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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway)

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN said that representatives of various delegations had stated that it might be advisable to alter the order in which the Committee had decided to consider items and defer consideration of the question of Namibia until the middle of November. Consequently, he proposed that when the Committee finished consideration of the item now before it, it should deal with items 12, 25, 84, 88, 89 and 90. The Secretariat had announced that the relevant documentation would be ready by 25 October, at which time consideration of those items would begin. In reply to a question from the representative of Algeria, he said that the Committee would not, in fact, meet during the period between completion of the consideration of item 87 and 25 October.

2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to that new organization of work, on the understanding that it was a provisional organization which might be adjusted if necessary.

3. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 87: 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 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 (A/31/23) (PART III) (continued)

4. Mr. YUMJAV (Mongolia) said that since his country had often explained its position with regard to the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, he would limit himself to a few observations. The report of the Special Committee indicated the extent of the exploitation of the natural and human resources of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories by Western companies and the relation between those companies and the racist régimes. Western capital investment was one of the major obstacles to decolonization, since it brought with it the exploitation of natural and human resources, hindered the development of the Territories and reduced the indigenous population to poverty.

5. The United Nations, and in particular the General Assembly and the Special Committee, had condemned the activities of economic and other interests in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and had called on the Western Powers to take all the necessary measures to ensure that their nationals and companies under their jurisdiction ceased to engage in such activities. However, those Powers had turned a deaf ear to such appeals, as demonstrated in the Special Committee's report now before the Fourth Committee. For example, investment by foreign companies in the exploitation of uranium in Namibia would reach £750 million in the 1980s, a figure greater than the total of all previous investment and reflecting increased support by foreign interests for South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

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(Mr. Yumjav, Mongolia)

6. Although some States declared that they did not give support to the colonialist and racist régimes, the enormous profits of foreign interests in the colonial Territories were repatriated and part of them was used to help the oppressors.

7. His delegation agreed with the Special Committee that the world community should be informed of the plunder of natural resources and the exploitation of human resources carried out by foreign interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories. It should be emphasized that the harmful effects of the activities of foreign interests sometimes persisted even after decolonization, a situation which existed in many developing countries. His delegation shared the view expressed by the non-aligned countries at their Colombo meeting that the developing countries must adopt measures to consolidate their economic independence and the full exercise of their sovereignty over their natural resources. The United Nations had a duty to take steps to end the plunder of the resources of the colonial Territories and the exploitation of their indigenous populations.

8. Mr. MAUERSBERGER (German Democratic Republic) said that the report of the Special Committee contained very important data concerning the activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial Territories and demonstrated the need to expose and condemn them. The resolution adopted by the Special Committee was a further contribution to the struggle against those activities, which had been repeatedly condemned by the General Assembly, by the Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries in the Colombo Declaration and by many other international conferences. Furthermore, the representatives of the African liberation movements had repeatedly drawn the attention of the United Nations to the adverse consequences for the people of southern Africa of such activities, characterized by unlimited exploitation of raw materials and other economic resources and of the indigenous population in order to extract maximum profits and by the use and strengthening of the colonialist racist apparatus of power and suppression. The United Nations should pay greater attention to those harmful activities, and the Commission on the Activities of Transnational Corporations should play a major role in that respect.

9. Notwithstanding Security Council sanctions against Rhodesia, certain United States corporations were continuing to violate sanctions by importing chromium from that Territory for the arms industry. Many imperialist States were ignoring Decree No. 1 of the Council for Namibia in order to exploit Namibia's uranium resources in collaboration with South Africa. As a part of that collaboration, the Vorster régime was acquiring specialized know-how for the development of its nuclear capacity despite the fact that General Assembly resolution 3411 G (XXX) called on all States to oppose South Africa's development of nuclear technology.

10. The same States which were violating United Nations resolutions felt called upon to defend the principles of the Charter in the name of democracy. His country, together with the great majority of States Members of the United Nations, supported full and strict application of the Charter and was convinced that the presence of racist and colonial régimes in southern Africa was contrary to the fundamental purpose of the United Nations and of its resolutions.

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(Mr. Mauersberger, German Democratic Republic)

11. The struggle of the oppressed peoples of southern Africa under the leadership of their authentic representatives, the national liberation movements, had acquired new dimensions. International solidarity with the peoples struggling for self-determination and independence had increased, and the racist and colonialist régimes were becoming increasingly isolated. Those circles which supported the racist and colonialist régimes were being forced to recognize the futility of attempting to quell the liberation struggle and were doing everything possible to preserve the colonial structures by using more flexible methods. However, the imperialist monopolies were not prepared to renounce their colonialist practices. The new international economic order envisaged in numerous United Nations resolutions was contrary to their interests. The Western press had openly admitted that the subjugated Territories in southern Africa were politically, economically and strategically indispensable to the Western world. The imperialist monopolies were making huge profits in southern Africa by taking advantage of the ruthless exploitation inherent in the racist system operating in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. For example, those monopolies were repatriating profits amounting to at least one third of Namibia's gross national product, and South Africa had handed over approximately one third of the area of the Territory in concessions to foreign mining companies. At the same time, African workers were being paid only a fraction of the wages paid to whites.

12. The exploitation of the resources of Non-Self-Governing Territories by foreign corporations was increasing, and it was obvious that Western States were doing nothing to make their nationals or the corporations under their jurisdiction cease such activities. On the contrary, they emphasized the importance of co-operation between the West and South Africa "for mutual benefit". Military co-operation was undoubtedly an important aspect of such co-operation. Imperialist interests in the Territories under colonial domination were primarily strategic, as could be seen from articles on NATO activities in southern Africa based on a study by the United States National Security Council, which had recommended that efforts should be made to promote stability in the area in order to enable the United States and its allies to exploit its resources, expand trade and exchange scientific and technical data. Southern Africa was the starting point for the imperialist policy of establishing military bases in the Indian Ocean, and South Africa had consistently been included in NATO military planning.

13. The Pretoria and Salisbury régimes were increasing their collaboration with the fascist military junta in Chile, and Israel's co-operation with the South African colonialists was also constantly increasing. Recently a radio station called "Voice of Free Africa" had begun transmitting broadcasts from Southern Rhodesia attacking national liberation movements; it bore a suspicious resemblance to other radio stations at Munich which, clearly with the same financial backing were continuing their vain attempts to defame socialism and communism. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that many of the representatives of colonial and racist domination in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe were former collaborators and admirers of nazism.

14. As a socialist State, the German Democratic Republic had always supported peoples fighting against colonialism and racism, and that position had been

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(Mr. Mauersberger, German Democratic Republic)

reaffirmed recently by Mr. Oskar Fischer, its Minister for Foreign Affairs, at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. His delegation was convinced that the oppressed peoples of southern Africa would liberate themselves from the colonialist and racist forces in the near future and would decide their further development freely and without regard for imperialist dictates.

15. Mr. MARMULAKU (Yugoslavia) said that the record of the activities of foreign economic interests in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia and other colonial Territories was a long history of exploitation of both natural and human resources. Since 1919, when South Africa had taken over the administration of Namibia, the economy of that Territory had been based almost exclusively on mining and the exploitation of other natural resources, which were in the hands of transnational corporations. In Southern Rhodesia the industrial sector was under the domination of foreign economic interests.

16. At a time when strenuous efforts were being made to establish a new international economic order, the international community should strongly condemn the exploitation of Namibia by the South African racists and prevent the transnational corporations of some Western Powers from continuing to repatriate enormous profits from that Territory.

17. The struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia was rocking the régime of apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa, as could be seen from recent events at Soweto and elsewhere in South Africa. The Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held recently at Colombo, had reaffirmed the legitimacy of that struggle and had called upon all States which maintained relations with the Pretoria régime to cease all collaboration with South Africa.

18. The United Nations should show its solidarity with the aspirations of the oppressed peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa for freedom and independence.

19. Mr. BADI (Libyan Arab Republic) said that, despite numerous General Assembly resolutions which reaffirmed the right of colonial peoples to self-determination and independence and to dispose of the natural resources of their Territories as they saw fit, some Western countries were continuing to exploit the natural and human resources of southern Africa and impede the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Moreover, in their eagerness to obtain cheap labour, those foreign interests were promoting the application of the apartheid system and labour legislation which forced indigenous workers to live in misery.

20. The South African régime was also violating United Nations resolutions and defying world public opinion by attempting to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Namibia in order to exploit its resources, especially diamonds, zinc and uranium.

21. His delegation supported the recommendations and conclusions set forth in the

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(Mr. Badi, Libyan Arab Republic)

Special Committee's report (A/31/23 (Part III)) and urged that the colonialist countries which collaborated in the exploitation of natural and human resources, ignoring the rights of the peoples of southern Africa, should be condemned; that the foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration should be condemned; that a total boycott should be imposed on corporations having interests in colonial Territories; that all countries, especially those with economic interests in the colonial Territories, should be asked to take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to put an end to the activities of transnational corporations; and that material and moral assistance should be given to the peoples and national liberation movements of the colonial Territories in their struggle to obtain independence and recover their natural resources.

22. Mr. DIAB (Sudan) praised the Special Committee's report (A/31/23 (Part III)) and said that it made possible an objective and serious approach to the subject under consideration.

23. Despite the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly during the past period of more than 15 years with the object of obtaining independence and freedom for colonial countries and peoples, much of the African continent and the Middle East remained under foreign domination and racist and Zionist minority régimes. The peoples of those Territories continued to suffer from colonialism, economic exploitation and racial and Zionist discrimination. That situation raised the question why the foreign forces which supported the colonial régimes in those Territories had not respected the resolutions of the United Nations, the Organization to which they belonged. The answer to that question could be found in the Special Committee's report now before the Fourth Committee. It was clear that, in practice, racist domination was aimed at the economic exploitation of the natural and human resources of southern Africa. The great differences in wages between white and black workers in the region confirmed that fact. However, it was even more dramatic and tragic that the racist minority Governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, in order to achieve their purposes, were oppressing their respective populations and depriving them of their most basic rights. In those circumstances, it was difficult to accept the position of those States which were co-operating with the racist régimes and providing them with military and material assistance while declaring their respect for the Charter and United Nations resolutions. The declarations of those States were unacceptable so long as they did not apply military, economic and political sanctions against the colonial régimes which were defying international law and the United Nations Charter. In fact, foreign economic activities, investments in the colonial Territories of southern Africa and co-operation with the racist régimes of the region served to strengthen those régimes and their policy of oppression of the African peoples.

24. However, southern Africa would soon attain freedom. The liberation movements of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia represented the aspirations of the African peoples of the region and would undoubtedly be the Governments of the future. Those Governments would never forgive those who had given assistance to the colonial exploiters and oppressors of their countries.

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(Mr. Diab, Sudan)

25. His delegation was concerned at the intention of some countries to supply nuclear and atomic weapons to South Africa, which constituted a danger for all of the African continent. Furthermore, it could never accept the conversion of Africa into a nuclearized region. His delegation urged all States supplying arms to the racist régimes of southern Africa to reconsider their policies with regard to those régimes.

26. His delegation called for condemnation of any assistance to the racist régimes of South Africa and Zimbabwe and reaffirmation of the sovereignty of the colonized peoples over their natural resources and wealth in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3281 (XXIX), which dealt with the establishment of a new international economic order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.