

United Nations  
**GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records



**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1904th  
MEETING**

Wednesday, 25 November 1970,  
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

**Chairman: Mr. Vernon Johnson MWAANGA**  
(Zambia).

*In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Sadry (Iran),  
Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

**AGENDA ITEMS 12, 13, 23, 61, 66, 67, 68, 69 AND 70\***

**Agenda item 12 (continued)**  
(A/8003, chapter XIII (section D))

**Agenda item 13 (continued) (A/8004, A/8085)**

**Agenda item 23 (Territories not covered under other  
agenda items) (continued) (A/7989, A/8023/Add.4  
(part I), A/8023/Add.4 (part II and Corr.1, A/8023/  
Add.6, A/8023/Add.7 (parts I to IV))**

**Agenda item 61 (continued)**  
(A/8023/Add.8, A/8134 and Add.1)

**Agenda item 66 (question of Oman) (continued)**  
(A/8023/Add.5 (part II))

**Agenda item 67 (continued) (A/8148 and Add.1)**

**Agenda item 68 (continued) (A/8023 (part IV),  
A/8023 (part IV)/Add.1, A/8143)**

**Agenda item 69 (continued) (A/8151)**

**Agenda item 70 (continued) (A/8162)**

**GENERAL DEBATE (continued)**

1. Mr. AZIZ (Trinidad and Tobago) said that the problems covered by the nine agenda items under consideration were closely interrelated and their solution depended upon the immediate and complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)). Although each item was sufficiently important to warrant separate consideration, his delegation appreciated the reasons for considering them in a single general debate and hoped that the time saved would be profitably used for discussion of draft resolutions.

2. The international community had come to accept the right of all peoples to self-determination and independence

\* For the titles of the items, see "Agenda" on p. xi.

as a peremptory norm from which there could be no derogation. In the opinion of his delegation, self-determination could only mean the right of peoples to determine freely their own national interests and to decide their political destiny without any outside interference. That was a right which belonged to the colonized peoples themselves, for they alone must be the final arbiters in deciding the time and form of their self-determination. The administering Powers, on the other hand, had a duty to inform the peoples for which they were responsible of the options available to them and to provide the conditions necessary for them to express their wishes freely within the framework of the democratic process. Although those principles were clearly outlined in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), of 14 and 15 December 1960, respectively, many peoples had had to resort to armed struggle to win the right to self-determination and at the present time many more had no alternative but to pursue the same course in order to assert their right to freedom and independence.

3. There could be no question of reversing the process of decolonization, which was now well advanced. That fact alone should be enough to create a better understanding of the problem, especially among the oppressors. Unfortunately, however, the progress made by the United Nations in the matter during the past few years was unsatisfactory since it had done no more than adopt pious resolutions and allow the only effective action to be taken by the freedom fighters. The people of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea (Bissau) were still suffering the indignities of Portuguese domination, Southern Rhodesia remained firmly under the control of the racist régime of Ian Smith, and South Africa's hostile and open defiance of the United Nations had greatly impeded its efforts to establish its legal jurisdiction over the Territory of Namibia. It was hardly surprising that with a record of that nature the United Nations could not command the respect it should have. It could scarcely hope to maintain international peace and security if it was prepared to allow such behaviour by Member States to go unpunished.

4. His delegation appreciated the difficulties facing the small Territories in the process of self-determination and independence. Their problems stemmed mainly from a lack of human and natural resources and in some cases from geographical isolation. The United Nations must therefore direct its efforts towards integration rather than fragmentation.

5. It was the aim of the Committee to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and to help dependent peoples to attain nationhood on the basis of sovereign equality. In order to carry out that task effectively, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard

to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples must receive information about Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter. Whenever circumstances so warranted, the United Nations should also be able to send visiting missions to those Territories with a view to ascertaining local conditions and the wishes of the inhabitants concerning the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence.

6. At the previous session his delegation had raised the question of the relationship between the United Kingdom Government and the Associated States in the Eastern Caribbean and the United Kingdom Government's obligation to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter. It had urged the United Kingdom Government to allow a United Nations mission to visit the Territories in order to confirm that the peoples concerned wished to retain their present status. The situation in the area was unresolved, since, although the General Assembly continued to regard the United Kingdom Government as the administering Power, that Government had firmly maintained that the States in question were now fully self-governing and that it had no obligations under Article 73 *e*. By resolution 2592 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, the General Assembly had requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to those Territories and to report to the Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. At the current session, however, there were signs that a new approach to the problem was being attempted and his delegation was content to await results before making any further comments.

7. There was no doubt whatsoever that certain activities of foreign economic and other interests were directly opposed to the objectives of the Declaration, as was apparent from the situation in southern Africa. There was conclusive evidence that foreign monopolies, with the collaboration of the administering Powers, were consolidating and expanding the process of economic exploitation, thus depriving the colonized peoples of valuable resources which could assist them in stabilizing their economies once they had attained independence. Some of the Territories concerned were jealously guarded by administering Powers because of the economic benefits accruing from them and the long-term prospect of profitable returns. In situations of that type colonial Powers continued to suppress the indigenous peoples and to impede every initiative that would interfere with the selfish exploitation of the natural resources of the Territories.

8. It was no coincidence that the members of the Security Council which frequently proposed any effective action to accelerate the process of decolonization were mainly those whose nationals were engaged in economic activities in the colonial Territories. It was to be hoped that similar economic considerations would not prevent administering Powers from granting independence at an early date to such small Territories as had become viable economic units and had opted for independence.

9. Turning to agenda item 68, he said that his delegation's concern over the question of the association of the specialized agencies and international institutions with the

implementation of the Declaration went beyond mere support for General Assembly resolutions. Like similar resolutions adopted earlier, General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 and 2555 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969 had provided the legal justification and authority for such organizations to take an active part in promoting the cause of those struggling against the forces of colonialism. Nevertheless, there were still agencies which continued to maintain that to implement those resolutions would be an infringement of existing agency constitutional arrangements. Behind that façade of strict legal interpretation of the functions of those organizations, General Assembly decisions were openly sabotaged, with the result that the racist régimes were permitted to continue their defiance of General Assembly resolutions and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation was convinced that certain Powers which were unable to prevent the adoption of anti-colonialist measures in the General Assembly were preventing those measures from being implemented through their influence in the specialized agencies.

10. The specialized agencies undoubtedly had a positive role to play in eliminating colonialism. Their role could not be a very significant one if at the same time they were permitted to give economic assistance to colonialist and racist régimes such as those of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal. Any denial of assistance to such régimes, especially assistance in the form of loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund, would help to increase the effectiveness of direct material assistance to peoples who were struggling for freedom and independence. However, with few exceptions, the specialized agencies had been reluctant to submit constructive proposals in accordance with paragraph 11 (*a*) of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV), concerning ways and means of achieving complete and speedy implementation of United Nations resolutions. According to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report on the question (A/8143), the complete severance of links with the Portuguese and South African Governments could be effected, in some cases, only through a modification of existing agency constitutional arrangements by the deliberative organs concerned and subsequent action by member Governments, and in others, only if the United Nations itself first acted to suspend those Governments from the rights and privileges of membership. The gravity of the situation required that Member States consider the question in the light of the Secretary-General's report and take the necessary action to eliminate any obstacle which was impeding implementation of the relevant resolutions.

11. The Fourth Committee had never evaded its responsibilities, although in some cases its objectives—the elimination of colonialism—had been thwarted. The members of the Special Committee had remained vigilant watchdogs over the interests of peoples in all the dependent Territories. The time had come for the Fourth Committee to make a realistic appraisal of its achievements and expectations in the field of decolonization. Many problems remained unsolved, but it was unthinkable that even now people should still be subjected to foreign domination and virtual slavery in their own homelands. The United Nations, the specialized agencies and international institutions

should co-ordinate and intensify their efforts to put an end to the problem so that the expectations of the authors of the Charter would be fulfilled.

12. Mr. HAMILTON (United Kingdom) recalled that in the lifetime of the United Nations between thirty and forty Territories under British administration, with a total population exceeding 750 million, had become independent. Leaving aside the special case of Hong Kong, there were sixteen residual United Kingdom Territories with a total population of less than 1 million. Those Territories, whose population averaged 50,000 each, had specific problems such as isolation and a lack of resources. The United Kingdom's golden rule was to ensure that action was guided by the wishes of the people themselves. It followed that it would not delay independence for those Territories which sought it, nor would it force independence upon those Territories which did not seek it.

13. Some representatives had suggested that foreign economic interests were a bar to independence. However, in the case of the Territories under United Kingdom administration, those which had intensive foreign investment had developed first, and were now members of the United Nations. It was the Territories which remained which lacked investment resources. His Government continued to encourage outside investment, subject to suitable controls and safeguards applied by the Governments of the Territories concerned. Similarly, the great majority of former British Territories had found that the presence of military bases on their soil had neither delayed nor hampered their independence. In the few Territories under United Kingdom administration where there was still a military presence, it was for the purpose of defence and in accordance with the responsibility placed on the United Kingdom under Chapter XI of the Charter.

14. Individual small Territories demanded individual solutions. Many of them realized that a mace and rules of procedure alone could not guarantee lasting independence. Any decision regarding their independence should be based on Article 73 of the Charter. The final stages of decolonization were inevitably the most difficult. However, with the independence of Fiji, the number of people in the residual Territories under United Kingdom administration had been reduced by almost half. In the preceding four years no less than eleven Territories had attained independence or full self-government. In view of its responsibilities, the United Kingdom looked to the United Nations for encouragement. For the third consecutive year, the General Assembly had in 1969 invited the Special Committee to continue to pay particular attention to the small Territories, but the debate in the Special Committee had not been resumed in 1970. His Government would be pleased to co-operate in any constructive study on the question of self-determination for small Territories.

15. Since 1967 new Constitutions had been introduced in the Seychelles, the Solomon Islands, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and St. Helena. Substantial constitutional progress had been made in the Condominium of the New Hebrides and the Dependency of Tristan da Cunha. Further constitutional developments were expected in the near future in the Cayman Islands and the British

Virgin Islands. Thus only five of the residual Territories had Constitutions which had not been substantially amended in the past four years, mainly because the people of those Territories had shown no inclination for such a move. Some of those Territories already had a wide measure of self-government. The attitude prevailing in such Territories could be seen from the message from the Chief Minister of Montserrat to the Special Committee.<sup>1</sup>

16. The larger residual Territories were in a different position. The Bahamas, with a population of 170,000, had a very wide measure of self-government and the Governor, who was a member of the British diplomatic service could act only in accordance with the advice of the Bahamas Cabinet in all but a very few reserved matters, principally defence and certain features of external affairs. Even in those reserved matters, the Governor was obliged to consult the Bahamas Ministers. The Constitution introduced in 1969 represented virtually the last stage before full self-government or independence. The Bahamas had good communications, a substantial infrastructure, a highly developed tourist trade and good economic resources. But its concept of the future might not seem relevant to a group of people on another scattered archipelago who lacked those advantages and who did not see how they could stand alone. The Committee had an obligation to understand the particular needs of such peoples and to ensure that, in accordance with the Charter, their interests and aspirations prevailed.

17. There had been no slackening off of constitutional progress. Indeed, the independence of Fiji was a striking example of the progress that had been made. A new Constitution had come into effect in the Solomon Islands in April, followed by a general election on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The principal feature of the Constitution was the establishment of a single Governing Council with both legislative and executive powers. It was fully supported by the elected representatives of the people and continued the process of placing the powers of government increasingly in the hands of the elected representatives. The institution of a substantial majority of elected members in the Governing Council was an important and fundamental step in that process. A new Constitution had also been introduced in the Seychelles following the Constitutional Conference held in London in March 1970, which had been attended by the eight elected members of the Governing Council. The proposals adopted by the Conference reflected the suggestions put forward by the elected members of the Governing Council. They involved the establishment of two separate bodies, a Legislative Assembly, with legislative powers, and a Council of Ministers, with executive functions. The new Legislative Assembly had fifteen elected members out of a total of eighteen, as compared with eight out of fifteen in the previous Governing Council. All nominated representation had been ended. There was also a majority of elected members on the new Council of Ministers. Under the new ministerial system of Government, which represented a significant step forward, a Chief Minister and up to four other ministers were assigned departmental responsibilities for government business. A general election had been held in the Seychelles in November 1970. Over 80 per cent of

<sup>1</sup> See document A/AC.109/351.

the electorate had voted. The Seychelles Democratic Party had won ten seats in the Legislative Assembly and the Seychelles People's United Party had won five seats. The winning party was specifically opposed to independence. In view of the clear majority of seats, the leader of the Seychelles Democratic Party, Mr. Mancham, had been appointed Chief Minister under the new Constitution.

18. A new Constitution had come into effect in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands in 1967. In 1970, after wide consultation with the people of the Territory, the House of Representatives and the Governing Council had endorsed the recommendations made by a Select Committee of the House concerning the establishment of an Executive Council with a large measure of responsibility for the government of the Territory. A leader of government business would be chosen by the elected members of the Legislative Council, and a portfolio system would be introduced in the Executive Council. The United Kingdom Government had accepted those recommendations and a general election was to be held throughout the Territory early in 1971. The new Constitution, which would substantially increase responsibility vested in the hands of the elected representatives, would immediately come into force.

19. In September the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands had introduced a resolution proposing various amendments to the 1967 Constitution, which would represent further constitutional advances. The resolution was being considered by the Legislative Council, which had a substantial majority of elected members and, if it was adopted, it would no doubt be submitted to the United Kingdom Government for consideration.

20. In 1969 the Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands had set up a Select Committee, consisting of all its elected members, to consider the Constitution with a view to making recommendations to the United Kingdom Government for some advance short of internal self-government. On the basis of the Select Committee's report, the Legislative Assembly had formally requested the United Kingdom Government to appoint a constitutional commissioner to visit the Islands and advise on constitutional advancement. His Government had agreed to that request.

21. It should be clear to the Committee that there had been substantial constitutional progress in the Territories under United Kingdom administration during the past year. That progress had always depended on the particular circumstances of the Territory and, first and foremost, on the wishes of its people. Future advance would inevitably be conditioned by the individual circumstances of each Territory and its inhabitants. The United Nations should take those individual factors into account in reaching its conclusions. For its part, his Government had constantly kept before it the principles and purposes set out in Article 73 of the Charter. It would continue to recognize that the *interests of the inhabitants were paramount*, and accept as a sacred trust the promotion of their well-being. It would take due account of their political aspirations and assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions towards the goal of self-determination.

22. Mr. KHOSBAYAR (Mongolia) expressed the fraternal solidarity of the people and Government of his country

with the people and Government of the Republic of Guinea, which was being subjected to a brazen armed invasion by imperialist and colonialist forces. That act of aggression provided a further illustration of the dangerous intrigues that were being carried out by those forces against the sovereignty and independence of young African States and against national liberation movements in that region. The resumption of United States bombing attacks on the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the landing of a commando party on its territory, which had outraged world opinion, were closely connected with the attack on Guinea. They were an integral part of the global imperialist strategy for combating the forces of peace, national independence and social progress. Those events made clear once again the urgent need to intensify the struggle against colonialism and neo-colonialism in all their forms.

23. One of the most important aspects of the problem of decolonization was the question of putting an end to the activities of foreign monopolies in colonial and dependent Territories. These monopolies were acting against the wishes and interests of indigenous colonial populations and were one of the main factors impeding the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The imperialist Powers would be unable to maintain and consolidate their position without the help of the monopolies, and monopolistic companies and imperialist States defended each other's interests. Many delegations had already indicated in the Committee that several imperialist Western Powers were directly responsible for the survival of colonialism in southern Africa. With the help of colonial administrations and the *apartheid* system in southern Africa, big international monopolies, controlled mainly by the United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, were assured of fantastically large profits. In return, the monopolies gave the colonialist and racist régimes financial and other assistance, including military assistance for the suppression of national liberation movements in southern Africa. The activities of foreign monopolies greatly jeopardized the interests of the peoples of colonial and dependent Territories and had pernicious long-term effects, such as extreme social and economic backwardness and a one-sided economy in those Territories. In its pursuit of large profits, monopolistic capital mercilessly exploited the natural riches and human resources of colonial and dependent Territories and regarded the indigenous population merely as a source of cheap labour. Oppressed both by foreign capital and colonial administrations, the peoples of those Territories suffered from deprivation of their rights, hunger and poverty.

24. Viewing foreign monopolies as the main obstacle to the political independence of colonial peoples, the General Assembly had on several occasions denounced the activities of the monopolies and had urged the Governments concerned to take immediate measures to put an end to them. Nevertheless, the administering Powers had ignored the decisions of the United Nations and, in fact, with the co-operation of the administering Powers, monopolistic companies were further consolidating and extending their activities in colonial and dependent Territories. His delegation fully shared the opinion of many other representatives that the sole purpose of the Cabora Bassa project, which was being financed by international monopolies, was to



maintain and strengthen colonial rule and the *apartheid* system in southern Africa.

25. His delegation agreed with the recommendations of the Special Committee (see A/8148, para. 18) concerning the activities of foreign monopolies and was prepared to support any other constructive suggestions designed to solve that problem. It was convinced that the cessation of activities by foreign monopolies would significantly facilitate the struggle of colonial peoples for their freedom.

26. His delegation believed that the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should concern not only the General Assembly but all the other United Nations organs. His delegation was disappointed to note that the General Assembly resolutions concerning the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions within the United Nations system were not being carried out and that there was still a lack of co-ordination in the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in that field. Although some of the specialized agencies and the other organizations in the United Nations system were contributing to the implementation of the Declaration and other General Assembly resolutions, many of them were not co-operating fully or were even refusing to co-operate. There was thus an urgent need for the United Nations to take appropriate measures to co-ordinate the activities undertaken by all organs of the United Nations system in order to implement such decisions. The General Assembly should request that all the specialized agencies and the other institutions within the United Nations system should, in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, extend all possible assistance to national liberation movements in colonial Territories and put an immediate end to all aid to and co-operation with colonialist and racist régimes in southern Africa.

27. With regard to so-called small Territories, his delegation continued to feel that a small area and population and limited resources should on no account be used to justify the denial of independence to colonial and dependent peoples. The peoples of all the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories had the same inalienable right to self-determination and independence as all other colonial peoples. It was regrettable that no progress had been made since the previous session in implementing the Declaration in Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories. That situation could be ascribed mainly to the conduct of the administering Powers, which, in an attempt to perpetuate their rule in the Trust Territories, stubbornly refused to implement United Nations decisions. It was well known that many of those Territories were being used by the imperialist Powers as bases for their acts of aggression against national liberation movements in Asia. The United States, in particular, was defying world public opinion in continuing to use its military bases on Guam in its war of aggression against the Vietnamese people and other peoples of Indo-China. The presence of United States military bases in Asia and the South Pacific not only delayed the process of decolonization but also directly threatened peace and security in that region. The United Nations should not placidly accept such a situation but should call upon the administering Powers to take immediate action to transfer all authority to the indigenous populations of the Terri-

tries, without any conditions or reservations, in accordance with their freely expressed wishes, so that they could enjoy complete freedom and independence.

28. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Special Committee had recently done useful work in studying various aspects of the problem of decolonization and had submitted valuable conclusions and recommendations.

29. The programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted at the current session in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration, would make it much easier to resolve problems linked with the elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

30. Mr. FLAKSTAD (Norway) supported the view that, since conditions varied greatly in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, one simple and rigid decolonization formula could not be applied in making recommendations on their future. That approach seemed particularly justified in the case of Papua and New Guinea.

31. Two basic features of the Trust Territory of New Guinea which were most relevant to the future of the Territory were the difficult physical nature of the country and a linguistic pattern which was the most complex in the world. Although the Territory was larger than many sovereign States, it was very sparsely populated and cut up by rugged mountains, valleys and rivers, which greatly hampered travel and communications. None of the 700 mutually unintelligible languages in the Territory was predominant. Inhabitants of neighbouring villages were often unable to understand one another. In coastal areas groups speaking the same language were seldom composed of more than 5,000 persons. The combined effect of those factors had been to impede the creation of a unified society prior to the establishment of a colonial system. The essential conditions for the creation of national institutions had thus been introduced from outside. Only in the last generation had real headway been made in the territory-wide system of communications, the introduction of a unified educational system and of territory-wide institutions of government.

32. With regard to the rate of political and constitutional development, there was no doubt that the present period was one of transition and significant changes. In June the House of Assembly had set up a Select Committee to consider proposals for the future constitutional development of the Territory. Those proposals had already led to a substantial broadening of local participation in the institutions of government. Increased responsibilities had been given to ministerial members in the day-to-day operation of their departments. The Executive Council, composed mainly of ministerial members, had been given a greater voice in the elaboration of the Territory's budget and was being consulted on all significant issues. His delegation looked forward with great interest to the final report of the Select Committee to the House Assembly.

33. Progress in the constitutional field would, however, be of little avail unless it was accompanied by an extensive programme of political education. The Administering

Authority should make every effort to promote popular understanding of democratic political processes and further to strengthen the sense of national unity. Greater political consciousness would serve to dispel any fear that self-government might have undesirable side effects. The Administering Authority should also give the Territory every assurance that a future change in political status would not in itself involve the cessation of financial and technical assistance from Australia. His delegation noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority had strengthened its programme of political education and had provided a valuable expanded programme of foreign travel for elected representatives and officials of the Territory. Even greater resources might be devoted to such programmes.

34. Active participation in local administration provided political education and developed self-reliance in the people of any area. Municipal and other local councils constituted a natural extension of institutions of representative government. Participation in such councils led to a better distribution of political responsibilities and to a deeper commitment to the political and social institutions of the Territory. His delegation welcomed the fact that local government was being strengthened both through an increase in the actual number of local councils and through efforts to increase the responsibilities and independence of those councils. His delegation hoped that the Administering Authority would make every effort to extend the system of local councils to the whole of the Territory as soon as possible.

35. The major problem facing the public service in the Territory was that of replacing expatriate officers with properly trained personnel. Localization of the public service would contribute to the success of constitutional reform and facilitate the transition to self-government. Since the relative increase in the number of indigenous government personnel was rather moderate, and since expatriate officers still constituted a third of the entire public service, further efforts should be made to ensure adequate recruitment of officers from the Territory. It was essential that the number of local officers in the highest echelons of public service should be increased. His delegation welcomed the emphasis placed on education and training by the Administering Authority in its present development plan, and hoped that it would produce significant results in the localization of the public service.

36. In the field of economic development, the five-year development programme endorsed in September 1968 by the Territory's House of Assembly and the Australian Government envisaged the expenditure of nearly \$A 1,000 million by the Administering Authority. That programme seemed to have started well. High growth rates in the manufacturing sector and in power generation were particularly noteworthy and were encouraging signs in an economy that was primarily agricultural. He hoped that economic development in the Territory would be greatly furthered by mining projects already under way. He stressed the importance, however, of working out effective means for promoting local capital formation. Equally important was the establishment of safeguards relating to outside investment. Such safeguards might include provisions for equity participation by New Guineans or by local government entities in

order to protect the interests of the inhabitants and ensure their full participation in the economic life of their country.

37. Agriculture would long continue to be the basis of the Territory's economy. The main activity in that field was still subsistence agriculture, but increasing numbers of New Guineans were growing cash crops for export or for local sale. That development might necessitate changes in the present system of customary land tenure, which often lacked the flexibility needed to encourage land development. The Administering Authority had the long-term objective of introducing a single system of landholding throughout the Territory, but the systematic conversion of land tenure presented perhaps the most difficult and far-reaching problem to be solved in connexion with the future economic development of the Territory. All legislative measures in that regard should be in accordance with the wishes of the people and take due account of all the interests involved.

38. Considerable progress had recently been made in the Territory with regard to the guidelines laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement. There were signs of steady progress and solid achievement both in the political field and in the economic and educational fields. His delegation welcomed a recent statement by the Governor-General of Australia, insisting that his Government, while maintaining its belief that an arbitrary date should not be set for independence, reaffirmed its commitment to self-government and eventual independence and its belief in constant advancement towards self-government.

39. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 2590 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, which, in paragraph 5, requested the Trusteeship Council to include in its periodic visiting missions to the Trust Territory of New Guinea non-members of the Trusteeship Council, in consultation 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 and the Administering Authority. Those consultations had now been carried out, and his delegation was pleased that the forthcoming United Nations visiting mission would include two members of the Special Committee as well as three members of the Trusteeship Council. That would, he hoped, lead to extended and fruitful contacts between two United Nations bodies that were both working for the same goal.

40. Mr. AL-HADAD (Yemen) said that, although there had been notable progress in the process of decolonization since the adoption of the Declaration, certain colonial Powers were still endeavouring to halt the course of history. His delegation was nevertheless convinced that the forces of progress would put an end to human servitude, and it wished to pay a tribute to the liberation movements which had dedicated themselves to the cause of freedom and human dignity.

41. The question of Oman had been on the agenda of the General Assembly for almost ten years. At the eighteenth session the General Assembly, on 11 December 1963, had adopted resolution 1948 (XVIII) by which it established an

*Ad Hoc* Committee on Oman, which had reached the unanimous conclusion that the question of Oman was a serious international problem requiring the attention of the Assembly and that any initiative taken by the Assembly should be designed to achieve the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the people of Muscat and Oman. At its twentieth session the General Assembly had on 17 December 1965 adopted resolution 2073 (XX), in which it had deplored the attitude of the United Kingdom Government and the authorities in the Territory, and had recognized the right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence. It had also called for the cessation of all repressive actions, the withdrawal of British troops, the return of political exiles, and the elimination of British domination. At its twenty-third session the General Assembly had adopted, on 18 December 1968, resolution 2424 (XXIII), in which it had reaffirmed its concern about the situation in Oman and had deplored the refusal of the United Kingdom to implement the relevant resolutions concerning Oman.

42. It was apparent from those developments that the United Kingdom military presence in the Territory was impeding a just settlement of the question. In the opinion of his delegation, the withdrawal of United Kingdom troops and the ending of United Kingdom rule in the Territory were prerequisites for any lasting solution based on the recognition of the legitimate right of the people of Oman to self-determination and political independence. Unfortunately, the United Kingdom had failed to honour its Charter commitments and to withdraw its troops from the Territory so as to enable the people of Oman to determine their future for themselves. The United Kingdom had not only refused to implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions on Oman, but had failed to give any satisfactory explanation for its continued occupation of the Territory in

defiance of the General Assembly resolutions. The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Oman had expressed the view that the problem derived from imperialist policies and foreign intervention in Muscat and Oman. His delegation categorically rejected the United Kingdom's contention that Oman was a sovereign State which had entered into treaties with the United Kingdom. That contention was a fallacy and constituted an attempt to camouflage reality.

43. His delegation continued to support the United Nations position on the question of so-called Spanish Sahara. In particular, his delegation had whole-heartedly supported resolution 2591 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which the General Assembly had reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). It hoped that the administering Power would take all necessary measures in consultation with all the parties concerned to ensure that the wishes of the people of the Territory were respected.

44. There was evidence that certain major Powers had extensive investments in dependent Territories which were impeding the process of decolonization and that colonial régimes were granting concessions to foreign interests. It was distressing to note the hypocrisy of certain States which condemned the policies of racial discrimination and expressed support for the cause of freedom, while contributing to the existence of that situation through their economic dealings with the colonial Powers. His delegation hoped that there would be a new approach to the situation, which had weakened the authority and prestige of the United Nations.

*The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.*