### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

Official Records



Page

# FOURTH COMMITTEE. 1808th

Tuesday, 10 December 1968, at 3.35 p.m.

**NEW YORK** 

### **CONTENTS**

Agenda item 68: 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 (continued)

Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.916 (continued)

### Agenda item 69:

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 (continued):

- (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 Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.917 (continued)

#### Agenda item 67:

Question of Oman (continued):

- (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 Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.918 (continued)

### 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: Territories not considered separately (continued) Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.911 and

Add.1-7 (continued) .....

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

(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

Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.919 ......

### Agenda item 71:

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued) Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/L.920 ......

Chairman: Mr. P. V. J. SOLOMON

(Trinidad and Tobago).

### **AGENDA ITEM 68**

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 Portuquese 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 (continued) (A/7320 and Add.1, A/C.4/ L.916)

### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.916 (continued)

- 1. Mr. MICU (Romania) said that the activities of foreign economic and other interests were among the factors responsible for the fact that vast areas of the world were still being held in a state of economic and political dependence. Consideration of the question by the General Assembly made it possible to determine which were the forces responsible for the perpetuation of colonialism and, consequently, to guide the national liberation struggle in the right direction.
- 2. It was universally recognized that under-development was the result of the colonial domination of the vast majority of the world's population by a small group of Powers for several centuries. Colonialism had been based mainly on economic interests, on the exploitation of the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories for the benefit of the metropolitan country and to the detriment of the vital interests of the indigenous population. The nature of colonialism had not changed and it was now the major international monopolies and trusts which were impeding the attainment of independence by those still under colonial domination, as was clear from the 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) and the debate which had taken place in the Fourth Committee.
- 3. It was no accident that the part of Africa which was still under colonial domination was the richest in natural resources. From even a cursory analysis of the question, it was clear that the foreign monopolies only invested in and developed those economic sectors which would yield the

greatest profit in the shortest time. The wages that the indigenous workers were paid were far too low for the work that they did; that, too, helped to increase profits. Such exploitation was responsible for a state of backwardness which was incompatible with the degree of civilization attained in other parts of the world.

- 4. Naturally, the imperialist monopoles were opposed to any measures designed to limit their activities in the colonial Territories or to ensure that they operated in a manner more beneficial to the indigenous population. General Assembly resolutions 2105 (XK), 2189 (XXI) and 2288 (XXII) had been virtually disregarded by the States whose nationals engaged in such activities. Their failure to comply with those resolutions had created new obstacles to the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
- 5. The fact that Africa was still largely under-developed was not due to any lack of natural or luman resources but to fierce exploitation over a long period, and it would remain under-developed as long as foreign interests were allowed to operate freely. It was the duty of the United Nations and of all mankind to help the national liberation movements in dependent Territories in Africa and elsewhere to enjoy full sovereignty over their natural and other resources. The United Nations should continue its consideration of the question under discussion and recommend the adoption of effective measures designed to find ways of limiting the activities of foreign interests which were detrimental to the oppressed peoples. His delegation strongly supported draft resolution A/C.4/L.916.

Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

### AGENDA ITEM 69

- 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 (continued):
- (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.4/714, A/C.4/ 716, A/C.4/L.917, A/C.4/L.921);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/7301, A/C.4/714, A/C.4/716, A/C.4/L.917, A/C.4/L.921)

## CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.917 (continued)

6. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the draft resolution on the item under consideration (A/C.4/L.917) contained a number of important provisions designed to increase the assistance given to the national liberation movements by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. His delegation, which had always supported the just struggle of the peoples against colonialism,

- welcomed those positive elements in the draft resolution but considered that it would be more effective if it included an emphatic condemnation of the organizations which, in violation of United Nations decisions, continued to give South Africa and Portugal financial and other support.
- 7. It had been clearly shown during the debate that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund had disregarded the request made to the specialized agencies by the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of resolution 2311 (XXII). Under Article 58 of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations had the power to make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies, yet, as could be seen from the replies (A/7200/Rev.1, chap. III, annex) to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, IBRD and IMF had treated the General Assembly's recommendation with contempt. The Assembly should condemn that attitude and state clearly that it expected IBRD to take definite action to implement resolution 2311 (XXII). His delegation was therefore proposing the addition of a new paragraph (A/C.4/L.921) after operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution. He hoped that the Committee would give it unanimous support, thereby showing its solidarity with the people of Africa who were engaged in a struggle for national liberation.
- 8. Mr. MICU (Romania) said that because of the universal character of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the coordination of all efforts both by States and by international organizations to achieve its aims was essential. The complete elimination of colonialism had always been one of the most important tasks facing the United Nations, and the specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations should participate in that task. The experience so far acquired and an analysis of the resources available to the specialized agencies showed that they could give effective assistance to those struggling for freedom from colonial domination. Several specialized agencies, including FAO, WHO, UNESCO and the ILO, had adopted specific measures in response to the appeal of the General Assembly and he hoped that others would follow their example.
- 9. His delegation attached particular importance to the conclusion reached by the Special Committee that the best way of ensuring the effective utilization of the assistance of the specialized agencies was by consultations with the national liberation movements of different colonial Territories, in order to ascertain the real and most urgent needs of the people and the kind of assistance required. Proper attention should be given to all requests from the representatives of the national liberation movements for assistance in education and health matters and for aid to refugees.
- 10. Although assistance to the national liberation movements was the principal way in which the specialized agencies could help towards the elimination of colonialism, it was equally important that they should refrain from assisting minority régimes in colonial Territories and Governments which continued to ignore the resolutions of the United Nations relating to colonialism. The amendment

proposed by the representative of the USSR was a useful addition to draft resolution A/C.4/L.917.

11. Multilateral aid to the colonial peoples with a view to the elimination of all forms of domination and to the independent development of all peoples was absolutely essential, and the specialized agencies and other international institutions associated with the United Nations could and should participate fully in the achievement of that goal. His delegation fully supported draft resolution A/C.4/L.917, which answered that purpose.

Mr. Solomon (Trinidad and Tobago) resumed the Chair.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 67**

Question of Oman (continued):

- (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. XVII; A/C.4/L.918);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/7318, A/C.4/L.918)

## CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.918 (continued)

- 12. Mr. NACO (Albania) said that United Kingdom domination of Oman was an example of the cruel oppression by colonial Powers of indigenous peoples, who were forced to fight for their freedom. Although the United Kingdom Government had tried to create a legend that Oman came under the authority of the Sultan of Muscat, historical documents showed that it was a sovereign independent State. In order to plunder the riches of Oman, the United Kingdom was exploiting indigenous manpower and stifling liberation movements. Oman had been transformed into a military base in order to serve the imperialist policies of the United States. The occupation of Oman constituted a clear-cut violation of its independence and sovereignty and threatened the peace and security of peoples in the neighbouring region. It also jeopardized the Arab liberation movement against Israel.
- 13. The wealth of Oman was in danger of being expropriated by the United States despite the declared intention of the people of Oman to combat imperialism. Any attempt at protest met with reprisals; the number of political prisoners was growing and members of the liberation movement had been forced to flee the country. Meanwhile, the riches of the country were being plundered and the profits used to support the racist régimes in southern Africa.
- 14. The United Nations had examined the question on numerous occasions and had adopted several resolutions, all of which had been ignored by the administering Power, thus showing that the Organization, which was manipulated by United States imperialism, was merely an instrument for creating vain illusions. The people of Oman had consequently been obliged to resort to armed struggle, which they would pursue with greater courage than ever in the knowledge that they enjoyed the support of revolutionary

peoples all over the world. His delegation was certain that the cause of the people of Oman would eventually triumph. Meanwhile, it would support any measure designed to put an end to colonialism and it hoped that there would be overwhelming support for the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.918).

### **AGENDA ITEM 23**

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Paoples: 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 (continued)\* (A/7121 and Add.1-5, A/7127, A/7200/Rev.1, chaps. X-XIV and XVIII-XXXI; A/7319, A/7343, A/C.4/L.911 and Add.1-7)

### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.911 AND ADD.1-7 (continued)

- 15. Mr. ESMURDOC (Dominican Republic) said that his delegation had co-sponsored the draft resolution on the question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/L.911 and Add.1-7) because it considered that the United Kingdom's possession of Gibraltar was disrupting the territorial integrity of Spain. Moreover, its support of the draft resolution was in conformity with his country's position on decolonization. The resolution was a moderate one and called upon Spain and the United Kingdom to seek an amicable solution to the problem, as indeed they should in accordance with the principles of the Charter.
- 16. When the Charter had been adopted at San Francisco in 1945, it had been felt that only the principles which did not run counter to the principles of contemporary international law should be preserved. It had also been considered that the injunctions of the General Assembly should be binding upon each Member. The problem of Gibraltar was the aftermath of a bygone age, in which might had been stronger than right. The United Kingdom based its claim to Gibraltar on an obsolete and inappropriate treaty, which Spain had signed under duress. Spain had said that it was willing to settle the dispute peacefully by means of conciliatory negotiations and had undertaken to respect the interests and rights of the Gibraltarians, under United Nations supervision. His delegation did not doubt that the United Kingdom, which had granted independence to many of its former colonies, would act in the same spirit of justice to restore to Spain its legitimate rights over Gibraltar in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

### **AGENDA ITEM 63**

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

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/7281/ Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1, A/C.4/L.919);

<sup>\*</sup> Resumed from the 1806th meeting.

(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 (A/7200/Rev.1, chap. XXXII; A/C.4/L.919)

### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.919

17. Mr. COLE (Sierra Leone) said that the draft resolution which he was introducing (A/C.4/L.519) referred to a procedural matter and was based on Article 73 e of the Charter, Decolonization was discussed in both the Fourth Committee and the Special Committee on the basis of information which was supposed to te supplied by the administering Powers. It was the insufficiency or complete lack of such information that had given rise to the draft resolution, which was quite straightfo ward and recalled relevant General Assembly resolutions. He wished to lay particular emphasis on operative paragraphs 2 to 7. The Committees could only discharge their futies effectively if relevant information was supplied in good time. He appealed to the administering Powers to transmit the required information and commended he draft resolution to the Committee for its consideration and support.

### AGENDA ITEM 71

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing

### Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)\* (A/7308, A/C.4/L.920)

### CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/L.920

- 18. Mr. PEJIC (Yugoslavia) said that the draft resolution which he was introducing (A/C.4/L.920) was in accordance with previous General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 2234 (XXI) and 2352 (XXII). The Committee would recall that the programme of study and training facilities had been established in 1954. The programme had been extremely useful, many inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories having acquired advanced education and specialist training in various fields. The programme was an important contribution by Members of the United Nations to the Organization's objectives in the area of decolonization.
- 19. The most important element of the draft resolution was operative paragraph 3, which requested Member States offering scholarships to provide travel funds to prospective students, if possible. In the past, scholarships had been offered but had not been taken up because travel expenses had proved too costly for the student. He therefore hoped that States would institute a travel fund and, if possible, make more scholarships available. Since the draft resolution was not a controversial one, he hoped that it would receive unanimous support.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

<sup>\*</sup> Resumed from the 1806th meeting.