



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/38/SR.12
21 November 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

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- (a) 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 (continued) (A/38/23, (Part VI and Add.1), A/38/23 (Part VIII); A/C.4/38/L.2; A/AC.109/724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729-736, 737 and Corr.1, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 746, 749 and Corr.1, 753 and 754)
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Requests for hearings

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Committee had before it two communications (A/C.4/38/5/Add.1 and Add.2) containing requests for hearings on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). He suggested that the Committee should accede to those requests.
2. It was so decided.

General debate (continued)

3. Mr. JASSNOWSKI (German Democratic Republic) congratulated the delegations of the Soviet Union, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on the sixty-sixth anniversary of the October revolution and recalled the important role in the decolonization process played by the Soviet Union, which had been a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).
4. The elimination of the manifestations of colonial oppression and exploitation was still a task of the highest priority for the international community, and the difficult world situation made that task even more urgent. The atmosphere of confrontation and the arms race engaged in primarily by the United States and other NATO countries also gave rise to gross violations of the right of peoples to self-determination. That was especially true in the Territories still under colonial rule, and it was high time that Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Western Sahara and the other small Territories be permitted to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. His delegation's position on Namibia had been explained in detail recently before the Security Council.
5. The colonial Territories were playing an ever greater role, particularly in the military plans of certain imperialist Powers which unscrupulously ignored the interests of the populations of those Territories. The policy followed by the United States with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) was one of the most despicable examples of that type of behaviour and could only be characterized as covert annexation. Instead of fulfilling the obligations of the administering Power set out in Article 76 of the Charter, the United States had done everything it could to make that Territory dependent in all respects. After having used it for many years for nuclear-weapon testing, the United States was now attempting to become a durable military presence in the islands. To that end, it was forcing long-term military agreements upon the populations of the dismembered Trust Territory.
6. Under the label of "community" or "free association", the United States intended to transform the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands into a colonial appendage and a military and strategic bridge-head in the western Pacific Ocean. Those goals endangered the security not only of Micronesia but also of adjacent countries. Moreover, the unilateral actions taken by the United States constituted a clear violation of the provisions of the Charter which permitted alterations of the status of Trust Territories in strategic areas only by Security Council decision. It was high time for the United Nations to take measures against those nefarious activities.

(Mr. Jassnowski, German Democratic Republic)

7. He also wished to call attention to the conversion of Diego Garcia into an imperialist military base, a development which was diametrically opposed to the efforts of the non-aligned and socialist States to transform the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. His country supported unreservedly the demand made by Mauritius for the return of the Chagos Archipelago, including the island of Diego Garcia.
8. The exercise of the right to self-determination also continued to be denied to the people of Puerto Rico. Under the guise of "free association", the United States sought to perpetuate its total domination over that island because it was an important base for control of the Caribbean. Puerto Rico had been used as a spring-board for the attack against Grenada, a sovereign and non-aligned State in the Caribbean. That latest act of aggression had once again revealed the militaristic and arrogant nature of the policy of the United States Administration. His Government welcomed the fact that, in a resolution adopted in August 1983, the Special Committee, on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had again urged the United States Government to transfer all sovereign powers to the people of Puerto Rico.
9. The peoples of Bermuda, Guam, the Turks and Caicos Islands and a number of small territories were also being denied the right to self-determination for military and strategic reasons. Those practices must also be strongly condemned by States Members of the United Nations, and the General Assembly must once again take a clear position at its current session on the military activities and arrangements of colonial Powers which might be impeding the implementation in the Territories under their administration of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
10. The colonial Powers were exploiting the state of often total economic dependence of the Territories concerned in order to achieve their own military and strategic goals. The backwardness of those Territories encouraged transnational corporations to exploit their human and natural resources ruthlessly. His delegation therefore welcomed the fact that the Special Committee was continuing to discuss the question of the register indicating the profits derived by transnational corporations from their activities in colonial Territories.
11. With regard to Western Sahara, the German Democratic Republic held the view that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations resolutions adopted since 1975 on the question constituted a solid basis for a solution of the conflict. At the same time, the resolutions on Western Sahara which had been adopted at the eighteenth and nineteenth ordinary sessions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and the recommendations of the OAU Implementation Committee on Western Sahara were constructive steps towards a peaceful solution.
12. The German Democratic Republic had always held that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was a matter of the greatest urgency. Consequently, the Plan of Action for the Full

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(Mr. Jassnowski, German Democratic Republic)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should be resolutely and speedily put into effect. In that connection, it attached great importance to the activities undertaken by the specialized agencies of the United Nations with a view to improving the economic and social situation in colonial Territories. It resolutely opposed any attempts by certain imperialist circles to turn the specialized agencies of the United Nations into mere instruments of the colonial Powers. A case in point was the allocation by the International Monetary Fund of a substantial loan to the racist régime in Pretoria.

13. The granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples still subject to colonial oppression and their exercise of the right to self-determination were all the more urgent in that they might lead to an improvement of the international situation and the strengthening of peace and security in all regions of the world.

14. Mr. CASIE CHETTY (Sri Lanka) said that the Non-Aligned Movement, of which Sri Lanka was an active member, had played a crucial role in helping nations to shed their colonial bonds and achieve full political, social and economic independence and true equality in international relations. There were forces at work in the international arena that were seeking to reverse that anti-colonial trend with the intention of perpetuating inequality, distinctions and privileges. In the face of such opposition, it was incumbent upon the members of an organization whose goal was the establishment of peace and justice and the democratization of international relations to intensify their efforts to advance the process of decolonization as rapidly as possible. As long as peoples remained in subjection and nations were bowed under the colonial yoke, the prerequisites for peace were lacking.

15. Just as the non-aligned countries had refused to yield to all kinds of pressures from outside forces, they had also systematically worked towards breaking the bonds imposed by colonialism. In that context, the Members of the United Nations had to redouble their efforts to implement fully General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for eliminating the vestiges of colonialism. The statement by Mr. Jim Morell of the Centre for International Policy on the role which the Committee had played in impeding the flow of funds from the International Monetary Fund to the apartheid régime of South Africa had been heartening.

16. His delegation had followed with interest the developments in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The approach of the Australian Government to the future status of that Territory was commendable. The administering Power had made an effort to promote the political, social, economic and educational advancement of the people, in keeping with its obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter. It had left it to the people of the Territory to determine themselves the political status they desired and to decide when they wished an act of self-determination to take place. That attitude stood in strong contrast to developments in other Territories, such as Namibia.

17. Mr. BOUCETTA (Morocco) said that many members of the Committee viewed as very serious the tension prevailing in northwest Africa, and hence the question of so-called Western Sahara had been under consideration ever since Morocco had asked to have it included in the agenda in the 1960s. Because a number of new developments had occurred since then and the position of Morocco had sometimes been interpreted correctly and sometimes not, a review of the situation by Morocco had become imperative.

18. He reminded the Committee that the national territory of Morocco, an independent and sovereign State, had for several centuries had well-known boundaries at the time when the colonial offensive had divided up the world. Morocco had not been spared and had been split up into several zones, each with a different status and administration. The so-called Western Sahara had become a Spanish possession, as had the northern zone, the so-called Spanish protectorate, and also the enclave of Ifni and the zone of Tarfaya, adjacent to the area called Spanish Sahara and actually a part of it. That was why the question had been brought before the United Nations as an item entitled "Spanish Sahara".

19. Starting in late 1955, Morocco had gradually recovered the independence and integrity of its territory, using the methods that were appropriate to recuperate each of the zones belonging to it. In the case of so-called Western Sahara, armed struggle had been necessary from 1956 to 1958. In 1960, the case had been brought before the United Nations and then the International Court of Justice, which had handed down its Opinion in October 1975. In its Opinion, the Court had stated that the territory of Western Sahara, at the time of its occupation by Spain, had not been terra nullius, and had emphasized the ties of allegiance linking the inhabitants of that region to the Moroccan sovereigns, thus establishing that the territory had belonged historically to Morocco. In order to put a stop to any evasive action, Morocco had later organized a peaceful march of 350,000 citizens, armed only with the Koran and their faith in the Moroccan identity of the territory. Subsequently, the Security Council had called upon Spain to negotiate the future of the region, and the Madrid Agreement, endorsed by the United Nations, had been signed on 14 November 1975. Morocco had thus exercised its rights by repossessing its territories, formally in November 1975 and definitively in February 1976, by virtue of the Madrid Agreement and in accordance with international norms.

20. That settlement of the question did not, unfortunately, seem to have been welcomed by all parties, and a separatist movement had begun to take shape in the neighbouring territory, bringing into being in 1975 - long after the evacuation of the colonial troops - an organization consisting of mercenaries whose aim had been to prevent Morocco from recovering its Saharan provinces.

21. Morocco, which had always advocated the use of peaceful means in the settlement of disputes, had continued to participate in the international meetings which dealt with the question, even though it considered that any discussion of the matter constituted intervention in its internal affairs. Accordingly, once again demonstrating its good will, Morocco had gone before the Organization of African Unity to propose that a referendum should be organized in Western Sahara in order to allow the population to express its will freely. OAU, in its resolution AHG/Res. 103 (XVIII), had welcomed that initiative and had established an

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(Mr. Boucetta, Morocco)

Implementation Committee with full powers to organize such a referendum. That Committee had met twice and, after hearing Morocco and all the parties concerned, had taken a series of very detailed decisions concerning the cease-fire and the organization of the referendum. Those decisions had been duly registered by the Secretary-General of OAU and endorsed by the Organization as a whole. All those details had been confirmed by resolution AHG/Res. 104 (XIX) adopted at the nineteenth ordinary session of OAU, held in June 1983.

22. Morocco was in no way seeking to evade or disregard that resolution; however, when a paragraph had been added at the nineteenth ordinary session urging direct negotiations between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, Morocco had entered express reservations even with regard to the term "urges", taking it to constitute neither an obligation nor a precondition. Morocco had explained its position on the matter in a detailed political and legal study that had been circulated at the United Nations and was available to delegations wishing to review it.

23. The study stated, firstly, that a movement for armed struggle could not be deemed legitimate simply because it had existed prior to any self-determination process. Otherwise, the legitimacy, national unity and territorial integrity of States recognized by the international community would be at the mercy of active minorities whose very authenticity might be questionable. Moreover, only the referendum, the object of the procedure called for by OAU, could determine the extent to which the separatists' claims were valid. The separatists could not possibly be accorded the rank of a sovereign State even before the plausibility of their position had been verified. Nor should the fact be overlooked that the majority of the Sahrawi people lived at peace within the Moroccan State and that their peace was disturbed only by incursions from elsewhere. The tiny minority outside doubtless claimed to have the peoples' support but it was precisely that contention that the referendum would settle. No preferential right could be accorded beforehand, prior to any verification, to a minority living outside the territory, over the majority living at peace within the territory's boundaries in a constitutional democratic framework. What was at stake was not only the rights of the sovereign State of Morocco but those of the Sahrawi peoples.

24. The essential issue was the referendum; the cease-fire was only a precondition. The paragraph of the OAU resolution relating to direct negotiations was but one measure among others, and Morocco had the right to reject it firstly, because it was not obligatory, secondly, because it was not the best procedure and, thirdly, because it implied a prior settlement of the question of the status of the other party, which some would impose on Morocco.

25. The cease-fire, however, could be put into effect without direct negotiations, through the intermediary of OAU; that was precisely the task which the Organization of African Unity had wished to entrust to the Implementation Committee, not that of according international status to an entity not lawfully entitled to it. Morocco looked forward eagerly, but calmly, to the commencement and hastening of the process establishing the conditions for a cease-fire in order that the referendum could be organized; the referendum would dispel all the controversy which was currently delaying progress towards peace and dividing the African States, whose unity was the safeguard of their future.

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(Mr. Boucetta, Morocco)

26. Morocco not only accepted but was calling for the holding of a referendum and the establishment of a cease-fire in order to allow "just, equitable and genuine consultation", in the words of King Hassan II in his address to the United Nations scarcely one month previously. It was thus not true, that Morocco was prevaricating or seeking pretexts for not implementing OAU resolutions; it simply opposed direct negotiation with a pseudo-movement that was not recognized by OAU, since that was a way to gain recognition of the phantom state of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic.

27. Morocco regretted that the Implementation Committee had not continued its work and the fact - which King Hassan II had deplored in the recent message which he had addressed to the Chairman of OAU - that OAU had not observed the time-limit set for the holding of the referendum with the participation of observers from OAU and the United Nations. Since Africa had made a commitment not only on its own behalf but also for the United Nations, any delay in holding the referendum would be detrimental not only to OAU but to the United Nations also.

28. Thus, Morocco, contrary to certain allegations and false claims made by trouble-makers, was resolved to do everything to permit the referendum to take place under the conditions set forth in the OAU resolutions. Morocco was ready to co-operate, within the United Nations, in any attempt to achieve a consensus on the organizing of a referendum which would enable the Sahrawi people to speak out. The Fourth Committee had already heard representatives of people's organizations acting for the citizens of the Western Sahara in the struggle which they were waging to build a future for their nation, and they would hear others. It was aware that they, unlike separatist mercenaries, expressed the true feelings of the population, its devotion to its country and its rejection of adventurism.

29. Mr. JESUS (Cape Verde) said that, in accordance with the Charter and United Nations resolutions, his country had always advocated the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence. Since that right was currently recognized by the entire international community, including Morocco, it was time to remove all obstacles to its exercise.

30. OAU was in the forefront of efforts to create the necessary conditions for the holding of an objective referendum; the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at its eighteenth ordinary session, had adopted resolution AHG/Res.103 (XVIII), whereby it had welcomed the solemn commitment undertaken by King Hassan II to accept the organization of a referendum in Western Sahara and had decided to set up an Implementation Committee, whose tasks would include the organization of a cease-fire and a referendum in Western Sahara. Unfortunately, since Morocco had refused to recognize the Frente POLISARIO as a party to the conflict, it had not been possible to establish a cease-fire which would help produce the requisite conditions for the referendum. The Assembly, at its nineteenth ordinary session, had unanimously adopted resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX), in which, for the first time, it had clearly identified the two parties to the conflict, namely, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, and had urged them to undertake direct negotiations with a view to bringing about a cease-fire, in order to create the

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(Mr. Jesus, Cape Verde)

necessary conditions for a peaceful and fair referendum, free from any administrative or military constraints, and under OAU and United Nations auspices. Unfortunately, the Implementation Committee meeting held at Addis Ababa in September had ended in deadlock, since Morocco had refused to sit at the same table as the Frente POLISARIO. The Implementation Committee had therefore had to adjourn its work, although the Frente POLISARIO had accepted the proposed terms for the dialogue.

31. Morocco, in refusing to negotiate directly with the Frente POLISARIO as requested in the resolution unanimously adopted by the OAU Assembly, could only be seeking to prevent the Sahrawi people from exercising its right to self-determination. It was thereby seriously compromising the future work of OAU. For that reason, Cape Verde urged Morocco, for the sake of peace, justice and co-operation between the countries of the Maghreb, to comply with the OAU resolution and agree to negotiate directly with the Frente POLISARIO.

32. He wished to draw the attention of the members of the Committee to the situation in East Timor, where the people was struggling for freedom and independence against a powerful army of occupation. He quoted a letter dated 20 October addressed to the President of the Security Council by Mr. José Luís Guterres, describing the tragic situation of the people of East Timor. The country was suffering an acute food shortage and hundreds of innocent people had been summarily executed by Indonesian troops. Moreover, Indonesia, which had launched a fresh offensive against a people struggling for its legitimate right to self-determination, denied the International Committee of the Red Cross access to certain regions of East Timor. ICRC had therefore decided, in July 1983, to suspend its assistance to the main island, although it remained ready to resume its activities once its delegates had been granted access to the people in need. Indonesia, in thus oppressing the defenceless but determined people of East Timor, was continuing to flout international law. Cape Verde sincerely hoped that, on the basis of the report on the situation in East Timor to be submitted the following year by the Secretary-General, the international community would give its full support to that people in its struggle to exercise its right to self-determination.

33. Mr. AMR (Egypt) paid a tribute to the important role played by the United Nations in achieving decolonization throughout the world, but noted with regret that there were still countries which had not attained independence and peoples which had not exercised their inalienable right to self-determination. Efforts must be intensified to enable the Organization to complete its mission by eliminating the last bastions of imperialism, which had no place in the modern world.

34. In that connection, his delegation reminded the administering Powers of their responsibility under the Charter and international law to preserve the human and natural resources and encourage the development of basic infrastructure in the Territories under their control and prepare those Territories for accession to independence. The best way for the United Nations to attain the noble objective of independence for all the peoples of the world was to continue, through its

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(Mr. Amr, Egypt)

information organs, to inform international public opinion and help it to become more conscious of the situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in general and those of South Africa and Namibia in particular. The international institutions and organizations, for their part, should work within the framework of the purposes and principles of the United Nations and draw inspiration for their decisions from the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

35. In that connection, his delegation had studied with interest the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/38/111 and Add.1-2, Add.3 and Corr.1, and Add.4). It thanked the international agencies which had replied to the Secretary-General's letter dated 10 January 1983 and urged all those which had not yet done so to reply as soon as possible. His delegation was particularly interested by the reply of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but would like a more detailed explanation. Not only were the directors of IMF bound by the moral obligation not to help a racist régime denounced by the international community, but also South Africa appeared not to conform to the technical criteria established by IMF itself for entitlement to a loan. For example, South Africa had a trade balance that was in surplus and it could borrow from institutions other than the Fund.

36. Egypt was especially interested in the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, designed to train experts from that region who would have to manage the affairs of their country after its accession to independence. Like the Secretary-General, it considered that in view of the rise in the inflation rate and the cost of fellowships, increased assistance was necessary to enable the Programme to continue and expand its work. Egypt also drew attention to the financial difficulties of the United Nations Institute for Namibia. It invited them to increase their financial contribution, and for its part, undertook to support the Institute and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa until Namibia became independent.

37. The question of Western Sahara was of particular interest to his country, first of all because it was a conflict between Arab brothers, and also because it was one of the most decisive tests faced by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) since its establishment. If OAU succeeded in settling that dispute by peaceful means, it would be strengthened and possess new authority to settle any other dispute which might arise between Arab or African States. Egypt considered that OAU should demonstrate its effectiveness by eliminating a problem which could spread outside the African continent and called upon all African countries to settle their disputes by peaceful means in the framework of OAU. The OAU Assembly had already obtained encouraging results with respect to the question of Western Sahara and contacts had recently taken place between the parties concerned. His delegation hoped that further progress could be achieved in the interest of all African countries, in order to avoid the intervention of non-African forces which were only awaiting the opportunity to pursue their own interests to the detriment of the African peoples.

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38. Mr. KHAMMAVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that, despite the great progress made in decolonization, colonialism and racism had not yet been eliminated. There were still peoples whose natural and human resources were ravaged by foreign economic interests, and Territories in which colonial Powers had installed military bases.

39. The example of the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African racist régime was particularly flagrant. That régime also openly defied the international community and continued its acts of aggression against independent African States, thus constantly threatening international peace and security. Supported by the United States, it thwarted all endeavours to implement the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia by raising questions which had no bearing on Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and by trying to establish a link between the independence of Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Those attempts were delaying decolonization in Namibia and constituted interference in the internal affairs of Angola. His delegation strongly condemned the attitude of South Africa and the United States and had welcomed the initiative of the non-aligned countries and of OAU requesting an urgent meeting of the Security Council on the question on Namibia in May 1983 to consider new measures making it possible to implement the plan for the independence of Namibia.

40. The question of Western Sahara had currently attained unprecedented dimensions not only because the parties to the conflict had not succeeded in settling their disputes by peaceful means, but also because of the intervention of a Western great Power in the conflict. In that connection, his delegation strongly supported the decision of the Seventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi in March 1983, which had appealed to the parties to the conflict to initiate immediate negotiations under the auspices of the OAU Implementation Committee on Western Sahara in order to obtain a fair and lasting solution to the conflict. The Lao people wished to reiterate its support for and solidarity with the Saharan people in its struggle for self-determination and independence.

41. In a number of small Territories in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and in the Caribbean, the colonial Powers had recently increased their activities aimed at incorporating those Territories in their military strategies, against the wishes of their inhabitants and in contravention of the United Nations Charter. It was regrettable that General Assembly resolution 35/119, which called upon the colonial Powers to withdraw immediately and unconditionally their military bases and installations from colonial Territories and to refrain from establishing new ones, had not been implemented. Only the complete dismantling of those military facilities could guarantee to the inhabitants of those Territories the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

42. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the efforts made by the Administering Authority to use that territory to further its strategic objectives was a serious threat to the security of the peoples not only of Micronesia but also of Asia and Oceania. Moreover, the exercise of the inalienable right to self-determination and independence was still an unsolved problem for the

(Mr. Khammavong, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

Micronesian people. It was precisely for that reason that the United Nations had the right to oppose a neo-colonialist policy which prevented the indigenous population of Micronesia from enjoying self-determination and independence.

43. The right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence was not always implemented as it should be, namely in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Not only did the occupying Power pursue its military activities in the territory but the majority of Puerto Ricans still lived in difficult economic conditions. In the view of his delegation, it was important that the Government of the occupying Western Power should transfer all sovereign powers to the Puerto Rican people. Furthermore, the United Nations should ensure to the Puerto Rican people the implementation of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

44. Mr. BADER (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, requested the Chairman to remind the representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic that the question of Puerto Rico was not on the agenda and was not within the competence of the Fourth Committee.

45. Mr. KHAMMAVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) wished to express the solidarity of the Lao Government and people with the people of Grenada and support for their heroic struggle to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country against the armed invasion carried out by the United States. The Lao Government strongly condemned that act of aggression and demanded the immediate cessation of such intervention and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country.

46. Mr. BADER (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he regretted the attacks of the representative of the Soviet Union on United States relations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but welcomed the opportunity to explain the matter to other members of the Committee.

47. IMF had been established in order to assist in stabilizing the international financial system in the interests of all countries, including the Soviet Union and South Africa. United States decisions in IMF matters were based on economic considerations; namely, the effective use of funds and the likelihood of repayment to IMF. The Soviet Union had criticized the loan granted to South Africa and had suggested that such a loan strengthened Pretoria for attacks on its neighbours and was politically motivated. The IMF action, which the United States had approved, was not a "loan" but a combination of a South African withdrawal from its special drawing rights under the IMF compensatory financing facility, and a stand-by arrangement for balance-of-payment purposes. Those were short-term financial arrangements covering balance of payments and shortfalls in exports, not development projects. They were proper to any member of IMF in good financial standing.

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(Mr. Bader, United States)

48. The Soviet Union had cited several other countries for which the United States had not supported IMF loans or credits. The reason had been economic, not political: those countries did not appear likely to repay financial obligations. If the Soviet Union felt otherwise, it might be interesting for that country to publish data on its own financial experience with the countries in question. It might be noted parenthetically that the United States had also opposed loans to States with which it had good bilateral relations, again because of questions of the financial soundness of the borrower.

49. In reply to the representative of the German Democratic Republic, he reminded the Committee that neither the question of Puerto Rico nor that of Grenada was on the agenda of the Fourth Committee. In regard to Puerto Rico, the United States delegation had on many occasions explained its position, which was solidly based on the Charter and had been recognized to be so by the Legal Counsel of the United Nations. It was surprising that the representative of the German Democratic Republic should wish to discuss the issue of Grenada in the Fourth Committee when his country had voted against holding such a debate in the plenary Assembly. Such an attitude was hypocritical and contrary both to freedom of discussion and to established procedure.

50. He regretted that he had been obliged to speak as he had but had been compelled to do so by certain delegations which insisted on discussing questions which did not appear on the Committee's agenda. He hoped that those delegations would limit their interventions to the important issues before the Committee rather than raising problems which they seemed to wish to avoid discussing in the plenary Assembly.

51. Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United States seemed to be under the impression that only the Soviet Union had criticized his country's position with regard to IMF and its continued co-operation with South Africa. Condemnation had, however, been general, as was clear from resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in 1982 concerning the IMF loan to the racist Pretoria régime as well as from the relevant summary records.

52. The United States was seeking to show that the grant of an IMF loan involved no political element. It was, however, well known that the United States Administration had in its possession a list of States to which the granting of loans was refused by that country. Such a list had been published, in particular by the Wall Street Journal. That was an irrefutable fact which could not be passed over in silence.

53. Concerning the second comment of the representative of the United States, the Soviet Union was indeed criticizing the use by the United States, for military purposes, of colonial Territories, particularly Puerto Rico, on which the United States had imposed the status of a colony. The Soviet delegation considered that it was its duty to invite the attention of the Committee to that situation.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.