



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY IN CONNECTION WITH NATURAL DISASTERS

1. The CHAIRMAN, on behalf of the members of the Committee, expressed sympathy with the Governments of Bangladesh, the United States, Jamaica and Mexico in connection with the recent natural disasters suffered by their countries.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

2. The CHAIRMAN thanked the members of the Committee for the confidence they had shown in electing him, and stressed that, coming from a recently independent third world country, he was in a particularly good position to understand the problems of decolonization. It was the duty of the Committee to continue the work of decolonization pursued so successfully by the Organization since the General Assembly's adoption of its historic resolution 1514 (XV) 28 years previously; it should be possible to attain the hopeful-for goal of a world without dependent peoples before the turn of the century.

3. The Namibian question was not before the Committee; but, while it welcomed the recent developments in southern Africa, it could not refrain from demanding the liberation of Namibia and an end to apartheid.

4. It was true that the agenda before the Fourth Committee was not extensive, but the importance of the task to be accomplished was not proportionate to the length of the agenda: the Committee was required to plan for the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism and to assist peoples who had not yet gained independence to develop on the economic and social levels so as to prepare them for the day when they must inevitably become masters of their own destiny. Fully conscious of its responsibilities and encouraged by the recent successes achieved by the Secretary-General in his search for just and durable solutions to the problems facing the international community, the Committee must, more than ever before, apply itself resolutely to its task. He was counting on the full co-operation of the members of the Committee in accomplishing that task.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Miss BROSNKOVA (Czechoslovakia) nominated Mr. Dangué-Rewaka (Gabon) and Mr. Bergh Johansen (Norway) for the office of Vice-Chairman (two posts).

6. Mr. PEQUENO (Sao Tome and Principe) seconded the nomination.

7. Mr. Dangué-Rewaka (Gabon) and Mr. Bergh Johansen (Norway) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

8. Mr. CARNEVALI VILLEGAS (Venezuela) nominated Mr. Douma (Congo) for the office of Rapporteur.

9. Mr. Douma (Congo) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/43/1, A/C.4/43/L.1, A/INF/43/1)

10. The CHAIRMAN informed members that the list of items allocated to the Fourth Committee appeared in document A/C.4/43/1 and that a suggested timetable for the Committee's work appeared in paragraph 3 of document A/C.4/43/L.1. In the absence of objections, he would take it that the Committee approved the provisional programme of work proposed, subject to any modifications that might prove necessary.

11. It was so decided.

12. The CHAIRMAN, referring to paragraph 8 of his note on the organization of work (A/C.4/43/L.1), said that during the previous session the Fourth Committee had lost the equivalent of nine meetings as the result of meetings starting late or adjourning early. Consequently, he proposed to start meetings punctually, and trusted that he could count on the co-operation of all members of the Committee in that regard. Lastly, he drew the attention of members of the Committee to the note by the Secretary-General regarding control and limitation of documentation (A/INF/43/1).

AGENDA ITEM 109: 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 (A/43/23 (Part III))

13. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur 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, introduced the chapter relating to agenda item 109 in the Special Committee's report covering its work during 1988 (A/43/23 (Part III), chap. IV), which was being submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 42/4. He reviewed in particular a resolution adopted by the Special Committee on the activities of foreign economic and other interests, which was set out in paragraph 9. The draft resolution on that question which the Special Committee was recommending to the Fourth Committee for adoption was to be found in paragraph 10.

14. In accordance with established practice and pursuant to paragraph 13 of General Assembly decision 42/417, he also introduced the chapter of the report of the Special Committee concerning military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/43/23 (Part III), chap. V). The consensus adopted by the Special Committee on the question was set out in paragraph 9 of that chapter, and the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee appeared in paragraph 10.

(Mr. Arnouss, Syrian Arab Republic)

15. On behalf of the Special Committee, he asked the Committee to endorse the draft resolution on the activities of foreign economic and other interests and the draft decision on military activities, as contained in the two chapters mentioned.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

16. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received three communications containing requests for hearings concerning New Caledonia, Western Sahara, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

17. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.