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REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

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\* Documents E/CN.4/1999/L.10 and addenda will contain the chapters of the report relating to the organization of the session and the various items on the agenda. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission, as well as draft resolutions and decisions for action by, and other matters of concern to, the Economic and Social Council, will be contained in documents E/CN.4/1999/L.11 and addenda.

V. THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND  
ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN  
DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

1. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 3rd to 6th meetings, from 23 to 26 March, at its 50th meeting, on 23 April, and at its 56th meeting, on 27 April 1999. 1/

2. For the documents issued under agenda item 5, see annex VI to the present report. For a list of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission and Chairman's statements, by agenda item, see annex V to the present report.

3. At the 4th meeting, on 24 March 1999, the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, introduced his report (E/CN.4/1999/11).

4. In the general debate on agenda item 5, statements were made by members of the Commission, observers and non-governmental organizations. For a detailed list of speakers, see annex III.

The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

5. At the 50th meeting, on 23 April 1999, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.5, sponsored by Algeria, Angola, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Iraq, Madagascar, Uganda, Viet Nam and Yemen. Costa Rica, Eritrea, Ghana and Nigeria subsequently joined the sponsors.

6. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), the United States of America and Uruguay.

7. The representative of Canada requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Cuba, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 35 votes to 12, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, France, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Republic of Korea.

8. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/3.

Question of Western Sahara

9. At the 50th meeting, on 23 April 1999, the Chairperson introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.6.

10. The draft resolution was adopted without a vote. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/4.

Situation in occupied Palestine

11. At the 56th meeting, on 27 April 1999, the representative of Qatar introduced draft resolution E/CN.4/1999/L.4/Rev.1, sponsored by Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar and South Africa subsequently joined the sponsors.

12. Statements in connection with the draft resolution were made by the observers for Israel and Palestine.

13. Statements in explanation of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Canada, Germany (on behalf of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and Norway.

14. The representative of the United States of America requested a vote. At the request of the representative of Qatar, a roll-call vote was taken on the draft resolution, which was adopted by 44 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Austria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Liberia, Romania, Uruguay.

15. For the text of the resolution as adopted, see chapter II, section A, resolution 1999/55.

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