

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly

FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

Official Records

FOURTH COMMITTEE
9th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 18 October 1989
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.4/44/SR.9
30 October 1989
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed on behalf of the members of the Committee sympathy to the delegation of the host country and to the families of those who had lost their lives in the earthquake in California. He also expressed sympathy to the delegation of the United Arab Emirates in connection with the death of its Deputy Prime Minister, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohamed Al-Nahiyan.

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)

Hearing of petitioners (A/C.4/44/4)

2. The CHAIRMAN reminded the members of the Committee that they had agreed to the request for hearing contained in document A/C.4/44/4.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sidati (Frente POLISARIO) took a place at the petitioners' table.

4. Mr. SIDATI (Frente POLISARIO) said that the international community was currently working in Namibia to secure the transition of the Namibian people to independence. At the same time in the north of the African continent the question of the decolonization of Western Sahara remained unresolved owing to the blocking of the decolonization process and the occupation of the area by Morocco. Today, 14 years after the beginning of the military invasion of Western Sahara, it was perfectly clear that the conflict could not be resolved by military means.

5. The international community - the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries - had recognized in their respective resolutions the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence. The countries of Africa had devised a framework for the attainment of a just and lasting solution to the conflict in resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government, adopted at its nineteenth session in 1983. The United Nations had repeatedly reaffirmed in its resolutions the validity of that framework for the establishment of peace. The non-aligned countries had also declared, at their ninth conference in Belgrade, their support for the efforts of the United Nations and the OAU to secure exercise of the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence, embodied in OAU resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) and General Assembly resolution 40/50. Those resolutions invited both parties to begin direct negotiations to establish the necessary conditions for the conduct of a peaceful and fair referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, without any military or administrative constraints, under OAU and United Nations auspices.

6. In the framework defined by those same two resolutions the Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had taken steps to implement the

(Mr. Sidati)

decisions designed to satisfy the aspirations of the people of Western Sahara and the wishes of the international community. Nevertheless, the holding of the referendum and the exercise of the right of the people of Western Sahara to freedom of choice were blocked by the unlawful occupation of part of Western Sahara by Morocco. The persevering efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU had, however, achieved some progress.

7. OAU and the United Nations had elaborated the joint proposals of Mr. Moussa Traore, President of Mali, and Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, proposals which had been submitted on 11 August 1988 to the Frente POLISARIO and the Kingdom of Morocco and had received their agreement in principle. The proposals had made it possible to solve two problems causing disagreement, the identification of the voters and the wording of the question to be posed in the referendum.

8. The visit to North Africa of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the establishment of the technical mission to monitor the implementation of the agreements, the elaboration with the parties of ways and means of implementing the proposals, and the Secretary-General's appeal to Morocco to engage in a direct dialogue with the Frente POLISARIO were the fruits of the efforts made recently within the framework of the OAU/United Nations joint mission of good offices. However, the major obstacles constituted by the presence of the troops, the administration and the settlers remained unresolved.

9. The first meeting between the representatives of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO after 14 years of war had helped to overcome the psychological barrier and enabled the two parties to agree to continue the negotiation process. After the meeting in Marrakesh the authorities of Western Sahara had announced a truce, which had lasted for the whole of February even though a second meeting planned for mid-February had not taken place. A decision had also been taken to release 200 Moroccan prisoners of war, but they had been unable to return to their homes because of Morocco's refusal to accept them. Their repatriation had not been possible, despite the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

10. Morocco had taken advantage of the truce to reinforce its positions in Western Sahara by purchasing new weapons, deploying additional units, stepping up its repression in the occupied territories, and deporting thousands of people of voting age. Those undeniable facts proved Morocco's intransigence and stubbornness. Morocco was seeking to weaken the pressure from the people of Western Sahara, undermine the international public-opinion campaign and play down the importance of the conflict in order to gain time and continue its military occupation. At the present stage, dialogue and negotiations were imperative for the removal of the obstacles to the attainment of a just and lasting settlement of the conflict. The people of Western Sahara were ready together with the people of Morocco to heal the wounds of armed confrontation and take up the search for real peace in the interests of their own peoples and for the common good of the peoples of the Maghreb.

11. Mr. Sidati withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (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)

AGENDA ITEM 116: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/44/23 (Part IV); A/44/262 and 553)

AGENDA ITEM 118: 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 (continued) (A/44/23 (Part IV); A/44/297 and Add.1-2; A/AC.109/L.1705; E/1989/112)

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/44/3 (Chapters I and V))

AGENDA ITEM 119: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/44/557)

AGENDA ITEM 120: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/44/513)

12. Mr. PAIC (Yugoslavia) expressed his delegation's sincere condolences to the population of the areas struck by Hurricane Hugo and to the inhabitants of the San Francisco area in connection with the recent earthquake.

13. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries supported the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by all the peoples living under colonial domination. That had been confirmed at the Movement's recent summit meeting in Belgrade.

14. Yugoslavia welcomed the progress in carrying out the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. Unfortunately, important obstacles to Namibian independence still remained, owing primarily to South Africa's obstructive attitude. His delegation was also seriously concerned about such activities as the continued intimidation of the local population by the "Koevoet" forces and the libellous campaign waged against the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and its leaders by the mass information media controlled by South Africa.

15. The United Nations and the Security Council were duty-bound to complete the process of the implementation of the plan for the independence of Namibia in the interests of the Namibian people. It was therefore necessary to bring all possible pressure to bear on the Pretoria régime in order to create in Namibia the conditions for the holding of free and fair elections.

16. In that connection his country was grateful to the Secretary-General for his personal contribution to the implementation of the plan for the independence of Namibia. His delegation trusted that the Committee would continue to give its full

(Mr. Paic, Yugoslavia)

support to the Secretary-General and to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), with a view to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It therefore supported the proposal for the convening of an urgent meeting of the Security Council in order to adopt a resolution which would contribute to the removal of the remaining obstacles to the implementation of the independence plan.

17. Yugoslavia attached great importance to the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU to secure a political settlement of the question of Western Sahara. It welcomed the beginning of a dialogue between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO.

18. Yugoslavia fully supported the solution of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) problem on the basis of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom. It also called for full decolonization of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean.

19. Yugoslavia would continue to make an active contribution to the attainment of independence by the colonial peoples, because the existence of Territories still under colonial domination was incompatible with the aspirations to freedom, sovereignty and peace by which the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was guided.

20. Mr. HERNANDEZ (Cuba) said that Cuba was taking an active part in the work 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 (the Special Committee of 24), trying to help it to implement its mandate so that dependent Territories could realize their right to self-determination. However, the activities of that body were encountering certain difficulties. Despite the improvement in the international situation, some administering Powers were continuing to increase their military activities in dependent Territories and seeking to strengthen their military presence there.

21. The administering Powers were also trying to preserve their dominant position in the economies of dependent Territories and imposing all kinds of plebiscites on their peoples which were not in their interests. In addition, some Powers were carrying out nuclear activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories. The United Nations must keep a close watch on the measures being taken by the administering Powers in dependent Territories, so as to ensure their harmonious development.

22. Attempts by the administering Powers to implant their own culture by force should be blocked. They must be required to comply with all United Nations decisions, in particular General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). It was essential to wage a resolute struggle against colonialism and apartheid and not allow any kind of co-operation with the South African régime. Unfortunately, the World Bank was helping to strengthen that régime.

23. Mr. CHORNY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) expressed his sincere sympathy with those peoples who had suffered from Hurricane Hugo and with the residents of the San Francisco area in connection with the recent earthquake.

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(Mr. Chorny, Ukrainian SSR)

24. Having proclaimed the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the international community was beginning a period which could be called one of concrete action. The process of decolonization was gaining strength. Namibia's accession to independence should give a totally new impetus to the achievement by other dependent Territories of their legitimate and inalienable rights to self-determination.

25. The report of the Special Committee of 24 in document A/44/23 (Part VI) left an ambivalent impression. It was clear from the report that, on the one hand, the Special Committee was doing a great deal of work in co-operation with other United Nations bodies and agencies; on the other hand, relations between those who administered the Territories and those whom they administered were developing unfavourably. A particular cause for concern was the lack of co-operation by the Administering Authority with the Special Committee on the problem of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. His delegation proceeded from the position that full and final decolonization could only be considered to have been achieved when new States obtained not only political independence but also the necessary social and economic viability.

26. The specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations were called upon to play a major role in guaranteeing the rights of peoples to self-determination and independence. Taking into account the accelerated rate of development of international life and the change in the situation in southern Africa, some agencies and organizations had stepped up the assistance that they were giving in their fields of activity to the peoples of Namibia and of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

27. Namibia, which was now standing on the threshold of independence, needed qualified personnel of a new order. In the 1988/1989 educational year, 20 students from Non-Self-Governing Territories had studied in the Ukrainian SSR. The Ukrainian SSR supported the African countries' request for a continuation of the assistance given to the national liberation movements of southern Africa and the "front-line" States through the specialized agencies. It condemned the continuing co-operation of some specialized agencies with South Africa.

28. Mrs. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) expressed her sympathy with the American people over the tragic consequences of the earthquake in the San Francisco area. Referring to the importance of the task of educating and training qualified personnel, she said that obtaining an education was inconceivable in areas where poverty and instability prevailed. As a result of the policy of destabilization pursued by the apartheid system in southern Africa, the main, if not the only, problem there had become the struggle for survival. In South Africa itself, the policy of "two races - two educations" pursued by the Government made obtaining an education an unattainable dream for the indigenous population.

29. The current year was above all Namibia's year. However, like all former colonial Territories, after achieving independence, Namibia would have to continue the struggle - the struggle for development, in which the main weapons were knowledge, skills and efficiency. The young Namibian State would encounter a

(Mrs. Rakotondramboa, Madagascar)

number of urgent problems. First of all, it would have to fill the vacuum left in vitally important sectors by the exodus from the country of the civil servants of the colonial régime and specialists and experts of all kinds. Great assistance in that regard should be provided by the implementation of the provisions of the final document of the Seminar on Contingency Planning for Technical Assistance to Namibia during the Transition to Independence, which had taken place in Vienna in July 1989 (A/AC.131/VIE/1/Rev.1) and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa.

30. As had been indicated in the 1989 UNICEF report on the situation of children in the "front-line" area, after achieving independence Namibia would have to: ensure adequate food supplies; create a medical first-aid system accessible to all; establish a comprehensive system for the education and training of qualified personnel; expand opportunities for engaging in productive activities, especially for women; regenerate economic growth in general; and reduce the extent of its dependence on the outside world, especially South Africa.

31. The victory of the people of Namibia would not be complete until the problem of development had been solved successfully. The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa offered one means of solving that problem. However, as the Advisory Committee on that Programme pointed out in document A/44/557, the level of contributions to the Programme in the current year had not increased in real terms in relation to the previous year owing to inflation and rising scholarship costs. Her delegation supported a continuation and expansion of the Programme, for which the allocation of additional resources was required. It was firmly convinced that, despite the unfavourable situation in southern Africa, positive results could be achieved if good will were shown and reinforced by the allocation of sufficient resources. The Programme was of paramount importance for the training of human resources, without which it would be impossible to create a viable economic system that would open the way to the genuine liberation of southern Africa from Pretoria's oppression.

32. Mr. CAVE (Barbados) expressed his delegation's hope that the end of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly would find the people of Namibia in possession of the instruments with which to end their history of oppression. As a symbol of the colonial era, Namibia represented much of the reason for the Committee's existence. However, it should not be naively supposed, on entering the decade of the 1990s, which had been dedicated by the international community to the eradication of colonialism, that colonialism was finished, for its history - the history of treachery, greed and wanton exploitation - was still far from over. Colonialism had the ability to disguise and adapt itself skilfully.

33. One of the most critical obstacles facing developing countries was their encounter with notions of development and progress that were alien to their indigenous interests and traditions. The result was the imprudent despoiling of their environment, loss of control over their natural resources, an outflow of capital and the inevitable submergence of their national economies in debilitating debt.

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(Mr. Cave, Barbados)

34. In a pattern of development in which the developing countries had become dependent upon the developed countries, some were inclined to see a deliberate programme of neo-colonial exploitation designed to transfer the basis of control from the political to the economic sphere. Preferring to withhold its judgement in that matter, his delegation noted that the transnational consortia actively defended external economic and commercial interests, thereby impeding the progress of many States towards genuine sovereignty. Confronting the obstacle represented by the practices of those interests must constitute another phase of the Committee's work.

35. At the same time, in censuring the activities of those interests, their positive potential in terms of marshalling vast human and material resources that could be used for development should not be overlooked.

36. What was needed was a new approach to the use of the world's human and material resources based on productive co-operation. Nearly three decades had elapsed since the onset of the modern period of decolonization, a period during which more than 100 new States had joined the world community and in which impressive advances in technology had been realized. At the same time, many new States saw their very existence threatened by drought, famine and the crippling burden of debt. Despite that, they were systematically excluded from consultations with the more powerful in matters essential to their economic well-being and their aspirations were ignored.

37. Independence was a farce unless interdependence was accepted. Developing States required at least fairer prices for commodities and more equitable avenues for trade. The attainment of independence was often devoid of the substance of sovereignty, namely, the effective control over one's resources.

38. The Committee would not be able to complete its work until it was able to deliver a rebuff to all interests which impeded independence, no matter how they concealed their presence.

39. Miss DAPUL (Philippines) said that her delegation was extremely pleased that the settlement plan for Namibia's independence embodied in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was at the crucial stage of implementation. The role of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) had been unprecedented. There were, however, serious problems still to be overcome. Her delegation drew particular attention to the Secretary-General's observation that UNTAG required the full co-operation of the parties, all of which must scrupulously respect their obligations and strictly adhere to the agreements and understandings. Her delegation hoped that the outcome of the elections would truly reflect the wishes, hopes and aspirations of the Namibian people and that the following year would witness the emergence of a new nation, an independent Namibia.

40. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the question of Western Sahara in document A/44/634. The Philippines remained firm in its support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General and of the current

(Miss Dapul, Philippines)

Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and welcomed the appointment of Mr. Héctor Gros Espiell of Uruguay as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara. It also welcomed several positive developments that had occurred during the current year: the decision of the King of Morocco to receive in February a high-level delegation from the Frente POLISARIO; the establishment by the Secretary-General of a technical commission to study ways and means of implementing the settlement plan agreed to in principle by the parties; and the progress achieved in the discussions on the preparations for updating the 1974 census of Western Sahara, which would make it possible to draw up a voters' list for the proposed referendum.

41. As for developments in New Caledonia, in her delegation's view, the elections held in the Territory in June 1989 indicated that the processes laid down in the Matignon Accords were proceeding on track. Her delegation was saddened over the assassination of Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou and his deputy, Mr. Yeiwené Yeiwené, leaders of the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS), and it hoped that all parties involved would refrain from acts of violence that made further progress difficult. Her delegation called for the continuation of efforts to ensure self-determination for New Caledonia by peaceful means and supported the resolution on New Caledonia recommended by the Special Committee of 24.

42. Currently the majority of dependent peoples resided in island Territories. In that connection, her country, which had been a sponsor of the historic General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), believed that no exceptions should be made to the Declaration's application and that Territories and peoples under colonial rule should have an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination and independence without external interference or pressure. What was essential, in her delegation's view, was to strengthen co-operation with the administering Powers to ensure that the institutions required for the independence of those Non-Self-Governing Territories were set up. The United Nations should be relentless in ensuring that the right to self-determination and independence was guaranteed not only to those who had the loudest voices and the most powerful champions.

43. In conclusion, she noted that the prospects for the completion of the decolonization process before the end of the century were very real, but that, for that to happen, the non-self-governing peoples must be given an opportunity to choose any option available to them in the process of self-determination and must be prepared for the responsibilities that independence entailed.

44. Mr. SAMVORACHIT (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that 14 December 1990 would mark the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the start of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Even though since 1960 many countries and peoples which had been under colonial rule had become sovereign independent States and full-fledged Members of the United Nations, much still remained to be done by the year 2000.

(Mr. Samvorachit, Lao People's
Democratic Republic)

45. In Western Sahara, a satisfactory solution to the fratricidal conflict had not been found in 14 years. Given the favourable international climate, a political settlement of that conflict did not seem to be a Utopian goal. However, a just and genuine solution could be reached only by the holding, under the joint auspices of the United Nations and OAU, of a referendum on self-determination in the course of which the Saharan people would be able to express their will without any administrative or military pressure. In that connection, his delegation called upon the parties involved to renew the high-level dialogue that had been started earlier in the year but had unfortunately been broken off.

46. As for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Administering Authority had unfortunately failed to meet its obligations properly under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter. The Administering Authority had no right to turn the Territory into its colony or an integral part of its national territory by annexation or by a simple administrative act of association. His delegation called upon the Administering Authority to refrain from any acts that ran counter to the spirit and letter of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to comply with it scrupulously.

47. Mr. DOLEJS (Czechoslovakia) said that the draft programme of action to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples provided a worthy background for the efforts of the United Nations to do away with the last remnants of colonialism.

48. In a number of places, referendums or plebiscites had recently been held. The experience gained thus far had shown that it had not always been possible for the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to express their will freely on issues that were vital to them. Adequate conditions had not always been provided for the conduct of such referendums and for truly independent decision-making by the population. In that connection, his delegation felt that the United Nations should play an important role in ensuring that such referendums were conducted fairly.

49. A comparison of the relevant data published in United Nations documents in the past few years did not indicate a sincere will on the part of some administering Powers to meet their obligations in good faith and to implement actively the lofty aims proclaimed in the Declaration on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)). That was also reflected in the lack of interest on the part of some administering Powers in participating in the consideration by the United Nations bodies dealing with questions of decolonization of various aspects of the development of dependent Territories. In that connection, the visiting missions sent by the Special Committee of 24 to seek objective information on the situation in Non-Self-Governing Territories was of great significance.

50. The deliberations in the Special Committee showed that some administering Powers were not doing their utmost to raise the consciousness of the inhabitants of

(Mr. Dolejš, Czechoslovakia)

the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The international organizations and institutions within the United Nations system could play a significant role in the process of decolonization. A number of organizations provided moral and material aid to the peoples and national liberation movements of colonial Territories. At the same time, some international institutions and organizations within the United Nations system still did not make use of all the possibilities available to them to facilitate effectively the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and continued to maintain contacts with the racist régime of South Africa. That was particularly significant in view of the need to provide the conditions for training specialists in the political, economic and cultural spheres for work in the new administrative and legal organs that would have to be established after the exercise of self-determination by the people of Namibia. He recalled his own country's offer to grant 20 scholarships annually to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

51. Mr. THOMPSON (Fiji) expressed his sincere sympathy to the inhabitants of San Francisco and the entire people of the United States in connection with the recent earthquake, as well as to the population of regions affected by Hurricane Hugo, and said that he wished to address the question of New Caledonia.

52. Despite the assassination of two eminent New Caledonian statesmen, Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Yeiwené Yeiwené, the Matignon agreements were continuing to be implemented. Substantial progress had been made since New Caledonia was included on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories three years previously. Confrontation had given way to co-operation and a search for compromise. South Pacific Forum leaders had endorsed the agreements concluded at Paris in June and August 1988 as a framework for New Caledonia's peaceful progress to self-determination.

53. His country, like other members of the South Pacific Forum, fully supported draft resolution I on the question of New Caledonia, as set forth in document A/44/23 (Part VI). It was the hope of his delegation that the Fourth Committee would recommend that the General Assembly adopt that draft resolution without a vote.

54. Mr. WILENSKI (Australia) said that his country naturally took a close interest in developments in the neighbouring Territory of New Caledonia. His Government was deeply committed to the principles of decolonization enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

55. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986, the situation in New Caledonia was subject to careful scrutiny by the Special Committee of 24, the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly. It had been, and remained, the position of his Government that the people of New Caledonia were entitled to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, and that a free and genuine act of self-determination, involving all the peoples of New Caledonia, was required, in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations.

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(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

56. The past 15 months had seen many changes in New Caledonia, some of which had been tragic. In May 1989 the leader of the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, and his deputy, Yeiwené Yeiwené, had been assassinated. Jean-Marie Tjibaou had played a crucial role in the negotiations which led, in June 1988, to the signing of the Matignon and Oudinot agreements. His Government supported the agreements and believed that the continued commitment of all parties to the processes of reconciliation and accommodation was more than ever necessary.

57. His Government welcomed the outcome of the provincial elections held on 11 June 1989, in which a convincing victory had been won by the parties favouring the Matignon agreements and the continuation of the processes currently under way. Only one week previously, the committee appointed to monitor implementation of the agreements had met in Paris for the first round of talks to examine and assess recent developments. The committee had reaffirmed the determined commitment of the parties to a balanced development of the Territory, to social justice and to a new sharing of responsibility.

58. Recent developments in New Caledonia had also been reviewed at the meeting of South Pacific Forum leaders held at Tarawa, Kiribati, from 10 to 11 July 1989. In their communiqué, to which his country was a party, the countries of the South Pacific Forum had expressed their satisfaction with the positive measures taken by the French Government, in co-operation with the people of New Caledonia, to promote political, economic and social development. They declared their continuing support for the agreements concluded at Paris in June and August 1988 and affirmed their willingness to contribute to the process of reconciliation and to provide training facilities to the inhabitants of New Caledonia. They reiterated their strong support for an act of self-determination and expressed the hope that consideration of the question of New Caledonia at the United Nations would, as in 1988, be characterized by a consensus approach. All delegations were urged to adopt the resolution of the Special Committee on the question of New Caledonia, which would be submitted for consideration by the Fourth Committee in a few days' time, by consensus.

59. Mr. DE SILVA (Sri Lanka) said that the right of colonial peoples to self-determination had been one of the major items on the agenda of the General Assembly ever since the foundation of the United Nations. Following the adoption in 1960 of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, more than 80 former colonies had gained their independence and become Members of the United Nations. It was, however, regrettable that not a single one of the remaining colonial Territories had made the same transition during the past six years.

60. His delegation wished to record its deep appreciation of the Special Committee's efforts to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly. It was pleased to note the continued co-operation extended to the Special Committee by the Governments of New Zealand, Portugal and the United States. However, in some cases, the administering Powers had refused to take part

(Mr. De Silva, Sri Lanka)

in the work of the Special Committee, thus preventing it from fulfilling its responsibilities. In addition, some administering Powers did not facilitate the entry into their Territories of missions dispatched by the Special Committee, which played a constructive role in the collection of first-hand information. His delegation urged such administering Powers to co-operate with the Special Committee.

61. The United Nations and the administering Powers had a special responsibility to make the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories aware of the options open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and to create conditions in which they could freely indicate their choice. The lack of economic development in the Territories should not be used as a pretext to delay the granting of independence. Measures to free the Territories from economic dependence must be accompanied by immediate action to ensure constitutional development.

62. With respect to Namibia, his country strongly supported the full implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and welcomed the related steps taken by the United Nations. On the question of Western Sahara, it took note of a series of significant developments and welcomed the commitment of the parties concerned to the peace process.

63. In response to the General Assembly's appeal for the provision of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, his country would continue to offer such facilities as its limited resources permitted. It would also support the United Nations in its efforts to preserve peace and eradicate colonialism, in order that the populations of the Non-Self-Governing Territories might be enabled to exercise their right to self-determination.

64. Mr. DJALIL (Indonesia) said that the United Nations had, since declaring its direct responsibility for Namibia, spared no effort to ensure the attainment by that Territory's people of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. His country fully supported the efforts of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to implement the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia in the context of the agreements reached between the parties directly concerned. To that end, it had participated, in August 1989, in the consideration by the Security Council of the question of Namibia. Despite the existing problems, his delegation believed that the long-awaited independence of Namibia could and would be attained.

65. His Government's commitment to the eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid sprung from its own historical legacy and liberation struggle. Its people's sense of solidarity with oppressed peoples was manifested as early as 1955 at the historic Bandung Conference, which proclaimed that colonialism in all its manifestations was an evil which must speedily be brought to an end and affirmed that the subjection of peoples to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation constituted a denial of human rights. Since the Bandung Conference, the newly independent States had treated the exercise of self-determination by colonial

(Mr. Djalil, Indonesia)

Territories, in accordance with the will of their peoples and the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, as a priority objective. It was therefore pleasing to note that the number of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories was continuing to dwindle. The Special Committee on decolonization should nevertheless monitor the situation in the Territories, in order to ensure that the true interests of the peoples concerned were observed and promoted. Despite the complexity of the problems faced by dependent peoples, the administering Powers were clearly obliged to strive for the orderly implementation of the Declaration on decolonization.

66. Mr. MURDOCH (Antigua and Barbuda) expressed his sincere sympathy to the people and Government of the United States in connection with the earthquake in the San Francisco area and said that the people of his country, which had suffered the effects of Hurricane Hugo, were well aware of the consequences of natural disasters. In the Caribbean basin, where Antigua and Barbuda was situated, the process of decolonization was not yet complete. His country therefore attached great significance to United Nations action in that regard. The Organization could and must play a positive role in speeding up the process of decolonization.

67. Noting that progress had been made on the question of Western Sahara, he said that, despite long discussions of the problem at the United Nations, it was only recently that the stalemate had been broken. The appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative for Western Sahara was of particular significance. The fact that the two parties concerned had begun to co-operate was encouraging, and great credit was due in that connection to Algeria and Mauritania, in their capacity as peaceful observers. He also expressed the hope that the coming referendum would help to ensure the exercise by the people of Western Sahara of their right to self-determination.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.