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Chairman: Mr. Théodore IDZUMBUIR
 (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

AGENDA ITEM 64

**Question of Namibia (*continued*)* (A/7623/Add.2
 and Corr.1, A/7624, A/C.4/L.941, A/C.4/L.942)**

**CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION
 A/C.4/L.941**

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.4/L.942) on the administrative and financial implications of the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia (A/7624). The Committee also had before it a draft resolution on the question of Namibia (A/C.4/L.941).

2. Mr. ALO (Nigeria), introducing the draft resolution, said that the delegations of Burma, Chad, Ghana, Indonesia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Somalia had added their names to the list of sponsors.

3. The Committee had already shown its concern over the question of Namibia by the urgent action it had taken in recommending the draft resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 31 October 1969 as resolution 2498 (XXIV). That resolution dealt only with South Africa's defiance of Security Council resolution 269 (1969); the Committee had yet to take action in regard to the general aspect of the question and it was to that end that draft resolution A/C.4/L.941 had been drawn up. The sponsors had endeavoured to draft a text that objectively and fairly reflected the views expressed during the general debate. The aim of the draft resolution was to reaffirm the need to rid Namibia of South Africa's illegal and oppressive presence and to recommend other measures which the United Nations and Member States could adopt to promote the cause of Namibia's freedom and independence.

4. The first two preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution recalled some of the many General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the question of Namibia,

chosen with an eye to the importance of the principles which they embodied. The third preambular paragraph expressed the general concern about the threat to peace and security inherent in the Namibian situation as a result of South Africa's usurpation of the rights of the Namibian people and its refusal to comply with United Nations decisions. The fourth preambular paragraph expressed the conclusion that the Namibians could not hope to exercise their right to self-determination and independence unless effective steps were taken to end South Africa's illegal presence in the Territory. The fifth preambular paragraph expressed concern at the refusal of South Africa to comply with United Nations decisions and the sixth recalled the obligations of Member States under Article 25 of the United Nations Charter, in which they had agreed to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. The final preambular paragraph merely noted with appreciation the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia (A/7624).

5. The operative paragraphs embodied four key elements: they sought, first, to emphasize that the primary responsibility for the liberation of Namibia lay with the Namibian people themselves; secondly, to point out the serious consequences of South Africa's continued illegal presence in Namibia; thirdly, to make practical suggestions for dealing with the Namibian situation; and, lastly, until such time as the question was properly settled, to ensure that the United Nations would maintain its interest in Namibia and seek every available means of fulfilling its obligations towards the Territory.

6. Operative paragraph 1 reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the legitimacy of their struggle against an alien Power which was illegally exercising rights of which the withdrawal of the League of Nations Mandate had deprived it. Having recognized the legitimacy of that struggle, the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 2, expressed solidarity with the Namibian cause. Moreover, since the Namibians were not waiting for their country to be delivered by the international community but were determined to fight their own battles, the sponsors had included in operative paragraph 2 a request to all States to provide increased moral and material assistance to them. That assistance should be understood as non-military assistance in the form of food, clothing, medical supplies, educational materials, etc.

7. Operative paragraph 3 condemned South Africa for its persistent refusal to withdraw from Namibia and for its policies and actions designed to destroy the Territory's national unity and territorial integrity. South Africa's reprehensible behaviour in seeking to dismember Namibia

* Resumed from the 1842nd meeting.

and to make it a province of South Africa should be strongly censured; he hoped that no delegation would dissent upon that point.

8. Since the sponsors were convinced that Security Council action was essential in order to remove South Africa's presence from Namibia, operative paragraph 4 drew the Council's attention to the need for effective measures to remedy the grave situation in Namibia, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. The Namibian situation raised the question of the effectiveness of the measures provided in the Charter for ensuring the disciplined behaviour of all Member States, as also the question of what additional methods were available to the United Nations in the face of the continued obstruction of conventional attempts to promote self-determination. The sponsors considered that the Security Council had a responsibility to provide answers to those questions and that it should engage the full weight of its authority and powers in meeting that responsibility. They were not convinced by assertions that the Council's freedom of action on matters such as the Namibian question was constitutionally limited and that it had to discriminate in the choice of measures that it could impose. The sponsors held that the mandatory measures in Chapter VII of the Charter were immediately applicable; the fact that that position was not reflected in the draft resolution demonstrated the willingness of the sponsors to make concessions to the opinions of those who still hesitated to share that conclusion.

9. The last four operative paragraphs reflected the need to ensure that United Nations interest in and responsibility for Namibia were continuously sustained. They were designed to strengthen and assist the United Nations Council for Namibia in the discharge, to the extent possible in the present circumstances, of the functions and responsibilities entrusted to it by the General Assembly. Although the Council was still unable to administer Namibia, owing to the unco-operative attitude of South Africa, it could continue its work in other ways; indeed its report A/7624 abounded in proposals and recommendations on such ways, covering a wide range of activities such as promoting the welfare of Namibian refugees, education and training assistance to Namibians, support and assistance to the liberation movement, increased travel facilities for Namibians, arrangements for the proper international representation of Namibia and regularization of the operations of foreign economic and financial interests in the Territory. It was therefore reasonable, as proposed in operative paragraph 5, that the General Assembly should commend the Council's report to all States, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other international organizations. It was also appropriate, as provided in operative paragraphs 7 and 8, that the necessary facilities and co-operation should be extended to the Council and that, as provided in operative paragraph 6, it should be requested to continue its work.

10. The sponsors wished to make it clear that the draft resolution should not be taken as an adequate expression of their views on what steps were desirable for an effective solution of the Namibian problem; in their opinion, the proposals they were sponsoring were not ideal even in present circumstances. The sponsors were submitting their draft resolution after serious thought and intensive consultations with representatives of other regional groups, during which they had agreed to make substantial concessions. The draft resolution put forward practical proposals designed to achieve some modest progress towards a settlement of the question. The sponsors therefore hoped that it would receive a large measure of support in the Committee.

11. Mr. OUEDRAOGO (Upper Volta) said that the draft resolution represented a compromise and he could assure the members of the Committee that the sponsors had sincerely tried to give satisfaction to all concerned. The draft resolution reflected the point of view, expressed in the general debate, that the Namibian situation was a grave threat to international peace and security and that the United Nations should use the special provisions of the Charter to remedy that situation. Moreover, because of its special responsibility, the United Nations was obliged to do everything in its power to enable the Council for Namibia to carry out its duties. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution would meet with wide support.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that some delegations had expressed a desire to make a brief statement on the Namibian question itself when the Committee considered the draft resolution, and he would give them an opportunity to do so.

Requests for hearings (continued)

13. The CHAIRMAN announced that a request had been received from Mr. Talib bin Ali for a hearing relating to Oman.

14. Mr. LEE WILLIAMS (United Kingdom) said that, as his delegation had repeatedly affirmed, the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman was an independent and sovereign State, and the Committee had no authority to hear petitions relating to it. He wished to place on record his delegation's reservations concerning the request for a hearing.

15. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished the request to be circulated as a Committee document.

*It was so decided.*¹

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.

¹ The request was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/724.