a launching pad for aggression against neighbouring States. His Government believed that military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories should be dismantled and removed. It called for the immediate granting

(Mr. Postowicz, Poland)

of independence to Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and urged the United Nations to take all necessary steps to force the administering Powers of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to recognize the legitimate aspirations of colonial peoples to independence. It appreciated the steps, albeit insufficient, taken by some Western Governments to curb the economic involvement of their financial and business enterprises in colonial Territories. In conclusion, Poland would give all possible support to the struggle against colonial enslavement and exploitation until those scourges were completely eradicated.

5. Mr. KOROLEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the military activities of colonial Powers in Trust and dependent Territories were one of the basic obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and also constituted a threat to international peace and security. The General Assembly had clearly and unequivocally called upon the colonial Powers to end their military activities in colonial and dependent Territories forthwith.

6. The military activities of the Pretoria régime in Namibia posed a real threat to peace and stability on the African continent. In continuing its illegal occupation of Namibia, the racist régime was receiving constant support from certain Western countries and Israel, as well as co-operation in the military and nuclear fields. Indeed, South Africa's military industry, which had been established with the assistance of the imperialist Powers, was working at full capacity under licences from those countries. By some estimates, South Africa was the world's tenth largest producer. At the same time, the régime continued to buy weapons and technology from its allies and their transnational corporations. That co-operation encouraged the Pretoria régime to ignore the demands of the international community and to undermine efforts to eliminate apartheid and bring to an end the illegal occupation of Namibia.

7. The Pretoria régime had stepped up its military and repressive measures against the Namibians and particularly against the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole authentic representative of Namibia. Almost every day the information media carried reports of cruelty, massacres and torture of innocent people in Namibia. The racists were continuing their monstrous crimes in order to perpetuate their colonial and racist domination, impose a neo-colonialist future on the Namibian people, turn the Territory into a springboard for aggression against neighbouring independent States, and protect the military, political and economic interests of the imperialist Powers in southern Africa. Those actions were in flagrant contradiction with the United Nations Charter, and the Security Council, under Chapter VII of the Charter and in accordance with the demands of the vast majority of the international community, should impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

8. The military activities of imperialist States in other colonial, Trust and dependent Territories were also seriously obstructing the achievement by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination and

(Mr. Korolev, Byelorussian SSR)

independence. The military bases in Guam, Puerto Rico, Micronesia, Diego Garcia, Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands and other dependent Territories were not designed to increase employment for the local population but were intended for military purposes and for interference in the internal affairs of independent States, as was demonstrated by the aggression against Grenada carried out from a military base in Puerto Rico and the use of the St. Helena archipelago to re-establish colonial domination in the Malvinas.

9. Nuclear colonialism - the deployment of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction in dependent Territories - posed a particular threat to all the peoples of the world. Nuclear weapons had already been deployed in Guam, Bermuda and Puerto Rico. United States efforts to turn Micronesia into a military and strategic springboard in order to control a vast area of the world and dominate States in the southern Pacific were also alarming. Micronesia had been a military testing ground for over 40 years. There was a test range for intercontinental ballistic missiles on Kwajalein atoll, and the "free association" agreement imposed on the Marshall Islands provided for the use of Kwajalein as a test range for at least 30 years to come. There were plans to establish a major naval base, and active militarization was taking place in other parts of Micronesia too. The militarization of Micronesia posed a threat to all the peoples of the southern Pacific and ran counter to the goals of ensuring security and co-operation in the area and to the proposal by States of the region to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the southern Pacific. The Byelorussian SSR supported that proposal and called on all the nuclear Powers to guarantee the status of that zone on a unilateral or a multilateral basis.

10. The Byelorussian SSR reiterated its demand for the immediate and unconditional removal of military bases and installations from colonial and dependent Territories and the cessation of all military activities by the colonial Powers.

11. Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia) attributed the wide participation in and heated nature of the Committee's discussions on the current agenda item not only to the importance of the subject but also to the clear divergence between the positions of the two main bodies of opinion: the few States with financial and other interests in dependent Territories denied that the economic activities of transnational corporations and the military presence of administering Powers in colonial Territories impeded implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, while the overwhelming majority of the international community maintained that the activities of foreign economic and other interests hindered the decolonization process and the elimination of apartheid.

12. Ethiopia had argued consistently that the activities of foreign economic interests in both Namibia and the other dependent Territories had served to support the colonial Powers and to hinder the struggle for freedom and independence, a view which was confirmed by the studies of various United Nations bodies.

(Mr. Tadesse, Ethiopia)

13. The transnational corporations mining Namibia's resources were largely export-oriented, contributed little to the overall economy and contravened Decree No.1 of the United Nations Council for Namibia. Agricultural and agro-industrial activities likely to contribute to the development of Namibia's narrow-based economy had been largely neglected, while prospecting for oil and minerals was being stepped up. Namibians were being exploited for their cheap labour while their natural resources were being depleted, thereby depriving present and future generations of the benefit and enjoyment of their wealth.
14. Exploitation of Namibia's resources helped to prop up the racist régime and thus to maintain its illegal colonial rule over the country, depriving the black majority of their basic rights and fuelling the formidable South African military machine, whose nuclear capability, made possible by Western collaboration, threatened the peace and security of the region.
15. In other dependent territories foreign economic interests concentrated their activities in specific service industries, such as tourism, where menial labour was cheap and the profit reaped either did little to benefit the local population or made it so dependent on the colonial Power that implementation of the Declaration on decolonization would be difficult. Diversification of economic activities was vital for the economic and social development of the populations of those Territories.
16. Similarly, foreign military bases did not contribute to a productive economy but instead diverted human and material resources from productive activities and created dependence on foreign-oriented, destructive activities.
17. His delegation therefore wholeheartedly endorsed the recommendations in the Special Committee's report.
18. Mr. JASSNOWSKI (German Democratic Republic) said that he was speaking on item 105 a second time in order to deal specifically with the military activities of colonial Powers in the dependent Territories and suggested that a separate agenda item might be devoted to that dangerous aspect of the colonial policies of imperialism. Despite the General Assembly's yearly decisions on the subject, the militarization of the colonial Territories was escalating and posing an increasing threat to international peace and security. Since in some Territories the military and strategic interests of the administering Powers far outweighed economic interests, it was high time that the Committee gave due attention to colonial militarism, the dangers of which were documented by such bodies as the Organization of African Unity and the South Pacific Forum.
19. South Africa's use of Namibia as a springboard for aggression against Angola was one of the many examples of colonial Territories being used to destabilize a region or launch attacks on sovereign States. In addition to the massive quantities of arms supplied to Pretoria by Western companies before the arms embargo and the military know-how provided since then, imperialist collaboration with that régime in the nuclear field posed a serious threat. History had shown

(Mr. Jassnowski, German
Democratic Republic)

that a doomed régime did not hesitate to use weapons of mass destruction, no matter how suicidal that act might be. All collaboration with South Africa must therefore be ended so that a just and peaceful settlement of the Namibia question and of the conflict in southern Africa as a whole could be achieved.

20. Militarization also posed a major threat to peace in the so-called "small Territories" such as Micronesia, where the real interests of the people were being trampled under foot, as testified to by numerous petitioners, while military activities escalated. Nuclear testing had made Bikini and Eniwetok atolls permanently uninhabitable, while Kwajalein atoll, like Bermuda, had been "elevated" to the status of a missile range. In defiance of international treaties and the wishes of the populations concerned, nuclear arms were being stockpiled on Puerto Rico, Guam and elsewhere, and the islands had been used repeatedly to launch imperialist acts of aggression against other States, most recently against Grenada.

21. The involvement of the remaining colonial Territories in the policy of neo-globalism also jeopardized the independent development of sovereign States and contravened numerous treaties designed to strengthen regional security. He called for a comprehensive system of international peace and security, as proposed by 10 socialist States, which would provide an impetus for the final eradication of colonialism and fulfilment of the demand that colonial Powers cease their military activities and "eliminate military bases in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly" (A/41/23 (Part III)).

22. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) said that there were few areas in which the United Nations had as impressive a record as in the eradication of colonialism. Even so, some 3 million people throughout the world were still under the colonial yoke and it was generally agreed that a major obstacle to their self-determination was the collusion of foreign economic, military and other interests with the colonial Powers. Namibia, where transnational corporations sought profits through a ruthless commercial exploitation of the Territory's human and natural resources, offered the most glaring example of colonial oppression. Indonesia had consistently assailed such exploitation and as a member of the Council for Namibia had worked for the preservation of Namibia's inviolable natural heritage. It therefore supported fully the Council's decision to initiate legal proceedings States' domestic courts against corporations involved in the exploitation, transportation, processing or purchase of Namibia's natural resources. His Government regarded the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa as the only avenue left to overcome the régime's intransigence on the implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibian Independence. Indonesia also remained unwaveringly committed to supporting SWAPO, the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, in its intensified struggle for liberation.

23. Economic activities in the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories must also accord with the inalienable rights of the indigenous peoples. It was unacceptable for the economic development of dependent peoples to be determined on the basis of the economic, political, military and strategic interests of the

(Mr. Rianom, Indonesia)

colonial Power. By the same token, the activities of foreign economic interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories should be allowed only if they directly enhanced the indigenous population's ability to develop the necessary infrastructures for economic self-sufficiency and contributed to diversification and balanced growth. The overriding goal must always be to prepare the people of such Territories for self-reliance.

24. Mr. THEUAMBOUNMY (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, although remarkable success had been achieved since the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly in 1960, the decolonization process was still incomplete.

25. In southern Africa, Namibia was the most glaring example of the adverse effects of foreign economic activity. Despite numerous United Nations resolutions, the Pretoria racist régime continued to maintain and consolidate its illegal occupation of Namibia. Working closely with certain Western and other countries, it had systematically plundered the Territory's natural resources and wealth. As document A/CONF.138/7-A/AC.131/203 indicated, certain companies and financial institutions based in South Africa, Western Europe and North America were amassing considerable wealth in the Territory while maintaining the black population in a situation of poverty and exploitation. It was clear that foreign monopolies were not interested in Namibia's industrial progress for they repatriated 60 per cent of Namibia's GDP in the form of pre-tax profits and used a large part of the remaining 40 per cent to cover operating expenses.

26. Such activities perpetuated South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and encouraged the apartheid régime to become increasingly intransigent with regard to the liberation of Namibia. It was well known that the colonial and administering Powers pursued military and other interests that impeded the accession of peoples to independence. In the case of Namibia, the authorities in Pretoria, with the unconditional support of certain Western Powers, were intensifying their military activities against the Namibian people and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), its sole authentic representative. They had introduced large numbers of well-armed troops into Namibian territory and had recruited mercenaries in several countries to serve as occupation forces in Namibia and to perpetrate numerous acts of subversion and aggression against the front-line States. Those barbarous acts constituted a flagrant violation of sovereignty and territorial integrity and seriously endangered international peace and security. The root cause of that policy of aggression was the narrow-minded policy of constructive engagement pursued by a major imperialist Power and the active support extended to Pretoria by certain Western countries. The recent massive increase in South Africa's military budget was aimed at expanding its military presence in Namibia with a view to continuing its illegal occupation of the Territory and pursuing its war of aggression against the front-line States. His delegation therefore supported fully the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the Declaration of the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Harare, urging the international community to increase its support, including its military assistance, to the front-line States.

(Mr. Theuambounmy, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

27. Colonialism was also alive and well in certain small Territories. It would be naive and dangerous to think that the military bases and activities of the colonial Powers in such Non-Self-Governing Territories as Micronesia, Guam, Diego Garcia and Bermuda provided jobs for the local population. On the contrary, they were there to repress national liberation movements and to intimidate independent countries and interfere in their internal affairs. As in the past, his Government strongly advocated the right of colonial peoples to self-determination and to genuine independence from imperialist pillaging of their resources, and the cessation of all military activities. It firmly supported the requests to the Security Council that it impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria régime, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and endorsed the relevant General Assembly resolutions calling for the dismantling of all military bases and installations in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

28. Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom) said that, while no one pretended that businesses were motivated exclusively by social altruism, some of the statements made in the debate about the evils of private enterprise quite literally strained the bounds of credibility and produced a distorted picture of international economic realities.

29. The "depletion and exploitation" theory advanced by some speakers simply did not apply to the many British Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Committee's agenda. Those Territories had few people to exploit and even fewer natural resources to deplete. Their economic problems were attributable more to a lack of foreign economic investment than to a surfeit of it. The working papers prepared by the Secretariat on those Territories provided evidence of successful economic growth achieved through the promotion of private inward investment, and his country would continue to do what it could to help those territories develop their economic infrastructure.

30. As far as Namibia was concerned, the Committee had heard a familiar litany about the iniquitous behaviour of the transnational corporations of "certain Western countries", but nothing about a far more serious example of the "exploitation and depletion" theory, namely, the plunder of Namibia's offshore fisheries. An excellent report produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on that very subject and submitted to the Commissioner for Namibia in November 1984 had yet to see the light of day or be discussed thoroughly in the Council for Namibia. Might that have something to do with the fact that it contained information of considerable embarrassment to those who were most vociferous in their denunciation of the activities of foreign economic interests in Namibia? The central message of the report was that Namibia's off-shore fisheries, its most valuable potential resource after mining and agriculture, were being dangerously exploited, to the obvious detriment of a future independent Namibia. The FAO list of the top seven countries catching hake and horse mackerel, the two most endangered species predictably featured South Africa in fourth place. Bulgaria and Cuba also figured, in sixth and seventh places, with an annual mean catch of 46,000 tonnes, but that was nothing compared to the massive

(Mr. Mortimer, United Kingdom)

357,000 tonnes taken by the trawler fleets of the Soviet Union, which headed the list, or the 107,000 tonnes caught by Polish vessels. The self-contained operations of those large trawler fleets, which injected no money into the Namibian economy, were perhaps an example of the most rampant form of unremitting commercial exploitation. His delegation suggested that the FAO report should be circulated forthwith as a United Nations document and that all future papers on the involvement of foreign economic interests in the Namibian economy should deal comprehensively and objectively with the important fisheries sector.

31. A similar situation existed in the waters around the Falkland Islands where, over the past few years, the fishing activities of a number of foreign fleets, including large fleets from the Soviet Union and Poland, had increased to the point where fish stocks might be threatened. If, as anticipated, a forthcoming FAO report pointed to the need for action to control the south-west Atlantic fishery, it could serve as basis for multilateral technical discussions on the conservation and management of the fishery and for agreement on appropriate arrangements. The United Kingdom hoped that all interested nations would join in the FAO efforts to conserve that important natural resource for the benefit of the international community as a whole. Pending the outcome of those efforts, his Government had approached the Governments of all the nations fishing in that area inviting them to voluntarily restrain their fleets' fishing efforts during the next fishing season.

32. Another fascinating yet strangely neglected area of foreign economic activity was the relationship between the Soviet Union and South African companies over the marketing of precious metals and diamonds. Such a relationship came as no surprise since most of the world's reserves of gold, diamonds and platinum were to be found in only two places, South Africa and the Soviet Union. The source for his observations was an article entitled "A lucrative South African/Soviet arrangement" published in the Zimbabwe Financial Gazette of 22 November 1985, which had observed that "as with diamonds, the USSR and South Africa together supply 80 per cent of the world's gold". Although his delegation had no way of knowing whether those claims were true, one was forced to ask whether there were indeed forms of economic co-operation with Pretoria that had not as yet surfaced in the wealth of documentation put out at the United Nations on that subject.

33. He wholeheartedly endorsed the remarks by the representative of Canada concerning the excessively polemical and repetitive nature of some of the resolutions that emerged from the Committee and the exclusive concentration on the foreign economic activities of only Western countries. The Committee's debate had become no more than a life-support system to help keep cherished myths about colonialism artificially alive. The cause of the Namibian people was not likely to be advanced by the ritualistic denunciation of foreign economic activity, which in some cases was motivated more by a desire to perpetuate East-West divisions than by any genuine concern for the economic viability of a future independent Namibia. The item on foreign economic interests was surely the prime candidate for deletion from the General Assembly's agenda.

34. Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago) observed that the multilateral approach to the task of eliminating colonialism was being increasingly challenged and the authority of the United Nations to determine whether a given Territory was or was not self-governing, and its role as the principal guardian of colonial peoples, were being brought into question. There was a growing tendency among some Member States to disregard United Nations resolutions and decisions and to take unilateral action on a number of issues. Claiming that the colonial era had ended in some of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, one State which administered most of those Territories had given notice that it would no longer participate in the work of the Special Committee of 24. That would deprive the United Nations of its most useful means of obtaining first-hand information: the dispatching of visiting missions to such Territories.

35. No reminder was needed that the colonial era was not yet over: the documents before the Committee on the activities of foreign economic and other interests operating in the remaining colonies spoke for themselves. It was imperative that the United Nations continue to chart carefully the progress of dependent Territories towards self-determination and independence and that the administering Powers continue to co-operate fully with all the United Nations bodies involved in the decolonization process.

36. Given the situation in some of the remaining colonial Territories, it was inevitable that the Committee's resolutions should be somewhat repetitive. The Committee must continue to speak out against the unrestricted exploitation of natural resources by administering Powers, to reaffirm that the accumulation and repatriation of huge profits by foreign enterprises could not take precedence over the effective management of a Territory's human and natural resources, and to call to account any administering Power which violated its obligations under the Charter.

37. There were a number of instances in which the rights and interests of local populations were being disregarded. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, for instance, according to document A/AC.109/860, no corrective measures had been taken to end land speculation by foreign investors which had inflated land prices. In Anguilla, according to document A/AC.109/850, the territorial Government was steadily losing control over investments, particularly with regard to the reinvestment of profits on foreign investments. In the United States Virgin Islands, according to document A/AC.109/862, the local population was being denied free access to the Territory's beaches by foreign-operated hotels.

38. The Committee must examine existing practices, regulations and legislation in the dependent Territories for possible loopholes which might impede their independence, while at the same time giving adequate recognition to the fact that, with the proper safeguards, mutually beneficial relationships could be developed with foreign enterprises by a territorial Government and its people.

39. No such relationship could be developed, however, between the Namibian people and the foreign economic and financial interests operating illegally in Namibia for the sole purpose of unbridled exploitation. Those profits which were not repatriated served to bolster the abhorrent system of apartheid and to reinforce

(Mrs. King-Rousseau,
Trinidad and Tobago)

the racist régime's stranglehold on the Territory. The Pretoria régime's intensification of its repression against the Namibians and its militarization of the Territory in a vain attempt to frustrate the effectiveness of SWAPO in its liberation struggle must not be tolerated, nor its continued mockery of United Nations resolutions, decisions and rules.

40. Her Government's position was clear: it urged the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, wholeheartedly supported the Council for Namibia in its quest for legal redress against foreign economic interests which violated its Decree No. 1, and supported the recommendations of the Special Committee of 24 contained in document A/41/23 (Part III) which, if fully implemented, would advance the cause of self-determination and independence for all peoples.

41. Mr. KASINA (Kenya) said that for almost two decades, since the termination of its mandate over Namibia, South Africa had resisted efforts by the international community to decolonize the Territory. His delegation endorsed fully the recommendations of the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, the International Conference for the Immediate Independence of Namibia, and the recently concluded Fourteenth Special Session of the General Assembly on the Question of Namibia. Foreign exploitation of Namibia's natural resources, particularly in the mining sector, remained a major impediment to independence. It was time to take action against the transnational corporations which, with the co-operation of their Governments, were repatriating all profits rather than reinvesting them in the Territory and were clearly bent on plundering Namibia's economy. Their actions violated the political, economic and social rights and interests of the indigenous majority and helped South Africa to perpetuate its illegal occupation.

42. Kenya also condemned South Africa's massive military build-up in Namibia, which it was directing against neighbouring States, especially Angola and Botswana, and South Africa's continued military, nuclear and intelligence collaboration with certain Western countries.

43. Kenya saluted SWAPO, which it recognized as the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, for its gallant struggle and for its leadership in seeking a peaceful solution to the question of Namibia on the basis of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It called on the United Nations to give the necessary assistance to SWAPO's legitimate armed struggle until Namibia's independence was won. The time had come for coercive measures against South Africa and all attempts by that régime to link Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola must be rejected. The fate of Namibia was the responsibility of the United Nations and at the two recent Paris Conferences and the fourteenth special session the international community had spoken, when it had called for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under the Charter as the only peaceful option left to bring about the independence of Namibia.

44. Mr. KULAWIEC (Czechoslovakia) said that the struggle for the elimination of foreign military bases was an integral part of the struggle of the colonial peoples for freedom, self-determination and independence. The imperialists were trying to use military bases in colonial Territories to influence development in sovereign States by "non-traditional" methods, using the latest forms of coercion and creating the material and technical bases necessary for armed sallies, interference in the affairs of sovereign States, and aggression against them. That policy ran counter to the United Nations Charter and to decisions of the General Assembly. Unfortunately, the colonial Powers had taken no steps to implement those decisions and instead were maintaining and strengthening military units and arsenals in a number of colonies, particularly Namibia, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

45. The military machine of the colonial Powers was being used to persecute freedom fighters and hinder the emergence of a national identity among the populations of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Significant changes were occurring in the demographic composition of the colonies: in Guam, military personnel and members of their families constituted 20 per cent of the population. Vast areas of irreplaceable arable land were being confiscated for military purposes. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, nuclear-weapon testing had resulted in environmental contamination and a high incidence of cancer and other radiation-related diseases.

46. South Africa's illegal military presence in Namibia continued to give cause for concern. The Pretoria régime had deployed over 100,000 soldiers and mercenaries in Namibia and at the same time was forcibly conscripting Namibians for military service. It was trying to turn the armed conflict between its army of occupation and the Namibian patriots into a fratricidal war among Namibians. The South African régime was also using the Territory of Namibia as a springboard for acts of aggression against neighbouring independent African States, especially Angola. To that end, South Africa was expanding and modernizing its air and land bases in South African territory, and was steadily increasing its military expenditures to levels far higher than the official figures indicated.

47. In violation of the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council in 1977, the military co-operation of Western States with the racist régime was continuing. That régime, with the blessing of the British Government, had gained access to British nuclear technology, as well as to expertise in uranium mining. The British secret services were providing Pretoria with intelligence data on front-line States and the activities of anti-racist organizations. With the help of some Western States, South Africa had also been able to establish its own capacity for weapons production. African countries were legitimately concerned about South Africa's nuclear potential, which was being built up through close co-operation with certain Western States and Israel. That co-operation was entering its most dangerous stage and it was therefore imperative to obstruct such military nuclear colonialism by all possible means and to prevent the dependent Territories from being drawn into the arms race.

(Mr. Kulawiec, Czechoslovakia)

48. The militarization of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands also constituted a serious threat to world peace and security. In violation of its obligations, the administering Power had been using the islands for military and strategic purposes for many years. The United States was stockpiling nuclear and chemical weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction on the islands and it was clear that its attempts to change the status of the Territory were not in the interests of the indigenous population.

49. The presence of military bases in the dependent Territories was incompatible with the obligations of the colonial Power under the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It had adverse effects for economic and social development, human rights and above all the basic rights of entire peoples. Czechoslovakia opposed the reactionary strategy of military bases and would continue to reject the abuse of United Nations machinery for pursuing that dangerous policy. The problem of military bases in Non-Self-Governing Territories could not be solved by means of imperialist annexation in any shape or form. The use of Non-Self-Governing Territories for military purposes must be ended and military bases and installations must be dismantled.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.