

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 84: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

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

AGENDA ITEM 85: QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR (continued)

- (a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

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

CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

(a) REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 88: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 89: 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 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/35/23 (Parts III and VI)), A/35/222, 223, 261 and 413; A/C.4/35/2, A/C.4/35/4/Add.1-3; A/AC.109/593-598, 602 603 and Corr.1, 606, 608, 610, 615, 617 and Corr.1, 618, 621 and 640; A/C.4/35/L.2/Rev.1, L.7, L.8 and L.10)

- (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 84: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/35/23 (Part III)), A/35/203 and 511; A/C.4/35/L.5)

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

AGENDA ITEM 85: QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR (continued) (A/35/23 (Part V), A/35/233 and 524; A/AC.109/623 and 634; A/C.4/35/L.9)

- (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 87: 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/35/23 (Part III), A/35/168 and Add.1-4; A/C.4/35/L.3)

- (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/35/3/Add.30)

AGENDA ITEM 88: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/35/525; A/C.4/35/L.4/Rev.1)

AGENDA ITEM 89: OFFERS BY MEMBERS STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/35/518; A/C.4/35/L.5)

General debate (continued)

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

1. The CHAIRMAN said that three requests for hearings on the question of Namibia had been received and were reproduced in documents A/C.4/35/4/Add.1-3. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests for hearings.
2. It was so decided.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that several other requests for hearings on the question of Namibia had been received. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, those requests should be distributed as Committee documents and considered at a subsequent meeting.
4. It was so decided.
5. Mr. SOLA (Cuba) said that, 20 years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), appreciable progress had obviously been made in decolonization, and that should serve as encouragement for further efforts to secure the full implementation of the Declaration. Administering Powers could not be allowed to use legal sophistry to cheat peoples of their right to self-determination, and such factors as size, population or economic or cultural backwardness should not impede the fulfilment of their aspirations.
6. The right of those peoples to utilize their natural resources as they saw fit should likewise be reaffirmed.
7. The colonial Powers, in pursuit of their strategic interests, were maintaining a chain of military bases in the Caribbean, the Atlantic and the Pacific, which, in addition to impeding decolonization, were a threat to international peace and security. Another tactic employed by administering Powers was to try to dismember territories and subject them to legal statutes furthering the interests of those Powers. Thus, for example, it was claimed that the Marianas were being given the legal status of "free association", which had been tried and rejected in the case of Puerto Rico. It was important to bear in mind in that connexion the resolution on Puerto Rico adopted by the Special Committee on decolonization at its 1179th meeting, on 20 August 1980, which, inter alia, urged the Government of the United States of America to adopt all necessary measures for the full transfer of all powers to the people of Puerto Rico.

8. Administering Powers should comply strictly with the provisions of Article 73 of the Charter, and report new developments without omissions or euphemisms. The information required of them was an account of the plans and specific measures which they were adopting to expedite the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV). Only in that way would they prove their good faith.
9. It should be borne in mind, in discussing Belize and the right of its people to self-determination and territorial integrity, that the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana in 1979, had expressed support for their cause. It was to be hoped that Belize would soon be able to join the United Nations as a sovereign State.
10. Cuba also supported the right of East Timor to self-determination and independence, and urged the withdrawal of all the military forces occupying that Territory.
11. It should be remembered, on the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization, that what the Declaration provided for was independence, and not experiments with new forms of colonialism. The international community, especially those free nations which had formerly been colonies, should intensify its efforts to implement the principles embodied in the Declaration, particularly in paragraph 5.
12. Mrs. NEWSOM (United States of America), referring to the question of East Timor, said that her Government's overriding concern was to meet the humanitarian needs of the people of East Timor. It had accordingly welcomed the Indonesian Government's request to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Catholic Relief Services to begin humanitarian relief programmes in East Timor.
13. Her Government had contributed \$14.3 million to those programmes to date. Moreover, in recognition of the serious health problems affecting Timor, it had contributed \$3.6 million to a malaria control programme.
14. Since the initiation of those programmes improvements had been reported not only in the humanitarian sphere but in agriculture and education. Nevertheless, the work had to continue. Her delegation trusted that Members of the United Nations in a position to do so would co-operate with ICRC and the Catholic Relief Services to ensure the welfare of the people of East Timor.
15. Mr. HERMIDA (Nicaragua) welcomed the people of Zimbabwe, whose example gave hope to those who were still suffering under the colonialist yoke. He also welcomed the delegation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
16. The people of Nicaragua which, under the leadership of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, had waged a bloody and finally victorious struggle against oppression, reaffirmed its commitment to peace, democracy and the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, and its solidarity with peoples still under the yoke of imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid and zionism.

(Mr. Hermida, Nicaragua)

17. The new Government of Nicaragua reiterated its solidarity with the struggling peoples of South Africa, Western Sahara, East Timor, Belize and Puerto Rico, and it supported the views expressed at the Sixth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries at Havana and called for an end to the blockade of Cuba and the withdrawal of the naval base from Guantanamo.

18. His delegation commended the Committee of 24 on its efforts to secure the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and especially of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee's work had made a substantial contribution to the eradication of colonialism, which was a prerequisite for the achievement of lasting world peace. His delegation fully supported the Special Committee's recommendations.

19. In the 20 years since adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations had gained 54 new Members. Colonialism was still alive, however, and taking on new guises in order to evade compliance with the principle concerning the transfer of power to the colonial peoples, as required by the Declaration.

20. With regard to the peoples of Sahara and East Timor, which were engaged in a bitter struggle for their right to self-determination and independence, he drew attention to the statement made by his country's Minister for External Affairs in the plenary meeting that both Indonesia and Morocco had turned a deaf ear to appeals from the international community in a number of resolutions and had continued their military aggression against the Territories of East Timor and Western Sahara. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the struggle of the heroic Saharan people under the leadership of Frente POLISARIO and, as a demonstration of its support, had established diplomatic relations with the Sahrawi Democratic Arab Republic. His delegation congratulated the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on its peace settlement with Frente POLISARIO and urged Morocco to follow that example and comply with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Sixth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries.

21. His delegation also supported the people of East Timor, whose right to self-determination and independence was being impeded by the occupation of its territory by Indonesian armed forces. His delegation did not believe that the people of East Timor had exercised its right to self-determination and hoped that Indonesia would reconsider its position.

22. It should not be forgotten that two peoples in Latin America had not achieved independence: Belize and Puerto Rico. The General Assembly, in resolution 34/38, had reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Belize to self-determination, and the Sixth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Countries had condemned the use of any pressure or threat against the full exercise of that right. It was to be hoped, therefore, that Belize would soon be welcomed as a Member of the United Nations.

23. Puerto Rico should likewise not continue to be an exception to the decolonization process. The people of Puerto Rico had the same right to the full implementation of

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(Mr. Hermida, Nicaragua)

resolution 1514 (XV) as the other peoples of the world, as the Special Committee had made clear in the resolution adopted at its 1179th meeting, on 20 August 1980. The Special Committee had also taken note of United States military activities on Puerto Rican territory, especially on the island of Vieques, which jeopardized the satisfactory application of resolution 1514 (XV) to the Puerto Rican people.

24. Nicaragua reaffirmed its commitment to revolutionary internationalism and solidarity with all oppressed peoples. It would continue to consolidate and strengthen its Sandinista Revolution and to give support to all oppressed peoples whenever and wherever necessary.

25. Mr. OULD HAMODY (Mauritania) said that, in contrast to the arrogant colonialism which had prevailed at the end of the nineteenth century, the second half of the twentieth century had seen an inspiring awakening of the colonial peoples to the objective of political independence. Their efforts had culminated in the adoption by the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which recognized the validity of the deep-rooted aspiration of peoples to an independent existence and excluded any discrimination by reason of smallness of territory or population.

26. The African continent, which had suffered so grievously from slavery, could have done no less than adopt minimum guarantees to safeguard its future integrity, and those guarantees were based on absolute respect for the right of every entity to self-determination and independence and on absolute respect for the frontiers inherited from colonialism. The case of Western Sahara could not be an exception to that rule. For the Mauritanian people, the problem of Western Sahara was a tragic and cruel reality, which was responsible for a general climate of distrust and hostility among three peoples who were linked by blood, language and religion. By imposing a change of régime in Mauritania, the patriotic forces had undeniably started a movement towards peace, to which Frente Polisario had responded by a unilateral cease-fire declaration. Mauritania itself had signed the Algiers Agreement of 5 August 1979, legally ending its hostilities against the Sahrawi people and recognizing the inalienable right of that people to self-determination and national independence. In the same spirit, his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.2/Rev.1, which met many of its concerns: the need for a peaceful solution to the problem through direct contact between the two parties concerned, the need to respect the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence, and the need for co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity in order to facilitate the achievement of a final solution to the problem. The long and glorious common history of the Mauritanian and the Sahrawi peoples and their common fight against all colonialist attacks had enabled Mauritania to overcome facile chauvinism and move with the tide of history, reason and international morality. The Moroccan and Sahrawi peoples, which were so closely linked, could if they tried undoubtedly halt the regrettable cycle of violence and hold fraternal discussions to bring an end to the detestable war which had lasted for too long. As the head of his delegation had stated at the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, the incalculable efforts, the human and material resources, the ability and the bravery which were being used in the struggle should be devoted to establishing harmony between peoples and achieving their aspirations.

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27. Mr. DETE (Zimbabwe) introduced draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.9 on behalf of its sponsors. The draft resolution reflected the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

28. In summarizing the text of the draft resolution, he pointed out that in paragraph 2 the words "under the auspices of the United Nations" should be replaced by "within the United Nations framework". He stressed the important new element in paragraph 3, which the sponsors believed could lead to a peaceful solution of the conflict in East Timor; the international community should give the Government of Portugal a chance of resuming its historic and legal responsibilities over East Timor. With regard to paragraph 4, in view of the overwhelming evidence submitted to the Committee in recent weeks, the international community could not fail to express its deepest concern at the sufferings of the people of East Timor. For all those reasons, his delegation appealed to all members of the Committee to give their moral support to the heroic people of East Timor by voting in favour of the draft resolution.

29. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) said that his delegation had been concerned about the question of Western Sahara for several years. First of all, it affected an important region of the African continent and secondly, it aggravated the internal conflicts in Africa and accentuated divisions among the States members of OAU, creating a lamentable atmosphere of mistrust. That question had finally aroused and drawn attention to serious contradictions in the interpretation of the right of peoples to self-determination. It appeared that many Member States' present interpretation of the right of peoples to self-determination differed according to the policy or ideology they had chosen, the interests they pursued or the trends they followed. That new phenomenon in itself constituted an obstacle to the liberation and independence of peoples in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The fact that some Member States supported the right to self-determination of certain peoples and denied that same right to others discredited their political actions and their conduct as States Members of the United Nations.

30. With regard to the serious political problem of Western Sahara, there were two possible ways of approaching and solving it, namely, war, with all its consequences, and negotiation, with all the benefits it implied. He rejected the solution of war and preferred that of dialogue and negotiation, which not only was a responsible approach but also conformed with the principles of the United Nations Charter and those of OAU. That was the approach which OAU had adopted since 1974. When the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic had been proclaimed unilaterally, the Council of Ministers of OAU had no longer considered the question of recognizing a liberation movement in Western Sahara, since that proclamation meant that the peoples concerned had just exercised their right to self-determination and independence and that there could not be a liberation movement to liberate a State which had just declared itself independent.

31. Subsequently, after prolonged conflicts and disputes in the region, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, at its session at Freetown in 1980, had adopted a resolution which for the first time had had practical results,

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(Mr. Kamanda wa Kamanda, Zaire)

thanks to the participation of all the interested parties. The OAU Ad Hoc Committee, after hearing the parties concerned and defining the framework of the solution to the problem, had approved a number of recommendations which had been sent to the Heads of State and Government of OAU and all the parties concerned; consequently, the logical course would be for both the parties concerned and the Heads of State and Government of OAU to study the recommendations and adopt measures in the pertinent forums of OAU with a view to finding a solution to the problem through political negotiation.

32. If the parties concerned were prepared to renounce tactical manoeuvres and agree to participate in the negotiation process initiated by OAU, there was no reason to doubt that that Organization's efforts would be successful. Consequently, Zaire supported the course of peaceful negotiation opened up by OAU and rejected any resolution which would revive old, sterile controversies and delaying tactics.

33. The parties concerned must be given an opportunity to prove their goodwill and readiness to co-operate closely with OAU in resolving that conflict, since so far that Organization was the only one to have adopted a resolution which had resulted in the beginning of a negotiated solution. The United Nations should support the efforts of OAU, since if it did not, it would be the first time that the United Nations had remained aloof from the decisions of a regional organization. If the Fourth Committee considered that the measures adopted by OAU and its Ad Hoc Committee were inappropriate, it should suggest other alternatives. It was to be hoped that the States Members of the United Nations would think seriously about that highly complex question, which was one of the central problems of Africa, and that they would support and engage the efforts of OAU.

34. Mr. HACHEME (Benin) said that if, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples the results achieved were duly assessed, it would be seen that not all the targets set had been attained, since there were still peoples suffering from colonial oppression and neo-colonialist countries had emerged, such as Indonesia in East Timor and Morocco in Western Sahara.

35. Morocco had resorted to a policy of *fait accompli* which was totally inadmissible and contravened all the principles governing international relations that were embodied in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The vast majority of the international community supported the heroic struggle of the Saharan people: 44 countries had recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and the Frente POLISARIO, which were also supported by the majority of the States members of OAU and the non-aligned countries. Mauritania's withdrawal from the conflict had further accentuated the political isolation of Morocco, which refused to accept a political solution of the question of Western Sahara, ignoring all the lessons of history.

36. The problem of Western Sahara was a problem of decolonization, aggravated by an illegal military occupation. Since the open annexation of Western Sahara, the Moroccan Government had sought to convince the world that the origin of the tension in the region was a conflict between two States. Ignoring the resolutions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, which in 1979 had made an appeal

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(Mr. Hacheme, Benin)

that all foreign troops should be evacuated from Western Sahara and that the self-determination of the people of that Territory should be achieved through a referendum, Morocco had further escalated the conflict by occupying the part of the Territory liberated by Mauritania.

37. Benin's position on the conflict over Western Sahara would continue unchanged as long as the situation persisted, because Morocco's policy unquestionably jeopardized the peace and security of the whole African region and seriously compromised the efforts of OAU to find a solution responding to the legitimate aspirations of the Saharan people. That people had achieved great progress in the liberated areas with respect to health, literacy and community involvement.

38. The United Nations, whose position on that question was clear, should urge Morocco to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and OAU and withdraw its troops from the Territory it was occupying illegally.

39. Mr. JAMES (Australia), said that the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa was one of the three programmes to which his country contributed in order to support educational and humanitarian assistance to the refugees of southern Africa and the victims of apartheid. Australia intended to contribute \$US 35,000 to the Programme in 1981, an increase of 10 per cent over the preceding year.

Draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.4/Rev.1

40. Mr. MACKAY (Canada), replying to questions from various delegations on the possible financial implications of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.4/Rev.1, on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, said that that paragraph referred to various policy recommendations of the Advisory Committee contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/35/525), which mentioned the need to hold consultations and establish close co-ordination with the relevant bodies inside and outside the United Nations system, the need for decentralization in some spheres of the decision-making process and the role of UNDP and UNHCR personnel on field missions. It was hoped that those recommendations would improve the management and functioning of the Programme within the limits of existing resources.

41. The CHAIRMAN announced that Guyana, Iraq, the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Tunisia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.4/Rev.1 and suggested that it should be adopted without a vote.

42. Draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.4/Rev.1 was adopted unanimously.

Draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.5

43. The CHAIRMAN announced that Jamaica and Nigeria had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.5, on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and suggested that it should be adopted without a vote.

44. Draft resolution A/C.4/35/L.5 was adopted unanimously.

Draft consensus A/C.4/35/L.10

45. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft consensus on the question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/35/L.10) should be adopted without a vote.

46. It was so decided.

Draft decision contained in document A/35/23 (Part VI), chapter XXVII, paragraph 10

47. Mr. TANAKA (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the draft decision on the Cocos Keeling Islands, said that the Secretary-General wished to inform the Committee that, under the programme budget for the biennium 1980-1981, \$451,000 had been allocated for the activities of the Special Committee. The Secretary-General considered that that amount could cover the expenses of the visiting mission to be sent to the Cocos Keeling Islands.

48. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the draft decision should be adopted without a vote.

49. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.