

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Official Records \*



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FOURTH COMMITTEE  
2nd meeting  
held on  
Thursday, 30 September 1976  
at 3 p.m.  
New York

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**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING**

**Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)**

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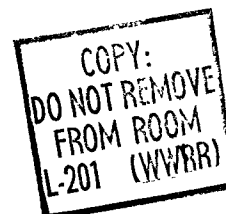
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76-74008

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.4/31/SR.2  
5 October 1976  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN thanked the Committee for having elected him, an action that was a tribute to Norway's consistent support for the struggle of colonial peoples for self-determination and independence. He took the opportunity to welcome the Republic of Seychelles, a new Member of the United Nations which had achieved its independence in accordance with a time-table agreed on with the administering Power, thus demonstrating the faithful adherence of that Power - the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - to the principle of self-determination.
2. The Committee would have to deal with one of the most urgent and critical problems confronting the United Nations: the situation in southern Africa. For years, that situation had been an affront to the United Nations and the international community and time was running out for peaceful solutions. Developments had reached a decisive phase which could end in tragedy and the international community had a duty to do everything possible to avert such a situation.
3. In Southern Rhodesia, some progress had been made towards holding negotiations. Whatever the chances for the success of those negotiations, the United Nations must do everything possible to bring about a rapid transition to majority rule and independence in Southern Rhodesia and the joint efforts currently being made to prepare the way for an interim Government merited the support of all peace-loving nations. It was very important for the international community to avoid a large-scale war in southern Africa. At the same time, however, the decolonization of Zimbabwe depended essentially on the efforts of its nationals and it was therefore essential that there should be unity within the national liberation movement.
4. The liberation struggle in Namibia had been intensified and extended. The position of the United Nations in that respect was clear: South Africa's occupation of the Territory was illegal and all Member States had an obligation to refrain from taking measures which might confer any semblance of legitimacy on that occupation. The situation in Namibia must be examined anew within the context of South Africa's violations of the Charter and solutions must be found as soon as possible.
5. Foreign economic and other interests in the colonial Territories were of concern to the world community, which must make every effort to safeguard the sovereignty of the colonial peoples over their own resources. Governments should take steps to put an end to activities by their nationals and corporations under their jurisdiction which were detrimental to the interests of the peoples of those Territories.
6. Mention should be made of the role played by the specialized agencies in the field of decolonization in assisting the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements in their struggle for independence as well as the newly independent countries in their efforts to achieve socio-economic reconstruction. The Committee must strive to ensure that the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies fulfilled their duty to provide all possible moral and material

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assistance to the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements and to the newly independent countries.

7. At the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had given extensive consideration to the situation in small Territories and had made various recommendations in that respect. Subsequently, a number of visiting missions had been sent to those Territories and, on their return, they had provided valuable information on the conditions prevailing in those Territories and on the wishes of their inhabitants. There was general agreement that, because of the size, geographical location, economic resources and population of those Territories, the solutions proposed by the United Nations in co-operation with the administering Powers concerned must be specifically suited to the needs of each individual Territory and based on the wishes of its inhabitants.

8. Finally, referring to the fact that the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had recently been celebrated, he said that, while there was no doubt that substantial progress had been achieved, further efforts had to be made in order to attain the goals of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration. The Committee could contribute by seeking solutions that would accelerate the process of decolonization.

#### ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN

9. Mr. AL-WALI (Iraq) nominated Mr. Gazdik (Hungary) and Mr. Tchicaya (Gabon) for the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

10. Mr. VARGAS SABORIO (Costa Rica) supported the nominations.

11. Mr. Gazdik (Hungary) and Mr. Tchicaya (Gabon) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

#### ELECTION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

12. Mr. QUARTIN SANTOS (Portugal) nominated Mr. Mangal (Afghanistan) for the post of Rapporteur.

13. Mr. Mangal (Afghanistan) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK (A/C.4/31/1)

14. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to document A/C.4/31/1 which contained the list of items allocated to the Committee by the General Assembly. In view of the recent developments in southern Africa and the fact that the Security Council was currently considering the question of Namibia, and also taking into account the availability of documentation, he had prepared the following time-table for the order of consideration of the items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each: item 87 (Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

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(The Chairman)

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia and 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), 8 meetings; item 85 (Question of Namibia), 12 meetings; item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council), item 25 (Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: 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 /chapters relating to specific Territories/), item 84 (Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations), item 88 (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), item 89 (United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa: report of the Secretary-General), to be considered together, and item 90 (Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General), 15 meetings; item 86 (Question of Southern Rhodesia), 12 meetings. Finally, item 25 would be considered in plenary meetings of the Assembly. The order of consideration of the items would be provisional and would be subject to change as the need arose.

15. Mr. HUSSEN (Somalia), after thanking the Chairman for preparing the provisional time-table, said that it would be preferable to consider item 87 not at the beginning but at the end, when it would be possible to consider it in the context of other items in the programme with which it was closely linked.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that the provisional time-table was the result of lengthy consultations and that its preparation had presented difficulties. Furthermore, item 87 was the only one on which documentation would be available in a few days and, in his opinion, the Committee should not postpone the beginning of its deliberations. He expressed the hope the Committee could agree to begin with the item referred to and that the Somali delegation would be amenable to that procedure.

17. Mr. GEORGESCU (Romania), referring to the fact that, in previous years, it had been the practice of the Committee not to hold meetings while the General Assembly, the Security Council or any other principal organ of the United Nations system was considering questions within the Committee's competence pointed out that the Security Council was currently considering the question of Namibia. Otherwise, he fully supported the provisional time-table suggested by the Chairman.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that, although he fully shared that view, he had convened the current meeting in the firm belief that the Committee should not postpone the commencement of its deliberations. Consequently, if there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to proceed in accordance with the time-table he had suggested.

19. It was so decided.

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20. The CHAIRMAN referred to the General Assembly resolutions relating to the control and limitation of documentation and, in particular, resolution 2292 (XXII) concerning the reproduction in extenso, in the summary records, of statements made in meetings by representatives.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/31/3 and 4)

21. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received two communications containing requests for hearings concerning Brunei and Spanish Sahara (A/C.4/31/3 and 4).

22. Mr. MAHJOUBI (Morocco) said that his delegation had reservations with regard to the circulation of the requests for hearings, and regarding the hearings themselves.

23. Mr. OULD CHEIKH (Mauritania) expressed reservations regarding the circulation of the requests for hearings and regarding the representativeness of those who had submitted them.

24. The CHAIRMAN duly noted the reservations expressed and said that, in accordance with usual practice, the communications would be circulated as documents of the Committee.

25. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.