



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ROA-KOURI (Cuba)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/37/3/Add.4 and 5)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had before it two requests for hearings concerning the question of East Timor (A/C.4/37/3/Add.4 and 5).
2. Mr. WAYARABI (Indonesia) called attention to his Government's position as stated in document A/C.4/37/8 and in previous interventions by his delegation, to the effect that it was inappropriate for the Committee to consider the question of East Timor since that constituted an interference in a matter that was essentially within Indonesia's domestic jurisdiction. Hearings on the question would serve no useful purpose, and Indonesia was strongly opposed to granting any such requests.
3. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no other objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the requests.
4. It was so decided.
5. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received eight communications containing requests for hearings on items 97 and 135. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.
6. It was so decided.

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General debate (continued)

7. Mr. NATH (India), speaking on items 18, 97 and 100, said that despite its impressive record in furthering decolonization the United Nations could not rest on its laurels, for there were forces still at work, particularly in southern Africa, to stem if not reverse the tide of history. The liberation of Namibia, for quite some time tantalizingly close at hand, had been frustrated repeatedly and shamelessly by the racist régime of South Africa, backed by its supporters.

8. India's commitment to the cause of decolonization, based on its belief in human dignity, had deep historical roots in its own experience as a victim of colonial rule. Yet while the motivations of the struggle for emancipation from colonial bonds were universal, different forces were at play in each instance, so that no single situation could constitute a precedent for others. Even Mahatma Gandhi, universally recognized as the apostle of non-violence, had once declared that he preferred to use arms in defence of honour rather than remain the vile witness of dishonour. Man should achieve his birthright of freedom peacefully, but, if thwarted, he would achieve it by whatever means were within his grasp. It was up to the United Nations to ensure that the process of change in Non-Self-Governing Territories came about through peaceful and orderly means.

(Mr. Nath, India)

9. The report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples also made it clear that the people of the small Territories needed to be educated in respect of the options available to them with regard to their future. It was incumbent upon the administering Powers to promote the welfare of the local populace and to refrain from exploiting them economically or militarily.
10. In the case of Western Sahara, he said that the people of that Territory should be enabled to exercise their right to self-determination as speedily as possible, and that India supported the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in its efforts to resolve that question. It was a matter of concern that OAU was divided on such a crucial matter, and he hoped that it would be able to achieve unity on that and other pressing issues.
11. Regarding the question of East Timor, his delegation had on several occasions expressed the view that the exercise of self-determination in East Timor had been completed in 1976 when the people of that Territory had expressed their collective decision to become an integral part of Indonesia. That historical event could not be glossed over and attempts to reverse the facts of history were unacceptable. The Government of Indonesia had been making admirable efforts to rectify the injustice and imbalances which were a legacy of East Timor's colonial past, and it deserved every encouragement. Humanitarian problems, if any, could always be tackled with the co-operation of the Indonesian Government. For the Committee to keep the question of East Timor on its agenda was an attempt to negate reality and interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign Member State. India urged once again that the question should be removed once and for all from the agenda of the General Assembly.
12. Regarding the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa, India had been proud to associate itself with that Programme by offering a number of scholarships to enable deserving refugees from southern Africa to attend its educational institutions, since such students had no educational opportunities in their own countries. It was a matter of concern that contributions to the Programme had declined in real terms, as had the total number of scholarship holders, and India hoped the situation would be rectified, with the help of the developed countries in particular.
13. He emphasized in conclusion that the struggle to rid the world of the last vestiges of colonialism must be waged with renewed vigour. It was a sacred responsibility that those who were fortunate enough to be free owed to those who could and would be free.
14. Mrs. BERMUDEZ (Cuba), speaking on items 18, 96 and 99, said that despite notable victories since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, colonialism and racism persisted in many regions of the world, as did explosive situations which threatened international peace and security.

(Mrs. Bermudez, Cuba)

15. One such situation was that prevailing in southern Africa, which had been provoked by the detestable apartheid policy of the South African racist régime and by its illegal occupation of Namibia and repeated acts of aggression against Angola and other independent African States, in a shameful alliance with the forces of imperialism and reaction. The situation had persisted, despite condemnation by the United Nations and many other organizations, owing to the continuing collaboration with the racist régime by the United States and other Western countries and to the benefits the régime was deriving from its exploitation of the natural and human resources of southern Africa. The immense profits South Africa derived from such activities were the basic incentive for its criminal and aggressive policy. Nothing could, therefore, be more misdirected than the intention of the International Monetary Fund loan of over \$1 billion to the régime, a scandalous intention that had been criticized almost unanimously some days earlier by the General Assembly. The Committee itself should not be less firm in taking trenchant action in the face of such a blatant provocation.

16. Furthermore, attempts by the administering Powers to suppress or distort the information which they were required to provide on Non-Self Governing Territories should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. It was becoming more and more frequent for the reports of those Powers to omit reference to the fact that transnational corporations were pillaging the material resources of the Territories. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations itself had been unable to obtain sufficient information either from the corporations or the administering Powers for its report (A/37/405). The reports of the administering Powers did not reflect the miserable living conditions prevailing in Micronesia, Guam, Puerto Rico and other islands of the Pacific and the Caribbean, any more than they mentioned the health hazards to the inhabitants of many of those Territories created by military or naval manoeuvres and tests in or around them.

17. The use by the administering Powers of such terms as "strategic zone", "freely associated State", "Non-Self-Governing Territory" or "Trust Territory" to describe the various Territories controlled by them could not disguise the fact that the Territories were all colonial vestiges. The so-called "administering Powers" must be forced to provide the required information on the Territories they were misadministering and they must be made to dismantle military bases in the small Territories, cease to exploit their material and human resources, and allow their people to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

18. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the list of speakers on items 18, 96, 97, 99, 12, 100 and 101 should be closed at 6 p.m. on 1 November 1982.

19. It was so decided.

Question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/37/L.4)

20. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the question of Gibraltar, under item 18, said that the Committee had before it a draft consensus in document A/C.4/37/L.4. The delegations concerned had asked that, in order to facilitate the continuing discussions on that Territory, the Committee should take action on the draft consensus if possible at the current meeting. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft consensus.

21. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME PLANNING (continued) (future A/37/6; A/C.4/37/L.2)

22. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to take note of the sections of chapter 4 of the proposed medium-term plan (A/37/6) that were relevant to it.

23. It was so decided.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that he would accordingly communicate the Committee's decision to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.