

United Nations
**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**



FORTY-SECOND SESSION.

*Official Records**

FOURTH COMMITTEE
6th meeting
held on
Thursday, 5 October 1987
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 109: 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)

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned within one week of the date of publication to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

7p.

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

AGENDA ITEM 109: 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/42/23 (Part III); A/AC.109/897, 900-902, 905, 908, 909, 912, 914 and 916; A/AC.131/241 and 243)

1. Mr. IPOTO IYEBU (Zaire) said that it was not by chance that foreign interests had chosen to establish themselves in Namibia and elsewhere. Their aim was to exploit, without compensation, the natural and human resources of dependent Territories. It was crucial to denounce the harmful activities of foreign economic and other interests, and to call upon the home countries and international financial institutions involved to do everything possible to remove direct or indirect obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. The Pretoria régime would never abandon its policy of racial discrimination. It had set up a powerful military machine, thanks to importing and manufacturing licences sold to it by some Member States in flagrant violation of General Assembly resolutions. South Africa's military superiority in the region was being used for aggression, sabotage and destabilization against the front-line States in order to force them to renounce their broad support for the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC). It was also being used for internal terrorism in South Africa and Namibia against the black majority. Firm and immediate steps were required, and all permanent members of the Security Council should support them. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) remained the only valid basis for a settlement.

3. Mr. DRAMOU (Guinea) said that, although the Organization had achieved some of its most brilliant successes in the area of decolonization, it was a matter of great concern that, almost three decades after the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization, there were still colonial questions on the United Nations agenda. Some would have it that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would not be able to survive as independent States, or that independence was not the desire of the indigenous populations. There had been no instance in recorded history where a people or a country had freely chosen to be dominated by another. Colonial domination was a phenomenon imposed in one form or another by so-called strong countries in search of raw materials or territorial expansion. Yet it was a United Nations principle that neither the geographic or demographic size of a territory nor its limited physical resources could serve as an argument for not implementing of the Declaration on decolonization.

4. There was certainly no cause for optimism in the case of Namibia, where nightmare conditions prevailed. The hopes of the people had risen and fallen with the false promises and delaying tactics of a shrewd racist administration that

(Mr. Dramou, Guinea)

stood morally discredited. The Pretoria régime continued to use Namibia as a springboard for its aggression against peaceful neighbouring States. Those countries and organizations which had the political and practical means of influencing South Africa should persuade it to reconsider its policy and to give in to the demands of the entire international community, in order to allow the Namibian people to decide their fate freely and exploit their own enormous resources themselves.

5. Guinea reiterated its support for SWAPO, ANC and PAC in their struggle for freedom and peace in southern Africa.

6. Mr. OUYAHIA (Algeria) observed that over 100 third world countries had regained their independence over the last four decades by dint of determined struggle. It was their solidarity with their still oppressed brothers that had made the issue of decolonization into one of the great causes supported by the United Nations. The annual debate on decolonization bore witness to the Organization's total commitment to achieving that objective, and at the same time to the fact that its mission was not yet completed.

7. If colonialism persisted, it was because of the support it received from foreign economic and other interests that were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. Even in colonial territories where the people had not yet had occasion to pronounce themselves on their future, the activities of such foreign interests had no legitimacy. Namibia offered the clearest lesson on the exploitation by foreign interests of a territory's natural resources and its use for strategic and military purposes. South Africa's illegal presence continued there despite the direct responsibility of the United Nations for the Territory and despite the Security Council's definition, almost 10 years earlier, of the path to Namibia's decolonization. The Namibian people continued to fight heroically for their independence under the direction of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. Yet the Pretoria régime was maintaining its presence in Namibia and regularly committing acts of aggression and destabilization throughout southern Africa.

8. Obviously such a policy, in violation of the United Nations Charter, could not have been pursued without external economic and military complicity. The United Nations documentary evidence for such complicity was clear.

9. The situation was morally unacceptable and politically intolerable. It demanded a collective commitment by the international community to impose comprehensive mandatory sanctions under the Charter, in order to bring an end to apartheid within South Africa and ensure the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

10. Algeria condemned the exploitation of natural resources in the other colonial territories as a way of building economic structures that could well make their total dependence on the administering Powers irreversible. It also condemned the use of certain Non-Self-Governing Territories for military purposes.

11. Mr. GARDEZI (Pakistan) said that his delegation reiterated its firm commitment to the full and expeditious implementation of resolution 1514 (XV), which provided the best means of achieving the common goal of decolonisation. His country attached great importance to the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination. All men were born equal and endowed by their Creator with certain fundamental rights, among them the right to determine freely their social, economic and political order. Pakistan exemplified the struggle for and the victory of self-determination and independence. But many other countries unfortunately continued to suffer the humiliation of alien domination, and those countries that had won their independence were duty-bound to make common cause in their favour. For that reason, his Government had been and remained uncompromisingly opposed to all interests, economic and otherwise, which impeded the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

12. The Charter eloquently reaffirmed the values of self-government, respect for human rights and the primacy of international law. But the momentum generated by resolution 1514 (XV) had been lost, and repeated admonitions by the General Assembly and the Security Council had fallen on deaf ears. The deliberations of the Council for Namibia, the Centre against Apartheid, the Centre on Transnational Corporations and the Special Committee on decolonization were a reminder that the colonial era was not yet over.

13. Nowhere had the basic human rights and fundamental liberties which should characterize civilized behaviour been so arrogantly trampled underfoot as in Namibia. Deprivation, injustice and indignity were the daily fare of the suffering Namibian people. The South African forces had unleashed an orgy of murder, rape and torture aimed at brutalizing an entire people. Since the beginning of the year, the incidents of horror had multiplied, the special targets being innocent children. At the same time, transnational companies systematically pillaged the great wealth of Namibia, removing diamonds, uranium and other metals and minerals, while the Namibians continued to live in abject poverty.

14. The illegal occupation of Namibia must end without further delay. The internationally agreed blueprint for Namibian independence existed in Security Council resolution 435 (1978); the Secretary-General stood ready to move swiftly towards its implementation, and SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, had mobilised and prepared the Namibians for independence.

15. In South Africa itself, humanity was demeaned and debased by the evil and abhorrent system of apartheid, which had rightly been condemned as a crime against humanity. Apartheid must be eradicated; its diabolical ramifications did not admit of reform. In view of Pretoria's persistent refusal to abolish apartheid, its continued illegal occupation of Namibia and the acts of aggression, sabotage and destabilization that it had perpetrated abroad, the United Nations must assume its full responsibility and move swiftly to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter.

16. There were still a number of peoples and territories which remained under colonial rule. In each, civil liberties had been suppressed, local interests had been callously ignored, and the territories had been subjected to financial

(Mr. Gardazi, Pakistan)

exploitation. His Government supported the recommendations of the Special Committee on decolonization and hoped that they would be endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly.

17. The record of the United Nations was, perhaps, nowhere as impressive as in the area of decolonization. The membership of the United Nations had almost tripled since its birth as some 100 countries had gained independence. Yet the work must continue until the last vestiges of colonialism had been eradicated.

18. Mr. BENJELLOUN-TOUIMI (Morocco) said that by again placing item 109 on the agenda the United Nations showed an awareness of the close relationship existing between colonial domination and the activities of foreign interests and a firm determination to put an end to all forms of colonialism.

19. The United Nations was particularly determined to abolish once and for all the evil system of apartheid in South Africa and to put a swift end to the last bastion of colonialism in Africa.

20. Despite all the decisions and the repeated appeals by the international community, the Pretoria régime refused to abandon its racist policies and persisted in subjugating the Namibian people. It was redoubling its exploitation of the abundant natural resources of Namibia. Through massive investments, foreign interests helped maintain and strengthen the racist Pretoria régime, thereby depriving the populations of the Territory of revenues from irreplaceable natural resources.

21. South Africa had stepped up its acts of aggression against neighbouring independent African countries and was attempting to foment tribal discord by forcibly recruiting combatants from among the Namibians to fight against the Namibian liberation forces. It had also used mercenaries to launch attacks on Angola and Mozambique and incursions into other front-line countries.

22. South Africa was the crux of all the problems in southern Africa. Pretoria's racist practices and its unrelenting colonial domination of the Namibian people were a permanent threat to international peace and security. It was high time for the United Nations to deploy the entire arsenal of measures offered by the Charter so as to enforce respect for the inalienable rights and legitimate aspirations of the South African and Namibian peoples. In view of the intransigent attitude of the minority régime of Pretoria, effective sanctions with an immediate impact were needed. The selective sanctions imposed by a number of Governments of Western Europe, North America and the Pacific were positive steps, and his delegation had noted with satisfaction the decision of the Conference of Paris of 1986 to promote comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist régime of South Africa as the most effective peaceful means available to the international community for combating apartheid.

(Mr. Benjelloun-Touimi, Morocco)

23. Morocco staunchly supported the legitimate aspirations of the peoples of the region to attain independence and bring about a democratic multiracial society in South Africa. It reiterated its appeal to the Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter in order to ensure the implementation of resolution 435 (1978).

24. Mr. KIM (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his Government was much concerned that multinational corporations had continued to disregard the relevant United Nations resolutions on item 109. The colonial Powers had not discharged their obligations under the Charter to promote the advancement of the peoples of the territories under their administration. That had led to a deterioration in the economic and social conditions there.

25. In Namibia, transnational corporations working in collusion with the occupying régime of South Africa continued to exploit natural and human resources and accumulate huge profits. The activities of the Western transnational corporations operating in Namibia constituted a material base for apartheid, for a continuation of the illegal occupation of Namibia and acts of aggression against the front-line States by racist South Africa. They were thus a grave threat to stability in southern Africa. All activities of foreign economic and other interests in Namibia were illegal under international law, and the future lawful Government of an independent Namibia had the right to receive damages from those foreign economic interests operating in Namibia.

26. Certain Western States had unfortunately continued to invest in the production of uranium and to provide South Africa with nuclear technology. His Government urged certain Western and other States to terminate all collaboration with South Africa, in particular in the nuclear and military fields.

27. Regrettably, the colonial Powers had taken no steps to implement the United Nations resolutions regarding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of their military bases from colonial territories and were thus jeopardizing the peace and stability of those regions. His Government was opposed to the transformation of such territories as Guam, Puerto Rico, Micronesia and Diego Garcia into military bases.

28. His delegation rejected the United States policy of "linkage" and "constructive engagement", which had encouraged the racist régime of South Africa to be more intransigent in defying the will of the international community to grant independence to Namibia. His Government condemned South Africa's continued illegal occupation of Namibia, its armed aggression against the independent African States of Angola, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana, and its illegal use of Namibian territory for acts of aggression against neighbouring countries. It firmly supported the courageous people of Namibia in its struggle for self-determination and national independence under the leadership of SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

29. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a communication containing a request for a hearing relating to the question of New Caledonia. In accordance with the usual practice, he suggested that the communication be circulated as a Committee document and be considered at a subsequent meeting.

30. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.