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**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1553rd
MEETING**

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>Agenda item 23:</i>	
<i>Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: reports 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/5800/Rev.1, chapters VII, IX, X and XIII-XXVI; A/6000/Rev.1, chapters IX-XXV (continued)</i>	209
<i>General debate (continued)</i>	209

Chairman: Mr. Majid RAHNEMA (Iran).

AGENDA ITEM 23

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: reports 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/5800/Rev.1, chapters VII, IX, X and XIII-XXVI; A/6000/Rev.1, chapters IX-XXV (continued) (A/5959 and Corr.1, A/6084, A/6094)

1. The CHAIRMAN requested Committee members speaking in the exercise of their right of reply to limit their statements to five minutes.
2. Mr. MISKE (Mauritania) said that his delegation was prepared to waive the exercise of its right of reply and would like to appeal on that occasion to the Committee members not to raise points of order without good cause. The Committee must have confidence in its Chairman and defer to his authority in order that the spirit of controversy might be eliminated entirely from the proceedings.
3. The CHAIRMAN thanked the representative of Mauritania for his co-operation.
4. Mr. SIDI BABA (Morocco) also waived the exercise of his right of reply in order not to delay the Committee's work.

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

5. Mr. MARRACHE (Syria) said that the practical application of the right to self-determination and independence was particularly difficult to achieve. The Committee should recommend for each Territory the specific solution that was apt to be suitable to it and should take steps to ensure that that solution was applied. It would thus be possible to determine whether the administering Power in question was fulfilling its obligations under the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

6. Because of the difficulty of translating the principle of self-determination into practice, an administering Power had considerable freedom of action and could, if it was insincere, very easily evade its obligations and continue to keep a Territory under its control while giving the impression that it was respecting constitutional principles. That was an especially frequent occurrence in the case of small Territories and small islands where the United Nations had been unable to examine the situation at first hand or to come into contact with the various elements of the population. Likewise, it often happened that the opposition to the administering Power was not expressed forcefully enough to be noticed despite the existence of real colonial exploitation. It was then easy for the colonial Power to silence such opposition on the grounds of geographical, economic, social or political necessity.

7. His delegation believed that that situation must be remedied, and it would support any action to achieve the following objectives: first, to extend the action of the United Nations to the various Territories where its intervention would be particularly desirable without waiting for the outbreak of conflict or an invitation from the administering Power; secondly, to develop the Organization's means of inquiry so that the political, economic, social and cultural conditions of the masses of the people in the regions in question might become better known, consideration being given to the possibility of setting up special committees consisting of competent representatives of Member States rather than of Secretariat staff; thirdly, to establish or expand the bodies responsible for drawing up adequate political solutions in each particular case. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples might supervise those various activities and thus ensure the proper implementation of the Declaration.

8. With regard to so-called British Guiana, his delegation noted that the policy being carried out there by the administering Power was in flagrant contradiction with the right of the Guianese people to attain complete and unconditional independence. The administering Power was known to be combating the People's Progressive Party by such means as arrests, declaration of a state of emergency, adoption of special electoral laws, repressive measures of an administrative and economic nature and so on. The fact that it was relying on the more submissive members of the population to perpetuate its domination was also known. His delegation would support any draft resolution which would enable the popular will to be freely expressed and which would hasten the liberation of British Guiana.

9. With regard to military bases, whether or not situated in the Territories being considered by the Committee, his delegation believed that they must be eliminated because they were delaying independence.

10. Turning to the question of Gibraltar, he said that there could be no doubt whatsoever that Spain must exercise sovereignty over the Territory. His delegation was accordingly gratified at the consensus which had emerged in the Special Committee regarding that question (see A/5800/Rev.1, chap. X, para. 209), and it joined in the appeal addressed to the United Kingdom Government for the initiation of talks with the Spanish Government.

11. His delegation reserved the right to speak again at a later stage on the agenda item under discussion.

12. Mr. BELAUNDE (Peru) said that Peru, as a Latin American country, was closely following the question of the Malvinas Islands and hoped for the implementation of the resolutions in which the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Latin American countries had called for the end of the *de facto* occupation of all Territories which had originally been American. He hoped that the spirit of understanding which had been apparent in the statements of the United Kingdom and Argentine delegations at the previous meeting would be conducive to finding an acceptable solution to the question. He paid high praise to the British institutions which in times past had aroused the admiration of Simón Bolívar. He also paid a tribute to Argentina, the country which had been the source of the national liberation movement which had swept through all of Latin America.

13. Argentina's stand regarding the Malvinas Islands had not changed since 1833, when that country had opposed the occupation of the islands by Great Britain. The problem had legal as well as political aspects, for it must be recognized that the powers exercised by the King of Spain in Latin America had been transferred in their entirety to the authorities who had succeeded him and that the sovereign rights which had been thus passed on had been inviolable and indivisible. Although at the time when the colonial era had ended for the Latin American countries, in about 1810, those countries had been unable to attain the degree of cohesiveness that had been achieved in North America, they had created another system, based on the tradition of Spanish law and designed to defend the principle of freedom and national sovereignty throughout the continent through the operation of free discussion.

14. In 1810, the Malvinas Islands had come under the jurisdiction of the Viceroyalty of Buenos Aires, and although there had perhaps been reasons justifying the occupation of the islands by the British authorities in 1833, those reasons had certainly ceased to have any validity in the present day. The draft resolution which would be submitted by the Latin American countries would merely take note of the dispute and request Argentina and the United Kingdom to initiate friendly negotiations in accordance with the spirit of the Charter.

15. Taking that opportunity to protest against the insinuations concerning a so-called automatic majority in the United Nations, he pointed out that the countries of Latin America had always defended the cause of peace and of protection of the oppressed and that they had never hesitated to give their support to peace-keeping operations. Those countries had never taken advantage of the strength of numbers which they had had when the United Nations was established, and, out of a desire to ensure the universality of the Organization, they had always advocated the admission of new Member States.

16. Miss BROOKS (Liberia) said that she deplored the strife in British Guiana which was setting the ethnic groups of African and Asian origin against one another. That was particularly unfortunate because the countries of Africa and Asia ordinarily stood together in the fight against colonialism and because the two groups were actually striving for the same goals of freedom and independence. Despite the failure of the mediation efforts originating in the Special Committee, she felt that the General Assembly should make a further effort and should set up a mediation commission consisting of outstanding persons appointed by the Secretary-General or of members elected by the Fourth Committee.

17. Mr. BROWN (United Kingdom) said, in reply to the Syrian representative, that his Government had no doubts as to its sovereignty over Gibraltar. With regard to the consensus of the Special Committee, he recalled that his Government had informed the Spanish Government that it was prepared to entertain proposals for discussions but would be unable to do so as long as the situation along the frontier continued to be abnormal.

18. Mr. DE PINIES (Spain) thanked the representative of Syria for his statement on the question of Gibraltar. He said that he would shortly explain his own Government's position in the matter.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.