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CONTENTS

Agenda item 23:

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 of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: Aden (continued)

General debate (continued) 253

*Chairman: Mr. FAKHREDDINE Mohamed
(Sudan).*

AGENDA ITEM 23

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: Aden (continued) (A/6274, A/6276, A/6300/Rev.1, chap. VI; A/6317, A/6374, A/6478, A/6514)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. PONOMAREV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the situation in Aden, like that in Southern Rhodesia, provided yet another example of British colonialism in operation, with British troops protecting the interests of the foreign monopolies, especially in Middle Eastern oil. It was clear from a pamphlet published in 1966 by the Institute for Strategic Studies, London, that the United Kingdom attached great importance to its bases and obligations in South Arabia and the Persian Gulf area as a means of promoting Western influence in the region, keeping open the strategic route to its other bases in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, ensuring a supply of oil and providing a springboard for military intervention in other neighbouring regions. That explained why the United Kingdom clung so stubbornly to its "east of Suez" policy and why it had failed to implement General Assembly resolution 2023 (XX) and remove its bases. Those bases were being used both in the struggle against the national liberation movement in the Territory and for aggressive activities against neighbouring independent States, especially the Yemen Arab Republic. Because of the struggle of the national liberation movement in the Territory, the United Kingdom Government had been compelled to announce, in February 1966, that it would evacuate the military base at Aden not later than 1968, but that did not mean that it would dismantle all its military bases

in the Middle East or abandon the attempt to suppress the people's struggle for independence. On the contrary, it intended at any cost to maintain a military presence in the area and would use Bahrain in place of Aden to protect the interests of the oil monopolies. It was easy to see the influence of the United States, which, according to the London *Observer* of 27 February 1966, wanted the United Kingdom to maintain a presence east of Suez and to act as a policeman for half the world.

2. In order to retain a presence in the Middle East, the United Kingdom had set up the so-called Federation of South Arabia, headed by those who were prepared to serve the colonialists. The United Kingdom was delaying the economic and social development of the Territory, a fact which had even been admitted by the Minister of Internal Security of the so-called Federal Government, as reported in the London *Times* of 5 April 1966, and, according to the same newspaper of 11 August 1966, the internal resources of the country could meet only one quarter of the budget requirements.

3. According to the report of Amnesty International, United Kingdom troops were using the most refined methods of torture on the South Arabian patriots. In an effort to justify its policy, the United Kingdom had fabricated stories of foreign intervention and aggression. A number of representatives had convincingly refuted such allegations and had made it clear that the struggle of the people of the Territory for independence was prompted by a desire to be free from the British colonial system. Earlier, in 1964, the United Kingdom Minister of Defence had himself admitted that the disturbances in South Arabia and the fight between British troops and the tribes had been going on for some time before the revolution in Yemen.

4. The United Kingdom Government had tried several manoeuvres to find a way out of the situation. In 1964 it had announced that it would grant independence to South Arabia not later than 1968, but it had been shown that what it had in mind was not genuine independence but the transfer of power to a puppet government. In May 1966 the United Kingdom Government had announced that the Government of the so-called Federation of South Arabia accepted the United Nations resolutions on Aden. That had merely been a manoeuvre adopted by the United Kingdom to avoid responsibility for non-compliance with those resolutions. General Assembly resolution 2023 (XX) deplored the attempts of the administering Power to set up an unrepresentative régime in the Territory and appealed to all States not to recognize any independence which was not based on the wishes of the people of the Territory

freely expressed through elections held under universal adult suffrage. It was impossible to talk about acceptance of a resolution when the administering Power had not yet implemented one of the basic provisions of the resolution and had shown that it had no intention of doing so. In a letter dated 1 August 1966 (see A/6374), the United Kingdom Government had announced its acceptance of the operative clauses of General Assembly resolutions 1949 (XVIII) and 2023 (XX), but its acceptance had been accompanied by reservations which made it meaningless. The United Kingdom had in effect asked the United Nations to recognize the illegal Federal Government and to agree to other conditions which were incompatible with the resolutions.

5. The statement made by the United Kingdom representative at the Committee's 1633rd meeting concerning the sending of a United Nations mission to the Territory had brought nothing new, since the United Kingdom's reservations still stood and the state of emergency in Aden had not been lifted. It was hard to see how a mission could be of any real help to the people of Aden in the prevailing circumstances. The letter dated 16 November 1966 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Secretary-General (A/6514) had likewise added nothing new. It

appeared to be yet another attempt to mislead the Committee while the United Kingdom continued to pursue its neo-colonial policies in Aden. The United Kingdom hoped to gain time in order to be able to impose a false independence on the people of South Arabia and so maintain its economic and military position in the Middle East. Such manoeuvres would inevitably fail since the people of South Arabia were supported by all the freedom-loving peoples of the world in their struggle.

6. The United Nations must take decisive steps to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the people of Aden. The United Kingdom must dismantle its military bases in South Arabia and withdraw its troops from the Territory. The United Kingdom must stop procrastinating and take immediate measures for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Aden. It was the duty of the United Nations to condemn the United Kingdom's repressive policies in South Arabia and to take steps to abolish the colonial régime and ensure freedom and independence for the people. The Byelorussian SSR fully supported the struggle of the people of the Territory to achieve that end.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.