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PROVIS IONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 1 March 1989, at 10 a.m.

President:

Mr. MORTENSEN (Vice-President)

(Denmark)

- Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group [154]

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Mortensen (Denmark), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 154

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITION ASSISTANCE GROUP: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/43/998)

The PRESIDENT: The President of the General Assembly has asked me to convey to members of the Assembly his regret at not being able to preside over this meeting. As members know, the President was here at the end of last week, when we had expected to take up the report of the Fifth Committee on this item. Owing to a previous commitment, he is unable to be present today.

I now call on the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mrs. Flor Acconciamesa de Rodriguez of Venezuela, to present the report on agenda item 154.

Mrs. ACCONCIAMESSA de RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee (interpretation from Spanish): It is my honour to introduce the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 154, "Financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group"; that report is contained in document A/43/998.

The Fifth Committee, which considered the item between 21 and 28 February 1989, held five official meetings and conducted intense negotiations through extensive informal consultations. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the report, the introduction, concern organizational matters.

Paragraphs 3 to 5 summarize the Committee's consideration of the proposal before it, and paragraph 6 contains the text of the draft resolution the Fifth Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly.

I am pleased to be able to report that the Committee adopted its report without a vote.

(Mrs. Acconciamesa de Rodriguez,
Rapporteur, Fifth Committee)

As indicated in paragraph 4 of the report, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote on the understanding that by recommending the appropriation in the amount of \$416,162,000 the Committee agreed to the reimbursement of police costs at the rates now being used to reimburse troop contributors and that approval by the General Assembly would be given on an ad hoc basis and should not constitute a precedent for future United Nations operations. It was also the understanding of the Fifth Committee that the relevant resolutions and decisions referred to in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution are those pertaining to the mandates of the General Assembly and the mandates of the Security Council, in accordance with their respective competence, in respect of procurement from sources of supply in southern Africa.

I wish to reiterate that the Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote, following many hours of difficult and delicate negotiations.

The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution.

Finally, let me say that for the Government of Venezuela and for me as a Venezuelan it has been an honour to address the General Assembly today as Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee and introduce the Committee's report on an item of such importance as one relating to Namibia. Venezuela has always supported Namibia's accession to independence.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall consider that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that in paragraph 7 of its decision 34/401 the General Assembly decided that, when the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should as far as possible explain its vote only once, that is either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended in paragraph 6 of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/43/998). The Fifth Committee decided without a vote to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft resolution. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 43/232).

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on delegations wishing to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. NOWORYTA (Poland): The General Assembly has just adopted the draft resolution contained in document A/43/998, on the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG). I should like to state that my delegation joined the consensus on the draft resolution despite its reservations concerning the composition of existing groups in the scheme of financing for such operations, based on the criteria set out in resolution 3101 (XXVIII). While supporting the overall level of appropriations for UNTAG, we should like to voice Poland's

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

reservations with regard to our allocation to group B in the scheme for financing this operation. On previous occasions we have set forth arguments supporting Poland's request to be included in group C rather than group B, where we continue to be placed.

(Mr. Noworyta, Poland)

We supported the draft resolution, motivated by our endorsement of United Nations operations, in many of which we are a troop-contributing country, on the understanding that the question of Poland's allocation in the scheme of financing of such operations, which forms part of the draft resolution which has just been adopted, will be resolved at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, thus eliminating the anomalies existing within the scheme.

Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe): The General Assembly has just adopted the draft resolution for the financing of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia. For the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries this is a historic occasion. The South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) is a full member of our movement - a founding member, through the attendance at the 1961 Belgrade Summit of its President, Comrade Sam Nujoma. We look forward to welcoming Namibia to our ranks within the next few months.

To have brought the process towards the birth of a new Namibia so far must be grounds for satisfaction for all the Members of the United Nations. Through all the protracted negotiations since December 1988 the non-aligned countries have worked hard to ensure that there will be free and fair elections without intimidation in Namibia. To achieve these goals it has been necessary to ensure that the Secretary-General received adequate resources to carry out his full mandate, as outlined in its original and definitive form in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), as stated in Security Council resolution 632 (1989). That was necessary not because Security Council 435 (1978) had assumed the quality of a Holy Grail, as some have suggested, but mainly because the objective reality in Namibia today dictates it. Pretoria's control of Namibia today is more pervasive than it was in 1978.

All these matters must be monitored and controlled by UNTAG. To have reduced

(Mr. Mudenge, Zimbabwe)

UNTAG's presence in such circumstances would have weakened the ability of the United Nations to monitor the activities of the Pretoria functionaries in Namibia. We know that Pretoria has an interest in the installation of a weak and malleable régime in Windhoek. For that reason, Pretoria has the motive, and is prepared, to manipulate the independence process in order to achieve its aim. To have denied the Secretary-General the wherewithal to restrain Pretoria from doing that would have amounted to connivance with Pretoria. We are therefore satisfied by paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's explanatory statement, in which he stated:

"The mandate of the military component of UNTAG, as approved in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), remains unchanged." (S/20457, para. 5)

A number of actions Pretoria has taken since the adoption of Security Council resolutions 628 (1989) and 629 (1989), as well as the publication of the Secretary-General's report, confirm our fears that the apartheid régime cannot be trusted. First, we have the racist elections for white Namibians scheduled for this month. Why this provocative action in the promotion of apartheid? Secondly, we saw Pretoria's perfidy in action over the question of the numbers of policemen in Namibia.

During the negotiations over Security Council resolution 629 (1989), which sought to effect a balance between United Nations police observers and South African police in Namibia, either through a reduction of the latter or an increase of the former, Pretoria told the Secretary-General and the world that it was cutting the size of its police force in Namibia by 2,000 men. No sooner had the Security Council adopted resolution 629 (1989) than Pretoria reversed the position by announcing that it was increasing its police force in Namibia by 3,000 men, by making its Koevoet murder squads wear police uniforms. Under Security Council resolution 435 (1978) Koevoet should have been disbanded, not integrated. Will the

(Mr. Mudenge, Zimbabwe)

Secretary-General's Special Representative condone such flagrant violations of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 435 (1978) and 629 (1989) by allowing Koevoet to masquerade in the garb of the so-called police force?

Those are not the only signs of bad faith by Pretoria in the past few weeks. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 629 (1989) Pretoria has decided to increase the size of the South West Africa Territory Force by announcing and carrying out a new programme of recruitment. According to Security Council resolution 435 (1978) that Force is to be disbanded and monitored. Why did Pretoria decide to increase the size of that illegal Force only two months before the Force was to be disbanded?

We should be derelict in our duty if we failed to alert the international community to those serious developments. Only a few days ago Pretoria agents assassinated Comrade Mweshihange, the brother of SWAPO's Secretary of Defence and a colleague of his. Pretoria shamelessly tried to pin the blame on SWAPO for that dastardly act. If one of the victims had not been a brother of SWAPO's Secretary of Defence, massive efforts would have been made to make the accusation against SWAPO stick. That is a trend we shall see increasingly in the coming months. It is important that we should be aware of it now and that this Organization should make its position clear - that assassinations will not be tolerated.

We know that Pretoria has intensified its campaign of intimidation of the Namibians by threatening dire reprisals against those who are sympathetic to SWAPO. But perhaps more ominous is the officially sanctioned anarchy in the Caprivi Strip, where the UNITA bandits are now fully entrenched. It is important that law and order be restored to that part of Namibia without delay. That is an issue that the Special Representative will have to address as soon as he gets to Namibia. If the resources he is initially taking with him prove inadequate to deal

(Mr. Mudenge, Zimbabwe)

effectively with the challenges I have mentioned, we expect him urgently to contact the Secretary-General for additional manpower. The members of the Security Council have already assured the Secretary-General of their willingness to co-operate and respond promptly in such circumstances. We assure the Special Representative that the members of the Assembly will be found to be equally ready to respond promptly.

The non-aligned countries are particularly pleased that the resolution that we have just adopted and the understandings that go with it have committed the Organization to respect its resolutions and decisions on sanctions against South Africa. To achieve that while proceeding with Namibia's independence plan has been a major objective of the non-aligned countries. All the Members of the United Nations have grounds for satisfaction in this regard.

The statement by the representative of the Secretary-General in the Fifth Committee that UNTAG will not purchase arms and military equipment from South Africa must surely enhance the Organization's moral standing in the international community. We on our part promise and undertake to co-operate vigorously with the Special Representative to see to it that the undertaking is honoured in the spirit and the letter.

Finally, the non-aligned countries are satisfied to note that, although the Secretary-General will in the first instance fund both the return and, more important, the rehabilitation of Namibian refugees through an appeal to member countries, in the event of a shortfall the programme will be funded from the regular UNTAG budget, as provided for in Security Council resolution 435 (1978)

"in its original and definitive form",
to quote Security Council resolution 632 (1989). For that reason, operative paragraph 8 of the resolution we have just adopted is of particular importance to us.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of position.

On behalf of the members of the Assembly, on behalf of the President of the General Assembly and on my own behalf, I should like to express our very special appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Michael Okeyo, Chairman of the Fifth Committee, and to His Excellency Mr. Conrad Mselle, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for the very dedicated and conscientious manner in which they have conducted their work and enabled the General Assembly to deal with this urgent matter. I should also like to thank Mr. Luis Maria Gomez, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme, Planning, Budget and Finance and Comptroller for his very effective contribution to facilitating our work.

I am sure that I speak for the President and the entire General Assembly in wishing the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Namibia, Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, every success in this historic task of bringing Namibia to independence through the holding of free and fair elections under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 154.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.