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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. PETERS (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)**

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/43/2, 3 and 4)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to three requests for hearings in connection with the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the question of Western Sahara and the question of New Caledonia, respectively.
2. Mr. PEKURI (Finland), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries on a point of clarification, said that the granting of the request for a hearing in connection with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands did not mean that the Nordic countries accepted the view that the General Assembly was entitled to deal with matters relating to that Territory. The Nordic countries held their position on the basis of Article 83 of the Charter which stipulated that all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas should be exercised by the Security Council with the assistance of the Trusteeship Council.
3. Ms. BUNTON (United States of America) said that her delegation also had serious reservations about the request for a hearing in connection with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, for the question was not one for consideration by the General Assembly. Article 83 of the Charter stated that functions relating to strategic areas such as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should be exercised exclusively by the Security Council and the Trusteeship Council. She was worried that the repetition of such hearings might increase costs and confusion instead of contributing to a greater understanding of the work of the United Nations. The Trusteeship Council met every year to consider what was happening in the Trust Territory. The representatives of the people of the Territory attended meetings in New York with the Council, and the United States submitted a detailed annual report on the development of the situation in the Territory.
4. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee granted the requests for hearings.
5. It was so decided.

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 (A/42/23 (Part III); A/43/226; A/AC.109/935, 943, 946 to 949, 952 and Corr.1, 954 and 956; A/AC.131/283 and 286) (continued)

6. Mr. ARNOUSS (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the General Assembly had restated the inalienable right of the peoples of the Trust Territories to self-determination and independence and had affirmed that any foreign economic or other activity which impeded the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples amounted to a direct violation of those peoples' rights, of the principles of the Charter and of all the relevant United Nations

(Mr. Arnous, Syrian Arab Republic)

resolutions. It had also condemned the extensive activities of foreign economic and other interests which continued to exploit the natural and human resources of colonial Territories. They obtained enormous profits which they then transferred to their countries of origin, thus damaging the interests of the population of colonial Territories, especially the Namibians.

7. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia had referred in their reports to the situation of absolute economic dependence in which South Africa maintained Namibia and they had reported on the activities carried out by foreign economic interests in that Territory. Minerals, which accounted for about 85 per cent of Namibia's exports, were shipped mainly to South Africa and other countries such as Israel. The continuation of foreign economic activities constituted an obstacle to the achievement of the rights to self-determination and independence in colonial Territories and also impaired the capacity of their inhabitants to make economic and political choices.

8. His country also condemned the establishment and maintenance of military bases in that Territory and the co-operation between Israel and Pretoria, particularly in the nuclear sphere. At the same time, it supported the liberation struggle of all the peoples of southern Africa and of the other peoples trying to secure freedom, dignity and exercise of the right to sovereignty and self-determination by whatever means. His delegation supported the draft resolution on foreign economic and other interests and the draft decision on military activities and arrangements which appeared in document A/43/23 (Part III).

9. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) said that the situation in Namibia epitomized all the odious features of classical colonialism; its merciless exploitation, driven by the insatiable desire for exorbitant profits, was being conducted in open violation of United Nations decisions, especially Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. Every sector of Namibia's economy was under the direct control of South African or other foreign companies. The unrestrained exploitation of resources would result not only in their exhaustion but also in the contamination of the environment by radioactive particles produced by uranium mining. Such an activity was totally devoid of environmental safeguards and therefore carried with it a serious health hazard.

10. His delegation thought it important to redouble the efforts to extend and intensify the public campaign for sanctions, disinvestment and boycott against South Africa. It hoped that the tenth anniversary of the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia would mark the beginning of its implementation and that the recent visit of the Secretary-General to the region and the ongoing talks between Angola, Cuba, South Africa and the United States on the establishment of peace in the south-western region of Africa would constitute the first step towards the achievement of a breakthrough.

11. Miss BROSNÁKOVÁ (Czechoslovakia) said that, with the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, great progress had been made in the implementation of the inalienable right of the peoples of colonial countries to self-determination. Nevertheless, the struggle against colonialism was not yet over, since a number of Territories were still under the colonial yoke. The activities of foreign economic and other interests were an obstacle to implementation of the Declaration and the elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination.
12. The power of foreign interests in dependent Territories had not faltered, since certain countries had not adopted effective measures to prohibit or restrict the activities of transnational corporations in those Territories, arguing that they had a positive effect on their development. However, the destructive nature of those activities could be seen not only in the plundering of the natural resources of the occupied Territories, but also in the social sphere. The indigenous population served as a cheap labour force without enjoying any social and political rights and received a bare minimum of education only when it was necessary to increase its labour skills. Namibia was the most patent example of the plundering of a Territory's riches through illegal activities by transnational corporations in contravention of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia; the "benefit" to the Territory was that almost 10 per cent of its gross national product was channelled abroad and only 10 per cent of the assets deriving from the work of Namibians was used for the benefit of the population.
13. Czechoslovakia hoped that the result of the trilateral negotiations currently under way between Angola, Cuba and South Africa with United States mediation would be self-determination and independence for Namibia. Similarly, implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) would be a victory in the struggle against the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid in southern Africa. However, South Africa would not readily concede defeat, since Namibia's resources represented between 12 and 20 per cent of South African exports and provided raw materials for its industry. Furthermore, the Territory provided a market for its products, was a source of high tax revenues from foreign enterprises, and was a key factor in Pretoria's defence policy. It was therefore necessary for Namibia to attain economic as well as political independence, so as to avoid subjection to neo-colonialist exploitation such as had occurred in some countries that had gained independence but continued to be hostage to the economic structures established during the colonial period.
14. Military activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories were an obstacle to the exercise by their peoples of the right to self-determination, represented a threat to international peace and security, and impeded the development of national identity. The establishment of military bases and installations changed the composition of the population of the colonies. For example, in Guam, military personnel and their families accounted for 20 per cent of the total population, while seizures of land for military purposes led to a fall in food production. It was deplorable that the Powers administering Bermuda, Guam, St. Helena, the United States Virgin Islands, the Pacific Trust Territory and Puerto Rico had taken no steps to implement the request of the General Assembly contained in its

(Miss Brosnakova, Czechoslovakia)

resolution 42/71, to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories. Such military activities in small Territories, intended to perpetrate acts of aggression against other States, had become an anachronism and should be vigorously condemned. Namibia was the Territory that had suffered most, through the presence of some 100,000 soldiers of the racist South African régime who were fighting against SWAPO and committing acts of aggression against neighbouring countries.

15. Mr. MEHNAT (Afghanistan) said that, under the Charter of the United Nations and the pertinent General Assembly resolutions, it was the solemn obligation of the administering Powers to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses. Nevertheless, the economic history of Namibia showed that there had been collusion between the racist South African régime and the thousand and more transnational corporations operating in the Territory and illegally exploiting and plundering its mineral, agricultural and fishery resources. It was estimated that between 16 and 20 per cent of Namibia's gross domestic product was remitted abroad, principally in the form of profits.

16. The other colonial Territories had not experienced economic changes enabling them to attain self-reliance, self-determination and independence. Furthermore, in some of the Territories land had been sold to foreign investors, who also controlled tourism, property and land development. All those activities impeded the implementation of the Declaration and violated the provisions of the Charter.

17. With regard to the military activities and arrangements of the colonial Powers, Afghanistan once again expressed its grave concern at their negative effects in Namibia and in all the colonial Territories. The military presence of racist South Africa in Namibia also created a situation that posed a grave threat to international peace and security. The nuclear capability of the Pretoria régime and its continuing collaboration with certain Western States, Israel and other countries, increased the danger of an already grave situation. Afghanistan expressed its grave concern at the existence of nuclear weapons in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and in Guam, and considered that the naval and air bases of colonial Powers and their allies in some Non-Self-Governing Territories, including Bermuda, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, constituted a serious obstacle to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence.

18. Afghanistan urged the administering Powers, in accordance with the Charter, to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of the Territories against abuses. It also considered that the racist régime in South Africa should allow the people of Namibia to have access to its natural resources and to assume responsibility for its own future development.

19. Mr. TALAAT (Egypt) said that the United Nations had recognized the principle that the natural and human resources of peoples must be preserved, and the fact that current and future generations had a right to their natural wealth. Some Powers had not respected their obligations and had arrogated to themselves the right to exploit the resources of the Territories under their administration. Egypt believed that such activities were unlawful, that they violated international law and jeopardized the interests of those peoples. Similarly, it condemned the alliance of foreign economic interests with South Africa so that they could exploit and plunder the natural resources of Namibia without considering the right of future generations in that regard. That alliance was standing in the way of the implementation of the Declaration on decolonisation as it applied to Namibia. Egypt felt that, with the good will of the parties, peace and security could be furthered through dialogue, but it was necessary to respect the pledge that Namibia must be enabled rapidly to achieve its independence and freedom, occupy its place among African nations and regain its sovereignty over its natural resources, thus guaranteeing a better future for coming generations. Egypt reiterated its support for the efforts of the United Nations Council for Namibia to preserve Namibia's natural resources and protect its people.

20. The report of the Secretary-General brought out a few cases in which the administering Powers had assumed their responsibility to carry out economic and social activities favouring the well-being of the population of the Territories. Egypt hoped that their example would be followed by other administering Powers, so that colonial peoples could exercise self-determination. It was the international community's responsibility to preserve the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories in order to guarantee their integrity after independence.

21. Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia) observed that the assertion that some foreign economic interests in the colonial Territories were operating with a view to enhancing the Territories' economic development did not reflect the realities. Actually, the objective of the foreign economic interests was to make a profit in a politico-economic environment conducive to their own perpetuation. To that end, labour laws favourable to them were enacted; banking was regulated so as to allow the transfer of capital; and environmental regulations were suspended to facilitate access to the natural resources of the Territories. Some of the small Territories had become ideal spots for money laundering, gambling and drug trafficking.

22. Foreign economic interests were operating in the Territories either with the collaboration of or at the behest of the administering Powers, and they were depleting resources at an alarming rate. One such Territory was Namibia, where hundreds of Western transnational corporations were working ruthlessly to exploit the mineral resources. Despite the fact that Decree No. 1 categorically prohibited the removal of Namibia's resources without the consent of the United Nations Council for Namibia, diamonds from that unhappy land continued to change hands in the major Western capitals, and the hasty mining of strategic metals had turned the mining areas into wastelands. In order to operate, the transnational corporations had always counted on the co-operation of the racist Pretoria régime, which offered them tax incentives, a steady flow of cheap labour and the possibility of exporting dividends. In the mean time, the oppressed people of the Territory were confined

(Mr. Tadesse, Ethiopia)

to "bantustans" or "homelands", where young Namibians were recruited into tribal armies and the South African occupation forces were terrorising children or pursuing the SWAPO combatants.

23. A decade after the adoption of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), attention was focused on to the ongoing negotiations that were likely to affect Namibia's fate. Although the negotiations merited the international community's support, Ethiopia rejected all manoeuvres aimed at introducing extraneous issues into the process. While the unfolding situation should be viewed with guarded optimism, the armed struggle had to be pursued until the people of Namibia triumphed over the evil forces of apartheid. He appealed to the international community to increase financial, military and political support for SWAPO. He also urged the Western countries that had traditionally resisted the adoption of stern measures against South Africa to prevail on that régime to withdraw its troops from Namibia.

24. Mr. BARRERO STAHL (Mexico) said that the defiant conduct of the minority South African régime would not be possible without the support of the foreign interests which, through enormous investments, had permitted the pillage of Namibia's many natural resources. Mexico had supported and would continue to support all efforts to protect those resources, such as Decree No. 1 of the United Nations Council for Namibia, as well as the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa under the United Nations Charter.

25. However, it was for the Security Council to assume a clear position and prevent any country, including any member of the Council, from encouraging the Pretoria régime to continue pillaging Namibia's resources and to go on mocking the provisions and resolutions of the United Nations. He cited in that respect some new forms of investment and association using South African capital, specifically in the case of the film industry. South African investors were financing in local currency the production of cinematographic and television films in South Africa and Namibia. Copies were made in Western countries, and from there they were distributed throughout the world through multinational film enterprises, thus making the films a source of currency for South Africa. Since the copies did not identify the country of production, the Secretary-General should carry out an in-depth investigation so that United Nations Member States would be able to prohibit the showing of such films. Another cause for concern was the co-operation of some countries with South Africa in nuclear matters. South Africa, through its plunder of Namibian uranium and through the technology provided by certain countries, had gradually increased its nuclear military capacity.

26. Mexico welcomed the process that had begun, aimed at finally bringing about the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) on the independence of Namibia. The four-Power negotiations on southern Africa and the work of the Secretary-General were the prelude to action which the Organization must approach without faltering.

(Mr. Barrero Stahl, Mexico)

27. With regard to other Non-Self-Governing Territories, it was essential, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, to find just and lasting solutions without delay, so as to prevent the various metropolitan countries from continuing to oppress and exploit those peoples and to use their Territories for military and strategic purposes, a practice which jeopardised not only international peace and security, but also the self-determination and independence of those peoples.

28. Mr. OUYAHIA (Algeria) said that during the nineteenth century, the colonial parcelling out of Asia and Africa had suited the economic interests of an expanding industrial world. Despite the collective will expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, colonialism persisted to the present day in many parts of the world, with the same goal of serving strategic or economic interests. The most blatant example of that was southern Africa, where the interests of a racist minority promoted apartheid, domination and aggression. The attempt to relegate the heroic South African people to the status of a simple source of profits for a minority would not withstand the impact of the struggle for liberation.

29. The logic of illegal profits that motivated the apartheid régime clearly constituted the basis for the illegal occupation of Namibia. The inevitable process by which that Territory was to achieve independence had been defined by the Security Council, but the Territory still remained under the domination of South Africa, plundered by the apartheid system and used as a springboard for acts of destabilization and aggression against the independent neighbouring States. The independence of Namibia was in keeping with the will of the international community and did not depend on a concession by the illegal occupant. When, from time to time, Pretoria stated its willingness to withdraw from Namibia, it was essential to recall its changes of heart in the past and to maintain intact the mobilization and the determination to apply Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

30. The principle of the right of peoples to self-determination must also be confirmed in other Territories. Size, population and economic resources could never deprive the colonized countries of their rights to self-determination and independence. There was no justification for the exploitation of their riches, which were their sovereign and inalienable heritage, or the use of their Territories for military or strategic purposes.

31. The community of nations was gratified by the successes which furthered the cause of international peace and security and the strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between States. A new profession of faith in the United Nations had followed upon a period of doubts and reappraisal. In that new stage, a sincere struggle would be fought for a real implementation of the seven principles of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

32. Mr. LACSON (Philippines) said that, as a sponsor of the historic General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the Philippines took a keen interest in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The events of 1987 had augured well for Namibia, Western Sahara and other Non-Self-Governing Territories. His delegation welcomed the



(Mr. Lacson, Philippines)

prospects for the independence of Namibia, an event long awaited by the international community, and encouraged those involved in the peace process in southern Africa to make every effort to meet the date of 1 November for beginning the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

33. Having experienced first hand the many aspects of colonialism, a country like the Philippines realized that achieving independence was not merely a transfer of political power. Equally important was the exercise of economic independence in the pursuit of one's national destiny. His Government was disturbed by the testimony in the documentation on Namibia concerning the virtually unrestrained operations of foreign economic interests in the Territory to the detriment of the Namibian people's patrimony. It was general knowledge that Namibia was endowed with abundant natural resources, which included uranium, diamonds, zinc and other metals, as well as agricultural and fishery products; nor was it a secret that those resources were controlled and exploited almost exclusively by South Africa and other foreign economic interests.

34. Although investments in a Non-Self-Governing Territory, if properly used, could act as an impetus for growth and development, it was unfortunate that, in Namibia, the basic economic structure was typically colonial. As noted in the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia (A/AC.131/286), the gap between Namibia's gross domestic product and its gross national product showed the extent to which foreign economic interests exploited its resources. In exchange for that exploitation, Namibia suffered under the extension of the apartheid system, which guaranteed an abundant supply of cheap enslaved labour and imposed a distorted colonial economy dependent on foreign imports. In sum, the people of Namibia had almost nothing to show for decades of labour and toil in the mines and fields of the Territory.

35. The Philippines knew from experience that colonial political and economic structures engendered inequality. The independence of Namibia, which was imminent, should also signify the Namibians' liberation from bondage and their right to pursue their economic aspirations and to promote international economic relations which were equitable and just for Namibia's future generations.

36. Mr. TANOH (Ghana) said that agenda item 109, which was before the Committee had originated in the concrete experience of colonial peoples, i.e., the brutal exploitation of their natural and human resources within a framework of imposed political structures and cultural patterns and disregard for their basic human rights. In that context, the experience of Namibia at the hands of South Africa called for a continuous condemnation of the economic exploitation of the Territory by foreign interests.

37. It was necessary to evaluate the social and political context of foreign investment in the dependent Territories and its consequences for the free exercise of self-determination by their peoples. Could it be sincerely claimed that the activities of the many multinational corporations in Namibia had facilitated the advance to independence of the Namibian people? It must be said, rather, that

(Mr. Tanoh, Ghana)

Namibia had suffered repression of its political rights, military and police brutality, and the extension of hated apartheid policies to its Territory.

38. His delegation attached importance to the implementation of the provisions of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia, and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 21 June 1971, which together established the illegality of the operations of multinational corporations in Namibia. Furthermore, support should be given to a future Namibian Government in its efforts to reclaim portions of the surplus repatriated by those companies by invoking the mechanism of compensation envisaged by Decree No. 1. It was obvious that South Africa was increasing its political and economic clout in order to transplant its capital outside its borders through the ownership and control of assets. That undermined the possibility of isolating the South African régime economically and politically. His delegation urged Member States to adopt measures which would not undercut international pressure on South Africa to dismantle its apartheid policies, and to adopt new provisions in their domestic legislation to prohibit investment of profits in their capital markets by South African mining and other interests.

39. Ghana enthusiastically welcomed the stirrings of peace which might be the result of the quadripartite negotiations currently under way, and supported the full implementation of the Namibia plan envisaged by Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Ghana also extended solidarity to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) for its valiant leadership of the struggle of the Namibian people for self-determination and independence.

40. Mr. VASILYEV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that in 1988 the Committee's work was unfolding under more favourable circumstances, including the political machinery which had been set in motion in southern Africa with the prospects of peace in Angola and independence for Namibia. Unfortunately, positive advances had not been made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/74, which called upon all States to terminate any investments in Namibia, and that was because colonialism and neo-colonialism had created highly favourable conditions for capitalism and multinational corporations. The report of the United Nations Council for Namibia (A/AC.131/286), for example, pointed out that South Africa and other foreign economic interests were continuing to plunder Namibia's natural resources, and were imposing on the Territory a typically colonial, unstable and dependent economy. According to the statistics of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, there were a large number of such companies in Bermuda, American Samoa, Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It was no secret that the activities of those corporations were impeding the process of decolonization and that the administering Powers were attempting to impose the latest forms of colonial dependency with such names as "association", "integration" or "Commonwealth". However, the Special Committee on Decolonization had not slackened its efforts to uncover the pernicious activities of foreign economic interests, which were blocking the efforts to implement the Declaration in the dependent Territories. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supported those efforts, as well as the recommendations of the Special Committee.

(Mr. Vasilyev, Byelorussian SSR)

41. As in the past, the international community was becoming concerned about military activities in the colonial Territories. The General Assembly, at its forty-second session, had once again called upon the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from the dependent Territories, but the fact was that the military presence there had increased. The illegal occupation of Namibia by the racist South African régime was continuing, and some Western countries, together with Israel, were still collaborating with Pretoria in the nuclear sphere. The General Assembly had emphasized that the policy of aggression and destabilization was undermining security in that region of Africa and was a threat to international peace and security. His delegation felt that the international community must exert greater efforts to put an end to that policy. The establishment of a secure world required a new outlook, a rejection of the use of force and of the threat of the use of force in international relations. In that spirit, at the Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, the States members of the Warsaw Pact had proposed the elimination of military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops from all Territories. His delegation therefore supported the recommendation by the Special Committee which appeared in chapter V of its report.

42. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that he had received three communications containing requests for hearings relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the United States Virgin Islands in connection with item 18 of the agenda, and relating to foreign economic and other interests, in connection with item 109 of the agenda.

43. In accordance with the usual practice, the communications would be circulated as a Committee document and examined at a later meeting.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.