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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE NINETY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 4 December 1987, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. FIORIN

(German Democratic Republic)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: [18] (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
 - (b) Report of the Secretary-General
 - (c) Draft resolutions
 - (d) Report of the Fifth Committee
 - (e) Letters from Sweden and Norway
- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations [108]

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This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the Official Records of the General Assembly.

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- Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa: report of the Fourth Committee [109]
- 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 [110]
- Report of the Economic and Social Council [12] (continued)
- United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa: report of the Fourth Committee [111]
- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Fourth Committee [112]
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [18] (continued)
- Programme of work

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

AGENDA ITEM 18 (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

- (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 (A/42/23; A/AC.109/889-891, 892 and Add.1 and 2, 893 and Add.1, 894 and Add.1, 895, 896 and Add.1 and 2, 897, 898 and Add.1, 899-903, 904 and Corr.1, 905-912, 913 and Add.1, 914, 915, 918, 921 and 932)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/42/601)
- (c) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/42/L.38, A/42/L.39)
- (d) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/42/845)
- (e) LETTERS FROM SWEDEN AND NORWAY (A/42/733, A/42/763)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I should like to remind the Assembly that we have concluded the debate on this item.

The Assembly will now turn its attention to draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and A/42/L.39. I shall call on those representatives who wish to explain their vote before the voting on them.

May I remind members that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by representatives from their seats.

Mr. TARUI (Japan): My delegation will vote in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and A/42/L.39 because we firmly support the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and hope that it will be duly implemented. My delegation commends the efforts of the authors of these draft resolutions in trying to avoid the insertion of various unnecessary and controversial elements as well as name-calling, which have often appeared in resolutions relating to decolonization.

At the same time, however, I must regretfully express my delegation's reservations on certain provisions contained in those documents. My delegation cannot support some parts of the report of the Special Committee which operative paragraph 5 of A/42/L.38 and operative paragraph 1 of A/42/L.39 approve, and thus wishes to indicate its reservation.

For reasons we have made clear on a number of occasions, including meetings at this session of the General Assembly, my delegation has reservations on other paragraphs in A/42/L.38, in particular paragraphs 4, 6 and 10. Moreover, it is my delegation's understanding that operative paragraph 7 of the same draft resolution is not intended as a condemnation of all foreign economic activities, but rather of a particular type of them which in fact impedes the process of self-determination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the vote.

The Assembly will now begin the voting process and take decisions on the recommendations contained in draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and A/42/L.39.

The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolutions has been issued as document A/42/845.

The Assembly will vote first on draft resolution A/42/L.38. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Draft resolution A/42/L.38 was adopted by 131 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 42/71).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/42/L.39. A recorded vote has been requested.

*Subsequently the following delegations advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour: Belize, Democratic Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique, Panama, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Suriname and the United Republic of Tanzania.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Draft resolution A/42/L.39 was adopted by 135 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions (resolution 42/72).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I shall now call on representatives wishing to explain their votes.

*Subsequently the following delegations advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour: Belize, Democratic Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guatemala, Mozambique, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan and Suriname.

Mr. AKYOL (Turkey) (interpretation from French): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in document A/42/L.38 in view of Turkey's vigorous support for the efforts of the international community in the struggle against colonialism. However, we have reservations on paragraph 10 of the text, which we believe is not drafted in a sufficiently balanced manner.

Mrs. BERTRAND (Austria): My delegation wants to confine itself to explaining its vote on draft resolution A/42/L.38. Austria considers that the process of decolonization indeed constitutes one of the outstanding achievements of the United Nations. Austria has therefore consistently supported the efforts of the United Nations in this regard. It is because of its sincere commitment to the process of decolonization and to the right of peoples to self-determination that Austria has supported this draft. However, that should not be interpreted as approval of all the provisions contained in this text. Austria has reservations with regard to some of them. In particular I would refer to paragraph 4 and emphasize that Austria understands this paragraph to refer exclusively to struggle by peaceful means, as Austria, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, is firmly convinced that the necessary change should be brought about peaceful means alone.

Mr. MAJOOR (Netherlands): The importance of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples adopted by the General Assembly 27 years ago in resolution 1514 (XV) is best shown by the fact that it started a process that over the years resulted in a membership of the United Nations of 159 States compared to the 94 Member States in 1960.

(Mr. Ma joor, Netherlands)

My delegation would like to reaffirm its support for all efforts, compatible with the Charter of the United Nations, to eliminate colonialism completely and to enable the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination in accordance with the Declaration.

The major case in point is Namibia. The debate on Namibia in the Security Council at the end of October 1987, which resulted in the adoption of the important resolution 601 (1987), and the debate on agenda item 36 at the beginning of November 1987, have proved that the commitment of the international community to the realization of Namibia's independence has not weakened. On the contrary, once again the international community, including the Netherlands, has made it utterly clear that the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa must be brought to an early end by the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) without any pre-condition or pretext. The Namibian people must be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination and, as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence puts it:

"by virtue of that right ... freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development". (resolution 1514 (XVI), para. 2)

Although my delegation attaches great importance to the principles laid down in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, I regret that the Netherlands could not support the two draft resolutions before us, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", in document A/42/L.38, and "Dissemination of information on decolonization", contained in document A/42/L.39. We continue to have reservations on the, often by implication, unbalanced formulations, particularly in operative paragraphs 2, 4, 7 and 10 of draft

(Mr. Majoer, Netherlands)

resolution A/42/L.38 and in the fourth preambular paragraph in which reference is made to resolution S-14/1 on the question of Namibia, on which my delegation abstained in the vote for reasons explained on that occasion.

My delegation welcomes, however, the fact that this year the name calling in the twelfth preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 13 has been deleted.

My delegation also has reservations concerning draft resolution A/42/L.39 and the report on the basis of which that draft resolution was formulated and which is contained in document A/42/23, Part II. Some of the recommendations in the report seek to divert the Special Committee from its proper task and to use the resources of this Organization for a campaign of selective criticism against one particular group of countries.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation did not participate in the vote on the two draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and L.39. We regret that we had to take this attitude, which is unusual for us. This new position by the delegation of France is the consequence of the inclusion last year, in resolution 41/41 A, of New Caledonia on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. That inclusion - which, as everyone knows, we opposed - would have the United Nations consider France as the administering Power over that Territory, which we also oppose. In those two draft resolutions reference is made several times to administering Powers. Since we do not believe that we fall under that category, the French delegation was not able to associate itself in any way with the adoption of those draft resolutions.

Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom): As in the case of similar draft resolutions in previous years, my delegation voted against draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and L.39.

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

The draft resolution just adopted in A/42/L.38 on implementation of the Declaration on decolonization is virtually identical to similar resolutions adopted by this Assembly in previous years. It employs the same tired dogma and reinforces the same outdated misconceptions. It fails to reflect the great progress that has been made in the decolonization field over the last 40 or more years. Its drafters have shown no willingness to move with the times and have refused to recognize that colonialism is no longer the phenomenon it was.

The colonial era is close to an end. No one can dispute that fact. As far as the few remaining British dependencies are concerned, the colonial era is already at an end. It is disappointing that this resolution says nothing of relevance to the people of those Territories.

For the people of the remaining British dependencies, the call for the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism is meaningless. The assertion that the activities of foreign businesses are preventing them from choosing their own future is contradicted by their daily experience. The fallacious credo that self-determination can only mean independence simply does not apply; until now all of them have chosen to maintain their links with the United Kingdom. They can modify their choice if they wish. Whatever that choice, we intend to respect their wishes. It is a matter of great regret to my delegation that this resolution has once again failed to recognize the self-evident fact, acknowledged even by the Chairman of the Special Committee in his statement yesterday, that each of the British dependent Territories is in a unique situation. Instead of relying on the jargon of the past, as if there were some single blueprint for decolonization, we should be considering in a flexible and pragmatic way how best the United Nations may contribute to the welfare of the peoples of the few remaining dependent Territories.

(Mr. Birch, United Kingdom)

Turning now to draft resolution A/42/L.39, on dissemination of information on decolonization, it follows from what I have already said that we cannot accept the call in that resolution for an intensification of information work in the decolonization field. As the colonial era draws to its end, efforts to spread information about decolonization should also diminish. At a time of limited financial resources, the United Nations has far more pressing priorities.

Those resolutions are political dinosaurs, clumsy animals from a past age.

Mr. STROMHOIM (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The Nordic countries' abiding commitment to the process of decolonization is well known. That process has very nearly run its course. This is one of the historic achievements of the United Nations.

The Nordic countries voted in favour of draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and L.39. Regrettably, however, we could not do so without certain reservations.

Draft resolution A/42/L.38 contains formulations to which we cannot give our consent. For example, operative paragraph 4 contains formulations which are contrary to the principle upheld by the Nordic countries that, in conformity with its Charter, the United Nations should always encourage only peaceful solutions. Furthermore, we find operative paragraph 10 too categorically formulated.

As regards draft resolution A/42/L.39, our vote on operative paragraph 1, regarding the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on decolonization relating to the dissemination of information, should not be interpreted as an approval of all specific parts of that chapter.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): In connection with agenda item 18, the Assembly has before it a letter dated 9 November 1987 addressed to me by the Permanent Representative of Sweden, which has been distributed as document A/42/733.

In this letter the Permanent Representative of Sweden informs me that his country has decided to withdraw from membership 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 as from 31 December 1987.

It is proposed that Norway be nominated to fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Sweden. May I take it that the General Assembly confirms that nomination?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 103, 109, 110, AND 12 (continued), 111, 112,
AND 13 (continued)

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/726)

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/639)

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; REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/727)

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/728)

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/729)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/42/730 and Corr. 2)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I call on Mr. Carnevali Villegas, Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee, to present the six reports of that Committee in one statement.

Mr. CARNEVALI VILLEGAS (Venezuela), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee (interpretation from Spanish): I have the honour to introduce to the General Assembly for its consideration six reports of the Fourth Committee with regard to agenda items 18, 108, 109, 110 and 12, 111 and 112 respectively.

The first report, contained in document A/42/730, refers to those Territories not covered by other agenda items and which the Committee has considered under item 18. The report includes 12 draft resolutions, two draft consensuses and a draft decision relating respectively to: Western Sahara, New Caledonia, Anguilla, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tokelau, Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Pitcairn and St. Helena.

With the adoption of these proposals the General Assembly, inter alia, would reaffirm the full application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to those Territories and the inherent right of the peoples of those Territories freely to decide their own future political status. The General Assembly would request the administering Powers to adopt all possible measures to facilitate the process of decolonization. Similarly, the Assembly would call upon the administering Powers, with the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to accelerate the economic and social development of those Territories.

The Assembly would observe with appreciation the continued co-operation of some administering Powers in this respect and would once again emphasize the importance of the dispatch of visiting missions to those small Territories in order to enable the United Nations to obtain a full assessment of the prevailing conditions.

(Mr. Carnevali Villegas,
Rapporteur, Fourth Committee)

With respect to the Western Sahara, the General Assembly, inter alia, would reaffirm that this

"is a question of decolonization which remains to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence" (A/42/730, p. 12)

and would appeal to the Kingdom of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia El-Hamra and of Rio de Oro to demonstrate the necessary political will to apply resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Organization of African Unity and General Assembly resolutions 40/50 and 41/16, as well as the present General Assembly draft resolution. The Assembly would take note

"of the joint decision of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to send a technical mission to Western Sahara". (A/42/730, p. 12)

With respect to New Caledonia the Assembly would reaffirm the inalienable right of the people of New Caledonia to self-determination and independence and would call upon France to transmit the information required under Article 73 e of the Charter. The Assembly would declare that progress towards a long-term political solution in New Caledonia would require a free and legitimate act of self-determination consistent with the principles and practices of the United Nations, and it would call upon France to continue dialogue with all sectors of the population.

The second report, contained in document A/42/726, refers to agenda item 108, concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations. The Fourth Committee, inter alia, recommends that the General Assembly reaffirm that in the absence of a

(Mr. Carnevali Villegas,
Rapporteur, Fourth Committee)

decision of the General Assembly itself to the effect that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information with respect to that Territory in conformity with that Article. The Assembly would call upon the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate information would be drawn from all available sources in connection with the preparation by the Secretariat of working papers relating to the Territories concerned for the Special Committee on decolonization.

The third report, contained in document A/42/639, refers to agenda item 109, on the activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration and efforts to eliminate apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa. Among other provisions, the General Assembly, in condemning the stepped up activities of those foreign economic financial and other interests which continue to exploit the natural and human resources of Namibia and other colonial Territories, would once again call upon all Governments to take the necessary steps to put an end to such activities and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of those Territories. The General Assembly would also call upon the administering Powers to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of those colonial Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development.

In a separate decision on the activities and military facilities in colonial Territories that could be impeding the implementation of the Declaration, the Fourth Committee recommends that the General Assembly call upon the corresponding colonial Powers to put an end to such activities in conformity with the relevant decisions.

(Mr. Carnevali Villegas,
Rapporteur, Fourth Committee)

The fourth report, contained in document A/42/727, refers to agenda items 110 and 12, that is, the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. The General Assembly would, inter alia, call upon those organizations to continue as a matter of urgency to lend all possible moral and material assistance to colonial peoples struggling to free themselves from the colonial yoke. The General Assembly would also reiterate its conviction that the specialized agencies and other institutions and bodies of the United Nations system should abstain from taking any step that might imply recognition of or support for the legitimacy of the occupation of Namibia by South Africa.

The fifth report, contained in document A/42/728, refers to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, under item 111. In expressing appreciation to all who have supported the programme with contributions, fellowships, or positions in their educational institutions, the Assembly would call upon all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to offer broad financial support to the programme in order to ensure its continuity and expansion.

The last report, under agenda item 112, contained in document A/42/729, refers to the offering by Member States of facilities for study and training for the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The General Assembly, in thanking all Member States who had made available fellowships for the inhabitants of those Territories, would invite all States to continue making generous contributions for that same purpose.

(Mr. Carnevali Villegas,
Rapporteur, Fourth Committee)

On behalf of the Fourth Committee I commend these reports to the judicious attention of the General Assembly.

Before concluding I wish to thank the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, Ambassador Constantine Moushoutas of Cyprus, for the support and advice he has given me with regard to my responsibilities as Rapporteur. I also express my thanks to the members of the Committee for the co-operation and assistance they provided during the course of the meetings. Finally, I wish to associate myself with the many words of admiration, respect and gratitude addressed to the staff of the Secretariat, whose assistance has been invaluable to the successful achievement of our aims.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the Rules of Procedure, I shall consider that the General Assembly decides not to discuss those reports of the Fourth Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fourth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. I remind members that in paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401 the General Assembly decided that, when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

I also remind members that, in accordance with decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

(The President)

We shall first consider the report of the Fourth Committee on agenda item 108, entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations". That report is contained in document A/42/726.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 154 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (resolution 42/73).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 108.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee on agenda item 109, entitled "Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People in Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa". That report is contained in document A/42/639.

The Assembly will first take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Austria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden

The draft resolution was adopted by 133 votes to 10, with 12 abstentions (resolution 42/74).*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will now vote on the draft decision recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe

*Subsequently the delegation of Panama advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Malawi had intended to abstain.

Against: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden

The draft decision was adopted by 131 votes to 12, with 13 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 109.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee on agenda items 110 and 12, entitled, respectively, "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" and "Report of the Economic and Social Council". The Fourth Committee's report is contained in document A/42/727.

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

A separate vote has been requested on the word "Israel" in the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

If there is no objection, I shall put that word to the vote first.

There appears to be no objection. I therefore put to the vote the retention of the word "Israel" in the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution in paragraph 7 of the report of the Fourth Committee in document A/42/727. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Zaire

Abstaining: Argentina, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Venezuela

The word "Israel" in the eighth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution was retained by 72 votes to 52, with 27 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I now put to the vote the draft resolution as a whole. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Zaire

The draft resolution, as a whole, was adopted by 130 votes to 3, with 23 abstentions (resolution 42/75).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 110 and of chapters I, VI (sect. D) and VIII of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/42/728) on agenda item 111, entitled "United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fourth Committee adopted the draft resolution without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 42/76).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 111.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/42/729) on agenda item 112, entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report.

The Fourth Committee adopted that draft resolution without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 42/77).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): That concludes our consideration of agenda item 112.

(The President)

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/42/730 and Corr. 2) on agenda item 18. This concerns chapters of the 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 relating to specific Territories not covered by other agenda items.

I call on representatives who wish to explain their vote before the voting.

Mr. ZAHIR (Maldives): I wish to explain very briefly the position of my delegation on the draft resolution on New Caledonia in document A/42/730. My delegation will be voting in favour of the draft resolution. Our support is based on respect for the principle of self-determination for all the peoples of the world. We believe that the people of New Caledonia must be given the opportunity to express their views. The position of Maldives on the issue is based on the broader policy of supporting the right of self-determination without any prejudice to the verdict of such an exercise.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): France did not speak yesterday in the debate on this item relating to the implementation of the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV). This was because my delegation wanted to avoid useless repetition or polemical discussions. It had said what it had to say in the Fourth Committee.

Some speakers - I must say that they were the exceptions - took advantage of yesterday's discussion, which concerned decolonization in general, to go yet again into the question of New Caledonia. Their arguments are not new and my delegation has already amply responded to them. Therefore, I shall only recall briefly here the reasons why the delegation of France considers the draft resolution on this Territory on which we shall shortly be taking a decision to be unacceptable.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

The first flaw in the draft resolution, which emanates from the countries of the South Pacific Forum, is that it reflects a totally distorted view of the facts regarding New Caledonia. Senator Dick Ukeiwe, a Frenchman of Melanesian origin and the highest elected authority in New Caledonia, came to New York in October to explain to representatives in the Fourth Committee what the real situation was in New Caledonia. I should like to recall briefly some basic facts.

New Caledonia is an island in the South Pacific in which, as in other islands of the region, a multi-ethnic society has developed. The peoples of Melanesian origin live with others from Europe, the Pacific and Asia, and the age-old presence of these people of diverse origins is an uncontested fact. Melanesians are the most important component part of the population, of which they make up 43 per cent. French citizens, like the others, they naturally have all the political, economic and social rights offered by the French society. In particular, they have had the right to vote for several decades, and they participate fully in the political life of the Territory, in which they play a dominant role. So the elected of Melanesian origin are the majority in all institutions in the Territory, whether it is the elected Assembly or the Executive Council, in the regions or the communes. The entire population of New Caledonia has participated for a long time now in French political life. The people participate in national elections, whether of the President of the Republic or of the French Parliament, where two out of three of those elected from New Caledonia are at the present time Melanesians.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

These facts describe the situation in New Caledonia better than any argument. They prove, if proof were required, that in New Caledonia there are no oppressed indigenous peoples subjected to racism or domination, as the Forum countries would have us believe. As champions a priori of independence, these countries support the independence parties, which they would depict as victims of colonial repression. On that score too, one must look at the facts. The independence movement is perfectly legal and totally integrated in the political life of New Caledonia. It has its own newspapers and radio. Its leaders organize meetings and demonstrations; they field candidates in the elections, and most of them are indeed elected representatives in New Caledonia. They enjoy freedom of movement within the Territory and can leave or return to the Territory as they wish.

These elementary facts are naturally ignored by the sponsors of the draft resolution. What they do not say is that so far the independence parties, which are far from commanding the total support of the Melanesian people, have never gained a majority of votes in the Territory. They are still clearly a minority in New Caledonia.

This is the core of the problem. In this connection, I wish to express a simple idea: unlike the Forum countries, France has no presumption with regard to New Caledonia. For France colonial times are over, and they have been over for a long time. If one day the population of New Caledonia decides that it is in favour of independence, it will immediately obtain independence. Such is not the case today. That is why the draft resolution before us is totally unacceptable.

The existence in New Caledonia of a trend towards independence prompted France to organize a referendum, submitting to the truly concerned electors of the Territory the only question that deserved to be put: Do you want to be independent or do you want to remain within the French Republic? This referendum, which was held on 13 September last, took place in circumstances that were beyond reproach,

(Mr. Blanc, France)

in keeping with the most demanding rules of democracy and the principles of the United Nations. The results were clear. A clear majority of New Caledonians indicated the wish to build its future within the framework of the French Republic. France and the United Nations can only draw the appropriate conclusions.

But the draft resolution before us does not reflect this basic aspect. Submitted by the Forum countries to the Committee on Decolonization, it was considered by that body at its August session, that is, before - and I stress, before - the referendum held on 13 September. Since then no substantive changes have been made to it; therefore, it ignores the clear, democratic choice freely expressed by the electorate of New Caledonia.

That is why my delegation will, as it did in Committee, vote against the draft resolution. We call on all States that are dedicated to the democratic ideal to withhold support from this draft.

Mrs. de la MAZA (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): When draft resolution I was put to the vote in the Fourth Committee, my delegation inadvertently informed the Secretariat that we had intended to vote in favour. We shall now abstain when it is put to the vote in the General Assembly.

Mr. PENALOSA (Colombia) (interpretation from Spanish): The question of Western Sahara continues to raise serious concerns in the international community. The draft resolution before the General Assembly contains the following elements, among others: it reaffirms that the question of Western Sahara is a question of decolonization which remains to be completed on the basis of the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

It takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara, and welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General and

(Mr. Peñalosa, Colombia)

of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to promote a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara.

It takes note of the joint decision of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the OAU to send a technical mission to Western Sahara in order to collect the relevant technical information to assist them in discharging the mandate entrusted to them under the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, steps that have gained the concurrence of the parties involved in the conflict.

It appeals to the parties concerned to display the political will necessary to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the OAU.

It reaffirms the determination of the United Nations to co-operate fully with the OAU with a view to implementing the relevant decisions of that organization.

Colombia's commitment to the cause of decolonization and its unqualified support for the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination took effect from the very outset of its life as a Republic. Colombia is firmly convinced that in the application of that principle lies the solution to the problem of Western Sahara. Accordingly, and because we believe that the draft resolution contains a number of positive elements, my delegation reaffirms its favourable vote. However, we would have preferred the text to be such as to allow for consensus adoption.

My delegation also wishes to reiterate its support for the initiatives and efforts of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity in seeking a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict. The results of the technical mission, which is about to conclude its study mission to the conflict area, will bring considerable benefits for the negotiated solution we seek. My country hopes that all efforts being made will lead to a just, lasting solution acceptable to all parties.

Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia): The question of Western Sahara has been debated in the United Nations for almost 25 years now and, until recently, there was no foreseeable prospect for an equitable long-lasting and peaceful settlement. Last year the Secretary-General, using powers inherent in his function, took a decision to explore the possibilities for a solution based on the organization of a referendum on self-determination.

In our assessment, the Secretary-General seems to be making good progress in his endeavour. That progress is apparent not only in the fact that all parties concerned seemed genuinely interested in the peace process, as described in his report on Western Sahara (A/42/601), but also in the fact that the parties concerned have all agreed to receive the United Nations technical mission to the Territory, which will gather information and investigate what would be needed to carry out a free and valid referendum. My delegation therefore gives its full support to the initiative and the step-by-step approach followed by the Secretary-General.

Saint Lucia is of the view that the Secretary-General's actions promise a credible framework for a peaceful solution to this most difficult problem. That view is sustained by the reports on the activities of the United Nations technical mission presently travelling in North Africa. The thrust of those early reports is that the United Nations technical mission is proceeding according to plan. The mission has just ended the first stage of its programme of visits, which took it through the Territory of Western Sahara. According to a United Nations spokesman, the mission considers that its work with the civil and military authorities of Morocco is proceeding according to plan.

At this decisive moment in the evolution of the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General, and in view of those early reports of co-operation accorded to

(Mr. Flemming, Saint Lucia)

the technical team, it is extremely important for my delegation to avoid any move which seeks to promote another course of action.

Saint Lucia awaits with anticipation the results of the visit of the United Nations technical mission to the region and, in particular, the proposals and recommendations based on the findings of the technical team that the Secretary-General will put before the concerned parties.

The objective of our Organization is to help find a just and durable solution to this problem and to bring about harmony and security to all countries of the region. These are the main considerations behind the decision of my delegation to abstain on the vote on draft resolution I in paragraph 22 of document A/42/730 on the question of Western Sahara. We have, in essence, in deference to the Secretary-General's technical mission, held our traditional position on this matter in abeyance until after the technical mission has reported back to the Secretary-General and, in turn, he has reported back to the General Assembly.

Mr. WOOLCOTT (Australia): Australia has a long-standing commitment to and involvement in matters of decolonization.

Two Trusteeship Territories of the United Nations - Papua New Guinea and Nauru - which were administered by Australia, have both achieved independence with the full involvement of this Organization. A third Territory, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, voted to integrate with Australia when, in a plebiscite observed by the Special Committee of 24 and endorsed by the Assembly, it exercised its right to self-determination in 1984.

Australia's experience of United Nations involvement in the process of decolonization has been both productive and positive. As the administering Power, we welcomed the assistance of the Special Committee of 24 and the visiting missions it sent to the three Territories for which Australia was once responsible. Other

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

administering Powers - New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States - have all utilized the considerable experience of the Special Committee of 24. It remains for France to do so in respect of New Caledonia.

Australia's commitment to and support of United Nations decolonization processes extends beyond our own immediate experience, to which I have just referred. Australia has been a consistent supporter of United Nations efforts to encourage decolonization in southern Africa, in particular in Namibia.

While Australia's support of decolonization and for United Nations involvement in that process is universal, the Australian Government has a vital interest in decolonization matters in the South Pacific region, where Australia is located.

Last year the Assembly recognized the colonial status of New Caledonia. So we are saddened that France has not seen fit, during 1987, to co-operate with the United Nations in the decolonization of this South Pacific Territory.

The Permanent Representative of France said only a few moments ago that the draft resolution on New Caledonia before us "emanates from the countries of the South Pacific Forum" (supra, p. 34-35). In fact, as I am sure that representative knows, the draft resolution is the product of the Special Committee of 24.

The draft resolution on New Caledonia reaffirms France's obligation to co-operate with the United Nations in the process of the decolonization of New Caledonia.

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

Instead of co-operating with the United Nations France has pursued its policies on New Caledonia unilaterally and in isolation. I listened attentively to the Permanent Representative of France speaking about the referendum held in New Caledonia on 13 September. We have heard that rationalization about the referendum before and I shall not repeat the arguments against it now. We have considered it carefully and Australia and all the other countries of the South Pacific Forum continue to believe that the referendum was fundamentally flawed. It was boycotted by the great majority of the indigenous population of New Caledonia, who continue to consider themselves alienated from the economic, social and political development of the Territory. Moreover, the referendum took place in the presence of 8,000 metropolitan police and troops, without United Nations observers and with the administering Power campaigning forcefully in favour of its own preferred outcome.

That referendum will not resolve the problems of New Caledonia. It has not met the aspirations of the indigenous people. They continue to espouse their wish to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and we urge France to take steps to meet that aspiration and involve the indigenous people of the territory in the mainstream of its political, social and economic life. We firmly believe that the United Nations can and should play a role in that process. Members of the United Nations also have a role to play. South Pacific Forum countries have sought the support of members for a moderate and principled call for peaceful and evolutionary progress to genuine self-determination in New Caledonia. The Forum position is consistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter and with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). The countries of the South Pacific ask no more than that New Caledonia be able to exercise the same right as many others in this Organization have been able to exercise under the

(Mr. Woolcott, Australia)

United Nations. Colonialism is indivisible. The right to self-determination, already exercised by so many peoples in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere in the Pacific, should not be denied to the people of New Caledonia.

My colleague the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea appealed in his statement yesterday to France as the Administering Power to be "fair and reasonable" (A/42/PV.91, p. 59-60) in respect of New Caledonia. This is indeed a fair and reasonable appeal and it reminded me of a poem quoted recently by Vaskim I, the Katholikos of All Armenians, when he visited the United Nations during this session. He referred in a speech to the French poet Lamartine and quoted him, in translation, as writing "Let the glory of the more powerful be the freedom of the weaker". There is a message for the administering Power in those lines by one of its own national poets.

It goes without saying that it is the sovereign right of each country to determine how it will cast its vote, but the Australian delegation calls on all Member States to give their support to this moderate and principled draft resolution on New Caledonia.

Mr. TOBAR ZALDUMBIDE (Ecuador) (interpretation from Spanish): Ecuador has carefully considered draft resolution I in document A/42/730, on the question of Western Sahara, which is being introduced to the General Assembly today.

In that draft resolution the General Assembly recalls resolution 41/16, on the question of Western Sahara, adopted last year by the forty-first session of the General Assembly. Ecuador voted in favour of that resolution, because it agreed with the provisions referring to principles which it considers inalienable, such as those of the decolonization of all subjugated territories and the unalterable right of all peoples to self-determination.

(Mr. Tobar Zaldumbide, Ecuador)

In the draft resolution under consideration today Ecuador has noted the encouraging new development, mentioned in paragraph 6, of the steps that have been taken by the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, who have agreed to send a technical mission to the conflict zone in order to gather relevant information which might contribute to a peaceful, just and definitive solution in that region.

In the judgement of my delegation, the much-desired referendum, referred to in paragraphs 4 and 7 of the draft resolution, with suitable guarantees of its authenticity, is, in the final analysis, the appropriate means of ensuring the broad-based, free self-determination of the Sahraoui people.

Accordingly, Ecuador believes that the presence and actions of the study mission that the Secretary-General has dispatched and whose work is now under way are important, constructive new elements that may smooth the way to a peaceful solution of the conflict. My delegation believes that it is necessary to await the results of that mission and that we must give it all possible support, not putting forward any ideas or forecasts until that crucial process has been completed.

Therefore, and for the reasons I have explained, Ecuador will abstain in the voting on this occasion, once again reaffirming its unwavering decision to support the right of self-determination of all peoples and territories where that right is violated.

With regard to draft resolution II, on the question of New Caledonia, the delegation of Ecuador reiterates its Government's position in support of the right to self-determination of all peoples which have not yet achieved independence. We affirm our conviction that the right of self-determination must be freely exercised in accordance with the principles and standards established in the United Nations Charter, and especially with resolutions 1514 (XV) which contains the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 1541 (XV).

(Mr. Tobar Zaldumbide, Ecuador)

The delegation of Ecuador has carefully examined the report of the Committee on decolonization with regard to the case of New Caledonia submitted in fulfilment of resolution 41/41 A. We regret that the Government of France has not complied with paragraph 5 of that resolution, which requested it to extend its co-operation to the Special Committee in the implementation of that resolution.

Similarly, the delegation of Ecuador has paid special attention to the report of the Government of France on the holding of the referendum on 13 September 1987. We have also devoted particular attention to the arguments put forward by the countries of the South Pacific Forum challenging the validity of that referendum because it departed from the standards established by the United Nations.

Since the Government of Ecuador does not consider developments relating to the case of New Caledonia to be finally established, we believe that this is not the right time to adopt a draft resolution such as is now proposed, so my delegation will abstain in the voting. However, we wish to place on record our desire for the administering Power and the United Nations to work in co-operation to assure the future of New Caledonia on the basis of the self-determination of that Territory.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Assembly will now pass on to the adoption of decisions on the various recommendations of the Fourth Committee.

First, we turn to the 12 draft resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 22 of its report (A/42/730).

Draft resolution I is entitled "Question of Western Sahara". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: None

Abstaining: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zaire

Draft resolution I was adopted by 93 votes to none, with 50 abstentions
(resolution 42/78).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution II is entitled "Question of New Caledonia". A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Fiji, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: Belgium, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Grenada, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Netherlands, Niger, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, Zaire

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Gambia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen

Draft resolution II was adopted by 69 votes to 29, with 47 abstentions (resolution 42/79).*

*Subsequently the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution III is entitled "Question of Anguilla". The Fourth Committee adopted that draft resolution without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 42/80).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution IV entitled "Question of Montserrat", without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 42/81).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution V, entitled "Question of the British Virgin Islands", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 42/82).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution VI, entitled "Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 42/83).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution VII, entitled "Question of Tokelau", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 42/84).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution VIII, entitled "Question of the Cayman Islands", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 42/85).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution IX, entitled "Question of Bermuda", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly also wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 42/86).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution X, entitled "Question of Guam", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 42/87).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution XI, entitled "Question of American Samoa", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 42/88).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft resolution XII, entitled "Question of the United States Virgin Islands", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to adopt it?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 42/89).

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I now invite representatives to turn to the draft consensus recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 23 of its report (A/42/730).

Draft consensus I deals with the question of Gibraltar.

The Fourth Committee adopted draft consensus I without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft consensus I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Draft consensus II deals with the question of Pitcairn.

The Fourth Committee adopted draft consensus II without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft consensus II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We turn next to the draft decision on the question of St. Helena recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 24 of its report (A/42/730). A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Zaire

The draft decision was adopted by 119 votes to 2, with 30 abstentions.*

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): I shall now call on those representatives wishing to explain their votes or positions.

Mr. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): Bangladesh has been closely following developments with regard to the question of Western Sahara. My country is prepared to do all it can to advance the case for a just, durable and peaceful settlement of the dispute. As we are all aware, the technical survey mission of the United

*Subsequently the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

(Mr. Chowdhury, Bangladesh)

Nations is currently engaged in the task of formulating proposals with regard to the organization of a referendum. We welcome this effort and support it. As we await its outcome, the delegation of Bangladesh felt that our decision to abstain on draft resolution I was in consonance with our position on the issue.

Mr. KARIM (Sudan): We abstained on draft resolution II concerning New Caledonia because we believe that the latest referendum carried out there by France did not solve the problem of New Caledonia. The referendum was boycotted by 40 per cent of the people and was not carried out under the auspices of the United Nations. No observers from the international community were present. Also, there are rumours circulating in the region about the authenticity of the referendum.

We should like to see all the various ethnic groups of New Caledonia living in peace and total harmony. France, the fairest country to preach liberty and equality, a country that has very close and fraternal relations with my country, should certainly take note of the wisdom contained in paragraphs of the resolution. My delegation opted to join the large group of delegations which abstained because of the confidence we had that the great French nation, which had given freedom and independence to many peoples around the globe, would not fail the aspirations of New Caledonia for sovereignty, peace, security and independence.

(spoke in Arabic)

On the question of Western Sahara, the Sudan has followed very closely all the recent developments in the region of the Arab Maghreb and all its States. We are pleased with those significant new and positive developments in view of the fraternal bonds that unite us historically and culturally with the States of that region.

The political variables that have emerged over the past few weeks are the following: the serious co-operation of all parties directly concerned in the

(Mr. Karim, Sudan)

Sahara conflict with the Secretary-General. That co-operation has resulted in the dispatch of the recent joint United Nations/OAU technical mission to the region of Western Sahara, which has been there since 18 November 1987. The conviction was held by the international community, including the parties concerned in the conflict, that it was necessary to guarantee conditions to enable the inhabitants of Western Sahara to exercise the self-determination to which they aspire, in conformity with international norms and under the aegis of the United Nations. Given the above-mentioned changes and in order to ensure suitable conditions for the efforts being made on the regional and international levels so that, as a result, the people of Western Sahara can exercise self-determination and in view of the information we have received concerning the satisfactory work of the mission to Western Sahara, we have decided to abstain from voting at this stage so that the necessary and favourable atmosphere can be created for the success of the serious efforts being made in order that a just and equitable solution may be found which would guarantee the people of Western Sahara their right to self-determination and sovereignty. We are pleased to note from the statements of the head of the technical mission that the mission's efforts have been successful and that it has been able to gather easily all the information it needed. We therefore remain hopeful that the efforts made to date will soon lead to a peaceful solution of the question of Western Sahara within the framework of the United Nations.

Mr. DOUMA (Congo) (interpretation from French): My delegation abstained in the vote on draft resolution II contained in document A/42/730. Our abstention should not be interpreted as a change in the position of principle it has maintained on the question of decolonization.

Mr. McDOWELL (New Zealand): My delegation voted for the draft resolution on New Caledonia. We have spoken several times on the subject in the Committee and in plenary meeting. We make no apology for this; we feel strongly about the subject.

But perhaps the most eloquent aspect of the debates in the Fourth Committee and in this General Assembly has been the silences on the other side. The British constitutionalist Sir Walter Bagehot once spoke of an acquaintance who was "silent in seven languages". That is what we have experienced here in the debates on New Caledonia: we have heard silence in the six languages of the General Assembly. It is very significant that no delegation - I repeat, no delegation - has spoken up in full debate in support of the policies of the administering Power. In the general debate at the beginning of the session, in the Fourth Committee and in the general debate on decolonization: resounding silence. That is very significant. There were some last minute explanations of vote in the Fourth Committee, most of them after the vote, and we have heard some now. But silence on behalf of the administering Power in full debate has become the mother tongue of those who supported it by their negative votes.

We understand this. It is difficult to explain the inexplicable, and we sympathize with the delegations involved and the pressures they have been put under.

We voted for this resolution because its adoption represents a victory for the positive role of the United Nations in promoting decolonization and a victory for the principle of self-determination, for it ensures that the Territory remains on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories; it ensures that the international spotlight will remain on New Caledonia and that the international community will thus be able to keep its eye on developments there; it ensures that the Secretariat will continue to gather information about developments in New Caledonia and

(Mr. McDowell, New Zealand)

circulate the resultant papers to the membership; it ensures that the Committee of 24 and the Fourth Committee will have the opportunity to discuss developments in the Territory once again and assess their significance in terms of self-determination; it will, finally, ensure that through the opportunity to petition this international platform all shades of opinion in New Caledonia - and not least the independentist parties - will be able to make their views known internationally. It will ensure that international pressure will continue to be brought to bear on the administering Power to fulfil its obligations under the Charter and to bring the people of New Caledonia to the point where they can make a free, unfettered and internationally monitored decision on their future.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): One representative has asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

May I remind members that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, statements in exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia): The representative of the United Kingdom, in his explanation of vote after the voting on draft resolutions A/42/L.38 and L.39 this morning, made reference to the statement I made yesterday, in my capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee of 24, before this Assembly. I wish to indicate that in that statement I made no reference which might have led to the British view that those two resolutions are "political dinosaurs, clumsy animals from a past age". (supra, p. 14-15)

In the views of the Special Committee, the two resolutions appropriately reflect the concern of the Organization for Non-Self-Governing Territories and

(Mr. Tadesse, Ethiopia)

peoples under colonial occupation. To put the record straight, allow me briefly to quote the part of my statement of yesterday which was misread or, I should say, misrepresented:

"While admittedly the resolution of such problems requires special attention, meeting particular circumstances, these considerations cannot, however, be allowed to interfere with or limit the rights and privileges of the peoples concerned, especially with regard to their right to make their own decisions in respect of their future. In the discharge of their obligations under the Charter, the administering Powers concerned must recognize these rights and provide the peoples of those territories with an opportunity to make their decisions freely and without inducement, in accordance with internationally accepted norms and principles." (A/42/PV.90, pp. 13, 14-15)

The propriety of the resolutions cannot be questioned, nor can what I said yesterday be misconstrued so as to justify the position of the British delegation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): We have concluded our consideration of agenda item 18 and all the reports of the Fourth Committee.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Before adjourning the meeting, in order to help delegations to plan their work, I should like to indicate how I intend to dispose of the remaining items on our agenda next week.

On Monday, 7 December, the Assembly will consider the reports of the First, Third and Sixth Committees.

Beginning Tuesday morning, 8 December, the Assembly will consider the remaining reports of the Special Political Committee; draft resolution A/42/L.11/Rev.1 on item 21, "Critical economic situation in Africa: United Nations Programme of Action for African economic recovery and development 1986-1990"; the

(The President)

reports of the Second Committee; the draft resolutions on item 39, "The situation in the Middle East"; and sub-item 17 (f), "Appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia".

The Assembly will dispose of the other remaining items and suspend the forty-second session at a date to be announced, pending the conclusion of the work of the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.