United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records



FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1953rd

Monday, 22 November 1971, at 11.25 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Keith JOHNSON (Jamaica).

Requests for hearings (continued)

REQUEST CONCERNING NAMIBIA (AGENDA ITEM 66), TERRITORIES UNDER PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION (AGENDA ITEM 67) AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA (AGENDA ITEM 68) (A/C.4/736/ADD.1)

- 1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a request for a hearing from Mr. G. T. Brecker, on behalf of Mr. I. B. Tabata, President of the Unity Movement of South Africa (A/C.4/736/Add.1).
- 2. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request for a hearing.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 68

Question of Southern Rhodesia (continued) (A/8423/Add.1, A/8423/Add.2 (parts I and II), A/C.4/L.991)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued) (A/C.4/L.991)

- 3. The CHAIRMAN announced that Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Somalia had joined the 16 original sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.991.
- 4. Mr. SOEGAMA (Indonesia) introduced draft resolution A/C.4/L.991. The United Nations was concerned about various aspects of the situation in Southern Rhodesia. The illegal minority régime continued to obstruct the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); it persistently and flagrantly violated the human rights of the majority of the population. The presence of South African armed forces in Southern Rhodesia and the military collaboration among the three minority and colonial régimes in southern Africa posed an ever-present threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring States and to international security in general. The United Kingdom was remiss in its obligation to co-operate with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In view of all those factors, it was imperative that the Committee should once again place its position on record by adopting the draft resolution on Southern Rhodesia which was before it.

- 5. Draft resolution A/C.4/L.991 reaffirmed the basic principles laid down in previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Zimbabwe to freedom, self-determination and independence, recognized the legitimacy of their struggle by all means and reminded States of the special status accorded under General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) to people still under colonial rule. The United Nations had recognized Zimbabwe as a potentially sovereign State, fully formed and struggling to be born. All States had the obligation to refrain from any activity which would compromise the rights of Zimbabwe and to do all within their power to hasten the birth of that State.
- 6. Operative paragraphs 2, 10 and 11 of the draft resolution upheld the position that the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, must discharge its responsibilities on behalf of the people of Zimbabwe. It was the duty of the United Kingdom Government to promote majority rule, to ensure the expulsion of South African armed forces and the fair treatment of prisoners of war and civilian persons under the relevant Geneva Conventions and to report to the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolution.
- 7. Operative paragraphs 6 and 12, referring to sanctions, urged all States that had so far observed the embargo not to waver in their support and drew the attention of the Security Council to the need to widen the scope of sanctions, and possibly to include Portugal and South Africa, the most brazen and habitual violators. The United Nations had accorded special recognition to the right of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Palestine to exist as independent States. Only the unjust interference of outside interests was preventing the people of Zimbabwe from achieving statehood.
- 8. In view of the deteriorating situation in Southern Rhodesia, the Government of Indonesia shared the grave concern expressed in the draft resolution and endorsed the appeal to all States to take effective measures to ensure the implementation of previous resolutions and of the sanctions adopted by the Security Council. The draft resolution constituted an urgent appeal to the international community to bring peace to the Territory of Southern Rhodesia and justice to the Zimbabwe people. His delegation hoped that the States mentioned in the draft resolution would live up to their legal obligations as Members of the United Nations and experience a change of heart in respect of Southern Rhodesia.
- 9. Mr. OUÉDRAOGO (Upper Volta), speaking on a point of order, said that the French text of operative paragraph 5 was unsatisfactory. The word "complètes" was not an accurate rendering of "comprehensive".

AGENDA ITEMS 13, 23, 65, 70, 71 AND 12, 72, AND 73*

Agenda item 13 (A/8360, A/8404)

Agenda item 23 (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued)** (A/8368, A/8369, A/8423 (part IV) and (part IV)/Add.1, A/8423/Add.5 (part I),** A/8423/Add.5 (part II) and Add.5 (part II)/Corr.1, A/8423/Add.6 (parts I-III), A/8423/Add.7 (parts I-IV))

Agenda item 65 (A/8423/Add.8/Rev.1, A/8520 and Add.1)

Agenda item 70 (A/8398, A/8513)

Agenda items 71 and 12 (A/8314 and Add.1-4, A/8403 (chapter XX), A/8403/Add.1 (part III), A/8423 (part III), A/8480)

Agenda item 72 (A/8485 and Add. 1)

Agenda item 73 (A/8530)

GENERAL DEBATE

- 10. Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia), speaking as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and opening the general debate, introduced the reports of the Special Committee relating to items 23, 65, 70, and 71 and 12.
- 11. The chapters of the Special Committee's report relating to Territories not covered under other agenda items (item 23) were contained in documents A/8423 (part IV), A/8423/Add.5 (parts I and II), A/8423/Add.6 (parts I-III) and A/8423/Add.7 (parts I-IV). The chapter relating to information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (item 65), the report on activities of foreign economic and other interests (item 70) and the chapter relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (item 71) were contained in documents A/8423/Add.8/Rev.1, A/8398 and A/8423 (part III), respectively.
- 12. The work programme of the Special Committee had been extremely heavy. In accordance with paragraph 11 of

** Resumed from the 1928th meeting.

General Assembly resolution 2708 (XXV), the Special Committee had devoted considerable time to the situation in colonial Territories. In particular, it had despatched an Ad Hoc Group to Africa to maintain contact with representatives of national liberation movements and to obtain first-hand information on the situation in colonial Territories on that continent. It had also given extensive consideration to specific aspects of the question of decolonization, such as the role of all economic and other interests, military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories which they administer and matters relating to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations. In view of the heavy work programme, it had been unable to conclude its work for the year. It had however completed its consideration of those items which had been allocated to the Fourth Committee and expected to conclude the rest of its work shortly.

- 13. In the relevant chapters of its report, the Special Committee had recommended a number of measures to secure the effective implementation of the Declaration in respect of the various colonial Territories and their inhabitants. He was confident that those measures would receive the overwhelming support of the Committee. On behalf of the Special Committee, he commended the report to the attention of the Fourth Committee.
- 14. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, for the general debate of the seven questions, the Committee also had before it, the report of the Trusteeship Council (A/8404), the report of Australia on the administration of the Trust Territory of New Guinea (A/8360), the report of the Secretary-General with regard to item 65 (A/8520 and Add.1), the reports of the Secretary-General concerning items 71 and 12 (A/8314 and Add.1-4, A/8480) and the relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/8403, chap. XX; A/8403/Add.1 (part III)), and the report of the Secretary-General on item 72 (A/8485 and Add.1). Documents A/8368 and A/8369 contained communications concerning item 23. Document A/8513 contained a communication concerning item 70, which might also be of interest in connexion with item 23.
- 15. He urged members of the Committee to take part in the general debate as soon as possible and to consider the possibility of closing the list of speakers before the end of the week.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

^{*} For the titles of the items see "Agenda" on p. ix.