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FOURTH COMMITTEE
8th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 1 November 1983
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TREIKI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

CONTENTS

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items)

- (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
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 102: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- (a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
- (b) 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

AGENDA ITEM 104: 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

- (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
- (b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/38/SR.8
9 November 1983

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONTENTS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 105: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 106: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 103: 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 (continued)

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

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/38/5, 6 and Add.1-11)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (A/C.4/38/5), and 12 communications containing requests for hearings concerning Western Sahara (A/C.4/38/6 and Add.1-11). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests.

2. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items)

(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 (A/38/23 (Part VI and Add.1), A/38/23 (Part VIII); A/38/555; A/AC.109/724 and Corr.1, 725, 726 and Corr.1, 727, 728 and Corr.1, 729-736, 737 and Corr.1, 738, 739, 740 and Corr.1, 741, 742, 746, 749 and Corr.1, 753 and 754

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AGENDA ITEM 102: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/38/125)

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/477)

(b) 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/38/23 (Part IV))

AGENDA ITEM 104: 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

(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 (A/38/23 (Part IV)); A/AC.109/L.1472, L.1475 and Add.1, L.1487)

(b) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/111 and Add.1-2, Add.3 and Corr.1, Add.4; A/AC.109/L.1462)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/38/3 Part II))

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AGENDA ITEM 105: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/469)

AGENDA ITEM 106: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/38/549)

General debate (continued)

3. The CHAIRMAN invited the 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 to introduce the chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to items 18, 102, 104 and 12, 105 and 106.

4. Mr. ADHAMI (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, introducing the report of the Special Committee relating to the six items, drew attention to General Assembly resolutions 35/118 and 37/35, which had guided the Special Committee's work.

5. The Special Committee had given extensive consideration to the situation in the Territories concerned as well as to related questions. With respect to the smaller Territories, it had again approved specific recommendations and proposals designed to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration. For most of the Territories, it continued to receive the co-operation of the administering Powers, whose representatives had participated in the relevant work of the Special Committee.

6. The Special Committee, conscious of the success achieved by previous United Nations visiting missions to colonial Territories in obtaining first-hand information about the Territories concerned, had again stressed the continued need for such missions in order to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration.

7. The Special Committee had also focused attention on increasing United Nations assistance to the people of colonial Territories, particularly in southern Africa, and had expressed its concern that that assistance was far from adequate. It accordingly had recommended that the relevant United Nations bodies should broaden contacts with those peoples, review their procedures for the formulation and preparation of assistance programmes and make those procedures more flexible so as to be able to provide the necessary assistance without delay. The Special Committee had also strongly condemned the persistent collaboration, in defiance of numerous General Assembly resolutions, between the International Monetary Fund and South Africa and called upon the Fund to end such collaboration.

8. Those and other equally important considerations were reflected in the draft resolutions and decisions in the context of measures recommended by the Special Committee to assist in the implementation of the Declaration.

AGENDA ITEM 103: 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 (continued) (A/38/23 (Part III))

9. Mrs. BERMUDEZ (Cuba) said that the tensions which threatened peace in various parts of the world had grown more serious in the past year. The situation had deteriorated in such areas as the Middle East, the Malvinas Islands, the Caribbean and Central America, aggravated in the latter case by United States intervention in Grenada. In South Africa, colonial domination and capitalist exploitation had assumed even more dangerous proportions. The fault, of course, lay with imperialism, as epitomized by the United States Government, which consistently supported colonial domination wherever it survived. Evidence to that effect could be found in position papers circulated to many Member States by the United States Government itself.

10. The United States, as could be seen from those documents, defended the selfish economic and military interests of an extracontinental Power in the Malvinas; threatened to leave the United Nations if Israel was expelled; opposed any action in Western Sahara that was incompatible with a referendum; proclaimed its right to "defend" dependent States in Central America on the pretext of alleged threats from the Soviet Union, Cuba, Nicaragua and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; and insisted that the question of Namibia could be settled only when Cuban troops were withdrawn from Angola. Of course, the United States, in its position papers, never spoke of its economic interests or the role of transnational corporations in those parts of the world. Those papers did not explain how the United States defended British economic and strategic interests in the Malvinas, or how 230 subsidiaries of United States and South African corporations, and 106 based in other Western countries, exploited vast natural resources which were the exclusive property of the Namibian people. Nor did they mention the military activities and arrangements of the imperialist Powers in Namibia described in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/743).

11. The United States continued to defend Israel, despite the latter's nuclear collaboration with the apartheid régime. It defended the activities of more than 1,000 affiliates of Western corporations in their strategic and military exploitation of Bermuda. In Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, United States economic exploitation was perhaps even surpassed by its military activities, particularly in Guam, as indicated in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on military activities in Guam (A/AC.109/742).

12. In connection with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States mendaciously claimed that its transnational corporations and economic interests not only did not impede decolonization but even contributed to the Territory's social and economic development. The situation of the people of

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(Mrs. Bermudez, Cuba)

Micronesia, which was the most under-developed and dependent Trust Territory ever, showed what the real situation was. In the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, United States economic exploitation continued relentlessly. Puerto Rico had been used as a base for launching the recent invasion of Grenada. The United States representatives in the Committee had made numerous claims about what the United States was doing to benefit the colonial peoples. Those claims were false.

13. It was clear that the Powers which dominated and exploited those peoples would never surrender the inexhaustible sources of wealth and power in the colonial Territories. In those circumstances, the colonized and exploited peoples of the world had little choice but to wage an armed struggle for their liberation.

14. Mr. BADER (United States of America), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, recalled that the representatives of Mongolia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics had reiterated the charge that the United States provided military assistance to South Africa. That charge was totally false and repetition did not make it true.

15. The representative of the USSR had also spoken at length about United States military facilities in Guam, Puerto Rico and Micronesia and their alleged effect upon the right of the people living there to self-determination. The Committee might be interested in hearing that same representative's views on the effect of Soviet troops in Eastern Europe on the independence of the peoples of that region. United States military facilities abroad existed because of the proven propensity of the Soviet Union to impose unwanted régimes upon defenceless peoples, as in Eastern Europe.

16. Turning to specific points raised by the representative of the USSR, he said that it was a lie that the United States was using Israel as an intermediary to sell arms to South Africa. It was also a lie that the United States had fragmented Micronesia, where distinct political entities were being created at the behest of those peoples themselves, a process which understandably baffled the Soviet Union, unaccustomed as it was to large Powers heeding the wishes of militarily weaker peoples.

17. As for Grenada, the peoples of the Caribbean would be interested in knowing why the USSR and its close allies had built up massive "technical" teams with fighting capability and arsenals there. The fact was that the Soviet Union had attempted in Grenada to introduce political systems alien to the region, and then protested when others, including the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the United States, reacted to the ensuing chaos.

18. Turning to another charge made by the representative of the Soviet Union, he said that the United States sold no computers to any South African military office or organization and that it banned the sale of computers to any agency in South Africa which administered or enforced apartheid. Any commercial computer sold was subject to prohibition of its transfer to other users. The United States also retained the right of access to such computers in order to monitor their use.

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(Mr. Bader, United States)

19. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the other hand, not only lied about United States military assistance to South Africa but also presented the amusing spectacle of offering his Government's definition of terrorism - from the mouth of a spokesman of a Government which had held 50 United States diplomats hostage for more than a year, had systematically hunted and assassinated enemies of the régime at home and abroad and had made it a State policy to kill Baha'is, Iranian Jews and other supposed enemies of God. The Iranian Government's real views on the subject of terrorism were best revealed through its actions.

20. The representative of Zimbabwe had referred to the alleged lifting by a permanent member of the Security Council of restrictions on the transfer of nuclear-weapon technology to South Africa. If that reference was to the United States, he felt he must point out that it had not lifted those restrictions. South Africa was not a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which the United States fully supported, and the United States would therefore not transfer nuclear-weapon materials or technology to South Africa. Such false accusations could not promote the continuing dialogue with Zimbabwe and the other States of southern Africa that his Government was interested in pursuing.

21. Finally, he found it curious, after hearing Cuba's diatribe, that a country which had sent troops to distant Africa should accuse others of interventionism. He also noted that the subject of Puerto Rico was not before the Committee.

22. Mr. JACOB (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, noted that certain Arab and Soviet-bloc delegations had referred to Israel's co-operation with South Africa and had attacked Israel on subjects which bore no relevance to the items before the Committee. He would therefore deal only with those which were relevant.

23. South African trade figures showed that only 1 per cent of South Africa's trade was with Israel. The other 99 per cent was with virtually every State represented in the Committee. The difference was that Israel did not conceal its relations. Furthermore, Israel, being itself a victim thereof, was normally against economic boycotts as a tool of international relations. Nevertheless, no evidence had been cited to support the charge that Israel, in violation of the Security Council embargo, had provided arms and weapons to South Africa, because the charge was false. Nor had any evidence ever been cited to support the charge of nuclear co-operation between Israel and South Africa. He drew attention in that connection to paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on Israeli nuclear armament (A/36/431), which stated that, until specific examples of actual nuclear exchanges or transactions could be cited as clear evidence of such co-operation, the whole question remained in a state of uncertainty. It was slanderous to treat that uncertainty as a fact.

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24. Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representatives of the United States and Israel had misrepresented the facts. The co-operation of the United States and Israel was no secret and had been proved in documents of the United Nations and of the United States Congress and by the press. Moreover, an article in The New York Times of 27 September 1983 had reported that the sale of \$50 million worth of maintenance and technical services to a South African nuclear installation by seven United States companies had been approved by the United States Government.

25. The representative of the United States had also attempted to justify his Government's aggressive activities in Central America and the Caribbean, particularly its military intervention against Grenada, which had threatened no one. Such military intervention clearly demonstrated the role of the United States as a colonial Power which was attempting to restore the colonial order. Moreover, a United States Government document intended for limited circulation and based on approximately five months' work by United States agencies dealing with the situation in three foreign countries, had asserted that the United States must establish political domination in key areas of the world such as the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf and other areas through which important commodities were shipped.

26. Concerning Micronesia, it was well known that the result of 30 years of United States control had reduced that trust territory to a state of complete fragmentation, whereas the people of Micronesia wished for unity.

27. Mrs. BERMUDEZ (Cuba), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement of the representative of the United States to the effect that Puerto Rico was not independent and that any reference to the rights of its people therefore constituted interference in United States internal affairs, demonstrated clearly the colonial role of the United States in Puerto Rico. Statements by Puerto Rican petitioners had shown that the United States was using Puerto Rico for military purposes. The United States was acting in a similar fashion in Micronesia.

28. Grenada was not on the agenda of the General Assembly but it certainly was on the agenda of violations of the rights of independent peoples and on the agenda of history. The United States had suggested that Cuba was building a military base in Grenada. The veracity of the United States Government had certainly been thrown in doubt by the resignation of a White House spokesman on the grounds that the information he had been directed to pass on to the press had been untrue. It was true that there were Cuban workers in Grenada but they had been working on the airport together with experts from a British company. The allegations regarding a military build-up were ridiculous.

29. Cuban troops would remain in Angola as long as they were required. Cuba had sent aid and experts to Angola and Grenada at the request of those Governments.

30. Mr. BADER (United States of America) said that his delegation would be delighted to examine any concrete evidence which the representative of the Soviet Union cared to produce regarding military co-operation between the United States and South Africa. As the Soviet representative was well aware, the story in The New York Times concerned a purely civilian item.

31. Mr. ADHAMI (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he had not been surprised that two delegations had failed to express support for peoples suffering under the colonial yoke.

32. According to the representative of Israel, trade between that country and South Africa represented only 1 per cent of the total trade of South Africa. Those statistics could not have included the trade in weapons, diamonds or uranium. Moreover, letters addressed to the Secretary-General by the Israeli mission had recognized that Israel wished to increase the arms trade with South Africa to an annual level of \$2 billion. Furthermore, the Israeli press agency had reported that Israel's trade with South Africa was currently 20 times higher than in 1970. Israel had clearly chosen to strengthen ties with South Africa and to supply it with arms, thus strengthening the military capability of the Pretoria régime; it had accordingly involved itself in the conflict in southern Africa on the side of the aggressor. Israel was one of the few States which had relations with the "bantustans"; the Prime Minister of Israel had met the Prime Minister of South Africa, notwithstanding the latter's previous contacts with the Nazis.

33. Israel had clearly been unable to furnish any proof of its allegations and consequently had resorted to lies and manoeuvres. Israel was no longer part of the international community and did not care about international public opinion.

34. Mr. YOUNIS (Iraq), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had complained that certain Arab representatives had spoken against him without any justification. The truth of the allegations against Israel were, however, clearly borne out in documents submitted under the item.

35. The working paper on Namibia prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/744, para. 29) described a new Israeli/South African venture in which Mukurob Fisheries, Ltd., a new joint consortium, was to establish a white-fish industry in Lüderitz, Namibia. Fish delivered by an Israeli trawler to Lüderitz would be processed for export, with some going to South Africa.

36. The role of Israel as a supplier of weapons to South Africa had been made clear in paragraph 42 of document A/AC.109/743, which had stated that for several years Israel had been cited in publications of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute and the International Institute for Strategic Studies of London as a supplier of weapons to South Africa. Moreover, The Financial Times of London, on 18 August 1982, had stated that Israel might be acting as a proxy for the United States in selling arms to South Africa and other countries. In the field of nuclear co-operation, document A/36/431, paragraphs 44 and 45, had reported that, besides the natural uranium which Israel was reported to have obtained from Western and African sources, it might be possible that South Africa had supplied additional quantities of natural uranium to Israel without any public announcement of such sales. There had been further reports of possible diversions of highly enriched uranium in the United States, allegedly to Israel. In its resolution 37/82, the General Assembly had condemned Israel's officially declared intention to repeat its armed attack against the nuclear facilities of other countries and had requested the Secretary-General to follow closely the nuclear and military collaboration between Israel and South Africa.

(Mr. Younis, Iraq)

37. It was therefore clear that Israel was trying to develop its nuclear potential with a view to maintaining its hegemony over the Arab peoples of the occupied territories. Moreover, collaboration between Israel and South Africa was assisting South Africa to maintain its hegemony in southern Africa. Their bilateral co-operation had reached a dangerous level and called for the strictest sanctions by the international community.

38. Mr. SCHRÖTER (German Democratic Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, categorically rejected the contention of the United States representative that his country and others were living in a state of subservience to the Soviet Union. He was proud that the German Democratic Republic, as a sovereign Socialist State, in solidarity with the majority of States Members of the United Nations, supported the struggle of dependent Territories in the Caribbean and elsewhere for true freedom and independence.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.