



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

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

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/C.4/43/L.6, A/43/23 (Part VI))

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.4/43/L.6, draft resolutions I to XII of document A/43/23 (Part VI) and draft decisions I and II of document A/43/23 (Part VI).

2. Draft resolution A/C.4/43/L.6 (Gibraltar) and draft resolutions III (Anguilla), IV (Cayman Islands), V (Montserrat), IX (Guam), X (American Samoa), XI (American Virgin Islands) and draft decision I (Pitcairn) were adopted by consensus.

3. The draft resolution on New Caledonia (A/43/23 (Part VI), draft resolution I) was adopted by consensus.*

4. Mr. BLANC (France) said that he had not requested a vote on draft resolution I, which took into account the favourable development of the situation in recent months, and indicated approval of the policy of the French Government; however, he could not support the draft resolution because New Caledonia was under the exclusive sovereignty of the French authorities. Under Article 73 of the Charter, which had not been altered by General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and 41/41, France was responsible for that Territory, whose people had not yet attained a full measure of self-government. That situation was in no way incompatible with the implementation of a process leading to a vote on self-determination organized under conditions which would satisfy the overwhelming majority of the New Caledonian population.

5. The draft resolution on Tokelau (A/43/23 (Part VI), draft resolution II) was adopted by consensus.*

6. Mr. MENAT (France) said that he had reservations about the tenth preambular paragraph of draft resolution II concerning nuclear testing in the Pacific. The various studies carried out on the subject had proved that the experiments carried out by France in Polynesia were not detrimental either to the interests of the countries of the region, or to the health of the peoples living there, or to the environment.

7. Mrs. WILLBERG (New Zealand) noted that the countries of the South Pacific, and among others the Tokelauans, had opposed nuclear testing in the region and that those countries, including French Polynesia, had sought further information on the possible effects of those tests.

* See para. 20.

8. The draft resolutions on Bermuda (A/43/23 (Part VI), draft resolution VI), on the Turks and Caicos Islands (A/43/23 (Part VII), draft resolution VI) and the British Virgin Islands (A/43/23 (Part VII), draft resolution VIII) were adopted by consensus.*

9. Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) said that he was not opposed to the adoption of those draft resolutions by consensus, but had certain objections.

10. With regard to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft resolution on Bermuda, the presence of military installations in the Territory, since the Second World War, far from constituting an obstacle to the self-determination of the population, made it possible for the military authorities to manage the civilian airport, which represented enormous savings for Bermuda. Moreover, the United Kingdom did not need to be reminded that it must not "involve Bermuda in any offensive acts or interference directed against other States" and must "comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter", since it had always done so.

11. The draft resolution on the Turks and Caicos Islands, unlike other draft resolutions did not reaffirm that it was for the people of the Territory themselves to determine their future status and that they must be informed of the possibilities open to them. Since the Committee could not be suspected of wishing to deny the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands their fundamental right of self-determination, that omission merely meant that the texts were drawn up and drafted in a mechanical manner, without consistency and without regard for their real meaning.

12. As to the British Virgin Islands, the Executive Council of the islands had expressly requested the United Kingdom to inform the General Assembly that the Government and people of the islands did not want any change in the current constitutional status or any referendum on self-determination; moreover, the Executive Council did not want a visiting mission to go to the islands, as envisaged in operative paragraph 12 of the text.

Draft resolution on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/43/23 (Part VI), draft resolution XII)

13. The Committee decided, following consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee of 24 and various delegations, not to take a decision on draft resolution XII.

Draft decision on St. Helena (A/43/23 (Part VI), draft decision II)

14. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the United Kingdom had requested a separate vote on the seventh sentence of the text: "The Assembly notes with deep concern ... in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories".

15. Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, noted that the seventh sentence in question, concerning military facilities in Ascension Island, had been repeated for six years in all draft decisions on

(Mr. Smith, United Kingdom)

St. Helena. The island of Ascension was situated more than 1,000 kilometres from St. Helena, had purely administrative links with it, had no indigenous population - indeed, was not even on the list of Non-self-Governing Territories - and the very limited facilities there, with a very small staff, could be of concern to no one, least of all St. Helena. It would be unacceptable for the Committee to approve the sentence in question. If it was maintained, his delegation would vote against the entire draft decision. In the eighth sentence, "The Assembly urges the administering Power ... by the racist régime of South Africa", the mere idea that the United Kingdom could involve St. Helena in "offensive acts or interference" was totally absurd. The United Kingdom did not need to be reminded of its duties. Similarly, in the fourth sentence, the "dependency" of the territory on South Africa in the sphere of trade and transportation amounted to a solitary cargo ship which plied the waters between London and St. Helena and because of the geographical situation of the island, was forced to put in at Cape Town, the only suitable port in the area.

16. At the request of the representative of the United Kingdom, a recorded vote was taken on the seventh sentence of the draft decision.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Spain, Swasiland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Zaire.

17. The seventh sentence of the draft decision was adopted by 82 votes to 28, with 19 abstentions.

18. A recorded vote was taken on the draft decision as a whole.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brasil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mosambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swasiland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tansania, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey.

19. Draft decision II as a whole was adopted by 108 votes to 2, with 25 abstentions.

20. Mr. SINGH (Fiji) noted that the Special Committee tried to ensure that draft texts were drawn up in a manner that would be as widely acceptable as possible with a view to their adoption by consensus and called for specific indication in the summary record that they had been adopted by consensus, and not simply without a vote.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 18.

AGENDA ITEM 110: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

22. Mr. HILMI (Iraq) speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he was scandalized that the representative of the Zionist entity, at the previous meeting, had denied that his country had links with South Africa. The collusion between the two régimes was well known, whether in the case of their trade or of their links at the military and nuclear levels, as demonstrated by many English publications.

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23. Mr. TANOH (Ghana) paid tribute to Mr. Tanaka, representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, and Mrs. Rives-Niessel, Secretary of the Committee, who had announced their forthcoming departure, for their dedication and efficiency, and wished them every success in their future activities.

24. Mr. TANAKA (Representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship) said that he was very happy to have been associated with the Committee's work and had no doubt that it would resolutely continue its activities until there were no more Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.