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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
27th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 24 November 1976
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SIBAHI (Syrian Arab Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 121: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF GANGES WATERS AT FARAKKA (A/31/195 and Add.1 and 2; A/SPC/31/L.8) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that consultations were under way between India and Bangladesh and that those delegations had requested a one-hour suspension of the meeting. Since both parties had shown goodwill, the Chair hoped that when the meeting resumed they would be able to inform the Committee that a positive decision had been taken. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to suspend the meeting.
2. The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 5.20 p.m.
3. The CHAIRMAN read out a joint statement by the parties concerned and said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee approved the statement by consensus.
4. It was so decided.
5. The CHAIRMAN said that the consensus statement would be issued as Committee document A/SPC/31/7 and that the delegation of Bangladesh had requested the withdrawal of its draft resolution (A/SPC/31/L.8).
6. Mr. KANAKARATNE (Sri Lanka), speaking on behalf of his delegation and as Chairman of the Group of 86 Non-Aligned Countries, said that he wished to express his deep appreciation of the fact that the parties directly concerned had acted in a very co-operative spirit and had solved the problem within the framework of the movement of non-aligned countries. It was to be hoped that the precedent which India and Bangladesh had just set would serve as a salutary example in similar situations. It was his understanding that India and Bangladesh had agreed to meet very shortly in Dacca on a date which would be announced in due course in the capitals of the two countries. Their action was unquestionably a very auspicious one, and it was a matter for pride that two fraternal nations had been able to solve a problem of that kind in keeping with the obligation laid down in the Charter to practise tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbours.
7. Mr. SOBER (United States of America) expressed his delegation's deep satisfaction at the fact that the parties had reached agreement, thus confirming the fact that the most effective way to resolve any misunderstandings arising in southern Asia was to call upon the goodwill and co-operation of the parties concerned. He trusted that the conversations between Bangladesh and India would prove successful.
8. Mr. MURRAY (United Kingdom) said that his Government was pleased at the agreement reached on a very difficult problem affecting two countries with which the United Kingdom had close, friendly relations and which were also members of the Commonwealth. He paid a tribute to the statesmanlike attitude of the delegations

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(Mr. Murray, United Kingdom)

concerned and to the group of countries which, under the skilful leadership of the representative of Egypt, had made a major effort to bring about a solution. His delegation hoped that the consensus statement which had just been approved would facilitate a prompt and equitable solution of the problem which would protect the interests of all the parties concerned.

9. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation was greatly encouraged by the fact that India and Bangladesh had acted like good neighbours and brothers, and he appealed to both parties to try to reach a solution to the problem in the same spirit of goodwill which they had shown in the conversations they had just held. The problem was a difficult one, and the services of specialists would perhaps be required to deal with it. In his opinion, the civilized manner in which India and Bangladesh had acted should set an example for future occasions.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 121 and that the Rapporteur would inform the General Assembly of the discussions held on the item and would transmit the text of the consensus statement approved by the Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.