6th meeting held on Friday, 11 October 1991 at 10 a.m. New York

FOURTH COMMITTEE

Official Records

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman:

Mr. FLEMMING

(Saint Lucia)

CONTENTS

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM 100: 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 TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued)

General debate (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/46/8, A/C.4/46/3)

- 1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to communications containing requests for hearings relating to the question of Pitcairn (A/C.4/46/8) and Western Sahara (A/C.4/46/3). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests.
- 2. It was so decided.
- 3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received two communications containing requests for hearings, one concerning the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies under agenda item 101 and one concerning Western Sahara under agenda item 19. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 100: 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 TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIAL! 3M, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/46/23, part III; A/AC.109/1065, 1066, 1070, 1073, 1075-1078)

General debate (continued)

- 5. Mr. BELEYI (Togo) noted that, in the course of its work, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had come to the conclusion, in the light of the enormous changes taking place in the world and the trends emerging in it, that it was necessary to give renewed emphasis to the inalienable right of dependent peoples and Territories to self-determination, independence and the exploitation of their resources in their own interests.
- 6. Although the question under consideration was not new, his delegation considered it appropriate to point out that, in connection with the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, the international community should again remind the Governments concerned of their duty to put an end to apartheid through negotiations and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, to take the constitutional, administrative and other action relating to their nationals and companies whose activities in the Non-Self-Governing Territories were contrary to the

(Mr. Belevi, Togo)

interests of the inhabitants of those territories to put an end to those activities. The peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean, the Pacific and southern Africa, particularly South Africa, had the right to life in peace based on freedom, solidarity, security and the enjoyment of human rights.

- 7. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu) said that a broad international consensus now existed that colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination were unacceptable. What was less clear was how much still remained to be done to achieve the complete elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination by the end of the current decade and how what remained to be done should be done. Some pointed to the great progress already made in the decolonization process and suggested that little remained to be done. Others pointed to the rather unique circumstances of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and the difficulties the people of those Territories would face should the international community address the remaining decolonization items with reduced commitment. His delegation shared the latter view.
- 8. His country belonged to a region in which colonialism was still a major concern and therefore the agenda item under consideration remained of great importance to it. In dealing with it, an effort must be made to avoid offering outmoded solutions to current problems.
- 9. No one could deny that foreign and economic and other interests had been a pre-eminent factor in the development and maintenance of colonialism. At present foreign investment was important to developing countries, particularly newly independent developing countries. However, the terms and conditions of such investment and other economic relationships differed from those which had existed under colonialism. Without doubt there were still some foreign economic and other interests which did in fact impede the decolonization process and efforts to eliminate apartheid and other forms of racial discrimination. South Africa was an example of a colonial social system which had initially grown and prospered through the racial domination and economic exploitation of its people. Such an outmoded system limited and ultimately arrested economic growth, eventually resulting in stagnation and decline. Those who currently governed in South Africa now found themselves compelled to act in accordance with their long-term economic interests rather than their immediate social preferences.
- 10. He concluded by reiterating his delegation's desire to engage in open and candid dialogue, as well as careful and thoughtful analysis, on the subject.
- 11. Mrs. MULAMULA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that despite the positive atmosphere in the world, the international community was no closer to attaining the lofty goals of universal peace, stability and justice. On the other hand, it could not be denied that the improved international atmosphere, particularly the relaxation of tension between East and West, had contributed greatly to the advancement of the principles contained in the United Nations Charter.

A/C.4/46/SR.6 English Page 4

(Mrs. Mulamula, United Republic of Tanzania)

- 12. At a time when the international community was in the final sprint of the race to eradicate totally colonialism, attempts were being made to retreat from the principles of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and delete the question of apartheid from the agenda of the Committee which was entrusted to promote the rights of peoples and countries under colonialism, foreign domination, racial discrimination and apartheid.
- 13. The Committee should not allow any disguised attempts to undermine the principles of the Declaration and detract from the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. In that regard, the responsibilities of administering Powers as provided for in chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, particularly their obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, could not be overemphasized.
- 14. Over many years the Committee had condemned all foreign activities, economic, military or otherwise, in the colonial Territories that impeded the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. The Committee had been criticized for allegedly indiscriminate condemnation of foreign investment in those colonial Territories. While it recognized the development aspect of those investments, it could not ignore the fact that for peoples under colonialism or any other form of domination, any development activity was incidental to the interests of the administering Power, which were still those of exploitation and domination.
- 15. It was no secret that the economic and military strength of the apartheid regime in South Africa had been sustained to a very great extent by the collaboration of Western and other States. The fact that the apartheid regime had been forced to compromise was a direct result of the relentless pressure exerted on the de Klerk Government through economic and other sanctions.
- 16. Her delegation reiterated its position, which was that the deletion of the South Africa issue from the agenda of the Special Committee on decolonization would be to ignore the colonial features of the situation in South Africa. Until the South African Government set in motion an irreversible process for dismantling apartheid and there was evidence of profound and irreversible change, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on decolonization would have to continue to exert all efforts to enable the South African people to exercise their right to self-determination.
- 17. Tanzania would continue to oppose any action that colonial Powers might take which ignored the legitimate aspirations of colonial peoples.

- 18. Mr. MANRIQUE (Venezuela) expressed his delegation's concern that the wording of proposals submitted for consideration by the Committee did not give a clear idea of the aims towards which Member States were working. In that connection, the texts of proposals should be formulated in such a way as to enable a consensus to be reached without adversely affecting questions of substance and the aims of the Committee, and his delegation wished to declare its willingness to assist the work of the Committee in every way possible.
- 19. Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria) said that at a time when the majority of countries were moving towards freedom, self-determination and democracy, there was still one State in Africa which maintained colonialism and racial prejudice. That was South Africa. Although his delegation recognized that some efforts were being made to end that unique form of colonialism, it was obliged to decry the situation in South Africa because there was as yet no evidence that the South African regime would speedily negotiate the transition to a democratic, non-racial order. As long as apartheid remained in place, the Government that practised it should be condemned in all forums of the Organization, particularly in the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee against Apartheid.
- 20. The item under consideration was of immense interest to Nigeria, since it was a country which encouraged economic interaction among States as long as it was agreed to by both parties and was of mutual benefit. The administering Powers and colonial masters should promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the Territories and colonies and not see them as a reservoir of raw materials.
- 21. Nigeria was concerned by the use of Non-Self-Governing Territories as dumping grounds for consumer goods and dangerous and hazardous wastes. Many developing countries accepted such waste either out of ignorance of its harmful effects or for economic considerations. Nigeria denounced such activities and wished to state that if, as the administering Powers claimed, their activities were not harmful to the Territories, they should carry them out within their own national borders.
- 22. With regard to the concept of the new world order as it affected the Non-Self-Governing Territories and colonies, the international community should ensure that the new positive trends in international relations were reflected in issues of decolonization. A new world order should be based on a just and equitable distribution of wealth among nations. Anachronistic attitudes of domination and holding of other lands as possessions should be abandoned.
- 23. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded the general debate on agenda item 100, and proposed that the vote on the two draft resolutions before the Committee should be deferred to a later meeting.
- 24. It was so decided.

A/C.4/46/SR.6 English Page 6

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

- 25. The CHAIRMAN said that at its next meeting the Committee would continue consideration of the remaining items on its agenda and would hear petitioners whose request for a hearing had been approved.
- 26. He proposed that the decision taken at the second meeting, on 1 October, should be set aside, and that, since the Committee would not be meeting on Monday, the list of speakers for the general debate on the remaining agenda items should be closed on Friday, 18 October.
- 27. The proposal was adopted.

The meeting rose at 11,20 a.m.