



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

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Inter: Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus)

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Hearing of petitioners

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/42/6/Add.10 and 11)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the requests for hearings relating to the question of Namibia, contained in documents A/C.4/42/6/Add.10 and 11.
2. It was so decided.
3. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received three communications containing requests for hearings on agenda item 36. 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 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (A/42/23 (Part VI), 111, 178, 224, 357, 417, 601, 606; A/AC.109/889-891, 892 and Add.1-2, 893 and Add.1, 894 and Add.1, 895, 896 and Add.1-2, 897, 898 and Add.1, 899-903, 904 and Corr.1, 905-912, 913 and Add.1, 914, 915, 918, 921)

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AGENDA ITEM 112: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/42/578)

5. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking 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 chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to agenda items 18, 108 and 110, which were contained in document A/42/23 (Parts IV and VI).

6. The Special Committee considered that it was the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in the Territories they administered as would enable their people to exercise freely their right to self-determination and independence, and it urged them to take all necessary measures to create diversified, balanced and viable economies in the Territories for which they were responsible.

7. The Special Committee deplored the decision of the United Kingdom, as an administering Power, not to participate in the deliberations of the Special Committee regarding the Territories under its administration and urged that Government to reconsider its decision and to continue to permit the access of visiting missions to the Territories.

8. It was deeply concerned over the inadequate assistance extended thus far by the organizations of the United Nations system to colonial peoples, particularly to the people of Namibia and their national liberation movement, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and it reiterated its recommendation that assistance projects for colonial peoples should be formulated and broadened. It regretted as well that the World Bank continued to maintain certain financial and technical links with the racist régime of Pretoria and expressed the view that those links should be discontinued. It likewise condemned the constant financial support from the International Monetary Fund to South Africa and called for an end to such support.

9. The Special Committee noted with concern that some of the working papers on the Territories prepared by the Secretariat in compliance with Article 73 (e) of the Charter did not contain adequate and timely information, and therefore asked the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate information was obtained from all available published sources when such working papers were prepared. He expressed the hope that the Fourth Committee would fully support the recommendations of the Special Committee.

10. Mr. AMARI (Tunisia), speaking as Chairman of the Special Committee's Sub-Committee on Small Territories, said that although on balance decolonization had unquestionably progressed well, in parts of the world there were still aberrant

(Mr. Amari, Tunisia)

and anachronistic colonial situations. The situation in the small Territories deserved careful study. Each of them posed specific problems that were analysed in the relevant chapters of the Special Committee's report. It was essential to seek out the opinion of the inhabitants of the Territories in determining the steps to be taken. He expressed appreciation to the administering Powers which had received visiting missions in the Territories they administered, particularly the Government of New Zealand, which in July 1986 had invited a mission to Tokelau, the sole Territory under its administration.

11. It was clear from the report of the Special Committee on decolonization that some progress had been made in various small Territories. However, the lack of education and technical training was seriously hampering their progress towards self-determination and independence. The Special Committee therefore urged the Administering Powers to adopt new measures to strengthen the economic infrastructure of those Territories, promote their economic and social development and encourage education and training.

12. The Special Committee, thanks to the valuable, sustained assistance of the Department of Public Information, had increased the number of contacts with various bodies which could help to publicize the problems of decolonization and the Organization's policy designed to implement General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In order to strengthen the action of the Special Committee, the Secretary-General should be asked to promote by all means the general dissemination of information on the work of the Organization in the field of decolonization, the situation in southern Africa and the struggle of the Namibian and South African peoples.

13. He drew special attention to the measures adopted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He urged the specialized agencies and international organizations which did not participate actively in the work of decolonization to help the colonized peoples to obtain their freedom under favourable conditions.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)

Question of New Caledonia

Question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/42/2 and Add.1)

14. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Alcalay (National Committee for Radiation Victims) took a place at the petitioners' table.

15. Mr. ALCALAY (National Committee for Radiation Victims) said that, as a representative of the National Committee for Radiation Victims and an anthropologist, he wished to express his deep concern at the constant accumulation of military equipment in the Pacific region. The Committee he represented was dedicated to helping the victims of nuclear technology and considered the deterioration of the situation in New Caledonia harmful, as were the continued nuclear tests carried out by France in eastern Polynesia.

16. In 1947, when the Territory of New Caledonia had been included in the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories at the end of the Second World War, France had taken the unilateral action of deleting that nation from the list, alleging that New Caledonia was not a colonial entity but part of French metropolitan territory. However, in December 1986, the United Nations had again included New Caledonia in that list under General Assembly resolution 41/41 A.

17. When François Mitterrand had been elected President of France in 1981, the indigenous Kanak inhabitants of New Caledonia had thought that they had an ally in Paris, who would help them to attain autonomy and independence. Unfortunately, when Prime Minister Jacques Chirac attained power, he declared openly that France had reaffirmed its plans to extend the military installations in its Pacific colony and had boasted of his intention to build a new naval base for nuclear submarines and to extend the international airport to enable it to receive nuclear bombers. He had even said that the French army should feel proud that two officers had helped to sink the Rainbow Warrior of the Greenpeace anti-nuclear protest organization. The speaker himself, who had been on board the ship before the attack and knew the photographer who had died as a result of that act of terrorism by France, realized to what extremes a nation could go to promote its "national interests".

18. The proposal made in 1986 by Prime Minister Chirac to hold a referendum on the future political status of New Caledonia was unanimously condemned by all the Pacific nations. At its annual meeting held at Apia, Western Samoa, in May 1987, the South Pacific Forum had stated in its final communiqué that France had insisted on holding a referendum in which 83 per cent of the indigenous population had announced, through the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS), its intention not to participate. The Forum considered that that referendum would be a cause of useless and inevitably disastrous discord and requested France to refrain from holding it.

19. With respect to eastern Polynesia, it was said in Oceania that France's fears were not really related to New Caledonia but rather to the ideas of freedom which it would transmit eastwards towards the Society Islands, where the continued nuclear tests by France were poisoning part of what used rightly to be called the Pacific Ocean. Since 1966, France had carried out over 100 nuclear test explosions in the Moruroa Atoll test site near Tahiti. It was feared that the whole population of the island were being affected by radioactive fallout and that France was concealing the medical data.

20. The barbarous anachronistic policy which was perpetuating the colonial yoke was a historical aberration. The National Committee for Radiation Victims

(Mr. Alcalay)

requested the Committee to urge the French Government to respect the principles of decolonization set forth in the United Nations Charter, recognize the sovereign rights of the Kanak people to self-determination and independence and finally agree to the establishment of a Kanak State through the FLNKS.

21. With regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in the past few months violence had broken out in the small island nation of Palau where bands of thugs were walking the streets of Koror, the capital. That development, together with the explosive situation in the Philippines and Fiji, reflected a state of political and social destabilization which threatened the entire Pacific region.

22. In the case of Palau, there was every indication that responsibility lay with Washington. When Palau had begun the process of weaning itself from the United States after 40 years of dependence, it had few options and was a young nation incapable of standing alone. However, the unscrupulous Administering Authorities offered assistance in the form of continued economic aid for some military plans; thus, in conformity with the terms of the Compact of Free Association for Palau, the United States could have military use of the islands for the next 50 years. However, as the 1979 Palauan Constitution required a 75 per cent majority vote in a general election, an impasse had been reached.

23. As Administering Authority, the United States had taken every conceivable advantage of Micronesia and had used coercion as an instrument of its foreign policy in the Pacific for the past 40 years. An example of that coercion was the Administering Authority's attempt to force the people of Palau to accept the Compact in order to cause a nominal change in status which would enable it to replace the loss of the Philippine military bases after 1991.

24. Any review of the performance of the Administering Authority as "guardian" of the Trust Territory should include the questions: Who had benefited from the nuclear tests carried out in the region between 1946 and 1958? Who had benefited from the "Star wars" research currently being carried out in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands? Who had benefited from the confiscation of the lands and ports of Palau which would be used by the Pentagon for the next half-century?

25. Another cause for concern was the radioactive contamination of the Marshall Islands. On 7 August 1987 the Journal of the American Medical Association published a new study which concluded that the prevalence rate for thyroid disease there was far more extensive than United States-sponsored studies had previously revealed. What made that finding particularly ominous was that all the lawsuits by the Marshallese plaintiffs had been thrown out of court.

26. He requested the Fourth Committee to urge the Administering Authority to renegotiate the Compact of Free Association for Palau in order to move beyond the impasse, and requested the United Nations to keep the islands of Micronesia on its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

27. Mr. Alcalay withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 36: QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Hearings of interested organizations (A/C.4/42/6 and Add.1-4 and Add.8)

28. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Gillian (Namibia Information Service) took a place at the petitioners' table.

29. Mrs. GILLIAN (Namibia Information Service) said that the Libyan people had struggled for its freedom and independence for more than a century, ever since the Berlin Conference had shared out Africa between the European Powers. Much of that struggle was related to the difficult task of informing the world of the battle being waged, as Pretoria and its allies controlled the information released to the rest of the world regarding southern Africa. Pretoria would have the world believe that the Namibian people would not be fighting for independence were it not for so-called "outside agitation" and was lying about the authentic concerns of the Namibian people.

30. The Namibia Information Service felt that its historical responsibility was to inform United States citizens - particularly journalists - of the truth about Pretoria and its minions in the United States. Those individuals were willing to co-operate with the Pretoria régime to continue the enslavement of those who opposed its now-visible objective of bantustanizing the southern African region and, consequently, the African continent itself.

31. Namibia was the fourth world exporter of minerals in terms of the value of its exports. The three corporations that dominated the extraction of the deposits were Consolidated Diamond Mines, a South African corporation; Rössing Uranium Limited, which was part of the transnational British corporation, Rio Tinto Zinc; and the Tsumeb Corporation, which was controlled jointly by the United States and South Africa. The Tsumeb Corporation had dismissed some 4,000 mining workers for demanding an increase in their 51 cents basic hourly wage. The Rössing Corporation mine was the largest open-pit uranium mine in the world. Its miners breathed in the uranium dust all day, with the consequent dangers to health.

Mr. Theo Ben Gurirab, leader of SWAPO, had said that the Namibians would not only be left without natural resources by the time it became independent, but it would also have been left with a people suffering from permanent ill health - referring to the radiation and chemical pollution suffered by the inhabitants of Namibia.

32. Pretoria, under the guise of protecting so-called "Western civilization" was terrorizing Namibian civilians, bombing refugee camps occupied principally by women and children and laying land mines at church hospitals. It was the responsibility of the United Nations to challenge a definition of "civilization" that legitimized barbarism and to take its special historical responsibilities to the Namibian people so seriously that mandatory sanctions against Pretoria became the rule of international law. Pretoria and the United States Government had been misusing the Namibian decolonization process since 1981, in order to secure strategic and questionable interests in southern Africa. As the United Nations Institute for Namibia had pointed out, the multilateral process of achieving Namibian independence had turned into a confrontation between the United States Government

(Mrs. Gillian)

and the South African Government, on the one hand, and the broad majority of humanity, on the other. She stressed that most United States citizens were in that broad majority as well. The Namibia Information Service was prepared to continue doing its utmost to eliminate the disinformation in the United States about that important issue and would continue to support the international community in its determination to help the Namibian people in their struggle for justice and national independence.

33. Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus) took the Chair.

34. Mrs. LANDIS said that, since she had retired from the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia, she had worked as an adviser on Namibian public law, in close co-operation with the various organizations opposed to apartheid. The puppet Government of Windhoek had published a draft constitution for the future Namibian State. Although, according to international law, Namibian territory included Walvis Bay - as recognized by the General Assembly in various resolutions, as well as by the Security Council in resolution 435 (1978) - the draft constitution accepted Pretoria's position, which continued to lay claim to Walvis Bay. The draft abolished the controversial "representative authorities" which maintained the current ethnic fractionalization of Namibia; but it replaced them with "regional councils", about which no type of information was given. Thus, the Namibian people had no idea of what kind of government they would have, nor whether ethnic separation would continue. The draft constitution denied Namibians the right to direct election of their representatives. If deputies could be directly elected, that would be through a representation system so complicated that it seemed designed to facilitate manipulation and fraud.

35. According to the draft constitution, the laws enacted by the Namibian Parliament could not be challenged in court unless they were not properly enacted or were contrary to "fundamental rights". The court entrusted with ruling on such cases was to be set up ad hoc and its members were to be selected by the Chief Justice of Namibia's highest court, experts in constitutional law or foreign jurists. Thus, it was possible that the constitutional future of Namibia would be determined by a court consisting entirely of South African judges.

36. Chapter II of the draft constitution was called "Covenant of fundamental rights, responsibilities and guarantees" and included most of the civil and political rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but virtually none of the social and economic rights. It seemed to prohibit acts or rules such as: detention without trial, warrantless searches and seizures, immunity of security forces from liability for arbitrary actions, and executive interference with the independence of the judiciary. Moreover, most of the rights appearing in Chapter II could be denied in the name of "national or State security" or "public order". She asked how "fundamental" the rights listed in that Chapter really were and recalled that the Terrorism Act and other repressive laws were justified by alleged concern for State security.

37. The draft constitution was perhaps not so important for itself. It appeared that Pretoria would not accept the document because it did not adequately protect

(Mrs. Landis)

"minority rights", by which, of course, Pretoria meant white privilege and ethnic separation.

38. Mr. JOHNSTON (President, Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa), regretting the erroneous or scarce information divulged by the Pretoria Government and its foreign allies, referred to an article in the weekly magazine U.S. News & World Report, which described the so-called "transitional Government" as the "leaders of Namibia", striving to bring that country to independence. The mass media paid scant attention to Namibia, or readily accepted the press releases provided by the South African defence force or State agencies. Moreover, the public was not aware of the pre-eminence of SWAPO in Namibia or of the role and responsibility of the United Nations. In a declaration signed by SWAPO, smaller political parties, women's groups, student organizations and the Council of Churches in Namibia, which together represented the overwhelming majority of Namibians, the signatories rejected the succession of puppet Governments installed by Pretoria, of which the so-called "transitional Government" was the latest example.

39. The Government of Pretoria and its allies, the transnational mining corporations with interests in Namibia, had been frightened by the strength shown by Namibian workers during the Mineworkers Union strike in July and August 1987, and by the solidarity demonstrated by the trade unions of the United States, the United Kingdom and Western Europe. The Pretoria Government had set up a phoney "Government" in Windhoek, phoney trade unions and, recently, phoney religious groupings, whose obvious aim was to undermine the Council of Churches in Namibia. Among them was the so-called "Christian Action" group, whose prime mover was a South African army colonel, and "Youth for Christ-Namibia", whose Board of Directors consisted of prominent businessmen, and whose Vice-Chairman was the commanding officer of the Walvis Bay military area.

40. The South African régime did not stand alone against the independent countries and national liberation movements. It had numerous friends, as had been shown in the South African Parliament when the Minister of Defence had stated that his Government and that of the United States of America had agreed that the war in Angola and the question of Namibia should be taken up jointly as a "regional issue", and that the question of the Cuban presence in Angola should be resolved before the question of Namibia.

41. Southern Africa was the focus of strong military and political interest on the part of the United States and its European allies. At the same time, the South African régime was beginning to see the urgency of the situation, given the determination of the Namibians and of the South African national liberation movements to struggle for their freedom. On 30 April 1987, The Washington Post had reported that the United States and its NATO allies had begun to install military facilities in the Azores and the Madeira Islands, strategically located in the Atlantic, west of Gibraltar, and an American admiral had spoken of a "military plan" to counter Soviet warships carrying out operations from Luanda and Lobito. In February 1987, The New York Times had reported that the CIA was using air bases in Zaïre for delivering arms to UNITA.

(Mr. Johnston)

42. In mid-April The Washington Post had referred to a two-week, joint United States-Zairian military exercise at the Kamina base.

43. For at least six years, the idea had been aired to set up a South Atlantic treaty organization to complement the organization existing in the North Atlantic. Conferences and symposia had been held to discuss the conclusion of a security alliance among the United States, some of its allies, South Africa and the cone States of South America.

44. Two actions in the past two days pointed to the relentless intention of the Pretoria régime to keep Namibia under its control. On the morning of Wednesday, 7 October, the South African security police had arrested Jason Anqula, SWAPO's Secretary for Transport and personal assistant to Dr. Abisai Shejvali, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Namibia. On Thursday, 7 October, at the Ombalantu Hospital, a unit of the South African defence force had opened fire on a group of people awaiting medical treatment. One woman had been shot in both legs. A pregnant woman had been shot in the stomach; her baby had been killed.

45. It was clear that world disgust with apartheid and the international movement to impose sanctions on South Africa were growing steadily. However, efforts to force the South African régime to withdraw from Namibia were being blocked in the Security Council by the United States and the United Kingdom. Perhaps the time had come to consider carefully the potential of the United Nations resolution entitled "Uniting for peace".

46. Mr. IPOTO EYEBU (Zaire) said that he wished to make a clarification concerning Mr. Johnston's statements about the Kamina base. The Government of Zaire had certainly established contact with foreign Governments on the question of modernizing that base, but it had done so because it lacked adequate resources for the project. Therefore, Zaire denied Mr. Johnston's allegations as to the nature of the Kamina base.

47. Mr. DEFFENBAUGH (Permanent Representative, Lutheran World Federation) said that the Lutheran World Federation was a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Its 104 member churches had a total membership of about 54 million persons. Three of those churches were located in Namibia. Half of the Namibian population was Lutheran. Therefore, it was not surprising that Lutherans throughout the world had for years shown particular concern about the injustice and oppression prevailing in that Territory.

48. The member churches of the Lutheran World Federation had stated unequivocally that the perverse form of slavery and colonialism, based on the belief that black people were racially inferior to their white "masters", was morally antithetical to the Gospel of Christ. Moreover, they had consistently called for an end to the acts of violence perpetrated against the Namibian people, and had supported the United Nations plan for the peaceful transition to Namibian independence. They expressed their solidarity with the Namibian people in their resistance struggle,

(Mr. Deffenbaugh)

and were mindful of the statement made by the President of SWAPO at a meeting held on 16 February 1987 with the General Secretary of the Federation, in which he had reiterated SWAPO's readiness to declare a cease-fire and to negotiate with South Africa on the basis of resolution 435 (1978) of the United Nations Security Council, and had reaffirmed guarantees for free elections under United Nations supervision, with the assurance that all people, regardless of their race, creed or colour, would enjoy equal rights in an independent Namibia.

49. In 1987 the situation in Namibia had worsened. In April, at least 13 schools in northern Namibia, the Lutheran clinic at Ohneneliwa and the State school offices next door had been bombed or set on fire. Eyewitnesses had reported seeing uniformed members of the South African defence force in the vicinity. On Sunday, 20 September, the Roman Catholic Church at Omulukila in northern Namibia had been fire-bombed. The South African military forces had blamed SWAPO for the attack, but the Roman Catholic Church authorities had said that they did not believe SWAPO had been responsible. On 23 April, the 65-year-old Lutheran pastor of Ohalushu had been dragged from his office by South African soldiers and beaten unconscious. He had been released hours later and had died in hospital on 22 July as a result of the assault. On 18 August, the offices and homes of members of student organizations, SWAPO and trade unions in Namibia had been raided in cities and towns throughout the Territory. Five SWAPO leaders had been arrested under the Terrorism Act, and the Security Council had made a protest. On 25 August, the Supreme Court of South West Africa had dismissed an appeal by a union to have a conciliation board appointed to mediate in a strike. The strike had been broken, and the company had begun recruiting new workers.

50. The churches of Namibia, including the Lutheran churches, to which half the population belonged, had raised a united voice for freedom and independence. Their international partners had stood by them in their struggle. Their support took the form of disseminating information, giving material and financial assistance for the churches and people of Namibia, political advocacy, and prayer. The Lutheran World Federation asked the international community, as a matter of urgency, to take the following action: immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978); imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against South Africa; and intensified support for the Namibian people.

51. The Federation suggested that the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia should be entrusted with the task of preparing an annual report on the state of Namibia. Such a report could include chapters on the political and legal situation, the war and the damage it caused, and the state of education, health care, social welfare, economic development and so forth. The Commissioner might also make frequent reports on events in Namibia, and such reports would stand a better chance of being reflected in the world press.

52. The year 1988 would mark the tenth anniversary of the massacre at Kassinga, in which 800 Namibians, mainly women and children, had been killed by South African forces. But it would also be a year of hope. It would be 10 years since the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which still offered the best plan for Namibia's independence.

53. Mr. BARKAT (Representative, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches) said that the World Council of Churches was a fellowship of 307 member churches drawn from over 100 countries from all continents, with over 450 million members from Protestant and Orthodox traditions. More than half those churches were in countries which had been under colonial occupation and foreign domination. The World Council of Churches had supported the liberation struggle of many of those countries, mainly in Africa and southern Africa, where some of the movements for independence had been led by lay Christians and clergy. In southern Africa, the World Council had lent moral and financial support to the liberation movements and to organizations of the racially oppressed. It had also given considerable financial resources to SWAPO.
54. Persecution and torture of many innocent people, including pastors and church workers, was continuing unabated. Churches in Namibia had protested against widespread arrests of important church leaders, trade unionists and SWAPO members. The offices of churches and of student and labour organizations had been raided. Some of those acts had been committed under section 6 of the Namibian Terrorism Act.
55. The South African colonial administration had engaged in a systematic smear campaign to disrupt the work of the Christian Council of Namibia. According to its General Secretary, South Africa's colonial control had left a trail of blood and destruction and violation of human rights. The churches' efforts to set up an alternative secondary-school system to provide non-apartheid education had brought brutal intimidation from the South African occupation authorities. The people of Namibia would not accept unrepresentative puppet régimes or imposed internal solutions, and recognized only SWAPO as their sole and authentic representative.
56. The World Council of Churches had continually discussed the worsening political, economic, social and military situation in Namibia. In May 1987, a conference had been held in Lusaka, Zambia, on the ninth anniversary of the Kassinga massacre. The conference had expressed its strong commitment to the independence of Namibia and had called upon the churches in countries which gave economic and political support to the apartheid régime to exert pressure on their Governments so that banks, corporations and trading institutions would refrain from doing business with South Africa and Namibia. It had also called upon the churches to mark the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) with a programme of action to end the colonial domination of Namibia. The World Council of Churches had urged its member churches to observe 4 May as a world day of prayer for a free Namibia in 1988.
57. The Council would be conducting hearings on Namibia in Washington, D.C., in 1988, with a view to strengthening the constructive leadership of SWAPO and helping to mobilize public opinion by disseminating information through the churches in the majority of countries.
58. Mr. Barkat withdrew.
59. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Jackson (American Association of Jurists) took a place at the petitioners' table.

60. Ms. JACKSON (American Association of Jurists) said that the Association was an organization of lawyers, judges and legal experts committed to the defence of the right of peoples to self-determination, economic independence and sovereignty over their natural resources. Although it represented the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean, the Association was also concerned about the situation in southern Africa, particularly in Namibia. In September 1987, it had held its Eighth Conference in Havana, Cuba, and had adopted a Final Declaration which included a condemnation of the apartheid system and the 21 years of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. The people of Namibia were still being subjected to military conscription, political detention and torture. At the same time, the Western transnational corporations were plundering Namibia's natural resources in violation of Decree No. 1 of the Council for Namibia. All those actions constituted a serious threat to international peace and security, aggravated by the use of Namibia's territory by the Pretoria régime as a launching-pad for its aggression and subversion against neighbouring African States.

61. Although the Security Council had on several occasions attempted to impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa in accordance with the specific provisions of Chapter VII, Article 39, of the United Nations Charter, its efforts had been thwarted by the abuse of the veto by the United States. The American Association of Jurists called upon the Government of the United States and other Western Powers to cease such actions, which constituted an obstruction of justice and a violation of the basic premises of the United Nations. The Association also demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia, including Walvis Bay and the offshore islands, and requested that the appropriate United Nations body should study the possibility of bringing a legal action against South Africa in the International Court of Justice for breach of its mandate and for its continued illegal occupation.

62. Ms. Jackson withdrew.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.