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President: Mr. Rüdiger von WECHMAR
(Federal Republic of Germany).

In the absence of the President, Mr. Carías (Honduras), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 25

**Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte:
report of the Secretary-General**

1. Mr. MROUDJAE (Comoros) (*interpretation from French*): I should like before beginning my statement, to express sincere sympathy with those who have suffered from the terrible earthquake in Italy. I hope that the people and Government of Italy will find in this the expression of the deep sadness and grief of the Government and people of Comoros, who feel that they share in what has happened to the brotherly people of Italy.

2. The question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte is a familiar one in the Assembly, which has debated it during earlier sessions. Indeed, the General Assembly had this problem before it for the first time at its thirty-first session, just after the Comoros was admitted to the United Nations, and on 12 November last my country celebrated the fifth anniversary of that historic event: five years during which we have been able to assess from within the political maturity of the Organization and also the enormous opportunities it offers for action.

3. I should like to take this opportunity to express the gratitude of the Government and people of the Comoros for the constant support which the Assembly has always given to the Comorians and to the struggle we are carrying on to safeguard our unity and our territorial integrity. The Republic of the Comoros was admitted to the Organization as a State made up of four islands: Anjouan, Grande-Comore, Mayotte and Mohéli, as provided in General Assembly resolution 3385 (XXX). In taking this decision the Assembly based itself particularly on resolution 1514 (XV)—the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which guaranteed, *inter alia*, the national unity and territorial integrity of those countries.

4. France, the former administering Power, always administered the Comoro Archipelago with respect for its geographic, political, social and cultural unity and thus as an entity made up of four islands. Therefore there is good reason to wonder why, when the unity of the Comoros was never challenged during the entire colonial period, one of the component islands, Mayotte, should today suffer a different fate. The frontiers which France always recognized in the Comoros were never established, for simple reasons of administrative ease. They quite simply met the need for France to respect the unity of a territorial whole made up of a homogeneous people, sharing the same language and culture and practising the same religion, that of Islam. Thus that unity was never challenged and on many occasions was solemnly reaffirmed by the highest French authorities right up to the eve of independence. That independence had been meticulously prepared for, so that it might take place smoothly and without surprise, even though fate decided otherwise.

5. Indeed, in December 1972, that is to say, less than three years before the proclamation of independence, the Territorial Assembly of the Comoros, or the Chamber of Deputies, the legislative body at that time within the framework of the status of internal self-government, adopted a resolution whereby it gave a mandate to the local government to study and to negotiate with the French Government the accession of the Comoros to independence.

6. In implementation of this desire of the people, a delegation led by the head of the local government, Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, the present President of the Republic, went to Paris in June 1973. After long and detailed discussions between the two parties, the French and the Comorians, the Joint Declaration on the Accession to Independence of the Comoro Archipelago,¹ was signed and made public. This Declaration, also known as the Agreements of 15 June, after solemnly recognizing the Comoros' destiny of independence, explicitly defined the conditions in which the accession of the Comoros to independence was to take place.

7. First, the period extending from the date of the publication of the Declaration of 15 June 1973 until the referendum on self-determination was described as a period of transition. During that period, certain powers that were within the exclusive competence of the French Government were to be transferred to the Comorian Government, particularly in the areas of management and over-all control of the financial system and of technical assistance personnel, and were to cover all four islands. With regard to other areas, in particular national defence, the currency and diplo-

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23, chap. XI, annex, appendix II.*

macy, the Comorian Government was to be associated in their management.

8. Secondly, the Declaration of 15 June 1973 specified that with the proclamation of the results of the consultation provided for in point No. 1, and if the majority of the population of the Comoros were to vote in favour of independence, the over-all vote in the four islands as a whole would result in giving the Local Assembly sitting at that time the powers of a constituent assembly and in vesting in the president of the local government the powers of a head of State. The Chamber of Deputies would then have the task of drawing up the constitution of the new State, which would afterwards be submitted to the people for ratification.

9. As can clearly be seen, nothing, therefore, was overlooked in that Declaration, the content of which, furthermore, was not left to the discretion of the French and Comorian Governments alone.

10. Some will perhaps recall that in November 1973 the representative of France in the Fourth Committee set forth those facts in describing the harmonious process that was to result therefrom in bringing the Comoros to independence. In his statement, the representative of France went so far as to add, in conclusion that the French Government had a long history of decolonization behind it and it felt that it had given sufficient proof of its desire to place no obstacles in the way of the wishes of its former possessions for independence. There was therefore no need for it to dwell upon its intention to respond faithfully to the aspirations of the Comorian people.² Welcoming this clear and positive stand taken by the French Government, the General Assembly, in resolution 3161 (XXVIII), took note with interest of that statement.

11. One year later, on 22 December 1974, in keeping with the Agreements of 15 June, the population of the Comoros was consulted as to its future. Virtually all Comorians then voted in favour of independence, since the over-all results for the four islands were 95 per cent in favour, with a 97 per cent participation, the highest ever recorded. Thus there was nothing left for the French Parliament to do but endorse, purely and simply, the unequivocal results and in so doing to respect the freely expressed will of the Comorian people. Instead of that, a French law was passed on 3 July 1975 which set new conditions for the accession of the Comoros to independence, using as a pretext the fact that a part of the population of Mayotte had voted against independence.

12. The vote of that minority in no way alters the clear conviction of the Comorians, of Africa and of all peoples that love peace and justice that Mayotte is an integral part of the Comoros, for all the reasons I mentioned earlier. To deny that is as futile as attempting to deny a head of State elected by the majority of his fellow citizens the right to represent all his people.

13. That is why, in the light of the right-about turn of the French Parliament and in accordance with the clearly expressed will of the Comorian people to

accede to international sovereignty, the Government and people of the Comoros unilaterally proclaimed Comorian independence on 6 July 1975. Such an act, in the context of the close relations France and the Comoros had maintained for nearly a century and a half, takes on added importance when one realizes, moreover, that every time a country has had recourse to such a procedure to free itself from the colonial yoke it has found itself exposed to all sorts of reprisals on the part of the former administering Power.

14. In declaring its independence unilaterally the Comorian people were therefore well aware that a period of difficulties and sacrifices for the country was beginning. None the less, one man, at the risk of his life, agreed to shoulder all the consequences of that courageous act: Mr. Abderemane, the current President of the Republic of the Comoros, who thus made his mark once again in Comorian history as the first President of the young State as well as the father of its independence.

15. On 26 October 1975 the French Government announced the enactment of a law in the French Parliament ratifying the independence of the Comoros, but without Mayotte.

16. Those are the facts. They are harsh but real, and I felt bound to recall them objectively in order to shed more light on our debate. In so doing, we only wanted to put the question that concerns us here in its true historical context so that together we may make our dispassionate contribution to settling this painful problem.

17. The Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros has chosen to turn its back resolutely on the past, and as President Abderemane likes to put it: "The Comoros cannot keep looking back. One does not walk backwards into the future."

18. That is why each time we have debated the question of Mayotte my delegation has reaffirmed the will of the Comorian Government to do all it can to bring about the rapid settlement of this problem, in keeping with the aspirations of the Comorian people to preserve the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Comoros. In order to achieve this we have chosen the path of negotiation that the General Assembly and many friendly countries have always recommended to the French and Comorian Governments. We have renewed the relations with France that had been broken off during the three years following the accession of the Comoros to independence, for that situation proved to be ineffective and was contributing in large measure to the increased isolation of Mayotte from its three sister islands.

19. That new approach immediately resulted in a lowering of tension in the Archipelago and the establishment of a climate of peace and trust favourable to negotiations with France.

20. The first move in Franco-Comorian talks was made after the French and Comorian Heads of State met in June 1978 in Paris. During their discussions they in fact affirmed their joint willingness to reconsider in depth the situation prevailing in the Comoros in order to find through dialogue a peaceful solution to the question of Mayotte. By common agreement, therefore, the two parties decided to meet at least

² *Ibid.*, Twenty-eighth Session, Fourth Committee, 2064th meeting, para. 27.

twice each year to study and give effect to the most appropriate measures for achieving that end.

21. In December 1979 in Paris and last April in the Comoros I discussed with the French Minister, Mr. Olivier Stirn, a certain number of steps aimed at the early re-establishment of the economic, trade and cultural relations that had existed in colonial days between Mayotte and the three other Comorian islands.

22. The free movement of people has already become effective, although it is still creating a few technical problems, which we hope to be able to solve with France in the near future. Other measures have also been taken, particularly in respect of the port and airport infrastructures, maritime links and telecommunications; they are designed to give concrete form to the fact that the four Comorian islands naturally complement each other. Moreover, all the operations envisaged in the development plan for the Comoros include Mayotte. A broad programme to improve telephonic links among the islands is now being put into effect, and it too will include Mayotte. Similarly, all the health campaigns, such as the eradication of epidemics, are being conducted simultaneously in the four islands.

23. Indeed, the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros is convinced that a first condition for solving the question of Mayotte is the resumption, without any restrictions, of all the human, economic, social, cultural and political relations that have always existed between the various parts of the Comorian State.

24. In a desire to make Mayotte's return to the Comorian Republic harmonious, the authorities of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros have also been working to establish a favourable framework for welcoming Mayotte, both nationally and at the socio-economic and political levels. Thus, the Comorian people has adopted for the new State a federal-type Constitution which, while respecting the unity of the Republic, gives each island its own administrative autonomy. That measure was necessary to meet the wish of the Comorians of Mayotte to have more autonomy, within the Republic, in the management of their administrative affairs. In keeping with the new Constitution, therefore, each island is placed under the responsibility of a governor who comes from that island and who is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year period. Under that provision, our brothers from Mayotte are therefore assured that as soon as they return to the Comorian Republic they will be able to enjoy the same rights—particularly that of managing their administrative affairs, in the framework of respect for the Republic—as their brothers in Anjouan, Grande-Comore and Mohéli.

25. Thus, an adequate framework now exists for Mayotte's return to the great Comorian family, and all the conditions are there for a frank and constructive dialogue with France.

26. Those are the elements of the strategy and the course that the new Comorian authorities have chosen in order to find as quickly as possible a worthy solution to the question of Mayotte that will be in keeping with the aspirations of the Comorian people and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

27. Those who are unaware of the facts of the Comorian question and of the real context in which that question must be placed do not understand—or, rather, they pretend that they do not understand—that it is in no one's interest for this conflict to be perpetuated. And those who see weakening or resignation in that attitude are quite mistaken. History proves that the Comorian people can be firm when that is necessary. They demonstrated this on 6 July 1975, when the Comoros acceded to independence.

28. It is now quite simply a matter of being realistic, of analysing the situation objectively and of ensuring that we do not depart from the goal envisaged.

29. We are happy that so far the struggle for the liberation of Mayotte has been waged without a drop of blood being shed on either side. That is a source of pride and an achievement that the authorities of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros are determined to preserve; for the Comorian people hope to be able to continue to wage, alongside the political struggle, another and no less important struggle: for economic development. When one is aware of the modest technical and financial means of the young Comorian State, one can better understand that such a course entails sacrifice and deprivation.

30. But I wish to repeat that, whatever the price to be paid, nothing can make the Comorians give up their claim to the most elementary right of an independent people—that is, the right freely to exercise its full and total sovereignty and integrity over all its national territory.

31. Mayotte is a part of Comorian territory. We have always affirmed that. We shall continue to do so, because our struggle is just. That is why the international community, and most particularly Africa, has constantly demonstrated its solidarity with us in this matter.

32. As the Assembly is no doubt aware, the Organization of African Unity [OAU] established a Committee of Seven on the Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte to follow closely the developments in this question and entrusted in with studying, under the aegis of the Secretary-General, any strategy and all measures that would encourage a settlement. In accordance with that mandate, the Committee met in the Comoros in September 1977. In its programme of action, it recommended in particular the path of negotiation to reach a settlement.

33. Last June, at Freetown, the Council of Ministers of the OAU, at its thirty-fifth ordinary session, once again requested the Committee of Seven to meet in Moroni before the thirty-seventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, to take stock of the situation and to examine, in co-operation with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the measures likely to speed up the peaceful settlement of this question [see A/35/463 and Corr.1, annex I].

34. That is how the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte stands today.

35. My delegation, along with some others, has submitted a draft resolution [A/35/L.31 and Add.1] to the Assembly to confirm our discussion of this question. It is based on the relevant resolutions adopted by the

Organization in the past. We hope that the Assembly will adopt it unanimously.

36. Mr. SARRE (Senegal) (*interpretation from French*): Last year, during the discussion of the question before the Assembly today, my delegation drew attention to certain principles and commitments which, if respected and put into effect, should lead to a solution satisfactory to all the parties concerned.³ In our view, this involved the application of resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. It involves, also, the application of a principle reaffirmed in the charter of the OAU: the inviolability of colonial frontiers. Finally, it involves commitments undertaken by the parties concerned to settle this question in a spirit of mutual understanding.

37. Senegal, which has the advantage of enjoying very good relations both with France and with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, welcomes the talks undertaken between the two parties in order to find a just and equitable solution to this question, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 3385 (XXX).

38. In conformity with our practice in international relations, we encourage the parties to engage in a dialogue in order to overcome misunderstandings and to promote a solution—which, of course, requires political will.

39. As was shown by the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Comoros, the negotiations foresee and provide for a future of co-operation, as can be seen also from the various financial and economic agreements concluded in those areas between the Governments of the Comoros and France.

40. We are also happy to note that the dialogue between the two parties is beginning and is producing a climate of confidence. We hope that it will be possible to overcome all the technical difficulties, so that the unity of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros may be restored. In any case, my delegation believes that the contacts between the two parties should be maintained and encouraged. My delegation also feels that it is the duty of the United Nations to help the OAU in the search through its Committee of Seven for appropriate measures to promote a settlement of the question of Mayotte.

41. My delegation will continue to support the praiseworthy efforts of the parties concerned in their search for a just and lasting settlement of the question of Mayotte.

42. Mr. LEPRETTE (France) (*interpretation from French*): A tragedy has just struck Italy. I should therefore like, before I begin my statement, to express my delegation's deep sympathy to the Italian people—our neighbour, our friend and our ally.

43. The facts in the case at present before us are not as simple as some pretend to believe. History has forged links among the various components of the Comoro Archipelago, but it has also forced links between France and each of the component parts of that archipelago. Although geography seems to

create a natural framework within which certain problems should be resolved, there are many examples in the world where borders depend on the will of men. It is precisely respect for that will that has guided France in connexion with Mayotte.

44. France bowed to the cardinal rule of self-determination and allowed the inhabitants of the various islands of the archipelago, through democratic elections, freely to choose their destiny. Everybody here is familiar with the circumstances in which the people of Mayotte, in full freedom, stated different views in 1974 and 1976 from the people of the other islands. It is hardly necessary for me to describe those events again, but the facts are there and they entail certain consequences.

45. The inclusion of item 25 in the agenda constitutes interference in the internal affairs of France and is contrary to the relevant provisions of the Charter. My delegation could not but oppose that decision, and we did so in the 1st meeting of the General Committee on 17 September. If we are taking part today in this debate—for which there is no justification—it is in the interest of the truth and so as to provide the Assembly with information on which it can base its decision. We are not doing so in a polemic spirit. We should be pleased if reason prevailed over the temptations of sterile confrontation.

46. History shows that for a century France and the Comoros shared a common destiny. The first French settlements in Mayotte go back to 1843; contacts with the other islands came later.

47. While undergoing great change and while being influenced like other countries by new ideas, the Comoros kept their identity throughout the period. The four islands developed smoothly and without interruption. When the time for independence came the French Government, far from wishing to dissociate itself from Territories which it had brought together under a single unique administration, thought instead in terms of international sovereignty for a single State made up of four islands. As it happened, the Mahorais—for reasons that are no mystery—clearly expressed in their votes their unwillingness to belong to the Republic of the Comoros at the time of independence. In keeping with the democratic institutions which govern France, Mayotte decided to remain within the French Republic, just as freely as Mohéli, Anjouan and Grande-Comore chose independence.

48. Some have held that the principle of territorial integrity was somehow transgressed. Need we observe that those who criticize that procedure here complain that it has not been applied elsewhere? The only reliable criterion is of course the will of the peoples.

49. I shall mention only the theory of administrative attachment which, like geography, can have contradictory consequences. The Comoros and Madagascar, for example, for a certain period of time were under the same administrative authority.

50. Despite these principles, these legal facts, these historical and geographical realities, the fact remains that the four islands of the archipelago have much in common. Since the independence of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros, the French Government has refrained from any action whatsoever which

³ *Ibid.*, Thirty-fourth Session, Plenary Meetings, 92nd meeting, paras. 1-14.

might have an adverse effect on the complementary nature of the islands of the archipelago.

51. The fact remains, however, that France cannot reject a community which has chosen to remain French and which today still has full freedom of choice. I would recall that indeed the law of 24 December 1976 granted Mayotte a special status which does not close the door to any possibility, and that that status was reaffirmed by the law of 22 December 1979.

52. I have already said that goodwill, when it is genuine, makes it possible to overcome the greatest difficulties. What has been missing for all too long in the matter before us is mutual understanding, co-operation and confidence. For its part, France continues to be prepared to seek grounds for understanding with the Comoros, as a number of events have shown since last year, in the area of relations between the two countries. The Foreign Minister of the Comoros has just reminded us of the great importance of those events. The report of the Secretary-General on agenda item 25 [A/35/467] gives precise information in this regard. I shall mention just one of those measures adopted last year the importance of which will be obvious to everyone, and that is the abolition of visas for the movement of persons between the various islands of the archipelago.

53. I imagine that everyone here will welcome the fact that talks and conversations in recent months have breathed new life into Franco-Comorian co-operation. They have created a propitious atmosphere for the settlement of outstanding questions from which France and the Comoros, as well as Mayotte, stand to gain a great deal.

54. Mr. KOH (Singapore): The only excuse which my delegation will offer for speaking on this item is that my Government maintains the most friendly and co-operative relations with the Governments of both the Comoros and France. We wish to make a very brief statement on this item in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding with the Government of France.

55. We have before us a draft resolution [A/35/L.31 and Add.1]. My delegation will, along with the overwhelming majority of our colleagues from the third world, and from the non-aligned movement in particular, vote in favour of that draft resolution.

56. Why will we do so? We will do so on the ground that when a colonial Territory, such as the Comorian Archipelago, which has been administered as one integral unit by the colonial Power evolves to independence it should do as an integral unit and not be dismembered.

57. The preceding speaker, the representative of France, has rightly reminded us that in a free referendum the people of the island of Mayotte voted to remain with France and not to join the other three islands of the archipelago in independence. The question of principle before the Assembly is, therefore, whether the principle of self-determination should apply only to the population of a colonial entity as a whole, or whether it should also apply to segments of it. The conflict has sometimes been characterized as a conflict between territorial integrity and self-determination.

58. I think I would be correct if I said that, in the view of most countries of the third world, the principle of self-determination should apply to the population of a colonial entity as a whole, and not to some parts of it. If that were not so it could lead to the dismemberment of many colonial Territories, which would not be a desirable consequence.

59. It is for that reason that my delegation will support the draft resolution, and I hope that this explanation will at least be understood by our French colleague, even if he does not find it persuasive.

60. Before I conclude, I want to make reference to the fact that in the past year constructive talks have taken place between the Government of France and the Government of the Comoros, which we welcome. We hope that those talks will continue. We should also like to appeal to the Government of the Comoros to have similar talks with the leaders of the island of Mayotte and to seek a reconciliation with them. It seems to me that, in order that the island of Mayotte may resume its rightful place within the nation of the Comoros, the leaders of the Government of the Comoros must convince the people of the island of Mayotte that it is in their long-term interests for it to do so.

61. Mr. KAMANDA wa KAMANDA (Zaire) (*interpretation from French*): First of all, I wish to convey the deep sympathy of the Government and delegation of the Republic of Zaire to the Government and people of Italy in the tragedy which has overtaken them.

62. As a friend of France and the Republic of the Comoros, the Republic of Zaire cannot fail to be sympathetic to those two countries in the problem confronting them and to hope that they will reach a settlement of that problem that will safeguard both the fine relations of co-operation they have always enjoyed and respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

63. In this connexion, the delegation of Zaire would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the clarity of his report on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. The delegation of Zaire would also like to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Comoros for the useful supplementary information he has kindly given us to facilitate our understanding and appreciation of this problem.

64. The delegation of Zaire also welcomes the talks that have taken place between the Governments of France and the Comoros in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular, General Assembly resolution 34/69 of 6 December 1979, on the unity and territorial integrity of the archipelago of the Comoros.

65. My delegation is especially pleased to learn that in the course of work between the French and Comorian delegations in Moroni concrete steps were agreed on for immediate implementation and that those measures are designed to develop the infrastructures among the four islands of the archipelago, to develop communications and co-ordinate customs tariffs in order to translate into reality the natural complementary nature of the four islands of the archipelago. This proves, if proof were needed, that the

two sides are ready and willing to settle this matter through negotiation. The French Government's pledge, to the satisfaction of the Comorian side, to facilitate and promote the free movement of persons between Mayotte and the other islands of the Comoro Archipelago is an extremely encouraging sign.

66. The Republic of Zaire has always supported and defended the sovereignty of the people of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte. At this stage, therefore, we would urge the Governments of France and the Comoros to continue the talks that have already begun and to explore every possibility in the negotiations in order to find a prompt and just solution in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and in the interests, of course, of both parties.

67. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The General Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/35/L.31 and Add.1. I call on the representative of France, who wishes to speak in explanation of vote before the vote.

68. Mr. LEPRETTE (France) (*interpretation from French*): I would first recall that the inclusion of item 25 in the agenda was contrary to Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter. The present debate should not be taking place, and my delegation will in no way consider itself bound by any decisions that may be adopted under this item.

69. The draft resolution is, in its essential provisions, a mere restatement of resolution 34/69, which my delegation voted against.

70. This is the case particularly as regards operative paragraph 1 of the present draft resolution.

71. For the reasons I have just stated my delegation will have no choice other than to vote against the draft resolution. It regrets that the sponsors did not propose a more constructive outcome to this debate, the pointless nature of which seems quite clear to us.

72. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/35/L.31 and Add.1. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Co-

lombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, 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, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: France.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Draft resolution A/35/L.31 and Add.1 was adopted by 100 votes to 1, with 26 abstentions (resolution 35/43).⁴

73. The PRESIDENT (*interpretation from Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Australia, who wishes to explain his vote.

74. Mr. CHAN (Australia): Australia abstained in the vote on the draft resolution. This vote should not be taken as affecting our long-standing view that colonial Territories should be brought to independence on the basis of unity and territorial integrity.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

⁴ The delegations of Bangladesh, Guyana and the United Republic of Cameroon subsequently informed the Secretariat that they wished to have their votes recorded as having been in favour of the draft resolution.