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ASSEMBLY**

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**GENERAL COMMITTEE, 152nd  
MEETING**

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at 2.35 p.m.



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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Consideration of the agenda of the seventeenth session and allocation of items (continued)</i>	
<i>Reallocation of item 29 . . . . .</i>	21

**Chairman: Mr. Muhammad ZAFRULLA KHAN (Pakistan).**

**Consideration of the agenda of the seventeenth session and allocation of items (continued)**

**REALLOCATION OF ITEM 29**

1. The CHAIRMAN said that serious differences of opinion appeared to have arisen as to the desirability of the procedure decided upon by the General Assembly with regard to agenda item 29 (1168th plenary meeting, para. 109). He would ask the Committee to consider, therefore, whether the item should in fact be considered by the Fourth Committee, as the Assembly had decided, or whether it should be reallocated either to plenary meetings or to another Main Committee. He recalled the circumstances in which the discussion of the procedure to be followed in respect of the report of the Special Committee established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) had arisen at the 1167th plenary meeting, and read out the passage from the record of the 1168th meeting embodying the decisions that had been taken in respect of item 25, "The situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; report of the Special Committee established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)", and item 29, "The situation in Angola: reports of the Sub-Committee established under General Assembly resolution 1603 (XV) and of the Government of Portugal". He had no particular personal views on the matter. He was, however, anxious that unnecessary duplication should be avoided as far as possible.

2. Mr. ADEEL (Sudan) said that at its 956th meeting on 9 June 1961, the Security Council had adopted a resolution<sup>1/</sup> in which it expressed its conviction that the continuance of the situation in Angola was an actual and potential cause of international friction and was likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. The General Assembly, in resolution 1603 (XV) and again in resolution 1742 (XVI), had recorded the solemn conviction of the United Nations that the situation in Angola constituted a permanent source of international friction and threatened international peace and security. The danger of the situation in Angola had not subsided since the

adoption of resolution 1742 (XVI) in January 1962. On the contrary, it had grown even more serious and further international complications had developed. A provisional Angolan Government in exile had been formed to direct the struggle of the Angolan people and to organize an army to oppose the Portuguese. The situation in Angola was thus virtually one of armed conflict.

3. All the Main Committees of the General Assembly were equal in status and responsibility and the importance of an item was not to be judged by the Committee to which it was referred. Nevertheless, items of a predominantly political nature and situations which constituted a threat to international peace and security were customarily dealt with either by the Security Council or by the General Assembly in plenary meetings, or by one of the Assembly's political Committees. It should also be borne in mind that any addition to the Fourth Committee's already heavy agenda might make it difficult for that body to complete its work by the date set for the closing of the session. He hoped that all those considerations would weigh with the General Committee and that it would recommend that the General Assembly should reconsider the decision it had taken at the 1168th plenary meeting. The General Committee would not be acting improperly in making such a recommendation since, under chapter VI of the Assembly's rules of procedure, the General Committee had the power and also the duty to advise the Assembly regarding the conduct of the business of the session.

4. Mr. DIALLO Telli (Guinea) agreed with the representative of the Sudan that the situation in Angola was one of armed conflict. It was a particularly tragic example of colonial warfare in which the defenceless people of Angola were being forced to pit themselves against the modern weapons of the Portuguese Government. The situation had already been studied twice by the General Assembly and on each occasion it had been dealt with in plenary meetings. If that procedure was changed for any reason, precedent should guide the allocation of the question not to the Fourth Committee but to one of the political Committees. He noted that the question of Algeria, although strictly speaking of colonial question, had always been dealt with in the First Committee because a breach of the peace was involved. His delegation felt, therefore, that the question should be kept on the agenda of plenary meetings, and that if for any reason it was necessary to make a change, it should be sent to one of the General Assembly's political Committees.

5. Mr. MOROZOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that, from the strictly legal point of view, the General Assembly's original decision concerning the allocation of the item had never been called in question. The simplest procedure, therefore, would be for the General Committee either to confirm that decision or formally to recommend its reconsideration

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the Security Council, Sixteenth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1961, document S/4835.

by the General Assembly. As far as the political aspects of the question were concerned, he concurred with the remarks made by the representatives of Sudan and Guinea. The situation in Angola was a very special one which could be compared only with that which had previously prevailed in Algeria, since it involved the struggle of a people to free itself from colonial domination. The Soviet delegation accordingly considered that the item should be discussed in plenary meetings and that the Committee should not recommend any departure from the earlier decision in that respect.

6. Mr. RIFA'I (Jordan) thanked the Chairman for having convened the meeting so as to enable delegations to express their views on the matter. He fully endorsed the remarks that had been made by the representatives of Sudan, Guinea and the Soviet Union, in the belief that the reasons which had led the General Committee originally to allocate the item to plenary meetings were still valid. The situation in Angola constituted a problem of considerable importance which should be given adequate consideration by a

major organ of the United Nations. Therefore, having in mind the tasks of the General Committee and considering that the Fourth Committee already had a heavy agenda, his delegation joined with those that were in favour of allocating the item on Angola to plenary meetings.

7. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that the item concerning the situation in Angola should be discussed by the General Assembly in plenary meetings. Any decision to that effect would be taken on the understanding that territories, such as Angola, which were the subject of separate agenda items might be discussed during the consideration of the report of the Special Committee of seventeen members. However, actual decisions concerning such territories could be taken only in connexion with the specific agenda items dealing with them.

*It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.