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SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE
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held on
Friday, 7 December 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DIALLO (Guinea)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 77: ISRAEL'S DECISION TO BUILD A CANAL LINKING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA TO THE DEAD SEA: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/SPC/39/L.34 and L.35)

Draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.34

1. Mr. HAMADNEH (Jordan), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.34, the financial implications of which were provided in document A/SPC/39/L.35, announced that the following countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Democratic Yemen, Malaysia, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The draft resolution mentioned earlier General Assembly resolutions on the proposed canal and the Israeli Government's non-compliance with them. It also mentioned the principles of international law relative to the fundamental rights and duties of States, by virtue of which a State could not use water supplies in a manner detrimental to the resources of other States. The third preambular paragraph reaffirmed the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention, 1949.
2. The draft resolution also referred to the direct and irreparable damage which the canal project would cause to Jordan's legitimate and vital interests. The operative paragraphs demanded that Israel not construct the canal, called on States, specialized agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations not to assist in the preparation and execution of the project, and urged multinational corporations to do likewise. Finally, the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to monitor and assess, on a continuing basis, the juridical, political, economic, ecological and demographic aspects of the question and to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.
3. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote. It was the Committee's practice to show a spirit of accommodation and to adopt resolutions by consensus.
4. The CHAIRMAN announced that Kuwait and Mauritania had become sponsors of the draft resolution. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee was ready to take a decision on draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.34.
5. It was so decided.
6. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.34.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt,

El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Ivory Coast.

7. Draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.34 was adopted by 115 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

8. Mr. SCHIFTER (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote, said that he had received reports that the canal construction project was not going to be carried out. It was therefore difficult to understand why the question had come up as an item for debate or as the subject for a resolution in the Committee at the present time. It was possible that, at some time in the future, the project would be found to be feasible and that funds would be assigned to it. Before that could be done, however, it would have to be demonstrated that the project was potentially beneficial to all inhabitants of the area. The parties to the dispute would then have to hold private talks on all aspects of the question. There was no point in making allegations about something which was in fact only an abstract proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 74: QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION (continued) (A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1 and A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION (continued)

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

(c) REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (continued)

Draft resolutions A/SPC/39/L.20/Rev.1 and A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1

9. Mr. SHEHATA (Egypt), introducing the draft resolutions on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the basic parameters for the two draft resolutions were to be found in earlier resolutions on the item and were as follows: the Universal

(Mr. Shehata, Egypt)

Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the declarations of the non-aligned countries, the UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, other United Nations documents and the Helsinki Final Act.

10. Draft resolution A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1 focused on UNESCO's activities and stressed the importance of remedying existing imbalances. It included elements aimed at action with regard to the role of the mass media and the studies to be undertaken. It also referred to technological aspects and trends and their cultural and economic impact on the development of peoples.

11. The negotiations on the draft resolutions had been slow and arduous. The Group of 77 had shown a conciliatory, constructive and extremely responsible attitude. While it was not totally satisfied with the revised text, the concessions made had made it possible to reflect the interests of many delegations. The Group of 77 would not, however, sacrifice its interests, its principles or its unity at any price. It hoped that both draft resolutions would receive the full support of the international community.

12. Mr. SHANGWEI (China) observed that, in the Chinese version of document A/SPC/39/L.21/Rev.1, a subtitle had been inserted between paragraphs 4 and 5 which did not appear in the original and must therefore be deleted.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.