## United Nations GENERAL **ASSEMBLY** FORTY-SECOND SESSION

Official Records\*



FOURTH COMMITTEE

held on Friday, 23 October 1987 at 10 a.m. New York

20th meeting

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MOUSHOUTAS (Cyprus)

# CONTENTS

(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO

AGENDA ITEM 108: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE

REQUEST 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)
  - COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)
  - (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)
  - REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (b)
- 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 "PECIAL 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)

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Distr. GENERAL A/C.4/42/SR.20

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27 October 1987 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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A/C.4/42/SR.20 . English Page 2

#### 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 10.25 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/42/8 and Add.1 and 2)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to three communications in documents A/C.4/42/8 and Add.1 and 2, which contained requests for hearings relating to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests.

#### 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)

A/C.4/42/SR.20 English Page 4

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 SECRETAPY-GENERAL (continued) (A/42/578)

- 3. Mr. AZAZY (Yemen) said that despite all United Nations resolutions concerning South Africa, the conditions of the black majority there were still abborrent. Moreover, the people of Namibia were still suffering under the occupation of the Pretoria racist régime, which continued to deplate their human and natural resources. It was incumbent upon all States, particularly those having a special relationship or influence with Pretoria, to adopt a serious stand with regard to that situation.
- 4. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the principles of the rights of colonial peoples to independence. That support derived from the sufferings of the people of Yemen during the British colonial era and of the Palestinian Arab people under the racist Zionist occupation. The time had come for all colonial peoples, and particularly the peoples of Palestine, South Africa and Namibia, to exercise their legitimate rights of self-determination and manage their human and natural resources so that they could participate in the march of progress.
- 5. The policies of foreign economic interests and transnational corporations impeded the achievement of those principles. All nations with authority over those interests and corporations should adhere to the Declaration on the Clanting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and increased political and economic pressure should be brought to bear on colonial States.
- 6. The elimination of colonialist and racist régimes could only be achieved through a sincere political will to bring about freedom and sovereignty for colonial countries and peoples and through adherence to the Charter. Yemen called upon racist and colonialist régimes to abandon their inhuman policies, which were contrary to the humanitarian and legal norms contained in the Charter. Though increased pressure would lead to violence, the era of subjugation had to hibrought to an end. The international community should broaden its assistance to the United Nations agencies to enable them to offer the peoples of colonial countries the necessary aid in the fields of health, education and housing.
- 7. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) said that the mobilization of international solidarity in support of decolonization was still urgently needed, particularly with regard to the liberation of Namibia. The Special Committee should also continue unremitting efforts in support of a just and durable settlement of the question of Palestine, on the basis of the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to self-determination and to establish an independent State in Palestine.
- 8. The small size, geographic isolation, limited resource base and lack of infrastructure of a number of dependent Territories made them particularly vulnerable and rendered implementation of the right to self-determination highly complex with regard to the options and timetable for their future status. Such

(Mr. Rianom, Indonesia)

difficulties should not, however, be used as a pretext to retard their political and economic development. It was incumbent upon the administering Powers to promote the welfare of the indigenous population and to refrain from economic, military and other activities which might impede decolonization.

- 9. The question of New Caledonia was a case in point. It was a matter of particular concern to his delegation that the administering Power had gone forward with the referendum despite the strong objections and subsequent boycott by the overwhelming majority of the indigenous population thus compounding the current turmoil. The dialogue between the administering Power and all sections of the population of New Caledonia should be resumed so that self-determination could be achieved in full accordance with the fundamental rights and interests of the indigenous Kanak people while guaranteeing the rights and interests of all inhabitants of the Territory's multiracial society. His Government therefore fully supported the draft resolution on New Caledonia submitted by the Special Committee in its report (A/42/23 (Part VI), para. 128).
- 10. Indonesia would continue to contribute to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa because it regarded the development of the human resources of colonial Territories as a major element of decolonization. His Government had noted with satisfaction the expanded interaction between the Programme and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation as well as the World University Service. He hoped that the Programme would continue to receive generous financial support, as it was rendering an indispensable service by preparing Namibians and South Africans for the responsibilities that would come with national liberation.
- 11. Mr. ORAMAS-OLIVA (Cuba) said that the question of Western Sahara would only be resolved when the Saharan people could exercise its right to self-determination. General Assembly resolution 41/16 and resolution AHG/Res.104 (IX) of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had established the most appropriate procedures for achieving a just and lasting peace in the region.
- 12. The results of recent preliminary contacts with the parties in co flict had not been satisfactory, the intransigence of the Kingdom of Morocco having contrasted with the constructive attitude of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. The fact that in the past year, nine countries had joined the list of those that recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic was the best proof that its cause was just. It was unfortunate that Morocco, which in the past had contributed to the liberation of African peoples, was attempting to change the course of history and was disregarding the wishes of the international community. Morocco had categorically refused to allow the Territory to be placed under United Nations or OAU protection and had stepped up its war of aggression, building new walls along the Saharan-Mauritanian border and sending in more Moroccan settlers.
- 13. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU to find a peaceful solution and urged Morocco to comply with resolution 41/16.

A/C.4/42/SR.20 English Page 6

- 14. Mr. BARQUERO (Nicaragua) noted that the administering Powers in a number of Territories still under colonial domination continued to make excuses for not complying with t eir obligations under the Charter. The Special Committee on decolonization and the Fourth Committee must show more determination in setting definitive dates for freeing humanity from the evil of colonialism. The independence of a Territory could not be linked to its geographic position, its territorial size or the number of its inhabitants. Namibia and Western Sahara were under illegal occupation by foreign troops, their resources were being exploited and their peoples were denied their right to self-determination.
- 15. The people of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic must be granted independence without delay. For years, they had had to face neo-colonialism. It was saddening to observe that a country that had suffered under the colonial yoke was now behaving in a colonialist fashion. Morocco should immediately withdraw its troops from Western Sahara. Regardless of how many walls were built or the military force employed, the Saharan people would continue its struggle until colonialism had been vanquished. The international community should therefore insist upon the immediate implementation of OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) and General Assembly resolution 41/16 so as to reach a negotiated settlement.
- 16. Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Seguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) must negotiate on a cease-fire. Then, following a Moroccan withdrawal, a peace-keeping force could take up position and the prerequisites could be established, under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations for holding a referendum. His Government welcomed the initiatives undertaken by the Chairman of OAU and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and reiterated its unswerving solidarity with the Saharan people and the Frente POLISARIO, its sole and legitimate representative.
- 17. In New Caledonia, the right to self-determination of the Kanak people must be fully respected in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the United Nations Charter. The same applied to the Puerto Rican people and all remaining colonized peoples. Argentina must retain full sovereignty over the Latin American territory of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The work of the Special Committee on decolonization was far from completed; owing to more sophisticated forms of cultural, educational and economic colonialism and neo-colonialism, a number of countries were still very much under foreign domination.
- 18. Mr. TANOH (Ghana) said that perhaps the most significant achievement of the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of OAU had been the decision to send a technical survey mission to collect data for proposals on a cease-fire and referendum in Western Sahara (A/42/601, para. 22). The mission would evaluate whether the conditions in the Territory conformed to the requirements of General Assembly resolution 40/50 and OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX), especially that the referendum should be held without any military or administrative constraints. While his delegation supported the dispatch of the mission, such missions should not be considered a substitute for direct negotiations or used as delaying tactics.

(Mr. Tanoh, Ghana)

- 19. Any approach to resolve the conflict in Western Sahara must be consistent with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, which had found no reason why General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) should not apply in the Territory.
- 20. The reported extension of the defensive wall by Morocco to encroach upon the territory of a neighbouring State raised apprehensions about the widening of the conflict. Ghana had always maintained that a military solution of the problem would be almost impossible to achieve in view of the spirited resistance of the people of the Territory and therefore called for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Saharan people. Consequently, his delegation fully supported the steps taken by the Secretary-General and would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/42/L.5.
- 21. Mr. SAMANIEGO (Panama) said that his country recognized the importance and validity of OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX). From its own experience, Panama had learnt that negotiation was the best means of resolving international conflicts. It therefore welcomed the efforts made by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU to find a solution leading to political agreement between the parties on the basis of a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the Moroccan troops and administration from the Territory, in order to be able to organize a referendum without military or administrative constraints. It also supported the dispatch of a technical survey mission to Western Sahara. It was concerned at the growing militarization of the region with the building by Morocco of a sixth wall near the Mauritanian frontier. Panama was proud to have been the first Latin American country to recognize the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and would continue its strong support of the aspirations of the Saharan people for independence and territorial integrity.
- 22. Mr. WASNIK (India) said that the delaying tactics and intimidation being used by the South African régime to prevent the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) which it had originally accepted made it necessary to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. Recent events had shown that the white minority which imposed its will on the majority was itself divided.
- 23. His delegation deeply regretted that policies similar to apartheid had recently emerged elsewhere. That underscored the importance of ensuring that the social and political structure of newly-free nations was not left fragile. The Fourth Committee had a special responsibility to ensure that all the citizens of a Territory, regardless of their racial origin, could participate in the shaping of conditions for independence. That applied to New Caledonia and elsewhere.
- 24. India was a sponsor of the draft resolution on Western Sahara (A/C.4/42/L.5). The absence of administrative or military constraints was essential for a free referendum, which must be prefaced by negotiations between the two parties.
- 25. The same principle of negotiation and goodwill was the key element to the solution of the problem of the Malvinas. India was also a sponsor of two draft resolutions relating to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for

A/C.4/42/SR.20 English Page 8

#### (Mr. Wasnik, India)

Southern Africa and offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Programme had rendered valuable assistance to the peoples of South Africa and Namiria and India was proud to contribute to it. The Programme must continue to provide opportunities to student refugees from those two countries. More scholarships must also be made available to inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories and administering Powers were duty bound to make the availability of such scholarships widely known.

- 26. He was pleased to note that since his reference earlier in the session to the lack of participation by certain specialized agencies and other United Nations institutions in the work of the Fourth Committee, some of them had since shen fit to participate and he hoped that example would be followed by others.
- 27. Mr. COULTBALY (Mali) said that factors such as the size of the territory, its geographical situation, number of inhabitants or limited natural resources should not serve as a pretext for preventing the exercise of a people's right to self-determination and independence. His delegation noted with satisfaction the afforts made in certain Non-Self-Governing Territories to improve their economic and social situation and the standard of living of the inhabitants, but it was the responsibility of all administering Powers to further the economic and political development of such Territories. Administering Powers must also continue to provide information under Article 73 e of the Charter. That information, together with periodical missions to the Territory, would be an effective way of evaluating the action taken to promote self-determination.
- 28. The principle of self-determination should also apply to Western Sahara. His delegation welcomed the action taken by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU (A/42/601) with a view to creating conditions favourable to the implementation of the relevant resolutions and the organization of a referendum on the future of the Territory.
- 29. Mr. NTAKHMANA (Botswana) said he regretted that some countries were working hard to throttle all endeavours to grant the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories their right to self-determination. A case in point was that of Western Sahara, the solution of which was being prevented by Morocco's intransigence. Botswana was seriously concerned at the completion of the so-called defence wall, which was a further obstacle to peace in North Africa. Botswana was committed to the spirit and letter of OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX). A solution lay in the implementation of that resolution, in direct negotiations between the two parties, and in full use being made of the good offices of the Secretary-General and of OAU. It therefore welcomed the decision to dispatch a technical survey mission to the Territory and appealed to Morocco and its allies to abandon its colonial practices. Colonialism was an archaic policy and should be condemned also in the case of Namibia, New Caledonia and other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

- 30. Mr. DE CRUZ (Singapore) said that his delegation supported the call for a complete end to colonialism through implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. South Africa had continued its illegal occupation of Namibia, in violation of Article 2 of the Charter, and in recent years had been moving quickly to consolidate its position further. Recent developments suggested that Pretoria was preparing to declare unilaterally Nomibian independence outside the framework of the United Nations plan. To strengthen its hold, South Africa was introducing a form of apartheid in Namibia. Reports of brutality, torture, shootings and arrests were commonplace.
- 31. It was concial to step up pressure on South Africa to dismantle apartheid and free Namibia an order to avert a tragedy for all black South Africans and Namibians. The international community should continue to isolate South Africa and support sanctions to punish South Africa for its policies. If the policies of the racist régime succeeded in South Africa and Namibia, that would only encourage others to threaten the sovereignty of smaller and weaker States in defiance of international law. Standing up to South Africa was tantamount to safeguarding one's own national security. Singapore supported all afforts to dismantle apartheid and free Namibia. Security Council resolutions 385 (1976) and 435 (1978) were the only internationally accepted basis for a peaceful settlement in Namibia. The General Assembly should strongly condemn the South African régime for its continued occupation of Namibia as an act of aggression against the Namibian people.
- 32. Decolonization had been one of the great success stories of the United Nations. The process should continue to be carried out through the United Nations, in view of the Organi: \*tion's access in ensuring the smooth transition of dependent Territories to independence. Singapore also supported the rights of the remaining Territorie to self-determination and independence. It would continue to support the United Nations in bringing about a peaceful solution in New Caledonia, and welcomed the draft resolution on New Caledonia in the Special Committee's report (A/42/23 (Part VI), para. 128). Singapore appealed to the administering Powers of other dependent Territories to promote the necessary economic, social and political development with an eye to eventual independence. Many countries, including Singapore, had shown that a diverse racial make-up and limitations owing to size and geographic location need not be obstacles to independence and later progress and prosperity.
- 33. As the old colonial order withered away, vigilance must be exercised to prevent new forms of colonialism from taking root. Many countries today had been subjected to invasion, dominathen and military and political subversion by third-world colonialists.
- 34. Nevertheless, the colonial legacy had certainly not been a case of unremitting oppression. In many cases, it had resulted in useful lessons in the art of government, administration and social and economic development. If developing countries were to overcome the difficulties confronting them, they must seriously examine their own shortcomings in the post-colonial era and establish strong political and economic institutions.

A/C.4/42/9R.20 English Page 10

- 35. <u>Miss BYRNE</u> (United States of America) said that General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) demonstrated that the process of self-determination could result in different forms of political status, including independence, free association or integration into another independent State. The key element in both resolutions was that citizens of Non-Self-Governing Territories had the right to determine their own future.
- 36. Free acts expressing popular political will had repeatedly taken place in the three territories administered by the United States that were described as Non-Self-Governing Territories. Over the years, in accordance with the wishes of their inhabitants, Guam, American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands had become virtually self-governing. Those island territories elected their own governors and law-making bodies and were represented in the United States Congress. They had reaffirmed through the ballot box their desire to preserve their own identities while maintaining a close relationship with the United States.
- 37. Under the American Samoan Constitution, the local House of Representatives and the governor conducted the day-to-day affairs of the Territory. Participation in the electoral process had increased in recent years, reaching approximately 82 per cent of registered voters in the November 1986 election. American Samoa participated actively in regional co-operative efforts and had a very impressive record of economic achievement. There had been substantial improvements in the territory's water-supply system, roads, transportation and communications. Tourism continued to be an important part of the economy.
- In November 1986, the United States Virgin Islands had again held free elections. Voter turnout had been over 80 per cent. The newly elected administration was taking a fresh look at social, economic and political development. A conference was planned for February 1980 to discuss future political-status options. The United States Government was ready to respond to the islanders' wishes regarding their future status whenever they decided to proceed. The Virgin Islands Government and the United States Government had intensified their efforts to attract foreign investment to the islands through new tax incentives and changes in the industrial-incentive programme. Foreign invostment had proved to be an important catalyst for the economic development which permitted true self-determination. Tourism, the mainstay of the economy, had increased impressively in 1986. The Virgin Islands offered a complete range of social, medical and educational programmes and services for their people. Federal grants amounting to \$10 million had been provided for improvements in education, health and human services, agriculture and energy. Modern hospital facilities now existed on all three islands.
- 39. In 1982, 73 per cent of the voters of Guam had expressed a preference for continuing their commonwealth status with the United States. In August 1987, voters had approved 10 of 12 sections of the draft Commonwealth Act. Two sections, dealing with indigenous rights and immigration, had been rejected by a majority of voters. Once the entire draft Commonwealth Act was approved by the voters of Guam it would be forwarded to the United States Congress for consideration.

### (Miss Byrne, United States)

- 40. Guam's economic prospects were bright, owing largely to a flourishing tourism industry. The rate of unemployment was near the lowest level in the island's history. In addition, for the first time, private-sector employment exceeded government employment. Construction was under way to provide new hotels, housing, shopping centres, roads and water-mains. Guam ranked third among the states and territories of the United States in per-capita spending by the Federal Government.
- 41. American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands had no military facilities. Although the United States maintained military facilities on Guam, only the uninformed or the mischievous would claim that the presence of those facilities or of United States military personnel in any way impeded Guam's self-determination. To vote in Guam, a person must meet a number of requirements for length of residence. The only military personnel who voted in statistically significant numbers were Guamanians themselves. Most Guamanians welcomed the United States military presence and volunteered in large numbers to serve their country. The Federal Government was continuing to release land in Guam which was no longer necessary for military purposes.
- 42. The two draft resolutions on the United States Virgin Islands and on Guam submitted by the Special Committee in its report (A/42/23 (Part VI), part. 128) differed from earlier ones in that they urged the United States to comply with General Assembly resolution 41/41 B, which her delegation had voted against. It could not join the consensus on the two draft resolutions as long as the reference to that resolution remained.
- 43. Her delegation had refrained from pointing out earlier that Puerto Rico was not on the agenda of the Committee. The act of self-determination by the people of Puerto Rico had been recognized by General Assembly resolution 748 (VIII). States which persisted in refusing to accept the choice of the people of Puerto Rico to maintain their affiliation with the United States demonstrated their contempt for the people of Puerto Rico and, ultimately, for self-determination everywhere. Lastly, she reiterated her delegation's position that Article 83 of the Charter clearly assigned responsibility for strategic areas, such as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, to the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council, not to the General Assembly. The people of the Trust Territory had sent their democratically elected leaders to address the Trusteeship Council on many occasions. The delegations which had complained the most about conditions in the Trust Territory had never visited it and knew self-determination only as a political slogan.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.