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FOURTH COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
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at 7.05 p.m.
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. JAMAL (Qatar)

CONTENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. ANWAR EL SADAT, PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM 94: 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 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. ANWAR EL SADAT, PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

1. On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Anwar El Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/36/1; A/C.4/36/L.1)

2. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to his note (A/C.4/36/L.1) containing a suggested time-table for consideration of the items allocated to the Committee. As indicated in subparagraphs 5 (b) and (c), the suggested time-table was subject to modification should developments so warrant. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted the suggestions contained in that document.

3. It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

Question of East Timor (A/C.4/36/2 and Add.1-3, A/C.4/36/5)

4. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider four communications relating to the question of East Timor (A/C.4/36/2 and Add.1-3) and drew attention to the letter addressed to him by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations (A/C.4/36/5).

5. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia), referring to the request made by certain individuals and organizations to appear before the Committee as petitioners under item 93, drew the Committee's attention to his Government's position as stated in the letter of the Permanent Representative of Indonesia (A/C.4/36/5).

6. As indicated in that letter, the process of decolonization in East Timor had been carried out in full conformity with the provisions of the Charter and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV). The right to self-determination had been exercised in a free and democratic manner by the people of East Timor in accordance with their own traditional practices and customs. The decision to be integrated with the Republic of Indonesia had been conveyed to the Government of Indonesia by duly elected representatives of the people of East Timor and in accordance with the legislative procedures of the Republic of Indonesia. Integration was therefore fully in keeping with the exercise of the right of self-determination.

7. It was therefore obvious that the granting of a hearing to the petitioners would serve no useful purpose and would constitute interference in the internal

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(Mr. Wayarabi, Indonesia)

affairs of a sovereign State, in violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter. His delegation had strongly opposed the inclusion of the item on East Timor in the agenda and was equally opposed to the request of the petitioners to be heard under it.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request.

9. It was so decided.

Question of Bermuda (A/C.4/36/3)

10. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the communication concerning the question of Bermuda (A/C.4/36/3). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request.

11. It was so decided.

Question of Western Sahara (A/36/512-S/14692, A/C.4/36/4 and Add.1)

12. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the two requests for hearings on the question of Western Sahara (A/C.4/36/4 and Add.1).

13. Mr. TAIEB (Morocco) said that his Government's position with respect to hearings on the question of Western Sahara was well known and was not about to change, particularly since the problem was now in the process of solution as a result of the recent establishment by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) of an Implementation Committee on Western Sahara. That Committee, consisting of seven heads of African States, had already begun to implement a solution. He drew attention in that connexion to document A/36/512-S/14692. His delegation therefore saw no point whatsoever in granting the petitioners a hearing.

14. The request from the Frente POLISARIO (A/C.4/36/4) was irrelevant because it contributed nothing new. As for the letter from the Association des Amis de la République Arabe Sahraouie Démocratique (A/C.4/36/4/Add.1), it would merely complicate the work of the Implementation Committee. He drew attention to the second paragraph of the letter and its reference to France's direct interest in the dispute because of its close relations with the States of the Maghreb region and the region's geographical proximity to Europe, and said that he was surprised that such a document could have ever reached the Fourth Committee. The organization even included ministers of the French Government. He therefore urged that the request for a hearing should be denied.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request.

16. It was so decided.

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AGENDA ITEM 94: 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 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/36/23) (Part III); A/AC.109/652 and Corr.1, 655, 656, 658)

17. Mr. SCHROETER (German Democratic Republic) noted that the various United Nations resolutions and declarations endorsing the right of all peoples to full self-determination and sovereignty over their natural resources and calling for an end to colonial oppression and racism had still not been fully implemented. The major responsibility for that situation lay with the reckless exploitation of dependent countries by imperialist transnational corporations which placed their own profits ahead of the legitimate interests of the peoples. Equal responsibility was borne by the States which had jurisdiction over those corporations: while propagating spurious codes of conduct for such corporations, they had not only failed to curb their activities but even encouraged them to increase their investments in dependent countries in order to extract yet higher profits. Those States did nothing to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions and flouted the wish of dependent peoples for self-determination.

18. That was particularly so in southern Africa, where their complicity with the apartheid régime had contributed to the failure of United Nations efforts to implement that right in the case of the Namibian people and to eliminate apartheid in South Africa. There was ample evidence of extensive collaboration which enabled South Africa to strengthen its industrial and military potential through increased foreign investments, loans and trade, especially with the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom. The United States and other NATO countries had even enabled South Africa to start its own nuclear arms programme.

19. The activities of imperialist corporations in southern Africa not only impeded implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples but also helped South Africa pursue its policy of violating peace, committing acts of State terrorism and launching aggression against sovereign African States. In Namibia as well, the pursuit of economic gain by western corporations was an important factor influencing imperialist Powers in their efforts to maintain the colonial status of the country. Their intentions were revealed with particular clarity in their efforts to delay implementation of the Security Council decisions on Namibia and in their attempts to force the Namibian people to accept further unrestricted exploitation of the country even after it achieved independence.

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(Mr. Schroeter, German
Democratic Republic)

20. Foreign corporations also played a dominant role in the economies of the so-called small colonial Territories, which were almost completely under their control. With the support of the colonial administrations, they pillaged the natural resources of those countries, prevented their economies from achieving balanced development and thereby increased their dependence on the colonial Powers, which violated their obligation to prepare those peoples for independence.

21. The victims of those practices were no longer prepared to accept their situation and the Committee joined them in condemning their exploitation by transnational corporations. It must oppose those practices even more vigorously, however, and live up to its responsibility to the peoples of the colonially-oppressed Territories.

22. The Berlin Declaration, unanimously adopted at the recent International Seminar on Publicity and Role of Mass Media in the International Mobilization against Apartheid was fully justified in its call for exposure of the various kinds of support given to the apartheid régime by certain Western Powers and transnational corporations. His Government proposed that the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations should compile a register of the profits which transnational corporations derived from the plundering of colonial Territories in order to unmask that exploitation.

23. His delegation condemned the illegal practices of those corporations and favoured international isolation of the apartheid régime. It supported the imposition of effective sanctions against South Africa in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter and was unswerving in its solidarity with the just liberation struggle of the peoples in Namibia and South Africa under the leadership of their national liberation movements.

24. Mrs. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone) said it was a well-known fact that South Africa's intransigence and arrogant defiance of world opinion on the question of Namibia and on the abhorrent system of apartheid had continued unabated because of the support of certain countries which depended on South Africa for economic and other benefits. Such States had shamelessly misused the veto in the Security Council and had cast negative votes in the General Assembly on resolutions calling for economic sanctions against South Africa because of its illegal colonial occupation of Namibia and its apartheid policy.

25. Namibia's rich mineral and marine resources and abundant cheap African labour continued to be exploited for the benefit of certain Western Governments and transnational corporations. South Africa's inhuman policy of apartheid had relegated the indigenous people of that country to the status of second-class citizens in their own land. Only its allies could exert sufficient leverage on

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(Mrs. Joka-Bangura, Sierra Leone)

South Africa to change its ways. Colonialism and apartheid would therefore continue in Namibia and South Africa, since the behaviour of those allies indicated that they valued economic and material benefits above human rights and dignity and the inalienable right of the people of those two countries to self-determination.

26. On the question of small Territories, the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee of 24 had always emphasized the need to diversify the economies of such Territories. Her delegation welcomed the efforts which had been made in that direction but nevertheless could not approve of any diversification that would enslave the inhabitants and thereby delay the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

27. In that connexion, according to document A/AC.109/658, paragraph 22, the territorial Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands was considering a proposal for the construction of an oil refinery on West Caicos by a Norway-based company at an estimated cost of \$US 600 million. During the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held in Paris in May 1981 under the joint auspices of the United Nations and OAU, eyewitnesses had reported how certain States had been using the small dependent Territories as transshipment areas for oil and arms to South Africa. Her delegation would hope that the proposed refinery on West Caicos, while providing employment and other benefits to the inhabitants, would not produce oil that would find its way to South Africa. If that were to happen, it would be very difficult for those islands to gain independence.

28. Her delegation appreciated the value of investments which would contribute to the economic stability and viability of those Territories and would prepare them for independence. Such investments might provide employment, health, education and other facilities for the colonial peoples of small Territories; if, however, they did not contribute to the political and economic preparedness of the people concerned, then economic activities and other interests would remain a deterrent to self-determination.

29. Mr. ZUBERI (Pakistan) said that, as the momentum of the United Nations campaign for the independence of colonial countries and Namibia and for the ending of apartheid and racial discrimination had increased, so had the economic exploitation of colonial peoples and the plunder of the natural resources of their homelands accelerated. Foreign investments in South Africa and Namibia had increased year by year, if only through the reinvestment of earnings. The collaboration of the corporations of five Western countries had helped to stabilize the racist régime in South Africa and had brought little or no benefit to the people whose homelands were being plundered. Over 32 foreign companies, based mainly in Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom, had a stranglehold on Namibia's economy. During 1980, European banks and insurance companies had become more heavily involved in that Territory. In order to protect their investments and future opportunities

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(Mr. Zuberi, Pakistan)

for huge profits, such foreign interests had covertly and sometimes overtly supported South Africa's illegal and immoral occupation of Namibia.

30. Namibia's strategic minerals, particularly uranium, furnished the main reason for South Africa's refusal to permit Namibia to become independent. Namibia's current production rate of 500 metric tons of uranium could be increased to 15,000 metric tons by 1998, making Namibia the fourth largest producer after Australia, the United States and Canada. South African control over such a large proportion of world uranium production would give it considerable influence over the price of uranium and hence over the policies of Western countries. South Africa was therefore in a position to continue its policy of apartheid and its occupation of Namibia.

31. Moreover, encouraged by the attitude of its friends, South Africa was using Namibian Territory for unprovoked aggression against Angola and for the inhuman repression of the South West Africa People's Organization.

32. Pakistan associated itself with the international condemnation of the South African racist régime for its recent aggression against Angola, for its deplorable apartheid policy and for its persistent defiance of United Nations decisions. The time had come to take decisive steps to free Namibia and to put an end to apartheid. At its eighth emergency special session, held in September 1981, the General Assembly had endorsed the international consensus concerning Security Council resolution 435 (1978) as well as the need for the immediate implementation of the agreed independence plan. It was essential to set a date for the independence of Namibia and, in order to ensure that such a date was met, to intensify measures against foreign economic and other interests which were thwarting the independence of Namibia and all other Territories under colonial rule.

33. The contact group on Namibia comprised five Western countries whose nationals and corporate bodies were operating enterprises in Namibia and South Africa and earning huge profits. Those countries had failed to implement General Assembly resolution 35/28, paragraph 11, which had called upon all Governments which had not yet done so to take legislative and administrative measures to put an end to such activities.

34. It was therefore not surprising that the stated intention of the contact group to begin discussions on constitutional principles likely to secure the confidence of all concerned had given rise to fears that the independence plan might run into new difficulties, thus allowing more time for the economic exploitation of the Territory by the nationals and corporations of those countries. South Africa must withdraw from Namibia and an end must be put to the plunder of the territory's resources by the specified date.

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35. Mr. RAMADAN (Egypt) thanked the members of the Committee for their tributes to the memory of the late President Anwar El Sadat. The late President had devoted his life to the achievement of peace and he had lost his life in the service of peace. The most appropriate tribute to his memory would be that the United Nations should endeavour to fulfil the principles for which he had lived; in that work the Fourth Committee could play an important role.

The meeting rose at noon.