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QUESTION OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Fourth Committee (part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Yilma TADESSE (Ethiopia)

1. Part I of the Fourth Committee's report on the question of Southern Rhodesia (A/8518) was submitted to the General Assembly on 16 November 1971. That report contained the text of a draft resolution, dealing with a specific aspect of the question, which the Fourth Committee had approved as a matter of urgency. The draft resolution was adopted by the Assembly at its 1984th plenary meeting, on 16 November (resolution 2765 (XXVI)).
2. The Fourth Committee further considered the question of Southern Rhodesia at its 1951st and 1952nd meetings, on 18 and 19 November.
3. At the 1951st meeting, on 18 November, the representatives of Zambia and Pakistan, having regard to recent developments concerning the Territory, introduced a draft resolution on the question (A/C.4/L.990), which was finally sponsored by the following Member States: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, People's Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia. The operative paragraphs of the draft resolution read as follows:

"1. Reaffirms that there should be no independence before majority rule in Southern Rhodesia;

"2. Further reaffirms that any settlement relating to the future of that Territory must be worked out with the fullest participation of all nationalist leaders representing the majority of the people of Zimbabwe and must be endorsed by the people;

- "3. Decides to keep the situation in the Territory under review."
4. At the same meeting, the representative of Somalia submitted oral amendments to the draft resolution by which:
- (a) In paragraph 1, the words "the principle" would be inserted after the word "Reaffirms";
 - (b) Paragraph 2 would be replaced by the following:

"2. Affirms that any settlement relating to the future of that Territory must be worked out with the fullest participation of all nationalist leaders representing the majority of the people of Zimbabwe and must be endorsed by the people on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and to this end calls on the United Kingdom Government urgently to release all political prisoners and detainees and to create conditions enabling the return of nationalist leaders in exile;"
5. At the same meeting, the representative of Barbados also submitted oral amendments to the draft resolution by which:
- (a) Paragraph 2 would be replaced by the following:

"2. Affirms that it is the responsibility of the Government of the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, to ensure that any settlement relating to the future of that Territory must be worked out with the fullest participation of all nationalist leaders representing the majority of the people of Zimbabwe and must be endorsed by the people on the basis of universal adult suffrage;"
 - (b) The following two paragraphs would be added as paragraphs 3 and 4:

"3. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, to release immediately all political prisoners and detainees and to create conditions enabling the return of nationalist leaders in exile;

"4. Calls further upon the Government of the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, not to reach any agreement with the rebellious minority régime of Ian Smith which would seek to postpone immediate progress towards majority rule in Southern Rhodesia."
 - (c) Paragraph 3 in the original text (A/C.4/L.990) would be renumbered as operative paragraph 5.
6. At the same meeting, the representative of Mauritania submitted certain oral amendments (see A/C.4/SR.1951) to paragraph 2 of the draft resolution which he subsequently withdrew on the understanding that the text of those amendments would be included in the record of the meeting.

7. Following an exchange of views, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the original sponsors (see para. 3 above) and of Barbados and Guyana, submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.4/L.990/Rev.1). Liberia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda subsequently joined as sponsors of the revised draft.

8. The oral amendments by Somalia (see para. 4 above) were not pressed to a vote.

9. At the 1952nd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution (A/C.4/L.990/Rev.1) by a roll-call vote of 99 to 3, with

10 abstentions (see para. 11 below). The result of the voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia,

Against: Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, United States of America.

10. Another report, covering the Fourth Committee's further consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia, will be submitted subsequently.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

11. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

/...

Question of Southern Rhodesia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Southern Rhodesia,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the question of Southern Rhodesia,

Having noted the statement made in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 9 November 1971, by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, announcing his Government's decision to hold the talks, that are currently under way in Salisbury with the illegal racist minority régime,

1. Reaffirms the principle that there should be no independence before majority rule in Southern Rhodesia;

2. Affirms that any settlement relating to the future of that Territory must be worked out with the fullest participation of all nationalist leaders representing the majority of the people of Zimbabwe and must be endorsed freely by the people;

3. Decides to keep the situation in the Territory under review.
