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Distr. GENFRAI  
A/C.4/42/SR.2  
30 September 1987  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

#### STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the faith they had placed in him, which was surely a recognition of the role his country had played in the decolonization process since becoming a Member of the United Nations in 1960 - the same year in which the General Assembly had adopted the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. However, despite the Organization's undeniable achievements in the area of decolonization, the process was far from complete for, even though there were few remaining colonial Territories, the principle of decolonization was applicable to all Non-Self-Governing Territories and should not be limited by the number of their inhabitants or by their size.

2. One of the most important questions before the Committee concerned the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding decolonization in the Territories under colonial domination. The natural resources of those Territories were the heritage of their people and a way must be found to prevent them from being depleted even before accession to independence.

3. The most challenging decolonization problem before the Organization was that of Namibia, and it was the task of the Committee to help advance its immediate independence, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the question of Western Sahara were other difficult problems which had engaged the Committee over the years.

4. The United Nations must continue to maintain its interest in the remaining colonies in order to bring them freedom and independence. To that end, the Special Committee on decolonization should be encouraged to send visiting missions to the Territories in order to gather useful information and provide psychological and moral support to the indigenous populations. The co-operation of the administering Powers was essential in that regard. Programmes of assistance to the colonial peoples must not only be maintained but increased so as to enable them to attain independence under the most favourable conditions.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic) nominated Mr. Branco (Sao Tome and Principe) and Mr. Vasilyev (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) for the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

6. Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago) seconded the nominations.

7. Mr. Branco (Sao Tome and Principe) and Mr. Vasilyev (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

8. Mr. DELFOSSE (Belgium) nominated Mr. Carnevali-Villegas (Venezuela) for the post of Rapporteur.

9. Mr. Carnevali-Villegas (Venezuela) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/42/1, A/C.4/42/L.1, A/INF/42/1)

10. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to document A/C.4/42/1, containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee, and to document A/C.4/42/L.1, which contained in paragraph 3 a suggested timetable for the Committees. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the provisional programme of work proposed, on the understanding that it would be modified as needed.

11. It was so decided.

12. The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraph 7 of his note on the organization of work (A/C.4/42/L.1), recalled that, in view of the Organization's financial situation, the Special Political Committee and the Fourth Committee had been able during the forty-first session to avoid holding concurrent meetings, with only a few exceptions. The Chairmen of the two Committees had informed the President of the General Assembly that they intended to continue such co-ordination to the extent possible during the current session. In his reply, the President had noted that the necessary flexibility would be required to ensure that both Committees completed their work on schedule.

13. In connection with paragraph 8 of his note, and in view of the General Assembly's waiver of the quorum requirement, it was his intention to start meetings very promptly and he was confident that he could count on the co-operation of all members of the Committee in that regard.

14. Lastly, he drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General on control and limitation of documentation (A/INF/42/1).

15. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic) observed, with regard to paragraph 8 of the note by the Chairman (A/C.4/42/L.1), that consultations were in some cases a way for the Committee to reach agreement and therefore make progress in its work, and that consequently the Committee had perhaps lost less time than the paragraph indicated.

AGENDA ITEM 109: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN 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/42/23 (Part II))

16. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in his capacity as Rapporteur 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, introduced the chapter relating to agenda item 109 in the Special Committee's

(Mr. Arnouss, Syrian Arab Republic)

report covering its work during 1987 (A/42/23 (Part III), chap. IV), which was being submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 41/14. He reviewed in particular a resolution adopted by the Special Committee on the activities of foreign economic and other interests, which was set out in paragraph 11. The draft resolution on that question which the Special Committee was recommending to the Fourth Committee for adoption was to be found in paragraph 12.

17. Mr. JOFFE (Israel), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that since the consideration of agenda item 109 had been listed in neither the Journal nor in the note by the Chairman on the organization of work (A/C.4/42/L.1), delegations had not prepared themselves to discuss it.

18. The CHAIRMAN clarified that the general debate on agenda item 109 would indeed begin on 28 September, as stated in his note, and that the documentation for that item was in any case already available.

19. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic) introduced, in accordance with established practice and pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly decision 41/405, the chapter of the report of the Special Committee concerning 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 (A/42/23 (Part III), chap. V). The consensus adopted by the Special Committee on the question was set out in paragraph 10 of that chapter, and the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee appeared in paragraph 11.

20. On behalf of the Special Committee, he asked the Committee to endorse the draft resolution on the activities of foreign economic and other interests and the draft decision on military activities, as contained in the two chapters mentioned.

#### REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

21. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received five communications containing requests for hearings, three of them concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, one concerning Western Sahara and one concerning New Caledonia. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

22. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.