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MEETING**

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CONTENTS

Page

Agenda items 12, 13, 23, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 and 71:
Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapter XVI
(section C)]
Report of the Trusteeship Council
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: report
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:
Territories not considered separately
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories trans-
mitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United
Nations:
(a) Report of the Secretary-General;
(b) Report 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
Question of Fiji: report 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
Question of Oman:
(a) Report 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;
(b) Report of the Secretary-General
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are
impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the
Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and
Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories
under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories
under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate
colonialism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in
southern Africa: report 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
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:
(a) Report 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;
(b) Report of the Secretary General
United Nations Training and Educational Programme:
report of the Secretary-General
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for
inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of
the Secretary-General
General debate 1

**AGENDA ITEMS 12, 13, 23, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70
AND 71**

**Report of the Economic and Social Council
[chapter XVI (section C)] (A/7203 and Add.1)**

**Report of the Trusteeship Council
(A/7187, A/7204)**

**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting
of Independence to Colonial Countries and
Peoples: report 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: Territories
not considered separately (A/7121 and Add.1-5,
A/7127, A/7200/Rev.1, chaps. X-XV and XVIII-
XXXI; A/7278, A/7319, A/7343)**

**Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories
transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of
the United Nations:**

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/7281/
Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1);
(b) Report of the Special Committee on the
Situation with regard to the Implementation
of the Declaration on the Granting of Inde-
pendence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
(A/7200/Rev.1, chap. XXXII)

**Question of Fiji: report of the Special Committee
on the Situation with regard to the Implementa-
tion of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
(A/7200/Rev.1, chap. XVI)**

Question of Oman:

- (a) Report of the Special Committee on the
Situation with regard to the Implementation
of the Declaration on the Granting of Inde-
pendence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
(A/7200/Rev.1, chap. XVII);
(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/7318)

**Activities of foreign economic and other interests
which are impeding the implementation of the
Declaration on the Granting of Independence to
Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern
Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories under
Portuguese domination and in all other Terri-**

*Chairman: Mr. P. V. J. SOLOMON
(Trinidad and Tobago).*

tories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination in southern Africa: report 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 (A/7320 and Add.1)

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:

- (a) **Report 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 (A/7200/Rev.1, chap. III; A/C.4/716);**
- (b) **Report of the Secretary-General (A/7301, A/C.4/716)**

United Nations Training and Educational Programme: report of the Secretary-General (A/7284 and Add.1)

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (A/7308)

GENERAL DEBATE

1. Mr. GHAUS (Afghanistan), Rapporteur of the Special Committee, introduced the reports of the Special Committee relating to the ten items listed in paragraph 7, subparagraph 5, of document A/C.4/710. The heavy work programme of the Special Committee in the current year had been interrupted by the resumed twenty-second session of the General Assembly. That had delayed the consideration of many questions and the Special Committee had not yet been able to conclude its 1968 session.

2. Nevertheless, despite the inevitable delays, the Special Committee had been able to complete its examination of all the chapters which the Committee was about to consider and had recommended a number of measures designed to ensure the proper and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It hoped that those measures would receive wide support in the General Assembly.

3. Mr. BENSID (Algeria) said that the items which the Committee was about to consider included colonial problems of various types: colonization by settlement, classic colonization, the situation of the small Territories, the part played by groups of vested interests in colonial Territories and other questions such as those of Ifni and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

4. In the case of classic colonial situations, as in Fiji and Oman, and of the small Territories, the Committee should continue to base its action on the right of peoples to

self-determination. In various resolutions the General Assembly had considered it necessary that visiting missions should be sent to certain Territories to study the situation there. He thought that those missions should proceed without delay to the Territories in question, in conformity with the decisions which had been adopted.

5. In the case of the small Territories, the United Nations had recognized that the establishment of military bases in them was incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter and of the Declaration in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). In general, his delegation condemned any attempt to establish military bases in such Territories, particularly in the continent of Africa.

6. Some of the small Territories presented different features. In the case of Ifni and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), where the historic rights of Morocco and Argentina were beyond dispute, negotiations had begun between the parties and all the Committee could do was to urge the countries concerned to come to an agreement in keeping with the special situation of those Territories.

7. Gibraltar was an example of colonization by settlement and was not a case in which it would be appropriate to apply the principle of self-determination, which was essentially concerned with indigenous peoples. It was to be hoped that the interrupted dialogue between the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom, once renewed, would lead to a peaceful settlement in conformity with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

8. In the majority of cases, the main obstacle to the emancipation of the peoples of the Territories was the attitude of the administering Power. The chief reason for such an attitude on the part of administering Powers was the fact that there were interests which were endeavouring to deny the colonial peoples the right to exploit their natural resources; if that right was not respected, the independence of such Territories would be completely illusory. The economic and strategic interests of the colonial Powers and their allies exerted an influence everywhere, but they were particularly powerful in southern Africa. The financial circles of the administering Powers—of the United Kingdom in Southern Rhodesia and of Portugal in Angola and Mozambique—together with those of the United States and other Western Powers, favoured and supported colonialism and *apartheid* in southern Africa. Algeria, for its part, vigorously condemned the exploitation of colonial peoples and Territories and the methods used in those Territories by foreign economic and other interests.

9. In addition to exploiting resources, financial interests promoted the establishment of conditions favourable to neo-colonialist domination in those Territories. Where such conditions existed, the interests concerned would pronounce in favour of independence, which would be nothing more than a screen for the exploitation of the resources of those Territories. The United Nations should, therefore, lay down principles which would guarantee respect, on the part of the colonial Powers and foreign interests, for the rights of colonial peoples freely to dispose of their natural resources.

10. An effective means of ensuring that colonial peoples would achieve independence in the best possible conditions was action by the United Nations specialized agencies in those Territories. In that connexion, the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the ILO, UNESCO and WHO deserved special mention.

11. Despite the complexity of the questions under consideration, he was convinced that, if the right of peoples to self-determination and independence was respected and applied, the right of peoples to dispose of their natural resources was guaranteed and material and moral aid was given by Member States and specialized agencies, colonialism would have to surrender in the face of the aspirations of the peoples to freedom.

12. Mr. FOUM (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was customary in the Committee for the colonial Powers to give an account of the Territories for which they were responsible before the general debate properly so-called began.

13. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) said that, as representative of an administering Power, he was ready to intervene in the general debate at the earliest possible opportunity but he would explain the position of his country in greater detail when each Territory was being examined individually, for example, at the stage of drafting resolutions. He had, incidentally, been surprised to see the question of Oman in the list in document A/C.4/710, since it was well known that Oman was an independent State.

14. Mr. FOUM (United Republic of Tanzania) rejected the United Kingdom representative's statement that Oman was an independent State; no such independence existed and that was why the question of Oman appeared in the document on the organization of the Committee's work (A/C.4/713, para. 2 (iv)).

15. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic) endorsed the Tanzanian representative's remarks and said that

it was standard practice for debates to be opened by reports from the administering Powers on the Territories for which they were responsible. Australia and the United Kingdom could thus take the initiative by reporting on the situation in the Territories under their administration.

16. In reply to a question by Mr. COLE (Sierra Leone), the CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had decided, at its 1766th meeting, to hold a general debate on all the items listed in paragraph 7, sub-paragraph 5, of document A/C.4/710 and not to examine them individually, it being understood that any draft resolutions on the subject of specific Territories would be considered separately. Thus a new procedure was being followed at the current session: previously, the administering Powers had opened the debate by reporting on the Territories under their administration but in the present case each delegation was entitled to express its views without waiting for a statement by the administering Power.

17. Mr. SPACIL (Czechoslovakia) said that he would like to know in what order the questions allocated to the Fourth Committee would be studied in plenary session. It would be useful to know on what date the two items which were the direct responsibility of the Committee would be considered.

18. The CHAIRMAN assured the representative of Czechoslovakia that, once the General Assembly had established its programme of work and had fixed the dates on which the various items were to be considered, the Committee would be informed. In order to facilitate the discussion, he suggested that, if there were no objections, the Committee should decide that the list of speakers in the general debate would be closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.