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FOURTH COMMITTEE
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Thursday, 19 October 1989
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

later: Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

1. The CHAIRMAN offered condolences to the people and Government of the United States of America in connection with the loss of life in the earthquake in California. He also offered sympathy and condolences to the people and Government of the People's Republic of China in connection with the loss of life in the earthquake in northern China.

2. Mr. ELDON (United Kingdom) proposed, in accordance with rule 118 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, that the meeting should be suspended for approximately 10 minutes for consultations to take place. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe), Mr. NYAKI (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. ENGO (Cameroon) and Mr. ELDON (United Kingdom) took part, Mr. ELDON withdrew his proposal.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING (A/C.4/43/3/Add.17-20)

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received four documents (A/C.4/44/3/Add.17-20) containing requests for hearing on the question of New Caledonia. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the requests.

4. It was so decided.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had received three communications containing requests for hearing on the question of New Caledonia under agenda item 18. In accordance with established practice, he proposed that the communications should be circulated as Committee documents and considered at subsequent meetings. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposal.

6. It was so decided.

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.4/44/3/Add.14-18)

7. The CHAIRMAN reminded the members of the Committee that at the 10th meeting and at the present meeting they had agreed to the requests for hearing on the question of New Caledonia contained in documents A/C.4/44/3/Add.14-18. After detailed consultations with delegations and with the President of the General Assembly, he proposed that the petitioners in question should also be heard under the general item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", which had been transferred to the Fourth

(The Chairman)

Committee for consideration. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee accepted his proposal.

8. It was so decided.

9. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Collet (Quaker Office at the United Nations) took a place at the petitioners' table.

10. Mr. COLLET (Quaker Office at the United Nations) said that it was important for the United Nations to continue vigilantly to monitor the decolonization process. The remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were still dependent because of a self-serving logic of national defence on the part of the intruding Power.

11. The atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons by the five nuclear Powers had polluted the Territories of the Pacific, and the continued underground testing of nuclear weapons by one of the foreign Powers remained a threat to the ecological balance of the Pacific region. In the decolonization process in the region the main emphasis lay on the task of solving the problem of prohibiting the testing of missiles, the deployment of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed submarines and surface ships, the establishment of bases, and nuclear dumping.

12. Countries which were on the road to independence often found themselves in an unfair situation and compelled to compromise, assuming commitments and entering into military and economic alliances which might not be in their interests in the long run. In that connection a special role belonged to the United Nations system, which in accordance with the principles proclaimed in its Charter should provide a framework for the transition of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence. Furthermore, the United Nations provided the opportunity for dialogue among all parties and for the discussion of decolonization questions in a number of forums. The Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Special Committee of 24) and the Fourth Committee ensured that all facets of that intricate issue were considered.

13. Great and still far from fully utilized opportunities were offered by the system of global security. The outline for global security set out in the Charter rested on a regional framework, in which States were guided in their relations by a basket of measures that encompassed political, economic and humanitarian concerns.

14. Mr. Collet withdrew.

15. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Dodson (Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture) took a place at the petitioners' table.

16. Mr. DODSON (Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture) expressed solidarity with the people of New Caledonia, which was still unable to exercise its legitimate rights, and stated that the Schomburg Center had long been carrying out

(Mr. Dodson)

research on problems of decolonization. Thanks to the efforts of the United Nations many Territories had already obtained independence, and an important role was still played by the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The work of the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee of 24 deserved high praise.

17. Mr. Dodson withdrew.

18. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jackson (National Rainbow Coalition) took a place at the petitioners' table.

19. Mr. JACKSON (National Rainbow Coalition) said that the United Nations was called upon to supervise the holding of free and fair elections in Namibia, which were critical to the peaceful transition of Namibia to a sovereign, independent and free State. However, that process was threatened by certain impediments, one of which was the secondment to Namibia of a much smaller number of observers from the Organization than had been provided for in Security Council resolution 435 (1978). As a result the apartheid régime was creating in Namibia a climate of intimidation which would make free and fair elections impossible.

20. In February 1989 he had sent a communication to the five permanent members of the Security Council outlining developments in Namibia, but since then events there had turned even more complex. One sad testimony to that fact was the recent murder of Anton Lubowski, the prominent activist of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

21. The situation was further aggravated by the restrictions imposed by the Administrator-General on gatherings and meetings. In order to hold a meeting attended by more than 20 persons it was now necessary to obtain a special permit from the police. Furthermore, according to communications from observers the Administrator-General representing South Africa had deliberately engineered an under-count of registered voters in order to prevent SWAPO from securing the election of a sufficient number of its representatives to the constituent assembly.

22. The racist apartheid régime in South Africa had made no commitment to abide by the decisions of the United Nations in the matter of Namibian independence. It had been forced to the negotiating table by military defeat at the hands of the Angolans and their Cuban allies. The apartheid régime was in retreat, but still trying to delay independence as long as possible. Justice delayed was justice denied. The triumph of peace and justice in Namibia would energize the peace process in Central America, strengthen the role of the United Nations as a mediator in the Middle East, building on the successes already achieved in ending the tragic war between Iran and Iraq, and enhance the role of the Organization in bringing peace to the Korean peninsula and helping the process of demilitarization in that part of the world.

23. A substantial increase in the strength of UNTAG was needed to prepare the climate for free and fair elections.

(Mr. Jackson)

24. Public opinion in the United States had abandoned any kind of support for apartheid. The previous American Administration had thus been forced to retreat from its policy of "constructive engagement" in South Africa. He was working to make the abolition of apartheid the centre-piece of a new Africa policy for the United States. The other components of such a policy would be support for the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and the granting of most-favoured nation status to southern African countries in order to expand trade opportunities.

25. The question of New Caledonia was also highly important, inasmuch as it concerned the ability of the international community to understand the problems of the indigenous population and take appropriate action. The proposed United Nations seminar in Vanuatu was one response, and the movement in the United States which he represented supported it. Nothing could be more sacred to a people than its sovereignty, dignity and independent self-determination.

26. For more than four decades the United Nations had served as a forum for the dispossessed and colonized. The people of New Caledonia should take their due place there if they decided to define their relations with France in such a manner. He had met the French President, Mr. Mitterand, and hoped that that respected politician would support self-determination for New Caledonia. An important contribution to that end would be an order to halt all nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

27. There was every reason to think that dawn was breaking in Namibia and New Caledonia. The bold initiatives of the United Nations would strengthen the climate favourable to peace throughout the world, and add immeasurably to the prestige and authority of the pre-eminent international Organization.

28. Mr. Jackson withdrew.

29. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sutton (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) took a place at the petitioners' table.

30. Mr. SUTTON (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) said that action must be taken to abolish the continuing injurious effects of subjugation by the apartheid régime on the Namibian people. Although the unilateral action taken by South Africa to determine the future development of Namibia had been declared null and void by the United Nations, South Africa continued to thwart the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the historic Declaration of 14 December 1960, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), it was essential to ensure that that United Nations mandate was carried out.

31. Mr. Sutton 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 VI); A/44/262, 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 VI); A/44/297 and Add.1 and 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/44/613 and Add.1)

32. Mr. ANTONIO (Mozambique) said that, while all peace-loving forces looked forward to the emergence of a sovereign and independent State of Namibia, it was necessary to be not just hopeful but vigilant, in order to counteract any manoeuvres by South Africa to undermine the transition of Namibia to independence and in order to denounce acts of intimidation by Koevoet paramilitary units, whose presence during the electoral campaign was not in the interests of the Namibian people and which should be completely disbanded. In order to make its hopes of Namibian independence a reality, the international community should extend more support to SWAPO. The specialized agencies could play an important role in mobilizing concrete support for the Namibian people, especially during the transition period.

33. The situation in South Africa and the front-line States continued to be disturbing. The Organization, and in particular the Fourth Committee, should put more pressure on South Africa to lift the ban on such political and social organizations as ANC and UDF; to end the state of emergency; to release political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela; and to create favourable conditions for a fruitful and serious dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the majority of the South African population. His delegation believed that the principles approved by the Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State of OAU at its most recent meeting in Harare constituted a democratic and acceptable basis for dialogue on the future of South Africa. His country, as a neighbour of South Africa, knew the negative effects of South African acts of aggression and destabilization.

34. On the question of Western Sahara, his delegation considered direct contacts to be of positive value in bringing about a peaceful and lasting settlement to the

(Mr. Antonio, Mozambique)

conflict in the region, hailing the meeting between the Moroccan king and the high-level delegation of the POLISARIO Front and moves by the United Nations Secretary-General and the current Chairman of OAU to create favourable conditions for a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara.

35. His delegation was deeply concerned at the situation in the occupied territory of East Timor, and reaffirmed its support for the just struggle of the heroic people of East Timor for self-determination and independence, applauding steps by the parties to initiate a fruitful dialogue in order to avoid further bloodshed. It voiced its appreciation to the United Nations bodies, in particular the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which it called upon to continue to provide assistance with a view to the speedy and full implementation of the relevant United Nations decisions.

36. Mr. Bristol (Nigeria) took the Chair.

37. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia), speaking on a point of order, pointed out that the General Assembly had decided not to include item 122 of the provisional agenda in the agenda. In view of the fact that East Timor had become the twenty-seventh province of Indonesia, the statement by the representative of Mozambique was not only a deviation from the subject under consideration but also interference in Indonesia's internal affairs. The representative of Mozambique should therefore refrain from any further mention of the situation in East Timor.

38. Mrs. RASOANAIVO (Madagascar) noted the successes achieved in the decolonization process, in particular the settlement of a number of conflicts resulting from the colonial system, and the untiring efforts of the United Nations, as demonstrated by the declaration of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Her country was, however, still concerned about the continued existence of vestiges of a system that had outlived its time.

39. The colonial Powers were continuing to exploit the human and natural resources of small Territories and were hindering the exercise of the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination and independence by their activities, in particular in the military and nuclear fields. Moreover, some of those activities could threaten the safety of the peoples concerned and the security of neighbouring independent States.

40. The right of colonial peoples to decide their future independently, as laid down in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU and in the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, remained a legitimate means of eliminating colonialism. The administering Powers should therefore create such conditions in their dependent Territories as would allow the indigenous peoples to achieve their aspirations and their inalienable right to self-determination and independence freely and in peace.

(Mrs. Rasoanaivo, Madagascar)

41. In that connection, the contribution of the administering Powers to the work of the Special Committee of 24 was of great significance. Her delegation reiterated its support for the Special Committee and urged it to maintain its efforts.

42. On the question of Western Sahara, the Malagasy Government's position had always been based on the principle of self-determination for the Saharan people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative - the Frente POLISARIO. Following renewed agreement by the two parties to the conflict to the joint proposals for a settlement put forward by the current Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General, the peace process had entered irrevocably on a decisive phase. The establishment of a technical commission to study ways and means of implementing the Settlement Proposals was an important landmark in the process of creating a situation conducive to the establishment of peace. The Technical Commission had begun its work and a draft calendar to guide the implementation of the Settlement Proposals had been submitted to the two parties (A/44/634). The successes achieved were backed by the firm commitment of the parties to the conflict to co-operate with the efforts of the United Nations and OAU in every way. Her delegation welcomed the meeting in Marrakesh between King Hassan II of Morocco and a delegation of high-ranking representatives of the Frente POLISARIO and urged both sides to proceed further along that path.

43. Her delegation was convinced that the necessary conditions existed for conducting a referendum organized and supervised by the United Nations, in co-operation with OAU. In conclusion, she expressed satisfaction with the successes achieved by the current Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General in their mission of good offices and assured them of her delegation's support for their efforts.

44. Mrs. DELGADO (Cuba) said that the question of Western Sahara would only be solved when the Saharan people exercised their right to self-determination and independence on the basis of strict compliance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and other important decisions of the United Nations and OAU. That had still not been achieved, despite the efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU and their representatives to implement General Assembly resolution 43/33 and resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU.

45. While Morocco adopted an uncompromising position, the representatives of the Saharan people - the members of the Frente POLISARIO - showed determination and flexibility. They were working tirelessly for the all-round strengthening of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, which was now recognized by more than 70 States Members of the United Nations that maintained diplomatic relations with it.

46. Cuba reiterated its support for the following fundamental principles of the policy of the Frente POLISARIO: the question of Western Sahara was a question of decolonization; the Saharan people had a sacred right to self-determination and

(Mrs. Delgado, Cuba)

independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); the Moroccan occupation of part of Western Sahara was illegal and was resulting in warfare; the Frente POLISARIO was the authentic and legitimate representative of the Saharan people, and only direct negotiations with Morocco could lead to a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

47. Morocco had not adopted the right attitude, despite the willingness of the leaders of the Saharan people and their co-operation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU. It was essential to adhere firmly to the international consensus confirmed at the Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade. Her delegation was convinced of the inevitability of the Saharan people's liberation and hoped that Morocco, which had itself experienced the horrors of colonialism in the past, would play its historic part; if it did not, condemnation by the international community awaited it.

48. Mr. YU Mengjia (China) said that remarkable progress had been achieved in the field of decolonization since the founding of the United Nations. At the same time, it was important not to lose sight of the fact that some Non-Self-Governing Territories had not yet achieved independence, remnants of one type or another of colonialism still existed, and countries that had won independence were still faced with the challenge of eliminating the remaining manifestations of colonialism.

49. The situation in southern Africa was currently undergoing some positive changes. The relaxation of tension in the region and the trend away from confrontation and towards dialogue conformed with the aspirations of the people of the area and had come about as a result of the prolonged struggle waged by the front-line States, other African countries and the entire international community. It should be noted, however, that the South African régime had not stopped creating obstacles to that positive process, and strenuous efforts were therefore still needed before peace and stability could be achieved in southern Africa.

50. A new chapter had been opened in the process of the attainment of independence by Namibia following the signing of the relevant accords between Angola, Cuba and South Africa at the end of 1988. While gratifying results had been achieved in the implementation of the Namibian independence plan, some obstacles still remained. His delegation hoped that the South African authorities would honour their commitments and refrain from taking any actions that would disrupt the general election in Namibia and prevent the achievement of independence.

51. Positive changes had occurred over the past year on the question of Western Sahara. His delegation appreciated and supported the mediation efforts made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU to find a solution to the question.

52. There were still some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the world that had yet to achieve self-determination and independence. The Committee had the important task of ensuring that the people of those Territories exercised their right to self-determination as soon as possible. The administering Powers should fully

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(Mr. Yu Mengjia, China)

respect the will of the people of those Territories and their right to decide freely on the future status of their Territories. The Committee should urge the administering Powers to fulfil the obligations that they had undertaken under the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

53. With regard to the question of foreign military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, China consistently opposed the stationing of troops by any country in the territory of other countries, including colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the establishment of military bases and installations therein.

54. Mr. van Lierop resumed the Chair.

55. Mr. GERANG (Malaysia) said that Malaysia, which had itself once been a colony, followed all developments related to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with great interest. The adoption of that Declaration had helped to expedite the independence of countries representing more than half the current membership of the United Nations. The Organization must now try to accelerate the process of enabling the 3 million people who still lived in colonial Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. It should become one of the international community's priorities to complete the elimination of colonialism that had begun after the Second World War by the end of the century. Such criteria as the size of a Territory and its population or its geographical location should not block the independence of any Non-Self-Governing Territory.

56. There was a tendency to make colonies too dependent on the administering Powers, when their banking systems, tourism and real estate development were under the control of foreign investors and their natural resources, including marine resources, were subject to unbridled exploitation. An administering Power had certain responsibilities towards the people under its control, including the responsibility of safeguarding the natural resources of a Non-Self-Governing Territory. It should also have clear economic, social and educational programmes to prepare the Territory for independence. The United Nations, and in particular its specialized agencies, should assist the administering Powers in the establishment of the institutions needed for such programmes.

57. Foreign economic activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories also included illegal activities. Several islands in the Caribbean were being used for drug trafficking. Malaysia, which regarded drugs as a national security issue rather than a social problem, hoped that the recent growing awareness of the problem would force the administering Powers to take steps to ensure the elimination of the drug problem in their Territories.

58. Malaysia was privileged to be directly involved in the process of the attainment of independence by Namibia: it had not only contributed troops to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), but had also presided over the

(Mr. Gerang, Malaysia)

meeting of the Security Council of which resolution 629 (1989) had been adopted. The continued illegal exploitation of Namibia's natural resources, including its marine resources, was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia. The international community must ensure full compliance by all parties with Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Conditions must be created to ensure that free and fair elections were held in Namibia.

59. A tragic chapter in the history of the people of Namibia would soon be closed, but the majority of the people of South Africa still suffered from the policy of apartheid. For the elimination of that worst form of racial oppression and discrimination, mandatory sanctions had to be imposed against South Africa and pressure must continue to be applied until the majority of the people were able to determine their future.

60. On the question of Western Sahara, he said that his country interpreted certain recent events as positive signs towards the settlement of the problem. After the independence of Namibia, the question of Western Sahara was logically the next issue of importance for the international community. Judging by the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/634), there was no obstacle to the holding of a referendum in Western Sahara which would give its people an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination. The United Nations would ensure that the referendum was free and fair and to the satisfaction of all parties. His delegation would co-operate fully in the peace process in Western Sahara.

61. Mr. KAYUMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the establishment of a new political order and the building of a non-violent, secure and just world called for more strenuous efforts in a number of fields, including that of the decolonization of the remaining colonial Territories. The declaration of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism called for renewed efforts on the part of States and international organizations to ensure universal and full compliance with one of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples. Concrete action was required on the part of United Nations bodies responsible for decolonization matters. It was crucial that the peoples of colonial Territories should be given the economic, educational, social and other assistance they needed in order to prepare them to exercise their right to self-determination. The peoples of those Territories, which were scattered all over the world, must be given a genuinely guaranteed right to choose an independent path to development, including statehood. Success in the work of United Nations bodies dealing with decolonization largely depended upon the co-operation of the relevant administering Powers. Lack of such co-operation was to be regretted.

62. His delegation considered that strict and meticulous implementation of the United Nations plan for Namibia should ensure self-determination for the Namibian people and hoped that the international community would soon be able to congratulate the Namibian people on their attainment of independence and freedom.

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(Mr. Kayumov, USSR)

63. Serious concern had been expressed both at meetings of the Special Committee and in the Fourth Committee over the fate of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and mention had been made of arbitrary and illegal actions by the Administering Authority. According to the Charter, only the Security Council could take decisions to alter the status of a strategic trust territory, such as Micronesia, or to discontinue a trusteeship agreement.

64. The Soviet Union supported the right of all colonial peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and was in solidarity with the peoples struggling for their liberation from colonial dependence. His delegation supported the position of the African countries which favoured expanding the assistance and support given to the national liberation movements and to the front-line States by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Soviet Union would continue to contribute towards promoting the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and would actively assist United Nations activities directed towards the final eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid.

65. Mr. GRILLO (Colombia) expressed his delegation's sympathy with the United States of America and China in connection with the earthquakes which had occurred in those countries. Although the process of decolonization was continuing, problems still remained along the dependent Territories' path to self-determination. The administering Powers should take more energetic steps to ensure the exercise by the dependent peoples of their right to self-determination.

66. Colombia was in favour of the holding of a referendum in Western Sahara and considered it essential to develop the dialogue which had been initiated between the parties. The process of decolonization in New Caledonia should also be expedited. Colombia was ready to assist United Nations efforts in that connection and hoped that the 1990s would become the decade of the final eradication of colonialism.

67. Mr. YADAV (Nepal) said that his country attached great importance to the issue under consideration and had always lent unreserved support to the struggles of the peoples of colonial and dependent Territories for self-determination.

68. Under the Charter it was the primary obligation of the administering Powers to protect and promote the political, economic and human rights of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories whose peoples had not yet attained a full measure of self-government. His delegation called upon the administering Powers to abide strictly by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to take the necessary steps to promote the independence of the peoples of colonial and dependent Territories.

(Mr. Yadav, Nepal)

69. His delegation reaffirmed its unequivocal support for the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa for the elimination of the abhorrent system of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial and democratic society. Apartheid could not be reformed or modified; it had to be eliminated completely. The policy of apartheid was the main source of conflict and tension in southern Africa. The acts of aggression and destabilization perpetrated by the apartheid régime against the front-line States had not only caused severe disruption of their economies but also seriously threatened the prospects of peace and security in that region and throughout the world. The international community should provide financial and material support to the front-line States so as to enable them to reduce their dependence on South Africa.

70. Developments inside South Africa bore witness to the weakening of the foundations of apartheid. The détente in relations between the super-Powers, the resurgence of the United Nations as chief peace maker, and economic sanctions coupled with increasing internal unrest and the international isolation of the racist régime were sure indicators of the disintegration of the apartheid system.

71. The peoples of the world were watching the developments taking place in South Africa with keen interest. The recent overtures by the newly installed minority Government of Mr. de Klerk calling for reforms and conciliation were steps in the right direction. The international community hoped that the new Government would live up to its commitments and would work with all the peoples of South Africa to usher in a non-racial and democratic society by peaceful means.

72. His delegation demanded the immediate release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency, the removal of the ban on political organizations and the cessation of the harassment of the black people of South Africa as a pre-condition for the initiation of a constructive dialogue.

73. The people of Namibia were now preparing for elections and the international community had a collective responsibility to ensure that those elections were peaceful, free and fair. In that context, his delegation commended the role played by the Secretary-General in the process of the granting of independence to the Namibian people and called upon the international community to continue to support the Secretary-General's efforts for the speedy implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.