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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. VAN LIEROP (Vanuatu)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed sympathy with the Honduran delegation in connection with the loss of life as a result of the airplane crash and with the delegation of Sudan in connection with the victims of the bus accident.
2. Mr. ERI (Papua New Guinea), Mr. SHAHER DERHEM (Democratic Yemen), Mr. LAK (Pakistan) and Mr. SAHINGUVU (Burundi) expressed sympathy with the delegations of the countries which had suffered as a result of the recent earthquakes and Hurricane Hugo.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/44/3/Add.24-27)

3. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Committee had received four letters (A/C.4/44/3/ Add.24-27) containing requests for hearings on the question of New Caledonia. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee had agreed to grant the requests.
4. It was so decided.
5. The CHAIRMAN noted that at its tenth and the present meeting the Committee had decided to grant the requests for hearings on the question of New Caledonia contained in documents A/C.4/44/3/Add.13, 22, 24-27. It had also been proposed that the petitioners should be heard under the general agenda item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" which had been allocated to the Fourth Committee.
6. The proposal was adopted.

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)

Hearings of petitioners (A/C.4/44/3/Add.13, 24-27)

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Boonzaier (Political Consultative Council) took a place at the petitioner's table.
8. Mr. BOONZAIER (Political Consultative Council) expressed solidarity with the struggling people of New Caledonia and observed that he himself was a victim of the South African authorities occupying Namibia as well as of the so-called liberation movement SWAPO. Speaking as a former prisoner of SWAPO, he said that dozens of people continued to suffer in their torture chambers, undergoing the most sophisticated tortures and persecution.

(Mr. Boonzaier)

9. In the SWAPO-controlled camps in Angola and Zambia, terror ruled, in the form of summary execution, indefinite imprisonment, psychological pressure, physical violence, rape of women and young people, the subjection of women, who were kept in confinement under the most degrading conditions, to the wishes of the camps' leaders and the unjust confiscation of supplies received by SWAPO from various countries and international organizations.

10. It was necessary to mobilize international support for the liberation of all the prisoners in SWAPO's jails. It was to be hoped that SWAPO could be persuaded to free all its political prisoners and to ensure their rights.

11. The results of the United Nations fact-finding mission to investigate the violation of human rights by SWAPO were not surprising. There were many inaccuracies in the mission's report, because the information came from official representatives of SWAPO and not from eye-witnesses, relatives of prisoners and others who had objective information on the subject. Nor was it surprising that the mission had not been able to find a single prisoner.

12. In conclusion, he appealed to the Chairman of SWAPO to free all the prisoners and categorically denied SWAPO's assertion that the death of several prisoners had been a result of unfortunate circumstances.

13. Mr. Boonzaier withdrew.

14. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Boyd (Midwest Alliance for Peace) took a place at the petitioner's table.

15. Mr. BOYD (Midwest Alliance for Peace) said that the pattern of colonial development in New Caledonia was a familiar tale. First the explorers and traders had come to the islands, then the missionaries and, after French annexation in 1853, soldiers, convicts and settlers. At present about 145,000 people lived on the islands, of whom 54,000 were European settlers. They occupied the most fertile land and dominated the territory's economic life.

16. In 1988 the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had adopted a draft resolution in which the Committee urged all the parties involved to continue their dialogue and to refrain from acts of violence, and invited them to continue to promote a framework for the peaceful progress of the territory to self-determination. After the Fourth Committee's approval of the draft resolution in October 1988, it had been adopted by the General Assembly on 22 November 1988. On 8 March 1989, the text of the resolution had been transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations.

17. Concomitant with those developments, intensive political consultations had been held between the French Government and leaders of all major political groups in New Caledonia, including the Front uni de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS) and the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR). The

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(Mr. Boyd)

consultations, held between May and August 1988, had resulted in a series of proposals for the Territory's future known as the Matignon Agreement.

18. Since the signing of that Agreement, the French Government had been a recalcitrant party. Many independent candidates, representatives of FLNKS and RPCR and other groups, had taken part in the elections held in New Caledonia in March 1989. After the assassination of Tjibao, the leader of FLNKS, and his deputy, Yeiwene Yeiwene, fears had been aroused that an upsurge of violence might take place in the Territory and that the implementation of the Matignon Agreement would be jeopardized. While the political turbulence in New Caledonia had subsided by the summer, the quest for complete independence was still a burning issue. No doubt New Caledonia's long journey to independence was nearly over, although there remained the danger of neo-colonialism. There were still several nations, including Namibia and South Africa, which had been inspired by its struggle and were waiting to celebrate its victory. After achieving self-determination, New Caledonia could continue to contribute to the task of national liberation and the struggle to live up to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

19. Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea) asked if there was a parallel between the situation in New Caledonia and the South African régime.

20. Mr. BOYD (Midwest Alliance for Peace), replying to the question, said that the situations in New Caledonia and South Africa had much in common. Both countries were at one of the decisive stages in the decolonization process, and watchfulness was therefore called for in order to ensure that the hopes of their peoples for speedy liberation were not deceived.

21. Mr. Boyd withdrew.

22. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Gervasi (Centre for Military Research and Analysis) took a place at the petitioner's table.

23. Mr. GERVASI (Centre for Military Research and Analysis) said that the process of decolonization in a broader sense was coming to a conclusion and the resolution of the question of Namibia, where the threat of a further extension of conflict remained, might not only constitute a serious test of the effectiveness of the United Nations but in many ways decide its future.

24. The Security Council, in resolution 385 (1976) on the situation in Namibia had dealt directly with the question of South Africa's power in Namibia, which had been bypassed in subsequent resolutions. The special difficulties of the transition to independence had made it impossible simultaneously to dismantle the colonial machinery and to create new structures in its place. In order to resolve that problem, it was proposed in resolution 385 (1976) that Pretoria's power over Namibia should be restricted and the necessary United Nations machinery be established for the holding of elections in Namibia under its supervision and control. But that proposal for control had not been followed up in resolution

(Mr. Gervasi)

435 (1978), in which nothing was said concerning the limitation of South Africa's influence on the administrative and legal system and its role in other areas of Namibian life. As a consequence, after the conclusion in the following year of the Trilateral Agreement on Namibia, on the basis of resolution 435 (1978), the United Nations was given very limited powers which made it unable to ensure control over the situation in the Territory in the period of electoral preparations.

25. Besides, the Trilateral Agreement itself had not settled all issues, but only given hope that peace might be achieved at some point in the future. In recent months, military operations in Angola had continued and had even been intensified; Savimbi had opened a new front in the north of the country, and fighting was going on in Cuando-Cubango province and along the whole frontier with Namibia. In addition, South Africa was very openly trying to sabotage Namibia's transition to independence by making extensive use of force and by manipulating facts. Indeed, having launched a powerful propaganda campaign and with the support of its puppet forces, Pretoria was pushing Namibia towards civil war. By creating a situation of real terror in Namibia and by intimidating people who showed the least sign of sympathizing with SWAPO, the racist régime was doing everything to oblige the indigenous inhabitants not to vote in the election and so deprive SWAPO of the possibility of obtaining two thirds of the seats in the constituent assembly, which would open the way towards true independence for the Territory.

26. If SWAPO obtained only 30-35 per cent of the votes, a highly complex situation would develop; solution of the problem would be delayed, but in the meantime South Africa would preserve its influence on the situation inside the country through the help of puppet groups, including police forces, whose representatives were acting as organizers of the election campaign of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

27. If such a crisis situation were maintained, and if Pretoria did not abandon its efforts to destabilize the situation in Namibia before or after the elections, the role of the United Nations in the process of the Territories' decolonization would be seriously brought into question.

28. Many people today were saying that a Government of national reconciliation should be established in Namibia. The trouble with that was that the two opposing groups, DTA and SWAPO, were pursuing diametrically opposed ends. DTA, being a puppet formation of Pretoria's, created by it and recently brought to power as a transitional Government, was the symbol of the South African régime's continuing domination over Namibia; its interests were incompatible with those of the Territory's self-determination. That contradiction was unlikely to be resolved in the near future. For that reason, the probability could not be excluded that the United Nations would at some point have to revert to the consideration of the problem of Namibia in order to decide on further steps which would really ensure Namibia's independence.

29. Mr. Gervasi withdrew.

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30. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Johnson (Lutheran World Federation) took a place at the petitioner's table.

31. Mr. JOHNSON (Lutheran World Federation) said that the Federation's 104 member churches, counting a total of some 54 million parishioners, not only devoted great attention to the observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but had also played an active part in the Declaration's drafting and adoption.

32. Referring to the situation in New Caledonia, he said that General Assembly resolution 43/34 of 22 November 1988 was consistent with the concerns of the ecumenical community.

33. Turning to the question of Namibia and referring more particularly to its historical aspect, he said that the system of apartheid imposed on the Namibian people by South Africa had caused untold suffering. Despite the revocation of its mandate, South Africa was continuing its merciless exploitation of the Territory's human and natural resources; the indigenous population's illiteracy rate was estimated at 60 per cent, and the vast majority of the people lived in poverty and despair.

34. At the same time, since the arrival in Namibia of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) the situation had changed radically. The war had ended; almost all the South African occupation forces had withdrawn, although the Koevoet and former ethnic soldiers were still a serious problem; many discriminatory laws had been repealed, and the curfew in the north of Namibia had been lifted after more than a decade. More than 41,000 Namibians had returned home from exile, with the Council of Churches in Namibia playing an important role in the repatriation operation. Namibians could now express their political opinions freely, and an election law had been promulgated.

35. Despite those dramatic improvements, however, four problems still remained unresolved. The Koevoet unit in the north of Namibia had been disbanded, but professional killers from among its members were still living near their bases and continuing to terrorize the population. Should violent incidents similar to those which had broken out at the end of September and the beginning of October 1989 continue, the holding of free elections would become impossible.

36. The Namibian churches were also concerned about possible outbreaks of violence during the period following the elections scheduled for 7-11 November in view of the fact that the command structures of the South West Africa Territorial Force and Koevoet had not been dismantled as required by Security Council resolution 435 (1978). In order to ensure a peaceful transition to independence, it was vitally important that UNTAG should maintain a strong and visible presence in Namibia during the post-election period.

37. A generous response by the United Nations and its agencies would be required to meet Namibia's development needs. The international community would have to deter South Africa from attempts to use its continuing control over Walvis Bay to destabilize the situation in Namibia. Pretoria should be prevailed upon to transfer Walvis Bay and the offshore islands to Namibia at the earliest opportunity.

(Mr. Johnson)

38. The Lutheran World Federation, condemning the violation of human rights in whatever form, called upon both the South African authorities and the leadership of SWAPO to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all Namibian prisoners or detainees. All parties should also refrain from any form of harassment and intimidation of the population.

39. Thanks to the persistent efforts of the United Nations, Namibia was at last on its way to independence and to its rightful place as the Organization's 160th Member.

40. Mr. Johnson withdrew.

41. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Harvey (International Association of Democratic Lawyers) took a place at the petitioner's table.

42. Mr. HARVEY (International Association of Democratic Lawyers), presenting a petition on behalf of its author, Mr. Lennox S. Hinds, said that the Association had been founded more than 40 years earlier under the motto "Law in the service of peace" and today had member organizations in more than 95 States Members of the United Nations. The Association had struggled consistently for the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and had always condemned the crimes of imperialism, apartheid, colonialism and neo-colonialism in all their forms.

43. The Association had been steadfast in its opposition to the illegal occupation of Namibia by the apartheid régime of South Africa. It was greatly concerned at the excessive reductions in the forces and budget of UNTAG, which had permitted the forces of apartheid to retain excessive influence over the process of electoral registration and organization. For that reason, the Association had organized teams of legal observers from around the world to visit Namibia and to monitor the electoral process. In spite of obstructions, several such teams had already toured Namibia and two further teams were about to do so. The observers had expressed great concern over the violent intimidation used to deter people from supporting SWAPO. There were also many practical problems to be resolved in conducting a ballot in a country with a high degree of illiteracy. As long as the illegal Koevoet and SWATF forces were permitted to operate, there could be no truly free or fair elections. The Association therefore called for the exclusion of all Koevoet and SWATF members from participation in the electoral process.

44. The next few weeks would be crucial to the process of free and fair elections. The Association solemnly pledged to do everything within its power to monitor the conduct of the elections and to report to the Committee any further attempts to violate the sovereign right of the Namibian people to self-determination, independence and control over all its natural resources.

45. The Association supported the right of the people of New Caledonia to self-determination within the terms of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. It was currently claimed in some quarters that as the territories still remaining independent were small in both size and number, they

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(Mr. Harvey)

should no longer be the concern of the international community. It was also asserted that the fate of those territories should be decided on a bilateral or regional basis. The reality, however, was that the decolonization issue was entering a new phase where former colonies had been transformed into actual or potential military strategic bases. So long as a country such as New Caledonia was denied the right to determine its own foreign policy, it would remain a pawn in the power games of countries on the opposite side of the globe.

46. The international community should ensure that the people of New Caledonia were permitted to exercise their right to self-determination and to opt for independence if that was their desire.

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)

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 (chaps. I and VI))

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)

47. Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) said that his country's position on the question of colonialism and the right of peoples to self-determination remained immutable. Ecuador supported every effort aimed at implementing resolution 1514 (XV) containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

48. The pressure of international public opinion had enabled the United Nations to achieve substantial successes in the field of decolonization. There nevertheless remained territories that aroused the concern of the Organization and required its constant attention.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

49. His delegation was gratified by the start made on implementing the plan adopted by the Security Council in resolution 435 (1978) for the granting of independence to Namibia. Ecuador was directing its efforts to ensuring that the difficulties that were occurring would be overcome constructively and in a spirit of goodwill, and that the process would culminate in the liberation of the Namibian people, who had lived for so long under apartheid and suffered its consequences in the shape of rapacious exploitation of their natural and human resources.
50. With regard to the question of Western Sahara, his delegation welcomed the beginning of discussions between the King of Morocco and high-level representatives of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y Rio de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) and hoped that favourable conditions would be created for holding a referendum that would enable the people of Western Sahara to choose their path of development independently.
51. As to the question of the Malvinas, his delegation advocated a continuation of the dialogue between Argentina and the United Kingdom aimed at the speediest re-establishment of Argentine sovereignty over the islands.
52. All peoples should enjoy a right as sacred as that of self-determination and independence and no doubt should be cast on their right to their natural resources which, following the attainment of independence, should be used in the interests of their future economic development.
53. The stationing of nuclear weapons by administering Powers in colonial territories and the use of those territories for military purposes could be an obstacle to peoples exercising their right to self-determination and independence, and could also create a threat to international peace and security. In that connection, administering Powers should meet their obligations arising out of Article 73 of the United Nations Charter, i.e., prepare the population of the territories for self-government and transmit the appropriate information to the Secretary-General.
54. Ecuador welcomed the sending of observer missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories with the task of monitoring events in the political, economic and social spheres and making known the wishes and attitudes of their inhabitants.
55. The current improvement in international relations was facilitating the search for solutions to problems through negotiation and constructive dialogue. Only the political will of States could save the world from oppression.
56. Mr. SAVOV (Bulgaria) said that his country had always regarded a break with the colonial past and implementation of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination and independence as a sacred goal that had to be achieved with the full support of the international community and, in particular, through the United Nations.

(Mr. Savov, Bulgaria)

57. His country recognized the positive role that the specialized agencies and institutions could play in the decolonization process and considered it essential for them to step up their concrete assistance to peoples in colonial territories and their liberation movements. As for the process of Namibia's transition to independence, the activities of the many specialized agencies and institutions that were rendering practical assistance to the Namibian people could not but be commended.

58. The situation prevailing until recently in Namibia had considerably impeded the specialized agencies in their task of assisting the Namibian people. The current situation opened up wider opportunities for them to channel technical assistance and support to the Namibians. Some specialized agencies and institutions had already been assisting the liberation movement in southern Africa for many years. Such assistance was also being given to the "front-line" States. The continuation of such support was essential to furthering the development of those States, creating favourable conditions for the economic independence of the future Namibian State and enhancing regional economic co-operation. In that regard, his delegation fully supported the recommendations contained in document A/44/23 (Part IV) concerning the assistance rendered by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. In that context, the World Bank and IMF could give the colonial peoples great assistance, in particular by introducing flexible procedures for preparing specific programmes for colonial territories as recommended by the Committee of 24.

59. Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria) reaffirmed his Government's position on the question of decolonization, and especially of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria resolutely condemned colonialism in any form.

60. Colonialism must not only be condemned but totally eradicated. Nigeria welcomed the declaration of the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Colonialism must be eliminated by the end of the century.

61. The current international situation opened up favourable opportunities for resolving disputes concerning colonial territories. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the efforts being made to settle the disputes over Western Sahara, New Caledonia and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The possibility of addressing the innumerable problems confronting mankind had never been more real. His delegation welcomed the positive moves towards solving disputed issues and hoped for the further development of that process.

62. Temporary setbacks and disagreements should not be an obstacle to the achievement of the ultimate goal. It was essential to concentrate the collective efforts of mankind on the search for solutions to urgent economic, ecological and social problems. People everywhere must therefore be freed from the shackles of colonialism so that they could take part in that global enterprise.

(Mr. Bristol, Nigeria)

63. The Government and people of Nigeria had been saddened to learn of the assassination of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of the Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS), and of his deputy Mr. Yeiwene Yeiwene. His delegation noted that their deaths had not been in vain.

64. With regard to Western Sahara, his delegation urged parties to the conflict to overcome all their differences and to proceed immediately with the implementation of the joint proposals for a settlement put forward by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, with which they had expressed their agreement in principle. The search for a solution to that conflict should reflect the tradition of brotherhood, good neighbourliness and mutual respect of rights.

65. The situation in Namibia continued to cause serious concern. Steps had to be taken to prevent its further deterioration. Implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was hampered by a number of obstacles created by South Africa. They had to be removed, and the United Nations together with the international community had to ensure that the hopes of the Namibian people were not dashed on the eve of their independence.

66. Mr. BADI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, despite the imminence of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, many millions of people remained deprived of the right to freedom, and were strangers in their own land as a result of the exploitation by foreign Powers of the natural and human resources for economic and military purposes. Although certain progress had been made in the cause of decolonization, efforts had to be strengthened to assist nations to cast off the yoke of colonialism.

67. The report of the Special Committee (A/44/23 (Part VI)) indicated that the administering Powers of dependent Territories were conducting dialogue about the future government of those Territories without consulting the people. Furthermore, the presence in certain Territories of military bases constituted a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration, since in a number of cases they occupied about 30 per cent of the total area, thereby hampering the development of agriculture. A serious threat to those Territories was also posed by illicit drug trafficking, against which appropriate measures had to be taken.

68. The unceasing persecution and impoverished situation of the peoples of many dependent Territories bore witness to the violation of the right to self-determination and freedom of those peoples, which was enshrined in the Charter, the Declaration and the corresponding resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Détente in international relations could only be of full value if accompanied by the attainment of equal rights for all peoples.

69. The régime in South Africa continued to threaten world peace and security and to occupy the Territory of Namibia, which it used as a bridgehead for the perpetration of acts of aggression against the front-line States, exploiting its

(Mr. Badi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

natural and human resources in violation of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and the corresponding resolutions of the General Assembly. The South African authorities were resorting to various subterfuges to impede implementation of the United Nations plan for independence of Namibia.

70. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had itself suffered harsh exploitation in the past and it knew that freedom had to be fought for. It therefore supported the just struggle of the Namibian people under the leadership of its sole and authentic representative - SWAPO - for freedom and independence, and called on the occupying Power to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council and General Assembly and of other international bodies, to dismantle its military bases and to desist from the exploitation of natural and human resources, and also to keep the United Nations regularly informed about the situation in the Territory in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

71. His delegation believed that the administering Powers were responsible for the slackening of the struggle against smuggling and drug trafficking in the dependent Territories. Although a large number of specialized agencies were granting substantial assistance to the peoples of those Territories, many of them continued to maintain relations with South Africa in violation of the resolutions and Charter of the United Nations.

72. With regard to Western Sahara, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya welcomed the results of the Belgrade Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries, as well as the efforts by the Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to organize a referendum to resolve the fate of the people of that Territory.

73. Mr. ERI (Papua New Guinea) said that the conflict in Western Sahara posed a serious threat to peace and security in the region. His delegation recognized that there had been a number of initiatives by various individuals and organizations for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Most notable among them was the joint peace proposals put forward by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of OAU. Particular encouragement was drawn from the willingness of the parties to the conflict to take up the question of accepting the joint proposal. Papua New Guinea firmly believed that direct dialogue was of paramount significance for the restoration of just and lasting peace in the region. The initial meeting between the King of Morocco and a high-level delegation of the Frente POLISARIO early in 1989 was encouraging.

74. Another notable development had been the proclamation of the Arab Maghreb Union, which could be seen as an expression of the collective political will of that region to resolve the Western Sahara conflict. His delegation therefore appealed to the King of Morocco, as well as to the leaders of the Frente POLISARIO, to make extensive use of the mechanism put in place by the Secretary-General to assist them in discussing the various aspects of the referendum in Western Sahara. His delegation believed that the United Nations and the international community should work together to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the colonized peoples of the world.

75. Mr. SHAHER DERHEM (Democratic Yemen) said that, as a result of the relaxation of international tension, the conditions were being established for the solution of a number of conflicts. Pressure by the international community had led to some progress in satisfying the just demands of the people of Namibia, who were struggling for self-determination under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and authentic representative. It was essential at the present time to increase vigilance and to ensure that the racist régime of Pretoria did not impede the free expression of the will of the Namibian people. Democratic Yemen welcomed the results of the quadripartite talks aimed at solving the remaining problems in southern Africa, and saw them as a first step on the path to peace and stability in that region.

76. While it viewed the developments in Western Sahara most positively, his delegation appealed to the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to implement the resolutions of the United Nations and OAU aimed at a just settlement of the situation in that region.

77. Mr. LUNA (Peru) said that his country had supported decolonization since the very first days of the existence of the Organization and would continue to do so. In the course of that process and as a result of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) many countries had received their independence and were at the present time sovereign States. Certain vestiges of colonialism remained, however: some of them were disguised, and others took the form of racist régimes, which conducted their policy of discrimination under the protection of their legislation.

78. The United Nations faced a task of vital importance: to assist peoples in obtaining their independence. Although the successful solution of the Namibian question did not yet mark the end of decolonization, it constituted a landmark in the history of the Organization. For the first time almost 40 Member States had participated in that process and that had given it a truly multinational character.

79. The complexity of activities on such a scale inevitably gave rise to problems. In those circumstances, it was necessary to act rationally and decisively. All members of the community were responsible for a solution to the question and it would be only through their political and material support that the difficulties connected with that process, both natural and those caused by certain circles, could be overcome.

80. Like the majority of countries, Peru participated in those activities, guided by considerations of solidarity. One hundred and fifty years previously the Latin American countries had united their forces in the struggle for the granting of independence to Peru. At the present time, they were participating in the liberation of the people of Namibia.

81. The attainment of independence by Namibia was being facilitated by certain measures taken by the United Nations, namely, the repatriation of exiles, population census, voter registration, food programmes, and programmes in the field of public health and education.

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

82. With regard to Western Sahara, his delegation considered that all the advantages of a multilateral approach could be seen clearly when, in the interest of a peaceful settlement, the parties had recourse to international mediation. His delegation reaffirmed its unconditional support for the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence and for the plan proposed by the Secretary-General and the OAU Chairman designed to achieve a just solution of the question. His delegation called on all parties to use all available means for the achievement of a peaceful settlement, taking into account the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

83. Peru shared the noble ideals of the United Nations. By uniting efforts and extending co-operation between States, it was possible to resolve the tasks set and to overcome all obstacles.

84. Mr. KHAN LAK (Pakistan) said that his country consistently favoured the eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination in all its forms and manifestations. It also supported the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination. In her message on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the South African Political Prisoners, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, had reiterated Pakistan's demand that the Pretoria régime must immediately release all political prisoners and reaffirmed Pakistan's total commitment to the struggle of the people of South Africa for the eradication of apartheid.

85. The Fourth Committee had made considerable progress in its work. It had adopted two important texts on the activities of foreign economic and other interests which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and on the military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their control impeding the implementation of the Declaration. The adoption of those texts once again demonstrated the resolve of the international community to implement the Declaration. The adoption of the Declaration was also a reflection of the universally held view that colonialism in all its forms must be brought to a speedy end. His delegation would like, in that connection, to express its appreciation for the invaluable work being done by the Special Committee. Petitioners provided useful information in their petitions and made a significant contribution to that work.

86. Economic impediments should be removed speedily and the development efforts of those Territories should focus on the optimum utilization of all available indigenous resources. The fair participation of the colonized Territories in their own socio-economic development must be ensured. In that context, Pakistan was making its modest contribution, offering scholarships in various disciplines to students from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

87. The specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations were playing a substantial role in the liquidation of colonialism through their assistance to the peoples struggling for liberation. His delegation

(Mr. Khan Lak, Pakistan)

welcomed their assistance and called for further intensification of their efforts. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the colonized peoples would soon join the family of free and liberated peoples.

88. Mr. VYAS (India) said that by proclaiming the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the United Nations had expressed the will to fulfil its most important mandate - the granting of independence to the remaining colonies. Nevertheless, Members must avoid resting on their laurels, since the task facing them was not yet completed. It was necessary to take steps to ensure that the people of Namibia were able to express their political will freely and without fear.

89. His delegation was closely following the various developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The analysis undertaken by the Special Committee on decolonization made it possible to identify and highlight specific issues in respect of individual Territories and the measures required to facilitate the speedy and proper implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

90. In north-west Africa, a major problem of decolonisation persisted in Western Sahara, where the Saharan people were waging a struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Recently, a glimmer of hope had been seen when the joint efforts of the United Nations and OAU had resulted in the conclusion of an agreement in principle between Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO concerning the holding of a referendum on self-determination, opening up the possibility for the continuation of the process of dialogue and conciliation.

91. Unfortunately, colonial situations persisted in other parts of the world. The opposition of the administering Powers to the free expression of will of the people was an affront to civilized moral, social and political values. Given the fragile economy and ecology of such small Territories, the administering Powers bore a particular responsibility not to misuse them in any manner.

92. In that connection, he expressed the hope that the positive developments in New Caledonia would lead to the free expression of will by the people of that Territory.

93. India was unshakable in its belief in the inalienable right of the peoples of dependent Territories to self-determination and independence, and it would continue to fight for the attainment of that goal.

94. Mr. SAHINGUVU (Burundi) said that although nearly 30 years had elapsed since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, a number of countries had still not thrown off the burden of the colonial yoke, their population was subjected to oppression and their natural resources were plundered mercilessly. Burundi, which had become independent in

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(Mr. Sahinguvu, Burundi)

1962, would like the last decade of the twentieth century to be marked by the elimination of colonialism throughout the world.

95. In Namibia, despite obstacles caused by the occupying Power, the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) had begun. Nevertheless, the international community should remain vigilant and not relax pressure on South Africa, in order to counter its attempts to prevent the free expression of will of the Namibian people.

96. The significant developments which had occurred in the past two years in Western Sahara, including the acceptance in August 1988 by the opposing sides of the joint proposals by the United Nations and OAU on the holding of a referendum on the question of self-determination, and the meeting held in February 1989 between the King of Morocco and a high-level delegation from the Frente POLISARIO, made it possible to hope for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict. His delegation had always considered that the decolonization of Western Sahara could only be achieved through direct dialogue, giving its people the opportunity freely to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

97. Experience showed that the achievement of political independence was a necessary but inadequate condition for ensuring the economic independence of nations which had become free. The colonial Territories, having thrown off the yoke of dependence, required all-round economic and technical assistance from the international community.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.