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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/44/23 (Part VI); A/44/139, 178, 236, 291, 303, 355, 463, 477 and 634; A/AC.109/975 and Add.1, 976-978, 979 and Add.1, 980, 982-990, 992-998, 999/Rev.1, 1000 and 1007 and Corr.1)

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REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/3/Add.13-16)

1. Mr. CISTERNAS (Chile) said that, as a member of the Council for Namibia and of the Special Committee on Decolonization, Chile welcomed the feeling of having fulfilled its duty to Namibia and its people. In November, Namibians would exercise their sovereign right to elect representatives who would lay the institutional foundation of the new State, thus consecrating the emergence of a free Namibia. Chile hoped that a delegation from Namibia would soon take its rightful place in the United Nations, working with other delegations to build a world in which peace, tolerance and well-being prevailed.

2. However, the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories remained long and the Organization had much to do in order to achieve the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The administering Powers had made commitments to the Territories and their peoples that must be fulfilled.

3. Chile attached particular importance to the administering Powers' co-operation in submitting their periodic reports to the Special Committee on Decolonization. It thus regretted their lapses in that regard. Similarly, missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories were useful, as they enabled the Special Committee to familiarize itself directly with aspects of paramount importance, particularly the aspirations of the Territories' inhabitants concerning their future status.

(Mr. Cisternas, Chile)

However, the mere fact that the people of one Non-Self-Governing Territory had been able to exercise their most basic rights and accede to independence did not necessarily imply that the Special Committee's mandate was at an end. On the contrary, much remained to be achieved and the international community should assume its responsibilities so that its decolonization activities were not left unfinished because of readily foreseeable failings.

4. The world was experiencing an exceptional period in which confrontation and ideology had given way to co-operation and dialogue. That new spirit was manifest at the current session. However, the climate of understanding and constructive and accelerated change had been limited to the political arena, without affecting such important aspects as international co-operation in economics, finance and technology, which should be of primary concern to the international community if it wished to see the developing countries solve their increasingly acute and fundamental problems.

5. The international community was duty-bound to assist the Territories that would accede to independence and not to abandon them to their own limited means, thus preventing their newly won sovereignty from turning into a mere illusion and ensuring that those new countries did not become vulnerable politically and unfertile soil for economic development. It was unreasonable that the results which had been achieved with such effort and political will could be spoilt by the lack of morally indispensable co-operation.

6. The newly independent countries urgently needed international markets for their goods, loans on reasonable terms, increased foreign investment and assistance programmes in science, technology and training. If the 1990s were to be known as the decade in which colonialism had been eradicated, the international community should face its commitment to that end, not only decisively and realistically, but also with a strong sense of responsibility and co-operation vis-à-vis the countries that became independent.

7. Mr. SARWAR (Afghanistan) said that the struggle of the 3 million people still under the colonial yoke would continue until they finally gained their independence.

8. Recently, the colonial Powers had employed various tactics to impede decolonization; such tactics included the continued occupation of Territories and the exploitation of their human and natural resources, the use of small Territories to establish military bases and install nuclear weapons, and attempts to keep those Territories under their control. He called upon the administering Powers to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

9. The world was moving towards a relaxation of tension. With regard to the forthcoming independence of Namibia, he firmly supported Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and the other agreements relevant to that issue. He hoped that South Africa would honour its international commitments and ensure the holding of free and fair elections under effective United Nations supervision in Namibia.

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(Mr. Sarwar, Afghanistan)

10. The situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands remained unchanged. The installation there of strategic military bases threatened international peace and security and was contrary to the provisions of the Charter concerning trusteeship.
11. He reiterated the anti-colonialist, anti-apartheid and anti-racist policy of Afghanistan.
12. Mr. BLANC (France), speaking on behalf of the 12 members of the European Economic Community (EEC), reaffirmed their support for efforts to eliminate colonialism and their commitment to the right of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
13. The changing agenda of the Fourth Committee reflected the successes achieved in decolonization over the years. More than 80 newly-independent States had modified the international landscape and consequently the makeup of the United Nations, which had helped to draw up general principles for decolonization and encouraged colonial peoples to exercise their right to self-determination, which was fully supported by the EEC.
14. The 12 members of the EEC reiterated their support for the independence of Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978), and commended the Secretary-General's efforts to that end. All Member States had offered to contribute actively to UNTAG, notably by supplying personnel.
15. The Twelve attached special attention to the implementation of the United Nations/OAU peace plan for Western Sahara, which would lead to a referendum on self-determination. The EEC hoped that the General Assembly would adopt a consensus resolution on Western Sahara at the current session. The Twelve supported the Secretary-General's efforts and urged the parties concerned to give their full support to the United Nations Technical Commission established to accelerate the implementation of the settlement proposals. He hoped that co-operation within the Arab Maghreb Union would open the way to a just and lasting settlement. He noted with interest the meeting between the King of Morocco and representatives of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), and hoped that such contacts would continue.
16. The Twelve also renewed their support for the contacts between Portugal and Indonesia in hopes of a just and comprehensive settlement of the question of East Timor.
17. Since 1958, the EEC had offered newly-independent States various forms of association with the Community. Links between a successively expanded EEC and a growing number of independent countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific had been reinforced by the Lomé conventions, promoting development and economic, financial, social and cultural independence. The EEC would be pleased to welcome an independent Namibia as a partner under those conventions.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

18. The reduced number of items on the agenda of the Fourth Committee would make it possible to examine them more fully. The EEC was pleased that it had usually been possible to avoid simultaneous meetings of the Fourth Committee and the Special Political Committee. The EEC hoped that a greater number of draft resolutions could be adopted without a vote and that documents, reports and texts might be presented more concisely, with more emphasis on aspects which were the subject of precise recommendations. Those suggestions accorded with recommendation 3 of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations. Such moves would help to streamline the Committee's procedures and improve the quality of its work.

19. Mr. KHAN (Bangladesh), referring to item 120, said that Bangladesh, despite being a least-developed country, always made efforts to provide study and training facilities to students from South Africa and Namibia. It had contributed, *inter alia*, to the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, and pledged to continue such assistance. His delegation called upon the international community to redouble its efforts in favour of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the adequate provision of study and training facilities.

20. Mr. MALAPA (Vanuatu) said that as Namibia approached political independence there was a need to be ever vigilant to ensure that South Africa did not jeopardize the accords in place. The United Nations must ensure that the electoral process and the proclamation of the constituent assembly were in conformity with Security Council resolutions 435 (1978) and 640 (1989) in support of the right of the Namibian people to self-determination and national independence.

21. Vanuatu also strongly supported the efforts of the United Nations and OAU to bring peace, stability and self-determination to Western Sahara, by implementing a referendum there.

22. The "Palestine" or "Namibia" of the South Pacific was New Caledonia, and thus Vanuatu was a "front-line State". The inhabitants of New Caledonia and Vanuatu were the same people with similar traditions, colonial histories and aspirations for freedom, justice and respect. The people of New Caledonia would have the same difficulties as Vanuatu in reclaiming their sovereignty and identities. Vanuatu fully supported their legitimate quest for self-determination and independence. It would applaud any steps towards an early transition to independence and welcomed the dialogue that had led to peace and political calm there.

23. Vanuatu welcomed the constructive French initiatives on New Caledonia, but could not understand why anyone would question the role of the United Nations in the decolonization process. Vanuatu did not wish to upset the dialogue and delicate process currently under way and was prepared to support a consensus text on New Caledonia.

(Mr. Malapa, Vanuatu)

24. To gain international legitimacy, decolonization must be exercised in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. No matter how sincere the administering Power was in its decolonization efforts, the international community could not accept blindly the accords which that Power had put in place.
25. The Ninth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement had reaffirmed its commitment to decolonization under United Nations auspices and had strongly urged that the question of New Caledonia should be kept under active consideration at the United Nations until the conditions for an internationally acceptable act of self-determination, in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations, had been met.
26. The question of New Caledonia should be kept under constant review. He urged the Government of France to co-operate with the United Nations in that regard.
27. Mr. VINOGRADOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said much had already been accomplished in the struggle to free the world from colonialism; what was important now was to mobilize all the efforts of States and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to find ways and means to do away with the vestiges of colonialism before the beginning of the next millenium. The Committee on Decolonization and the Fourth Committee should also play an active part in that process. The declaration by the General Assembly, in resolution 43/47, of the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism offered wide opportunities in that respect.
28. The decisive stage in the political settlement of the problem of Namibia in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) had now begun. It was necessary to participate constructively in that process, to support the efforts of the United Nations and to make every effort to ensure scrupulous compliance with the agreements reached.
29. The peoples of the small Territories, and in particular the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, had not yet been enabled to achieve self-government and independence, although they were fully entitled to do so under the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on Decolonization. Under the Charter, only the Security Council had the right to alter the status of a strategic Trust Territory. In the case of Micronesia, it was the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure that the as yet unfulfilled requirements of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement were complied with and the responsibility of the Administering Authority to abide scrupulously by the Charter and the principles of international morality.
30. His delegation supported all the recommendations made by the Special Committee on Decolonization with regard to the application of the Declaration to the small Territories. The people of those Territories must be allowed to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

(Mr. Vinogradov, Byelorussian SSR)

31. The specialized agencies and other international organizations had an important part to play in the decolonization process. They must continue their efforts to extend moral and material support to the peoples of the colonial Territories and their national liberation movements, as well as to the front-line States. His delegation supported all the recommendations made by the Special Committee in connection with Namibia and the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in its report (A/44/23 (Part IV)). The Special Committee deserved praise for its important contribution to United Nations efforts to implement fully the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

32. Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria) said that the general debate in the General Assembly had been marked by unanimous appreciation for the revival of dialogue and the consolidation of détente. Namibia's imminent accession to independence reinforced the fervour of the peoples who were continuing to fight for their freedom. Its victory was also a triumph for the United Nations, whose Members had been committed to Namibia's cause for four decades. The Organisation would no doubt draw inspiration from that victory in seeking full respect for the right of peoples to self-determination.

33. The fact that some countries were still subjected to racial domination, colonial occupation and the exile of their citizens on the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contradicted the international community's aspirations to détente and mutual understanding. That situation also pointed to the extent of the challenges remaining on the road to genuine international peace, security and co-operation.

34. The annual discussions in the Fourth Committee commanded the attention of peoples seeking support for their legitimate claims, such as the inhabitants of Western Sahara, who had long been fighting to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination and independence. In spite of encouraging developments in that Territory, including a recent cease-fire between Morocco and the Fronte POLISARIO that had lasted for nearly 10 months, the situation had deteriorated, leading to a violent resumption of the war. However, that unfortunate circumstance should strengthen the Organisation's commitment to consolidate the process for settling the question of Western Sahara.

35. The report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara (A/44/634) reflected the unflagging attention of the Secretary-General and of the current Chairman of OAU. Algeria encouraged them to continue their action aimed at clarifying and developing the aspects of their settlement plan. The elimination of administrative and military constraints to the free expression of the will of the Saharan people was encouraging and should be embodied in the peace plan. The means of ensuring an act of self-determination, organized and monitored by the United Nations in co-operation with OAU, should be highlighted with the primary aim of

(Mr. Djoudi, Algeria)

preserving the credibility and strengthening the prestige of the two international organizations. In recalling those fundamental tasks, the international community was showing concern for a referendum without incident.

36. The success of a settlement in Western Sahara required the fulfilment of all conditions for the genuine exercise of the right of self-determination and independence by the people of that Territory. Its success also called for Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to view the referendum with renewed confidence, with an eye to their long-awaited reconciliation. They would thus create a supportive atmosphere that was indispensable for a smooth referendum and for a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. That atmosphere could only be established through direct dialogue between the Moroccans and the Saharans. The meeting in January 1989 between King Hassan II of Morocco and a high-ranking delegation of the Frente POLISARIO had marked the beginning of such a dialogue and had symbolized the primacy of intelligence and wisdom over confrontation. The international community should welcome the initiation of direct dialogue between the Moroccans and the Saharans and call for its continuation.

37. Since the outbreak of the conflict in Western Sahara, Algeria had always seen to it that the legitimate right to decolonization was respected. It had invariably believed that a just and lasting settlement of the conflict would be a decisive factor for fully achieving the Maghreb ideal, which would be beneficial to the peoples of the region as a whole.

38. An Arab Maghreb Union had been established as the framework for a common historic heritage, to meet daily challenges and to ensure the Maghreb peoples' collective strength in response to future needs. The settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara would eliminate tension in the Maghreb and would bring about an abundance of means to forge its unity. In that regard, it was even more vital for the Moroccans and the Saharans to achieve peace.

39. Algeria supported the urgent need for peace. It would continue to give its full support to the current Chairman of OAU and to the Secretary-General in any of their undertakings. The most effective contribution that the General Assembly could make would be to renew the mandate of the current Chairman of OAU and of the Secretary-General and to support their action fully.

40. Ms. APREKU (Ghana) said it was clear that the struggles of colonial countries and peoples to gain independence were far from over. Although significant developments had taken place within the past year, it was debatable whether they constituted advances towards independence or represented ingenious and subtle attempts to perpetuate colonialism. In Anguilla, the Government had been reported as having no intention as yet of moving towards independence. In New Caledonia, divisive tendencies had emerged over the Matignon Agreement and the speed of the independence process. In the case of Gibraltar, the limitations allegedly imposed by the Treaty of Utrecht were a matter of concern.

(Ms. Apreku, Ghana)

41. The struggle for independence often required the sacrifice of human lives. Her delegation mourned the assassination in May 1989 of the leaders of the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS), in New Caledonia, and paid tribute to their contribution to the struggle for independence. Although the Secretariat's working paper (A/AC.109/1000) indicated that developments in that Territory were taking place in relative tranquillity, some reports indicated otherwise. Her delegation called on all parties to rise to the calls of their peoples for reconciliation and peace and felt that efforts should be made to address the concerns raised over the Matignon Agreement and the pace of independence.

42. It urged the United Kingdom and Spain to intensify their dialogue with a view to removing the impediment that the Treaty of Utrecht posed to the granting of independence to Gibraltar.

43. More economic support from the United Nations was needed for the small island Territories of the Pacific in order to enable them to achieve a measure of economic independence; such independence would help to accelerate decolonization there.

44. The specialized agencies and some Member States were to be commended for their contribution to decolonization, and the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa deserved special mention for the increased co-ordination of the Programme. It was to be hoped that support for the Programme would match the increase in the demand for scholarships and other facilities. It was also gratifying that steps were being taken to find job openings for participants who had completed the Programme.

45. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples recognized the right of all peoples to self-determination without regard to the size, geographical location or economic circumstances of a Territory. Ghana's commitment to decolonization remained as strong as ever and it remained ready to join in efforts to further the process.

46. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) said that the principle of extended familiness on which Melanesian society was based gave the people of his country a sense of belonging to an extended family that embraced the whole of mankind. Their consciousness of mutual involvement, interdependence and responsibility for the benefit of all determined their approach to the problems of decolonization.

47. In New Caledonia, recent events had been most disturbing. The untimely deaths of the FLNKS leaders were a loss for the Kanak people and the whole region. But their just struggle would continue and would have his country's full support.

48. Since the signing of the Matignon Agreement, New Caledonia had enjoyed relative peace and stability. The June elections for the provincial assemblies had marked the beginning of semi-autonomous rule and would give the Kanaks experience in government. While the results of the election might seem favourable for FLNKS, that party remained a minority in the Territorial Congress. Moreover, the changes that had taken place as a result of the Matignon Agreement were merely superficial

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

and the Kanak people must be given every opportunity to participate meaningfully in the economic, social and political life of their country. What was required was a clear plan on the part of France and the United Nations for independence for the Territory, and it was to be hoped that the General Assembly would continue to remain vigilant in that regard. The United Nations and other international and regional organizations had a vital role to play in the socio-economic and political advancement of the Kanak people. More must also be done by the French Government to bring about changes which conformed with the aspirations of the people of New Caledonia, especially the Kanaks.

49. The administering Power should manifest its good will and commitment to the Kanak people by inviting the United Nations to dispatch visiting missions to the Territory to monitor developments there. That step would further enhance the credibility and international standing of France, and the active involvement of the United Nations with the Territory would accelerate its progress towards self-determination.

50. A number of serious problems needed to be addressed immediately in order to dispel the suspicions of the Kanaks. Land reform, electoral reform and political education concerning all the options for self-determination were some of the fundamental issues which must be dealt with by the administering Power in full consultation with the people of the Territory.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/3/Add.13-16)

51. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received four additional communications containing requests for hearings relating to the question of New Caledonia under agenda item 18. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

52. It was so decided.

53. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Committee wished to grant the requests for hearings relating to the question of New Caledonia in documents A/C.4/44/3/Add.13-16.

54. It was so decided.

55. Mr. ZUZE (Zambia) asked whether the Committee had now been informed of all requests for hearings under all items to be dealt with in the Committee, and particularly under item 36 on Namibia.

56. The CHAIRMAN said that all requests for hearings on the items currently under consideration had been presented to the Committee. However, a very delicate process of intensive consultations had been under way for several weeks on how to deal with the requests for hearings on item 36. Those continuing consultations involved the President of the General Assembly, certain delegations with a particular interest in Namibia and strong views on the question, and himself.

57. Mr. ZUZE (Zambia) asked whether the Reverend Jesse Jackson had requested to be heard on Namibia and, if so, why the Committee was not being informed of that request.

58. The CHAIRMAN confirmed that the Reverend Jesse Jackson was one of the 17 individuals asking to speak on Namibia before the Committee. He explained that he had been instructed by the President of the General Assembly not to present any requests for hearings on item 36 to the Committee while the intensive consultations he had described were continuing, and that he had yielded to higher authority. The President had offered to come personally before the Committee to explain the reasons for not proceeding at that time with such hearings. However, since the Reverend Jackson had in his letter to the Committee asked to speak on both New Caledonia and Namibia, his request under item 18 had been granted and he was in fact scheduled to be heard at the next meeting on New Caledonia.

59. Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe) said that his delegation had been privy to the consultations with the President of the General Assembly from the start and had until now been under the impression that the issue of item 36 had been settled. He recalled that the General Committee had already dealt with certain difficulties regarding that item at its first meeting but had recommended that it should be included in the agenda, and that the Assembly at its third plenary meeting had decided that the item would be considered in plenary meeting, with the Fourth Committee responsible for any hearings on the item. He suggested asking the President of the General Assembly to come now to the meeting to explain what the problems were in relation to the Fourth Committee.

60. He observed further that the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (S/20412) had raised important issues regarding South African non-compliance with the settlement plan for Namibia. He informed the Committee that the Group of African States had on the previous day issued a unanimous document on the question, which had been sent to the Secretary-General and the Security Council with the request that it should be circulated as a United Nations document as soon as possible. He was sure that all would agree it was a major contribution.

61. Mr. AGUBUZU (Nigeria) said that the ongoing consultations had included Nigeria, the front-line States and the five Western countries known as the Contact Group as well as by Secretariat officials, and had recently been expanded to include also the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Bureau of Non-Aligned Countries and the representative of the current Chairman of OAU. At the latest such consultation the previous evening, the President of the General Assembly had requested more time in order to receive the report adopted by the African Group at its meeting the

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(Mr. Agubuzu, Nigeria)

previous evening, as well as reports from some interested delegations awaiting replies from their capitals, and also in order to engage in wider consultations himself.

62. Mr. NOGUEIRA-BATISTA (Brazil) said that in Brazil's view there was no legal reason why either the General Assembly or the Fourth Committee could not discuss item 36. Reference had been made during the first meeting of the General Committee to certain informal understandings on the question of impartiality, which had been cited by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council and which related to the suspension of consideration of the question of Namibia at the current General Assembly; however, his delegation did not recognize that such informal agreements were binding on Member States, the General Assembly or the Security Council. Political reasons, therefore, were preventing discussion of the item.

63. Mr. ZIZE (Zambia) said that the last time Zambia had been present at the intensive consultations with the President of the General Assembly, there had been an agreement to let the Committee proceed with its items without conditions. An administrative problem seemed to be frustrating the Committee's discussions.

64. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the President of the General Assembly had indicated that he was ready to come before it but that, according to proper procedure, it must first send him a letter to that effect.

65. Mr. KARUKUBIRO-KAMUNANWIRE (Uganda), supported by Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe), proposed that the Chairman should immediately write to ask the President of the General Assembly to come to the meeting.

66. Mr. GHAREKHAN (India) said that his delegation had been completely unaware of the intensive consultations that had been going on. Should there be any other restricted consultations, India would like to offer to participate in them in order to try to contribute to a solution.

67. The CHAIRMAN said that he, too, disliked restricted consultations but that an effort had been made to involve those delegations most immediately concerned. Perhaps the end result would be to unify the Committee in purpose even more than before. It should be borne in mind that all who took part in the consultations did so with dedication and also with legitimate concerns, and also that it was possible for reasonable States to differ. The President's reasons should become clearer after his own explanation of them.

68. He said that he had just been notified, in response to the letter he had sent moments earlier, that the President of the General Assembly had just left for the day but that his secretary was trying to reach him on his car telephone to inform him that the Committee would like him to address the meeting.

69. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) observed that on the question of Namibia, the Committee should be led by the African delegations. He also felt that the consultations should be encouraged. He asked for a recess so that delegations could discuss the matter.

The meeting was suspended at 6.10 p.m. and resumed at 6.50 p.m.

70. The CHAIRMAN announced that the President was unable to attend the meeting but that a satisfactory solution was expected by the next morning.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.