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Chairman: Mr. JAMAL (Qatar)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

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)

1. Mr. SANGSOMSAK (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that to eliminate colonialism it was necessary to put an end to the scandalous activities of the transnational corporations and the economic monopoly of the capitalist Powers, which were a serious obstacle to the independence of the colonial Territories.
2. Namibia, the best case in point, had not achieved independence as scheduled, because South Africa and its Western allies felt that the settlement plan outlined in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) did not satisfactorily protect their economic interests there. Hence the recent disquieting but altogether predictable attempts purportedly to strengthen that resolution on constitutional grounds, which were in reality attempts to ensure untrammelled exploitation of the Namibian people and their resources by foreign economic interests.
3. Document A/AC.109/656 clearly set forth the details of the shameless exploitation of Namibia by South Africa and foreign economic interests, especially in the mining sector where production figures were double those of the average national growth rate. The transnational corporations, it should be noted, were investing their vast capital only in sectors guaranteeing huge immediate profits, ignoring all others, and had not applied their investments to the creation of an infrastructure for a durable and well-balanced development of the Territory.
4. Under apartheid, the Africans of Namibia were considered simply as cheap labour and deprived by the unjust economic system of any right to the enormous profits reaped, and those, moreover, were never reinvested in the Territory itself. His delegation endorsed the proposal by the representative of the German Democratic Republic to have the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations determine what profits were made by foreign corporations in dependent Territories and publicize the results. The hollowness of the thesis maintained by certain Western and other countries that foreign economic activities contributed positively to the economic development of dependent Territories was exposed by the situation in Namibia, where such activities had been disastrous for the African population.
5. That was equally true in other, dependent Territories. Neither geographic, demographic nor strategic factors should serve as a pretext for administering Powers to justify the presence of foreign economic interests and military bases in the territories in their charge. Experience had shown that such interests and

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(Mr. Sangsomsak, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

bases had in all cases impeded decolonization and created only temporary employment and strictly dependent economies.

6. The only way for colonial Territories to achieve rapid independence was through the immediate cessation of all foreign economic activities and the dismantling of all military bases in those Territories. All States which supported the rights of colonial peoples should immediately end any co-operation with South Africa, support mandatory sanctions against it and take effective measures to implement United Nations resolutions in that regard.

7. Mr. KRISHNA MURTHY (India) said that the presence of Belize and Vanuatu as Members of the United Nations was a matter of special pride to the Committee, and their experience would be of great value in the Committee's efforts to eliminate colonialism and exploitation.

8. The national resurgence in Asia, Africa and Latin America had all but wiped out colonialism in the course of the century, but the ruthless and unjust system had managed to survive in a few Territories, notably in southern Africa. The racial domination which prevailed in South Africa and Namibia was an exploitation of the majority by the few, and the racist régime had the political and material support of certain countries which derived economic advantages from their exploitation of the resources of Namibia. A review of the activities of transnational corporations in the Territory indicated the nature and extent of the involvement of foreign economic interests. Surprisingly, South Africa's partners saw no contradiction between their own position that the occupation of Namibia was illegal and their contention that doing business with the illegal régime was in order. The implementation of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia could be expected only when South Africa and its partners reconciled themselves to giving up their privileged position there.

9. The economic activities of administering Powers in other Non-Self-Governing Territories also left much to be desired, although their exploitation was less blatant. Their activities were often dictated by considerations other than the welfare of the people of the Territories, but temporary benefits had deceived the people into thinking that their future lay in the perpetuation of the colonial relationship. A process of education regarding the value of self-reliance had to be initiated by the administering Powers. It was essential to ensure that the right of the peoples of dependent Territories to use their natural resources in their own interests was properly protected, and to put an end to the exploitation of labour and an unjust international division of labour. Administering Powers could no longer be permitted to treat all the resources and the entire population of a colony merely as instruments to further their own ambitions.

10. The military activities of colonial Powers also stood in the way of independence. South Africa's intensified militarization of Namibia and its use of Namibian territory as a base for armed aggression against neighbouring States, together with its clandestine acquisition of nuclear weapons, were already posing a threat to international peace and security. India stood in total opposition to

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(Mr. Krishna Murthy, India)

the apartheid régime and unconditionally supported not only the arms embargo called for in Security Council resolution 418 (1977) but also the demand of the non-aligned countries for the imposition of mandatory economic sanctions. India had imposed voluntary economic and diplomatic sanctions against South Africa as early as 1946, being one of the first countries to do so.

11. The military activities of administering Powers, particularly the maintenance of military bases, in small Territories, were ultimately detrimental to the interests of the local population and made them targets for attack by competing Powers. The administering Powers should instead make increased investments in the productive sectors of the economy.

12. The United Nations had repeatedly called for an end to the exploitative activities of colonial Powers so that the people of dependent Territories could exercise sovereignty over their own land and resources. It should continue to work resolutely to that end.

13. Mr. LIANG Yfan (China) said that imperialists, colonialists and racists had immense economic interests in Namibia and South Africa and used transnational corporations to exploit the indigenous people and plunder their natural resources. South African and other foreign economic interests monopolized Namibia's rich minerals, of which they exported vast quantities. The annual output of Namibian uranium was nearly double that of South Africa and about one sixth of the total output of uranium in the Western world. Namibia's fisheries had suffered frenzied plundering. In South Africa, too, foreign economic interests and transnational corporations controlled the economic lifeliness of the nation.

14. The imperialists and colonialists were doing their utmost to support the South African racists in their policies of apartheid and racial discrimination, which brought the masses of black people to extreme poverty and suffering. The South African régime had dared to violate the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council and persisted in their illegal occupation of Namibia only because they were supported by imperialism and foreign economic interests which were impeding the independence of the Namibian people and the elimination of apartheid and racial discrimination in Namibia and South Africa. The repeated demand of African and Third World States for the countries concerned to end all ties with the South African régime should be given full support.

15. The United Nations Charter and many General Assembly resolutions clearly stated that the people of dependent Territories were entitled to the inalienable right of self-determination and independence, but the people of Southern Africa were unable to enjoy the rich resources of their own land. The super-Powers were stepping up their efforts to grasp southern Africa for themselves in their rivalry for world hegemony. The first step towards re-establishing the people's control over their own natural resources would be to persist in tireless struggle for national independence and liberation.

(Mr. Liang Yfan, China)

16. The just struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa was gaining increasing international support. In 1981, the demand for an end to the occupation of Namibia and to the South African régime's policies of apartheid and racial discrimination had been reflected in declarations and resolutions adopted at a series of international meetings, including the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of non-aligned countries, the resumed thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, the eighteenth session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the eight emergency special session of the General Assembly. China was convinced that, with the support of the African States and the international community, the people of Namibia and South Africa would surely win their independence. The Chinese Government and people had always supported the people of Namibia and South Africa, adhered strictly to the principle of having no political, economic or trade relations with the South African racist régime and supported the demand of the African States for effective sanctions against that régime

17. Mr. ABDELWAHAB (Sudan) expressed his country's condolences to Egypt on the death of President Sadat. Close ties existed between the people of the Sudan and the people of Egypt. He extended his country's congratulations to the delegations of Vanuatu and Belize. Their presence was a clear proof of the fact that the Organization, through the Committee, was making headway towards the elimination of colonialism.

18. The colonial Powers were disregarding United Nations resolutions, particularly those adopted on the item under consideration, and were responsible for the non-implementation of the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2621 (XXV) and 28/35.

19. South Africa was continuing to plunder the natural resources of Namibia, disregarding the legitimate interests of the Namibian people, and had recently extended the territorial waters of Namibia and proclaimed an economic zone facing Namibian shores. In addition, the transnational corporations exported uranium and other resources of the area, in violation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia.

20. A new fact had emerged with regard to Israel's co-operation with South Africa in the nuclear field and was reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on Israeli nuclear armaments (A/36/431). Paragraph 44 of that report stated that it was possible that South Africa had supplied additional quantities of natural uranium to Israel without any public acknowledgement of such sales.

21. The activities considered under item 94 were grounds for much concern to Members of the United Nations. The final communiqué issued by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi in February 1981, the relevant discussions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary

(Mr. Abdelwahab, Sudan)

session, held at Nairobi in June 1981 and the Special Declaration on Namibia adopted by the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa, held in Paris in May 1981, had all reaffirmed that the natural resources of all regions still under colonial and racist domination were the heritage of the peoples of those regions and that exploitation of those resources by foreign economic interests was a direct violation of the rights of peoples, and of the principles of the United Nations Charter and of all relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

22. The Sudan followed with extreme concern the deterioration of the situation in southern Africa, the continued oppression of the vast majority by the racist Pretoria régime and the plundering of Namibia's natural resources. It was concerned also at the continued collaboration in the nuclear field between the Pretoria régime and the zionist régime in Tel Aviv. He emphasized the dangers of the Pretoria régime's policy of so-called separate development and gradual transformation. The Pretoria régime was thereby seeking to persuade the international community that an improvement was taking place in its inhumane policies. The Sudan's rejection of those policies stemmed from its deep comprehension of the wishes of the racist minority in South Africa and its conviction that the new legislation adopted by South Africa constituted only marginal changes which did not affect the essence of the hateful system of apartheid, which made the indigenous inhabitants strangers in their own land.

23. All States must halt all economic, financial or trade relations with the minority régime in South Africa and must refrain from entering into any relations with South Africa, because such relations would support the continuation of South Africa in its illegal occupation of Namibia.

24. Mr. SEIFU (Ethiopia) said it was an incontrovertible fact that, without the activities of foreign economic and other interests in southern Africa, the racist régime in Pretoria would have long been evicted from Namibia and the system of apartheid eliminated from South Africa. That was why Africa continued to call for comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. It was regrettable that those calls had not received the response they deserved and were being countered by the ever-increasing involvement of transnational corporations in both South Africa and Namibia in defiance of international public opinion and the just aspirations of the oppressed masses of those countries. That involvement could only be a consequence of the relationship between the apartheid régime and imperialism.

25. The Pretoria régime had converted the black masses of both countries into a reservoir of cheap labour for exploitation by the transnational corporations, and both territories had been put at the disposal of those corporations for the exploitation of their natural resources. In return, the corporations, were propping up the South African economy through investment, trade, loans and credits, and the transfer of technological know-how. Foreign investments accounted for approximately one third of the growth in South Africa's economy and the rate of return on them was estimated to be among the highest in the world.

(Mr. Seifu, Ethiopia)

26. The provision of capital and sophisticated technology by the transnational corporations in return for the super profits reaped from southern Africa had enabled Pretoria to build a huge war machine which helped keep the peoples of Namibia and South Africa in servitude and was used to violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent African States. Certain Western Governments also gave Pretoria political support to safeguard the interests of the transnational corporations and ensure the continued availability of southern Africa's mineral resources to the economy of the capitalist world.

27. The Western corporations and Governments could impede but not prevent the elimination of colonialism and racism in southern Africa. If they withdrew their support of the South African régime, independence could undoubtedly be achieved sooner, and economic relations between the West and southern Africa could also be better served in the long run. Current attempts to formulate so-called codes of conduct for transnational corporations could not meet the demands of the oppressed masses; at best, they would only temporarily embellish the ugly face of colonialism and apartheid. Continued collaboration with Pretoria would only jeopardize the Western countries' long-term relations with the peoples of Namibia and South Africa and their investments in those countries as the armed liberation struggle intensified. The argument by those who reaped super-profits from their investments that economic sanctions would hurt blacks more than whites was clearly self-serving and had been rejected by the liberation movements, which alone could speak for the masses.

28. His delegation therefore called once more on the Security Council to discharge its moral and legal obligations by immediately imposing comprehensive and mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa. Until that happened it was incumbent upon all States to implement, individually or collectively, the comprehensive programme of sanctions outlined by the Paris International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa.

29. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that all the years that had elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant instruments had had no real effect on the elimination of colonial domination in Namibia and the restoration of their rights to the people of southern Africa. Serious consideration should be given to increasing the effectiveness of the resolutions that would be put before the Committee for adoption if the Committee wished to enhance the credibility of the United Nations.

30. The provisions of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council remained a dead letter because the racist Pretoria Government insisted on defying the will of the international community. The international community was unable to compel the racist régime to end its illegal occupation of Namibia, because the Security Council was unable to impose comprehensive sanctions against that régime under Chapter VII of the Charter, owing to the diplomatic protection afforded by the Western States, their continued economic support of South Africa and their unwillingness to sacrifice their economic and strategic interests for

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(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

the independence of Namibia or the elimination of racial discrimination in southern Africa.

31. The United States alone openly embraced the racist régime in South Africa. Other Western States, while claiming to support international efforts to put an end to the occupation of Namibia, were merely paying lip service in condemning the policy of racial discrimination in South Africa, while doing their utmost to enable South Africa to continue its colonization of Namibia and exploit its resources in co-operation with the transnational corporations.

32. During the current year, there had been many negative indicators. The United States Administration had publicly expressed its support for the racist régime, which was an open challenge to all freedom-loving peoples who condemned colonialism and the exploitation of subject peoples. The year had also been marked by the strengthening of military co-operation between the United States and South Africa through the derestriction of sales of American military installations and spare parts to South Africa, in spite of Security Council resolution 418 (1977). South Africa had also strengthened its military presence in Namibia and was using it as a base for aggression against neighbouring African States. The tripartite veto used by the Western States that were permanent members of the Security Council had prevented the Council from imposing comprehensive economic sanctions against South Africa.

33. South Africa would be unable to continue its defiance of the international community and of United Nations resolutions if it were not for the economic, political and military support it received from Western States. Those States were investing vast sums in South Africa and Namibia and were encouraging the activities of their corporations, thereby giving considerable support to the racist occupation régime and playing a large part in the building of Namibia's economy and industrial infrastructure. By so doing they were participating in the plundering of Namibia's natural resources and making huge profits at the expense of the Namibian people.

34. Some States, and Israel in the forefront, were striving to strengthen trade and economic relations with South Africa. Western economic interests, and United States interests in particular, went hand-in-hand with South African interests in an integrated system of exploitation.

35. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in Namibia and other colonized areas.

36. The military activities, including the retention of military bases, constituted a grave obstacle to economic and political independence in the regions concerned. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned the States and corporations which broke the arms embargo against South Africa. The Government of South Africa presented a threat to peace and security not only because of its continued illegal occupation of Namibia but also because of its resolve to undermine the régimes in neighbouring African States.

(Mr. Adhami, Syrian Arab Republic)

37. The United States had resolved to strengthen its military co-operation with the racist régime and emphasized the role of South Africa as a strategic ally.

38. There was also increasing military co-operation between South Africa, on the one hand, and Taiwan and Israel on the other. With regard to Israel, in addition to the well known economic, cultural, military and nuclear co-operation between the two racist régimes in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, the Israeli Minister of Defence had stated recently that Israel hoped to expand its exports to \$2,000,000 by increasing arms sales to politically sensitive areas such as Taiwan and South Africa and had expressed the hope that the United States would refrain from exporting arms to South Africa, so as not to present Israel with competition.

39. The Syrian Arab Republic condemned all forms of military collaboration and nuclear connivance with South Africa and believed that continuation of that situation would expand the area of confrontation and create an explosive situation.

40. The Syrian Arab Republic had participated in the recent International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa and had supported the call for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the racist régime under Chapter VII of the Charter. It had supported General Assembly resolution ES-8/2 and believed that, even in the event of the impotence of the Security Council, all States, individually and collectively, should boycott South Africa completely, in order to isolate it and force it to implement the United Nations resolutions concerning the termination of its illegal occupation of Namibia, its aggression against neighbouring African States and its racist policy.

41. The Western industrialized States must realize that they could not expect to continue their economic collaboration with South Africa in its exploitation and plundering of Namibian resources and, at the same time, enjoy normal relations with African and other non-aligned States. The continuation of that support would make it necessary for the non-aligned States to extend the area of confrontation and boycott to include all those who supported and collaborated with the racist régime.

42. Mr. MUTH NA (Democratic Yemen) said that the debate on item 94 was of special importance because the activities in question had been a principal factor in the establishment of the racist régimes in South Africa and Israel. The foreign interest had originated with the establishment of colonialism and were now trying to regain influence by interfering in the affairs of other States. That was why the imperialist states were building up their armed forces, equipping armies throughout the world and establishing military bases everywhere.

43. Consideration of item 94 was crucial for United Nations action on decolonization and ending racial discrimination. The German Democratic Republic was to be congratulated for proposing the compilation of a register of the activities of foreign economic and other interests which would be of great interest to the Committee. The activities of those interests in South Africa, with the support of the Western States, had prevented the United Nations from imposing sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter to make that country grant independence,

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(Mr. Muthana, Democratic Yemen)

end racial discrimination and cease aggression against neighbouring African States, especially Angola. The imperialist States and transnational corporations were supporting the Pretoria and Tel Aviv régimes and even helping them to arms in the nuclear field. Practical steps towards decolonization, elimination of racial discrimination, and action against racism in South Africa and Israel were being impeded by Western support for the continued oppression of those peoples. Condemnations and resolutions were having no effect.

44. To safeguard the activities of the transnational corporations in South Africa, Israel and elsewhere, the United States had declared some regions vital strategic areas and sought to perpetuate its domination there. The Gulf countries were leading the denunciation of that policy. United States imperialism was continuing to build military installations and preparing to intervene in the internal affairs of other States. Imperialism was relying on the Tel Aviv and Pretoria régimes to prevent the Namibian people from recovering their independence and was trying to lay the foundations of a new colonialism.

45. His delegation hoped that the international community would be able to take measures against the transnational corporations to end their plundering and thus to promote the accession of independence in Namibia and other Territories. It was important to support the national liberation movements, especially the South West Africa People's Organization, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the liberation movements in South Africa itself, and the Committee must take the relevant measures to that end.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.