

United Nations

**GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

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FOURTH COMMITTEE

17th meeting

held on

Friday, 30 October 1981

at 10.30 a.m.

New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SCHRÖTER (German Democratic Republic)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/36/SR.17
12 November 1981
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

81-57578

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1. Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) said that, thanks to the decolonization efforts of the United Nations, a large number of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories had attained self-government or independence. In that manner, dependent peoples had satisfied their aspirations by exercising their right to self-determination.
2. Twenty years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations continued to work zealously in order to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism and apartheid. In that work, it had to face problems that were multifarious and for which there was no common solution.
3. Today, colonialism still persisted in southern Africa, Namibia and other Territories. Despite the clear mandate from the world community, South Africa continued its occupation of Namibia, ignoring the numerous appeals from the General Assembly and the resolutions of the Security Council. Bangladesh reaffirmed its support of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in its just struggle for the liberation of Namibia.
4. With regard to East Timor, Bangladesh regarded the decolonization of that Territory as having been completed through the democratic elections which had permitted the people to exercise their right to self-determination. It should be noted that Indonesia was doing everything possible to promote the development of East Timor, with the co-operation of United Nations agencies and the international community.
5. Bangladesh believed that the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa was of vital importance for the education of refugees from southern Africa and hoped that there would be an increase in the voluntary contributions to it. For its part, Bangladesh had offered scholarships to Namibian students through the Commonwealth secretariat.
6. With regard to Western Sahara, Bangladesh welcomed the initiative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and its Implementation Committee on Western Sahara and hoped that the United Nations would co-operate closely with OAU in order to facilitate the implementation of their decisions.
7. Mr. NGUYEN THUONG (Viet Nam), referring to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, said that Viet Nam, a coastal State of the Pacific Ocean, regarded it as quite consurable that after 30 years the Administering Authority had not yet led the Territory to independence. On the contrary, it had impeded the process of decolonization.
8. It was only after 1969 that the United States, which until then had favoured the annexation of the Territory for reasons of security, had agreed to enter into

(Mr. Nguyen Thuong, Viet Nam)

negotiations with the representatives of the Micronesian people in order to grant a new status to the Territory. Nevertheless, 12 years had passed without the people having been able to exercise their right to self-determination. Through manoeuvres of all types, the United States was attempting to impose on the people a treaty of free association which would permit it to reserve to itself questions of security and defence and to retain a dominant role in foreign relations.

9. Having ignored the clear obligation of the Administering Authority to preserve the unity and integrity of the Territory, the United States had proceeded to fragment it into three separate administrative entities in order to clear the way for its annexation. The Micronesian people, however, each time that they had been given the opportunity to do so, had demonstrated their opposition to the status of free association.

10. The military activities of the Administering Authority in the region were a serious present and future threat to the Territory. Taking into account neither the well-being nor the interests of the people, as demonstrated by the nuclear tests on Bikini and Eniwetok, the United States had reserved for itself the exclusive right of constructing home ports for nuclear vessels and air bases in the Territory and was carrying out tactical tests of its different strategies for "limited nuclear war". Recently, it had demanded land concessions, not for 15 years but for 100.

11. The inhabitants of Micronesia were tired of having the constant threat of a nuclear holocaust hanging over them, and had tried to declare the Territory to be a denuclearized zone; but the Administering Authority had arbitrarily opposed that idea.

12. In the present context of wanton sabre rattling by the United States against the Soviet Union, United States policy in the Territory represented a serious danger not only for the inhabitants of Micronesia but also for the independence and sovereignty of the States of the Western Pacific, the coastal States of the Pacific in Asia, Latin America and Oceania and the coastal States of the Indian Ocean.

13. Viet Nam, which remembered very clearly the attacks committed by the United States against its territory from its bases in Guam, was afraid that the military power deployed in the Territory of the Pacific Islands might be used by the United States for the purpose of armed intervention and provocatory raids against States which had dared to oppose its designs.

14. The situation was becoming more and more serious as a result of the increasing collusion between the United States and the hegemonists, who had always had expansionist designs on South-East Asia. The Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should therefore do everything in its power to ensure that the United States complied with its obligations under the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations, so that the Territory of the Pacific Islands could exercise its right to self-determination and independence.

AGENDA ITEM 96: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/36/147)

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(Mr. Nguyen Thuong, Viet Nam)

15. With regard to Western Sahara, the people of Viet Nam fully supported the courageous struggle of the Saharan people under the leadership of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Río de Oro (POLISARIO). Viet Nam had recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, and maintained diplomatic relations with it. It had therefore co-sponsored draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.3, and hoped that the draft would be widely supported in the Committee. Viet Nam was confident that, on the basis of the principle of the right to self-determination, OAU would find a solution acceptable to the Saharan people; and it reaffirmed its constant support for the heroic struggle of the Saharan people for the full realization of its right to self-determination and complete independence.

16. Viet Nam welcomed the decision adopted on 20 August 1981 by the Special Committee with regard to the question of Puerto Rico, reaffirming the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence and also the full applicability, with respect to Puerto Rico, of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

17. Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), referring to the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/36/23 (Part V), chap. XVII), said that from the outset the Special Committee had taken the view that the situation in the Territory came within the scope of the Declaration. In various decisions, it had affirmed that the Administering Authority had an obligation to create the conditions necessary for enabling the people of the Territory to exercise freely and without interference its right to self-determination and independence; and, for that purpose, the Administering Authority also had an obligation to maintain the unity of the Trust Territory until the people had exercised that right in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration.

18. In accordance with Article 76 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Administering Authority was obliged to further international peace and security, to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence, and to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Nevertheless, the studies of the situation undertaken in the Special Committee and in other organs showed that the United States had not fulfilled its obligations and that the situation in the Territory had declined from year to year, as the representative of Micronesia had told the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The high level of unemployment, the scarcity of water and electricity, the urgent transport and communication problems, the lack of skilled Micronesian personnel and the difficult economic situation through which the Territory was now passing were incontrovertible evidence of the indifference displayed by the Administering Authority. The United States was interested only in its own military security; and it therefore viewed with misgiving the possibility of the Territory becoming independent.

19. Despite its denials, the United States was conducting large-scale military activities in the Territory, as evidenced by the presence of 3,000 United States citizens at the main military base in the Territory and the large sums which the

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(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

United States Government was spending on military bases and missiles, port improvement and airport modernization, for obvious strategic purposes. Furthermore, the United States could use the Territory for the testing and emplacement of nuclear weapons, and for that purpose had acquired the exclusive right over it for a period of 100 years, or virtually in perpetuity.

20. The United States had claimed that, under the Trusteeship Agreement between the Administering Authority and the Security Council, it had the right to conduct military activities in the Territory. It should be pointed out, however, that those activities should conform to the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

21. United States policy had been designed from the outset at the dismemberment of the Territory. Although the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia had adopted many resolutions aimed at preserving the unity of the Territory, the United States continued to ignore the legitimate interests of the Micronesian people. That attitude could give rise to dangerous tension in the region.

22. The Soviet Union considered that the annexation of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands constituted a violation of the Charter and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and could in no way be considered legitimate. Any action which involved a change in the situation could be carried out only with the consent of the Security Council.

23. The United Nations should take the necessary action to prevent Micronesia from being transformed into a colonial Territory on the pretext that the matter was already a fait accompli, and to ensure that the Micronesian people could exercise their legitimate rights. The Soviet Union supported the Special Committee's conclusions and recommendations (A/36/23 (Part V), chap. XVII, para. 13), and considered that the Fourth Committee had the obligation to do the same.

24. Mr. RAZAFINDRATOUO (Madagascar) welcomed the decision of OAU to organize a self-determination referendum in Western Sahara. That decision, which had the consent of Morocco, accorded with the various United Nations resolutions on that question and with the provisions of the Declaration in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The OAU Implementation Committee on Western Sahara had already established the modalities for the referendum, which would enable the Saharan people to exercise their right to self-determination. The President of Madagascar had publicly expressed his satisfaction at the positive development of the situation in Western Sahara and, in particular, at the decision of the Implementation Committee to establish an impartial interim administration for the purpose of organizing the referendum.

25. However, recent events in the region continued to be a cause for concern. He hoped that, through negotiations, the parties to the conflict could reach agreement on a cease-fire. He regretted that Morocco continued to refuse to negotiate with the Frente POLISARIO, whose representivity and legitimacy were beyond question. Attempts to deny that the question of Western Sahara was a problem of decolonization were also designed to deny the legitimacy of the struggle of the Frente POLISARIO and the position taken by the United Nations

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(Mr. Razafindratouo, Madagascar)

to the effect that there existed a Saharan people separate from the Moroccan people, and that it was the victim of a new form of colonization. It was necessary that the two alternatives in the referendum - the choice between the Saharan people, represented by the Frente POLISARIO, and Morocco - should conform to the OAU decision and that the two parties should agree to a dialogue. By refusing to negotiate, Morocco assumed the grave responsibility of prolonging the armed clash. The responsibility of the Implementation Committee with regard to the cease-fire could not be a substitute for that of the parties in conflict. It was wrong to claim that, by calling for prior negotiations on the cease-fire, new conditions were being imposed which neither OAU nor its Implementation Committee had provided for.

26. It was regrettable that, owing to that erroneous interpretation of the decisions of the Implementation Committee, no concrete measure had yet been taken. His delegation welcomed the fact that the first option proposed with regard to the referendum had been the independence of Western Sahara. In the consultation process, all reference to the sovereignty of Morocco over the territory should be eliminated, since it might influence the results. The Implementation Committee, in co-operation with the United Nations, would be responsible for the organization and holding of the referendum. His delegation welcomed the fact that the Committee had defined the categories of persons who could participate in it.

27. The stages of the process of decolonization of Western Sahara had been already established. In order for it to be fully implemented, it was necessary for the true identity of the Saharan people to be recognized and respected. His delegation, therefore, supported draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.3.

28. Mr. KISEKA (Uganda) said that, from the historical viewpoint, it was absurd that two decades after the adoption of the Declaration, there still existed foci of resistance to the process of decolonization in Western Sahara, East Timor and other territories. The peoples of those territories were the victims of colonial oppression and repression, to which they had been submitted by peoples who had themselves suffered the same humiliations of colonial domination.

29. In spite of the growing international support received by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Morocco continued to occupy the territory of Western Sahara. The decision of OAU that the question of Western Sahara was a colonial question which should be resolved through a free referendum constituted a very positive factor for arrival at a just and peaceful solution. Uganda appealed to the parties to the conflict to co-operate fully with the OAU Implementation Committee, which was organizing the referendum, and to initiate the negotiation process so that the people of Western Sahara could freely determine their own future.

30. With regard to agenda item 95, his delegation believed that the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations should contribute more effectively to the struggle to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism, particularly by extending moral and material assistance to colonial peoples and their national liberation movements. A number of specialized agencies

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(Mr. Kiseka, Uganda)

had exerted sustained efforts in that field. In particular, he mentioned the assistance being given by the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) to national liberation movements and the peoples of colonial territories and former colonial territories and its campaign of condemnation of the colonial and racist régime in South Africa, and the valuable contributions of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to the improvement of the economic and social situation of the colonial territories. Uganda also welcomed the decision of some bodies to exclude South Africa from their membership. Nevertheless, the assistance extended to the colonial peoples, particularly that of Namibia, had not been sufficient. Moreover, regrettably, some bodies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were continuing to maintain relations with the racist régime in South Africa, in defiance of international opinion and many resolutions of the United Nations.

31. The struggle against colonialism and oppression in Namibia had reached the decisive stage. South Africa was in a desperate position, as was shown by its use of Namibia for its repeated attacks against neighbouring African States. Uganda appealed to those bodies which continued to collaborate with the apartheid régime in South Africa to put an end to that collaboration and endeavour by all means to render assistance to the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa and their liberation movements.

32. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa was of fundamental importance as a means of liberating minds through education and as a symbol of the concrete commitment to decolonization assumed by the United Nations. It was also of great importance for the education of Namibians and South Africans owing to the inadequacies of the "Bantu education system". Nevertheless, the Programme was still having financial difficulties due to the rise in the cost of education and training and the decrease in the amount of the contributions received in 1981. He hoped that supplementary contributions would be received. His delegation appealed to Governments, institutions, organizations and individuals to continue to contribute generously to the Programme so that it could respond to the aspirations of the oppressed young students of South Africa and Namibia. Uganda would continue to offer scholarships to young people from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

33. Mr. ZAGAJAC (Yugoslavia) said that, since the adoption of the Declaration, its implementation had constituted a condition for the achievement of the essential goals and for the realization of the most important duties of the United Nations. In that regard, he drew attention to the notable increase in the number of Members of the United Nations and to the fact that the great majority of the new Members were former colonies whose peoples had attained freedom and independence through national liberation struggles. Many of them had joined the movement of non-aligned countries, whence they continued to struggle against the last vestiges of colonialism and exploitation in Africa, the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Caribbean and the Far East.

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(Mr. Zagajac, Yugoslavia)

34. In Namibia, the international community must confront a new phenomenon. Unlike what had happened elsewhere in the world, where the colonial powers, realizing the political and historical inevitability of the process, had granted independence to their colonies, South Africa, blinded by the riches of Namibia, had rejected or ignored the resolutions of the United Nations. It had also defied the decisions of the Security Council, which, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, was obliged to act in the event of threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, or acts of aggression, for all of which South Africa was fully responsible in Namibia. South Africa's temerity was due, unquestionably, to its conviction that it would be able to rely on the support of its Western allies in the Security Council and the international community. However, the continuation of the process of the decolonization of Namibia was inevitable, and the Namibian people would soon achieve victory in its struggle for national liberation, under the leadership of SWAPO. All that was necessary was for some countries to understand that their alliance with the apartheid régime was prejudicial, and even dangerous, for their long-term national interests.

35. Yugoslavia welcomed the fact that, thanks to the constructive efforts of OAU, the question of Western Sahara, which for years had been a source of tension in the region, particularly between Algeria and Morocco, was about to be resolved peacefully through a national referendum under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations. The manner in which the African countries, members of the non-aligned movement, were confronting the problem should serve as an example for the solution of other decolonization problems. The speedy solution of the question of Western Sahara would contribute to stability and to the establishment of fruitful co-operation in the region. Furthermore, it was necessary that, in the implementation of the OAU decision, the fundamental interests and the inalienable rights to self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara should be fully safeguarded and taken into account.

36. It was still necessary to be alert in order to prevent attempts, under the guise of the realization of the rights of colonial peoples to self-determination and independence, to undermine or impede the process of decolonization. Manoeuvres of that kind were meant to remove the former colonies from United Nations jurisdiction, so that the administering Powers were no longer obliged to provide information on the Territories, and the latter would be subjected to their full jurisdiction.

37. Another danger was that of neo-colonialism, namely, the replacement of one colonial authority by another, without giving the people the opportunity to decide on their future. The statements that the people of a former colony had freely renounced their independence, or had expressed the wish to remain under the former authority or to be placed under a new one, were not convincing if that was belied by the actions of the people themselves and if the majority of States Members of the United Nations disagreed.

38. There were also cases where, because of fear of an uncertain future or of losing temporary and artificial advantages deriving from the activities of foreign

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(Mr. Zagajac, Yugoslavia)

economic and financial interests or from the presence of military bases and installations, the people of a Territory did not express their desire to achieve self-determination and independence. That was why the colonial Powers had the obligation to promote the political and social development of the colonial peoples, an obligation which had clearly been neglected in all the small Territories visited by representatives of the Special Committee. Nonfulfilment of that obligation was clearly designed to facilitate control and exploitation of the population. When the people were aware of their rights, as in the case of Namibia, wars were waged against them and their legitimate representatives were regarded as ideological enemies. His delegation reaffirmed the need for consistent and complete implementation of the Declaration. The United Nations could not recognize any solution not based on the genuine interpretation of the Declaration.

39. Mrs. DAES (Greece) said that, with the admission of Belize and Vanuatu, the number of Members of the United Nations, which in 1960, the year of the adoption of the Declaration, had been 99, had now risen to 156. Most of the new Members were former colonial Territories. Thus, the United Nations had increased in universality. Greece had a steadfast policy of supporting the earliest possible achievement of independence by Non-Self-Governing Territories, in accordance with the fundamental right of self-determination, and reaffirmed its conviction that the subjection of peoples to alien exploitation or domination constituted a denial of their fundamental human rights, was contrary to the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments, and constituted an impediment to the promotion of international peace and security and friendly relations and co-operation among States.

40. Any attempt to disrupt thenational unity or territorial integrity of a country was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter. Greece faithfully observed the principles of self-determination, equality, noninterference in the internal affairs of other States, respect for the sovereign rights of all peoples and for their territorial integrity, and the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes; it strongly condemned all acts of aggression, intervention and military occupation of any territory, regardless of its size or geographical location. Greece totally rejected the principle of fait accompli, which had no legal or humanitarian foundation.

41. Turning to item 95, she welcomed the work done by the specialized agencies, particularly WHO and UNESCO, and urged them to increase their assistance to colonial countries and oppressed peoples.

42. With regard to items 96 and 97, she commended the important work accomplished by the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. Education should be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the promotion of understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and racial or religious groups. Only thus could the general level of economic, social and cultural life of a people be raised. Accordingly, as indicated in document A/36/147, paragraph 4, her Government had

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(Mrs. Daes, Greece)

made a symbolic contribution to the Programme, and it had also contributed to the United Nations Fund for Namibia and other funds and institutions for Namibia and southern Africa. It had also offered study and training facilities for the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/36/580). Her delegation, recognizing the increasing demand for educational opportunities for the people of southern Africa, especially at the level of higher and technical education, in order that they might soon be in a position to play an important, constructive and independent role in the contemporary world, supported the Advisory Committee's recommendations and was sponsoring draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.5.

43. Mr. EMPALING (Malaysia) said that the people and Government of Malaysia consistently supported the peoples under colonial domination, regardless of their Territory's size, population or geographical location, in their struggle to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, as well as the efforts of the United Nations in that field. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia had stated in the plenary Assembly at the current session, the United Nations Charter held the promise of freedom and independence for all peoples. Although various interest groups were still deliberately obstructing the decolonization process in many dependent Territories, particularly Namibia, the United Nations should remain true to its purposes and exert greater efforts to enable all peoples still under colonial rule to enjoy their legitimate rights without further impediments. The efforts of the administering Powers to institute political, economic and social reforms in the dependent Territories remained inadequate, and certain parties continued to dispute the sovereignty of a few Territories. However, he noted with satisfaction that tangible progress had been made, such as the establishment of legislative and executive bodies, notwithstanding their limited authority, and the policy of the administering Powers, which had co-operated fully with the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration.

44. With regard to the question of Western Sahara, Malaysia welcomed the decision of the OAU Implementation Committee to organize a general and free referendum under United Nations auspices and to establish and maintain a cease-fire, and considered that the step would contribute to peace and stability in the region. The fact that the parties to the conflict agreed to that proposal demonstrated that the problem could be settled through peaceful negotiations. Every effort should therefore be made to ensure successful implementation of the OAU decision.

45. His delegation considered that process of decolonization in the Non-Self-Governing Territories need not necessarily conform to a rigid pattern, so long as the right of self-determination of the people was not prejudiced. That was the case with East Timor, which had attained independence through integration with a neighbouring State, Indonesia, in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory. Malaysia considered that the process of self-determination in East Timor had taken place in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), and it saw no justification for any discussion of that matter. Any debate on that question constituted an interference in the internal affairs of Indonesia. The interest of the people of East Timor was best served if the Committee supported the Indonesian Government's socio-economic development

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(Mr. Empaling, Malaysia)

programme for the province. The Indonesian Government had inherited from the Portuguese colonial administration an impoverished and neglected East Timor. It therefore needed assistance in its work of reconstruction. Malaysia enjoyed the most cordial of relations with Indonesia and considered that any draft resolution on the question of East Timor would be irrelevant and contrary to the wishes of the Maubere people.

46. Mr. PELLETIER (Canada), speaking as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, said that for the first time in its history the Programme would be unable to grant any new awards for the 1981-1982 academic year. The total number of grantees under the Programme had dropped from 1,560 in 1978-1979 to only 1,140 in the current year. Even so, the Programme was facing a deficit of \$636,000. A formula had been found which would make funds available to the Programme to allow it to continue until the next fiscal year, but that was a temporary solution.

47. The current situation was due to currency fluctuations, the constant rise in educational costs and budgetary constraints in some donor countries. However, in addition to the financial aspects, there were political and humanitarian considerations. From the political point of view, no one would suggest that the international community should cease to offer the modest assistance provided by UNETPSA. From the humanitarian point of view, it was unacceptable not to keep promises made to students under the Programme who had begun courses of study requiring four or more years for completion. Although in offering the scholarships UNETPSA took on a long-term commitment, that commitment was financed through varying and unpredictable donations. In the months to come, the Advisory Committee would be considering the possibility of not granting new scholarships for one more year, so as to accumulate a reserve of funds, as well as other possibilities for achieving financial stability. As long as the problems in South Africa and Namibia persisted, the United Nations must, in the light of humanitarian and political considerations, provide educational opportunities for the people of southern Africa. That goal required that Members should contribute to the Programme in real and predictable terms in recognition of the long-term commitment into which it had entered. Emergency supplementary donations to the Programme were required, and if it was to continue its work, so critically important to the future of southern Africa, other Member States which had not thus far supported it financially would have to join the traditional donors. The Advisory Committee felt confident that Member States would recognize the necessity of supporting UNETPSA and seeing it through the present difficult period.

48. Mr. MATUS (Hungary) said that as a result of the efforts of the international community, the vast majority of the former colonial territories had become independent sovereign States and Members of the United Nations. That had made the United Nations more universal. The process of decolonization, however, was far from complete. Despite the great changes that had occurred, much remained to be done. The international community had to face critical situations, some of which demanded immediate solutions while others called for constant attention because of their inherent danger.

(Mr. Matus, Hungary)

49. The South African racist régime was the most dangerous obstacle to the process of decolonization. Its illegal military occupation of Namibia with the support of certain Western Powers which, in sharing the profits from the plunder of Namibia's human and natural resources must also share the responsibility for the sufferings of a people under brutal colonial oppression, its policy of racial discrimination and its military aggression against neighbouring States constituted a grave threat to international peace and security. That threat must be eliminated by compelling the Protoria régime to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations.

50. With regard to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their administering Powers had an obligation to promote their political, economic and social development until they achieved full independence. One of the most important prerequisites for the independence of those Territories was a relatively balanced economy. However, according to the report of the Special Committee, the structural imbalances in the economy of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had not been remedied. The Administering Authority was not ensuring proper use of the natural resources of the Territory. The building of military bases not only did not serve the interests of the indigenous people but, on the contrary, did irreparable harm to the Territory's economy and contributed to the heightening of tension in the region. Consequently, the United Nations should scrutinize the military activities of the colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration. His delegation supported the proposal by the Special Committee in document A/AC.109/674 that the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, should undertake an intensified campaign of publicity with a view to informing world public opinion of the facts concerning the military activities in colonial Territories.

51. With regard to Puerto Rico, taking into consideration the fact that many representatives of the Puerto Rican people had expressed the desire that Puerto Rico should become an independent nation, the United Nations should give greater attention to that question. Military installations in Puerto Rico did not promote the well-being of its people, who would benefit much more from a rational use of their natural resources, a balanced economy and the preservation of their cultural heritage. Hungary believed that the question of Puerto Rico should be examined as a separate item by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, and supported the recommendation by the Special Committee to that effect, which was contained in document A/AC.109/677.

52. The specialized agencies and other institutions within the United Nations system played a major role in the process of decolonization by rendering moral and material assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements. In the future, it would be desirable to establish closer contacts with the liberation movements and the peoples of the colonial Territories in order to carry out the assistance programmes more effectively. The Nationhood Programme for Namibia should also be continued until the achievement of full independence by Namibia. At the same time, it was imperative to withhold any financial, economic, technical or other assistance from the racist régime of South Africa until the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination was restored.

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53. Mr. CHRISTOPHER (United States of America) said that the United States had long looked forward to the end of the disastrous conflict in Western Sahara. All the parties concerned had at last agreed to a cease-fire and referendum and the establishment of an OAU Committee to implement the agreement reached in Nairobi. Credit for those developments went not only to the leaders of Morocco and Algeria but also to the leaders of those other African countries which had been active in the OAU discussions and in the work of the OAU Implementation Committee. The United States had not taken a position regarding the final status of Western Sahara. In the conviction, however, that a military solution to the conflict was neither possible nor desirable, it had been hoping for a peaceful negotiated solution and had contributed where possible to its achievement. The United States fully supported the efforts of OAU to resolve the conflict in Western Sahara on the basis of a cease-fire and referendum. Although much hard work remained to be done, it was confident that OAU would continue to assert its leadership with regard to that vital issue. Recent violence made it clear that urgent action by the Implementation Committee was needed to work out with the parties concerned the modalities for a cease-fire and referendum. The attack at Guelta Zemmour could only make the peaceful settlement agreed upon in Nairobi more difficult to achieve. It was therefore to be hoped that there would be no more incidents of that nature.

54. The United States believed that the United Nations should lend its full support to OAU and should recognize and endorse the agreement that had been achieved between the parties. The Secretary-General should respond appropriately to the OAU request for assistance in implementing the OAU recommendations. Co-operation between the United Nations and the regional organization would strengthen the mechanism for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The United States hoped that it would be possible to arrive at a text acceptable to all, and it stood ready to do whatever it could to promote the successful conclusion of the process initiated in Nairobi.

55. Mr. SORENSEN MOSQUERA (Venezuela) said that the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa had been providing very valuable assistance to thousands of young people from different parts of southern Africa who were seeking better training not only in order to achieve a higher standard of living but also, what was more important, to help establish the foundation for the development of their countries, which still remained under the colonial and racist yoke. Venezuela, as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Programme, considered that the maintenance and strengthening of the Programme were of capital importance for the future of southern Africa. The Programme was experiencing a financial crisis which represented a serious threat to its effectiveness and to its very existence. The crisis was the result of the rising cost of scholarships for education and training, the significant reduction in contributions for 1981 and the limited number of contributing countries.

56. Training and education were fundamental factors in the transition to freedom and independence as well as for development. In order to solve the critical financial situation of the Programme, it was essential that a greater number of countries should contribute and that those countries which already contributed should increase their contributions. It would also be a positive development if

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(Mr. Matus, Hungary)

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(Mr. Sorensen Mosquera, Venezuela)

offers of scholarships were increased. The growing number of young students fleeing to the refugee camps in the front-line States because of the repressive racist policy of South Africa and the compulsory conscription of young Namibians was a cause of concern to Venezuela.

57. Venezuela welcomed the co-operation given to the Programme by the front-line States, the specialized agencies, UNHCR, OAU and all others who had furnished assistance. He appealed to Member States to make generous voluntary contributions and to increase their offers of scholarships.

58. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) stressed the important role played by the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa in the training of the human resources of southern Africa, in particular of Namibia and South Africa, thanks to which numerous students had completed their higher education or technical training at advanced levels. That result had been possible thanks to the commendable work of the Evaluation Group which had visited southern Africa and Europe in order to determine the Programme's effectiveness as well as to identify priorities for the future. An important finding of the Evaluation Group had been that the deteriorating situation in southern Africa, resulting from the policy of apartheid of South Africa and its illegal occupation of Namibia, had forced an increasing number of young people to flee from their own country or territory. For purely humanitarian reasons and because of the important role which those young people would have to play in future nation-building, the Programme should be continued with the strong support of Member States.

59. The report contained in document A/36/147 had brought out two important points: the vital function performed by the Programme in providing young people with educational opportunities, and the grave financial difficulties which were seriously hampering the Programme's implementation. The Programme had barely been able to honour its previous commitments and in 1980-1981 the number of scholarships had decreased sharply, since its establishment. If that financial situation continued, it would not be possible to grant new scholarships or even to honour existing commitments.

60. The General Assembly had set up the Programme in the belief that a fund based on voluntary contributions would provide the most appropriate means of financing its activities. Japan did not think that the financial modalities should be changed. It had responded immediately to the request for early payment of pledges in order to meet a cash shortage.

61. Japan, which was a member of the Programme's Advisory Committee, supported its five-point decision set forth in paragraph 26 of document A/36/147 and urged the members of the international community to support the Programme.

62. Ms. GJESTLAND (Norway) said that agenda item 96 dealt with an important humanitarian aspect of the tragedy of southern Africa. The policy of apartheid of the South African Government and its repeated acts of aggression against the neighbouring countries had been unanimously condemned by the world community and

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(Ms. Gjestland, Norway)

had forced thousands of people to flee to neighbouring countries. Many of those refugees were young people who had found themselves deprived of any possibilities for education and training. Such a waste of human resources represented a loss both for the individual concerned and for society, particularly in the cases of Namibia and South Africa which sooner or later would require trained people to guide the black majority on the path of progress. Hence the key importance of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. For more than 20 years, Norway had been giving educational assistance to refugees from southern Africa. A significant part of that assistance had been channelled through UNEPTSA. In 1981, Norway's contributions to the Programme had amounted to \$740,225, the second largest contribution.

63. It was clear from the documents before the Committee that the Programme was meeting with serious economic problems. Contributions for 1981 had been considerably lower than for 1980, while in many countries the cost of education had risen substantially. The Programme had therefore not been able to offer new scholarships for the 1981-1982 academic year although the number of applicants had increased. The Advisory Committee, of which Norway was a member, had considered various ways of solving that acute problem. Nothing could be achieved, however, unless Member States showed continued willingness to contribute to the Programme.

64. Mr. HADDAOUI (Morocco), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement of Madagascar to the effect that Morocco was refusing to negotiate in accordance with the OAU decision, was completely false. It was also untrue that Morocco had given its own interpretation to the decision of the OAU Implementation Committee regarding the parties in conflict. It was the representative of Madagascar who had given his own interpretation to that decision. The delegation of Morocco had adhered strictly to the letter of the decision. Paragraph (c), part I, of the decision (A/36/602, annex I) had referred to "the parties in conflict", without anything more. Unlike the representative of Madagascar, the Implementation Committee had not identified the parties, nor had it mentioned their number. If the Implementation Committee had not given those particulars, it was not because it was ignorant of them but because it recognized the complexity of the question. Moreover, it was for the Implementation Committee itself to decide that question in implementing its decision.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

65. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee agreed that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions under the six items covered by the general debate should be Wednesday, 4 November, at 6 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR (continued) (A/C.4/36/L.7).

66. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.7. and announced that Rwanda had become a sponsor.

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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 (continued) (A/C.4/36/L.4)

67. The CHAIRMAN announced that Guinea had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.4.

AGENDA ITEM 96: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/C.4/36/L.5)

68. The CHAIRMAN announced that Austria, Guinea, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Swaziland and Uganda had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/36/L.5.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.