



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus)

CONTENTS

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

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)

- (a) 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 108: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

- (a) 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 110: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

- (a) 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)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

/...

\*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.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.4/42/SR.13  
19 October 1987

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

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

/...

11 p.

CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 111: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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

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

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/42/4/Add.7)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the request for a hearing relating to New Caledonia contained in document A/C.4/42/4/Add.7.

2. 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) (continued) (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)

(a) 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)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 108: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/42/23 (Part IV), 171, 577/Rev.1)

(a) 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)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 110: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/42/23 (Part IV), 264 and Add.1; A/AC.109/L.1620; E/1987/85)

(a) 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)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/42/3, chaps. I, VI and VIII)

AGENDA ITEM 111: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/628)

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

3. Mr. CHORNY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the attainment of independence by the peoples of the small colonial Territories remained a critical issue. Many of those States which had been refused their independence because they were small currently participated as equals in the international community, thereby belying the flimsy arguments advanced by the administering Powers to justify, by references to various special conditions, their stubborn resistance to independence and the neo-colonialism they imposed. In an effort to maintain their domination, they purposely impeded the economic and social development of those Territories, imposing financial dependence under the guise of "assistance".

4. Despite repeated United Nations appeals, military activities in the dependent Territories had been stepped up considerably. The human and material resources, which should serve to eliminate the social and economic backwardness of those Territories, were in fact being exploited for military purposes. One third of the island of Guam, for example, was a United States military installation, and Puerto Rico had been transformed into a nuclear base. On the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), an enormous naval facility had been built, raising the military population there to three times that of the civilian. The United Kingdom was stalling on a settlement of the question in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

5. The international community must be particularly vigilant so as to forestall the absorption of dependent Territories under the guise of "associations". His Government again drew attention to the serious situation in and around Micronesia, where 40 years of trusteeship under one of the world's richest countries had still not brought political, economic and cultural progress. During that entire period, the Administering Authority's Pacific Ocean policy had been guided solely by its own selfish strategic interests, in disregard of the United Nations Charter. United States military bases on a number of Micronesian islands clearly constituted a threat not only to the population of those Territories, but also to the peoples of Asia and Oceania. By dismembering the islands of Micronesia and imposing a separate status on each of them, the United States was transforming them into strategic appendages.

6. The United Nations must also play an important part in securing the right to self-determination of the people of New Caledonia. The recent referendum, which had not been supported by a large part of the native population, had naturally alarmed world opinion, and even President Mitterrand of France had been shocked by the violence that had taken place.

7. His Government fully endorsed the conclusions of the Special Committee on decolonization and its recommendations to the General Assembly, in chapter IX of document A/42/23 (Part VI).

8. Mr. ABUHAJAR (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that it was his country's deep conviction that all peoples must achieve complete freedom through self-determination. It rejected all forms of hegemony, usurpation and procrastination in granting independence to dependent peoples, all of which were gross violations of United Nations principles and contravened the traditions of the international community and the Islamic wisdom that all human beings were born free. Libya's position was unconditional and devoid of political polemics, and for that reason it had itself become a target for the imperialist octopus.

9. The United Nations was to be commended for the part it had played in the peaceful settlement of disputes; it was still the best forum for such negotiations. Yet the main purpose of the United Nations resolutions on decolonization had not been achieved and the process had come to a halt. The colonized regions fell within spheres of influence, a fact that complicated the situation and gave less cause for hope.

10. Namibia was not yet free, and the blacks in South Africa were still the victims of oppression by the racist Pretoria régime. Transnational corporations continued to plunder Namibia's natural resources and the front-line States were still bearing the brunt of South African aggression. The South African racist régime and the Zionist racist entity, through their nuclear collaboration, were engaged in a competition to wipe out African and Arab peoples.

11. In the Caribbean and the Pacific, other peoples were still dependent. The population of New Caledonia, for instance, had been subjected to demographic changes and political pressures. Libya did not accept the French representative's assessment of the recent plebiscite in that Territory, to which the General Assembly resolutions on decolonization applied. The plebiscite was not legitimate, for many reasons: the fact that it was conducted by the administering Power itself, the absence of United Nations or other observers, the absence of any political opposition during the campaign, and its boycott by the indigenous people. France's current Government was trying to hold on to New Caledonia as a military base and a nuclear-testing ground. France must free all its dependent Territories, including Mayotte, and must terminate all military and nuclear activities in such Territories.

12. The specialized agencies and institutions of the United Nations should help all dependent peoples to achieve independence by counterbalancing the nefarious influence of the foreign economic interests that were draining the economic resources of dependent Territories and hampering their independence. The links between certain Powers and the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for instance, were to be deplored. All colonized peoples must be able to turn to the United Nations for protection against any violation by an administering Power that kept them from freedom and independence.

13. Mr. LOOS (World Bank) noted that the previous speaker had, as frequently happened in the Committee, referred to the World Bank with many innuendoes. He welcomed the opportunity to set the facts straight regarding the Bank's activities in relation to General Assembly resolution 40/53 and agenda item 110.

(Mr. Loos)

14. The World Bank faced a number of legal and institutional constraints that limited its ability to give effect to provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on decolonization. The Bank's Articles of Agreement required that only economic considerations should be relevant to its decisions; that loans extended to a recipient other than a member Government of the Bank should be guaranteed by the member Government concerned or its central bank; and that all loans must finance high-priority government projects. In addition, the agreement between the United Nations and the World Bank provided, inter alia, that by reason of the nature of its international responsibilities and the terms of its Article of Agreement, the Bank was, and was required to function as, an independent international organization.

15. In the light of the above constraints, it should be noted that the Bank was not in a position to extend financial support to national liberation movements.

16. With regard to South Africa, the Bank had not granted any loans to South Africa since 1966, even though South Africa was a member of the Bank, and all loans made to or guaranteed by South Africa up to 1966 had been fully repaid. Therefore, the Bank did not have any outstanding loans to South Africa. Also, the latest election for executive directors of the Bank Group in which South Africa participated had been the one held in 1972; as a result, none of the executive directors of the World Bank, the International Development Association or the International Finance Corporation was a South African.

There had been some confusion in the Committee regarding those facts. Contrary to an allegation by some members, an aggregate of \$US 240 million in loans to South Africa had been paid back in full by 1966. That fact could be checked, and he hoped that his own statement on behalf of the World Bank would be seen as definitive and would set at rest the kind of insinuation regarding the World Bank's relations with South Africa that were so common in the Committee.

18. Mr. TAEB (Afghanistan) said that, despite United Nations efforts to help colonial Territories obtain their independence, colonialism persisted in new forms. That not only impeded the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization but jeopardized the entire international situation. Imperialist Powers continued to use a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories for their aggressive military and strategic schemes against sovereign States, and had expanded their military presence in such Territories.

19. Colonial peoples were being deprived of their legitimate rights over their lands and natural resources. Western transnational corporations, by plundering those resources, were reaping significant profits, particularly in Namibia. The real policy interests of world imperialism in the case of Namibia had become clearer than ever. States which, despite their lip-service to human rights and freedom, supported colonialism - as did the current United States Administration with its policies of "constructive engagement" and "linkage" that in effect gave solid support to the apartheid régime in its enslavement of Namibia - automatically rejected decolonization. Afghanistan supported the people of Namibia in their

(Mr. Taeb, Afghanistan)

struggle for independence under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), their sole and authentic representative.

20. Recent developments in some dependent Territories indicated that the administering authorities, by applying military, economic, financial and psychological pressure, were striving to keep those Territories under their control. The United States, for instance, was turning Micronesia into a strategic military base. It was seeking to annex the entire Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; Palau had repeatedly rejected the proposed Compact of Free Association, a unilateral arrangement that openly challenged the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization, and drastic financial pressure was now being applied in order to force approval of the Compact.

21. The history of Puerto Rico was also a colonial history of complete disregard by the United States of the aspirations of the people and the concern of the international community.

22. Ms. BUNTON (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, reminded the representative of Afghanistan that the question of Puerto Rico was not before the General Assembly and therefore not before the Committee. Puerto Rico had been removed from the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories by General Assembly resolution 748 (VIII) in 1953, in which the Assembly recognized that the people of Puerto Rico had effectively exercised their right to self-determination and had been invested with attributes of political sovereignty which clearly identified the status of self-government attained by the Puerto Rican people as that of an autonomous political entity.

23. That decision had been reaffirmed several times over the years by the United Nations, most recently in a General Assembly decision in 1982. Any attempt to address the issue of Puerto Rico in the United Nations constituted interference in the internal affairs of a Member State.

24. Mr. TAEB (Afghanistan) observed that electoral practices in some dependent Territories administered largely by expatriates were of a colonialist nature. The recent referendum in New Caledonia, which had been rejected by the Kanak people, was a case in point. The administering Power of that Non-Self-Governing Territory had the obligation, moreover, to provide information under Article 73 e of the Charter.

25. Afghanistan believed that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population or limited natural resources should never delay the exercise of the right to self-determination.

26. Ms. APREKU (Ghana) said that, owing to their small size and population, the continued dependence of the small Territories on the administering Powers was considered by some, especially by the colonial authorities themselves, as benevolent. Her delegation's view was different: political developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories must reflect the aspirations of the people themselves and the electoral system must be acceptable to all the inhabitants.

(Ms. Apreku, Ghana)

27. For example, in the United States Virgin Islands, in order to be eligible, a voter must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old and a resident of the Territory for at least 30 days. With such criteria, transient population groups could decide the destiny of the truly indigenous inhabitants.
28. The situation in New Caledonia reflected the danger anticipated by paragraph 8 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118. The recent referendum had been boycotted by the indigenous Kanak population and was therefore of doubtful validity.
29. Another problem was the military situation in some Territories. Apart from the hazards of nuclear installations and the dumping of nuclear waste, the instance of Palau exemplified the way in which the military designs of an administering Power could impede a dependent people's quest for self-determination. It had been said that the reason for the retention of military bases in areas with a large settler population was to perpetuate its dominance.
30. The economic conditions in the island Territories showed an over-concentration in certain sectors such as tourism and a lack of meaningful long-term capital investment. Efforts must be made to diversify their economies in order to enable them to achieve a realistic measure of self-sufficiency.
31. She paid tribute to the specialized agencies for their immense assistance to the remaining dependent Territories and urged them to increase assistance for infrastructural development and manpower training, which were of critical importance for long-term development. The contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the development of agricultural skills in Namibian refugee camps was also to be applauded, as was assistance by other specialized agencies for the education of young Namibians to assume leadership once independence was attained.
32. Foreign investments should not be unwelcome in those Territories, in so far as they complemented the aspirations of the local population for a self-sustaining economy and were not investments which used those island Territories as tax havens.
33. Her delegation urged all administering Powers to accelerate the progress of their colonies towards self-determination so that colonialism could at last be brought to an end.
34. Mr. THOMPSON (Fiji) said that, as a member of the Special Committee on decolonization for the past 15 years, his delegation had been closely involved in the decolonization process. During that time, no issue had caused more collective anguish than that of Namibia, and his country joined the international community in demanding the immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).



(Mr. Thompson, Fiji)

35. A serious dereliction of Charter responsibilities by the administering Power was taking place in New Caledonia, and he commended the statement made by the President of the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS) at a preceding meeting.
36. New Caledonia having been reincluded in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, France had an obligation to provide information on the Territory. The South Pacific Forum had decided to seek its reinclusion after all attempts to reach a solution through dialogue with the administering Power had failed. Members of the Forum had the highest regard for France, which had greatly contributed to the development of their region and for several years France had responded favourably to their approaches. However, its new Government had suddenly decided to take unilateral measures in total disregard of United Nations principles and practices and had announced that it would hold a referendum in the Territory on terms decided in Paris. There would have been no need for a referendum if New Caledonia had been an integral part of France; and if one had been held, the entire population of France should have been able to participate. In the light of that tacit admission of New Caledonia's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, the Fourth Committee must ensure that France fulfilled its obligations under Article 73 (e) of the charter and General Assembly resolution 41/41 A. He appealed for consensus on the very reasonable draft resolution prepared by the Special Committee on decolonization (A/421/23 (Part VI), chap. C).
37. Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) described the programme of material and technical assistance provided by FAO to the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations, and to the victims of the racist policy of South Africa.
38. In addition to urgent food aid, the aims of the programme were to make the refugee communities self-sufficient in food and improve their nutrition, and to train senior staff and skilled manpower to execute development programmes once independence had been attained.
39. In June 1986, a training programme for young Namibians in the food and nutrition sectors had been approved and was being implemented. Young Namibians also received high-level training in all aspects of fishery management. FAO was also participating with the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) in developing a farm in the United Republic of Tanzania. It also provided SWAPO with all the technical data needed for farm planning in Namibia with an eye to the period immediately following independence. Those studies would be used in the preparation of the complete economic map of Namibia requested by the United Nations Council for Namibia. Finally, representatives of the African National Congress (ANC), PAC and SWAPO had again fully participated in FAO's XIVth Regional Conference for Africa in September 1986.

Rights of reply

40. Ms. BUNTON (United States of America) said that the representative of Ghana had implied that a problem existed in the Virgin Islands regarding voting qualifications. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Virgin Islands was an open, democratic society, and its voting qualifications reflected that fact. The Virgin Islands legislature, in compliance with United States law, determined the rules and regulations of that society, including its voting qualifications.
41. Mr. UKEIWE (France) said that certain delegations had made unacceptable statements concerning New Caledonia. His delegation wished to postpone its right of reply to a later meeting.
42. Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) said that the allegations made by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR concerning the presence of troops and military installations in the Falkland Islands were completely unfounded. While there were some troops and military installations there, they had a purely defensive purpose and were maintained at the minimum level necessary to ensure that there was no repetition of the unprovoked aggression of 1982. Since the completion of the joint civilian and military airport in 1986, those troop levels had been further reduced.
43. Mr. GBEHO (Ghana) said that, according to the United States representative, Ghana had insinuated that the Virgin Islands was not an open society. Nothing could be further from the truth. His delegation had simply questioned that Territory's 30-day residency requirement. Any United States citizen who happened to be in the Virgin Islands for more than 30 days could vote; that could upset the demographic implications of an election. It would be useful if the United States delegation read the statement made earlier by his delegation.
44. Speaking on a point of clarification, he recalled that his delegation had made a statement the previous day concerning the status of a representative who had spoken from the seat of the delegation of France. He had discussed the matter with the delegation in question, which had told him that Ghana had given the impression of taking an anti-French attitude. No other delegation with whom he had spoken had confirmed that impression.
45. He was aware that certain General Assembly resolutions urged the administering Power to include representatives of their Territories in their delegations so as to facilitate debate on decolonization. In the case of the representative in question, the status had been far from clear, given the claims of the administering Power with regard to New Caledonia. The inquiry of the delegation of Ghana therefore was legitimate, especially as New Caledonia had been placed on the agenda of the forty-second session of the General Assembly. Ghana would have accepted the opinion of the majority of Member States if it had differed from its own. However, one Member State seemed to be offended. The delegation of Ghana had intended no offence with its statement and had therefore decided not to pursue the matter further.

46. Mr. CHORNY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the United Kingdom had contested his delegation's remarks concerning the Falkland Islands. Yet the figures had been drawn from United Nations documents, which repeatedly stated that major construction was taking place on military installations, including a strategic airport. The extent of the construction was such that it could hardly be intended simply for defending the population, as the United Kingdom had claimed.

47. Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) said he wished to refer to the claim by the representative of the Ukrainian SSR that there were three times as many soldiers as the population in the Falkland Islands. The population was about 1,900, and the Secretariat's working paper on the Falkland Islands, to which the Ukrainian representative was no doubt referring, in mentioning a new airport complex, simply said that it could accommodate over 3,000 persons.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.