



Chairman: Mrs. Helvi SIPILÄ (Finland).

AGENDA ITEM 55

Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights (continued) (A/8331, A/8403, chap. XVII, sect. D)

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that as there were no speakers on the list a vote should be taken on the draft resolution recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1592 (L) (see A/8331, para. 3).
2. Mr. ESCOREL (Brazil) said that he was not ready to vote.
3. Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) drew attention to the great importance of the subject, to which the Committee had decided to devote four meetings because it warranted thorough examination. He therefore thought it incorrect to proceed to vote on the draft resolution without holding a debate.
4. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) considered the item a very important one, as was shown by the fact that the United Nations had been studying it for many years. Nevertheless, there were still many peoples who did not enjoy self-determination and it was essential to see what measures would be adopted at the present session. He recalled that at the previous session, in resolution 2649 (XXV), the General Assembly had expressed its concern at the fact that many peoples were still subject to colonial and alien domination and had affirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of those peoples to restore to themselves the right to self-determination by any means at their disposal. The Assembly had made particular reference to the peoples of southern Africa and Palestine. In his view, the Committee could do no less at the present session and should once again proclaim that the right of peoples to self-determination must be respected.
5. With regard to the question of voting on the draft resolution recommended by the Council in its resolution 1592 (L), he thought it necessary, in the light of the remarks of the representatives of Brazil and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to give delegations more time to propose amendments or submit other draft resolutions.
6. Mr. OSMAN (Sudan) considered that, although a draft resolution on the item had been placed before the Committee in response to the request made by the General Assembly to the Commission on Human Rights in reso-

lution 2649 (XXV), the Commission had not carried out the task entrusted to it in the manner requested.

7. The CHAIRMAN recalled that the draft resolution recommended by the Council had been available to the Committee for some time and, furthermore, that all delegations were entitled to submit amendments or other draft resolutions. Nevertheless, she understood that some representatives would prefer not to vote on the draft at once; she therefore suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions should be set at 11 a.m. on Monday, 15 November 1971, since it had been announced some time ago that the item would be taken up and all representatives had been given time to study it.
8. Mrs. O'DONNELL (United States of America) and Mr. HEYMAN (Sweden) supported the Chairman's suggestion that the deadline for the submission of amendments should be 11 a.m. on Monday, 15 November.
9. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic), supported by Mr. SAFRONCHUK (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), said that several delegations were preparing draft resolutions to supplement the one recommended by the Council. He therefore suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions should be Tuesday, 16 November.
10. Mr. OUÉDRAOGO (Upper Volta) said that the Committee should be given a little more time to study the item before proceeding to a vote.
11. Mr. NYANG'ANYI (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, like the representative of Sudan, he did not consider that the draft resolution recommended by the Council was a faithful response to the request made by the General Assembly to the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 2649 (XXV). He personally wished to make a series of comments on the right to self-determination of the peoples of southern Africa. For that reason, he had asked to speak in the general debate and consequently supported the suggestion of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions should be Tuesday, 16 November.
12. Miss REID (United Kingdom) considered that the setting of a deadline for the submission of draft resolutions did not interfere with the holding of the general debate but might, on the contrary, help to speed up the discussion by allowing delegations to comment on the various draft resolutions when making their statements. She therefore supported the Chairman's suggestion that the deadline for the submission of amendments should be 11 a.m. on Monday.

13. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that, in view of the seriousness of the problem of the self-determination of peoples, she supported the suggestion of the representatives of the Soviet Union, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania.

14. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt), supported by Mrs. USENKO (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mr. NYANG'ANYI (United Republic of Tanzania), considered that, as a compromise, the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions could be Monday, 15 November, at the end of the afternoon.

15. Mr. EL-FATTAL (Syrian Arab Republic) supported the compromise solution proposed by the delegation of Egypt and pointed out that, while it was true that the Fourth Committee was also considering the question of the self-determination of peoples, it was doing so in the context of colonial situations as defined in the United Nations. Consequently, there were matters which escaped its terms of reference, such as the question of the Palestinians.

16. Miss LAPOINTE (Canada) said that, while she realized the importance of the item, she believed that delegations had had sufficient time to make preparations for the discussion and should be able to finalize the draft resolutions they wished to submit by 11 a.m. on Monday. While appreciating the conciliatory suggestion made by the delegation of Egypt, she thought that members of the Committee should show greater discipline in carrying out their work.

17. Mr. DE LATAILLADE (France) also considered that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions could be set at 11 a.m. on Monday, but was prepared to accept the proposal made by the delegation of Egypt.

18. Mrs. DAES (Greece) appealed to the Chairman and the members of the Committee to accept the deadline proposed by the delegation of Egypt.

19. Mr. PENTCHEV (Bulgaria) drew attention to the difficulties facing small delegations like his own, which had to attend meetings of the Committee and at the same time prepare for future meetings. He also supported the deadline proposed by the delegation of Egypt.

20. The CHAIRMAN asked whether those members who had requested a vote on the proposal that the deadline for the submission of amendments should be set at 11 a.m. on Monday insisted on their request.

21. Mrs. O'DONNELL (United States of America) and Mr. HEYMAN (Sweden) said they were prepared to accept the deadline proposed by the delegation of Egypt.

22. The CHAIRMAN declared that, as the members of the Committee were in agreement, the deadline for the submission of amendments and other draft resolutions would be set at 5 p.m. on Monday, 15 November.

AGENDA ITEM 63

Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Secretary-General (A/8390)

23. Mr. SCHREIBER (Director of the Division of Human Rights) recalled that the International Covenants had been adopted in 1966 by 105 and 106 votes in favour, no votes against and no abstentions. It was generally agreed that, once the basic instruments had come into force, the role of the United Nations in the field of human rights would considerably expand since a solid foundation would exist with legal obligations for the parties.

24. At the present time, although a considerable number of States had signed the International Covenants on human rights, only 11 States in one case and 12 in the other had ratified or acceded to them, which was a matter for some concern. Only five States had ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In his introduction to the report on the work of the Organization (see A/8401/Add.1, para. 284), the Secretary-General had voiced concern and urged an immediate acceleration of the process of ratification, pointing out that the coming into force of the Covenants would undoubtedly enhance the ability of the United Nations to protect human rights. The Secretary-General recognized that thorough studies would be required before States would be ready to ratify the Covenants, but expressed the hope that priority would be given to that question by reducing the steps required for Governments to ratify the Covenants.

25. In the years which had gone by since the General Assembly had adopted the Covenants, the wish had repeatedly been expressed in governmental and private circles that States should accelerate the formalities for ratification. In fact, in the majority of cases, the problem was not to decide whether the Covenants should be ratified but merely to determine the priority which should be given to the complex procedure required at the national level for effecting the necessary ratification.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.