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

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN, expressing appreciation for the confidence placed in him, which he took as recognition of the historic role that his country had played in the decolonization process, said that he was particularly concerned about the Territories still under colonial domination, more because of their intractable circumstances than because of their number, which was relatively small. The principle of the decolonization of Non-Self-Governing Territories was non-negotiable and the freedom of a people could not be tied to its population or geographical size. The first item to be considered by the Committee concerned the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the decolonization process in Territories under colonial domination. The natural resources of those Territories were the heritage of their peoples and foreign economic interests must be prevented from depleting them and plundering those Territories before they even achieved independence. Namibia was the clearest case of such merciless exploitation by companies based in certain countries which were United Nations Member States. Even though the United Nations had been considering the question of Namibia for four decades and had adopted resolutions in the Security Council and the General Assembly calling on South Africa to end its illegal occupation of that Territory, the Government of South Africa continued to disregard those resolutions and international public opinion. The Committee must re-examine the matter and offer solutions that would help to ensure the immediate independence of Namibia. The Committee should also be open to the hearing of petitions on the subject and submit its findings to the plenary. Other problems that had engaged the attention of the Committee over the years were the decolonization of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which had been at an impasse for years because of the war and the impossibility of bringing the parties involved together at the conference table, and the question of Western Sahara. In both cases, he appealed to the parties involved to co-operate with the Committee.

2. The United Nations must maintain its interest in the remaining colonies and other Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to bring them to early freedom and independence. That must be the Committee's aim during the current session of the General Assembly, so as to facilitate the task of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee of 24. In that connection, the Special Committee's tradition of dispatching visiting missions to the Territories must be maintained and encouraged, since they offered the advantage of gathering information useful in dealing with the Territories and served as moral and psychological support to the peoples of those Territories. He reiterated the appeal made by his predecessors for an increase in programmes of assistance to colonial peoples that would enable them to attain independence under conditions guaranteeing the success of their economic and social endeavours, thereby hastening the day when the historic process of decolonization initiated three decades earlier would be achieved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (continued)

3. Mr. DIARRA (Mali) nominated Mrs. King-Rousseau (Trinidad and Tobago) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

/...

4. Mr. SKOFENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) nominated Mr. Arnouss (Syrian Arab Republic) for the office of Vice-Chairman.

5. Mrs. King-Rousseau (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Arnouss (Syrian Arab Republic) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

6. The Chairman announced that, pending consultations, the election of the Rapporteur would be postponed to a later date.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/41/1, A/C.4/41/L.1, A/INF/41/1)

7. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/C.4/41/1 listing the agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee, and document A/C.4/41/L.1 which he had drafted and paragraph 3 of which set out a suggested programme of work for the Committee. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the suggested provisional programme of work, subject to any required modifications.

8. It was so decided.

9. The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraphs 5 and 6 of document A/C.4/41/L.1 regarding, respectively, lists of speakers and the General Assembly's decision to waive the quorum requirement for meetings, said that it was his intention to convene meetings promptly and that he was confident that he would receive the co-operation of all members in that regard. He called attention to document A/INF/41/1 on the control and limitation of documentation, and reminded members of the Committee that the list of speakers on items 105 and 19 would be closed on Tuesday, 30 September at 6 p.m.

10. Mr. SVOBODA (Canada) recalled, with regard to the schedule of meetings, the recommendation contained in the report submitted to the General Assembly by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, to the effect that meetings of the Fourth Committee should not clash with those of the Special Political Committee. He proposed that the Chairman consult with the Chairman of the Special Political Committee to ensure that meetings of the two Committees were held consecutively so that delegations, especially those with few members, could participate in both.

11. Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom) supported the proposal of the representative of Canada for the initiation of consultations with the Special Political Committee regarding the schedule of meetings.

12. The CHAIRMAN assured the Committee that appropriate steps would be taken as soon as the General Assembly took a decision on the recommendation of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

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 (A/41/23 (Parts III and IX))

13. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic), in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the

(Mr. Arnouss, Syrian Arab Republic)

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, introduced chapter IV of the Special Committee's report covering its work in 1986 in connection with agenda item 105 (A/41/23 (Part III)), which was being submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 40/52.

14. In accordance with established practice and pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly decision 40/415 of 2 December 1985, he also introduced for the Committee's consideration chapter V of the Special Committee's report, relating to the agenda item entitled Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

15. After citing various paragraphs of the Special Committee's resolution dealing with agenda item 105 and contained in chapter IV, paragraph 10, of its report, and also parts of the decision adopted by the Special Committee regarding military activities, as contained in chapter V, paragraph 11, of its report, he called on the Committee to adopt the draft resolution on the activities of foreign economic and other interests (A/41/23 (Part III), chap. IV, para. 10) and the draft decision on military activities (A/41/23 (Part III), chap. V, para. 11).

16. He called attention to the appendix to document A/41/23 (Part IX) regarding the two chapters he had just introduced. That appendix contained a brief summary of the statements made by members of the Special Committee and an outline of the reservations made by certain members on the decisions taken by that Committee.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

17. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received four communications containing requests for hearings concerning, respectively, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Namibia and Western Sahara. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

18. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.