

United Nations  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Official Records



FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1439th  
MEETING

Friday, 4 October 1963,  
at 4.50 p.m.

NEW YORK

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Chairman: Mr. ACHKAR Marof (Guinea).

AGENDA ITEM 75

Question of Southern Rhodesia: 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/5446/Rev.1, chap. III; A/5448 and Add.1-5; A/C.4/603; A/C.4/L.774) (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION  
A/C.4/L.774 (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cambodia, Libya, Malaysia, Niger and Pakistan had asked to be included among the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.774.

2. Mr. COOMARASWAMY (Ceylon) said that his delegation was glad to co-sponsor the draft resolution before the Committee. The time had come for the United Kingdom Government to settle the question of Southern Rhodesia and stop taking refuge in so-called legal arguments by referring to Charter provisions and conventions which, as the Ceylonese delegation had shown at the seventeenth session, were not applicable. He would speak at greater length on the legal aspects of the problem in his statement during the general debate.

3. The Ceylonese delegation believed that it was unworthy of a great Power like the United Kingdom to persist, as it had for the past three sessions, in adducing unsound arguments for the sole purpose of evading compliance with General Assembly resolutions and supporting successive white minority Governments in Southern Rhodesia. That obstinacy had reached a climax recently, at the 1069th meeting of the Security Council, when the United Kingdom delegation had used its veto in a cause in which, in the view of the Ceylonese delegation, the veto ought never to have been used.

4. The draft resolution before the Committee was substantially identical with that which the United Kingdom had vetoed. He appealed to members to adopt it unanimously in order to show the Committee's total

disapproval of the United Kingdom Government's attitude.

5. Mr. Zaid RIFA'I (Jordan) also stressed that draft resolution A/C.4/L.774 was almost identical with draft resolution S/5425 Rev.1, which the United Kingdom had vetoed in the Security Council on 13 September 1963 notwithstanding the wide support it had obtained among the Council's members. This was why it had been necessary to submit draft resolution A/C.4/774 to the Committee at the present time.

6. In various paragraphs of the preamble of draft resolution A/C.4/774 the sponsors had reaffirmed facts well known to all members of the Committee, and had restated views endorsed by the overwhelming majority of Member States, as the resolutions Southern Rhodesia adopted in 1962 had shown. The assertions made in the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs of the proposed text were particularly difficult to deny or overlook.

7. The operative paragraphs had been drafted most felicitously, for they reflected accurately the sincere desire of the sponsors to arrive at a solution, and did not contain any blame or anything which might in any way be regarded as a provocation. By adopting the draft resolution the Committee would merely invite the United Kingdom Government to take the measures the Committee deemed necessary for the future of Southern Rhodesia; that was the least the United Kingdom could do if it really wished to fulfil its mission and remain faithful to its traditions. The Jordanian delegation sincerely hoped that the United Kingdom would heed the appeal of the United Nations.

8. It had been argued that the transfer of armed forces and aircraft to the Government of Southern Rhodesia was merely intended to enable the country to defend itself. In actual fact, however, Southern Rhodesia had no need to defend itself against anybody, and the arms which the white minority Government of Southern Rhodesia would receive would be used only to oppress the majority of the population and prevent it from realizing its aspirations.

9. There was no veto in the Fourth Committee, and adoption of draft resolution A/C.4/774 by an overwhelming majority of Member States would demonstrate the deep concern with which the United Nations viewed the present situation in Southern Rhodesia, and at the same time clearly indicate that the world categorically disapproved of the use of the veto when a solution was being sought to a colonial issue of any kind.

10. The Jordanian delegation congratulated the sponsors upon their efforts, and declared its full support for the draft resolution.

11. Mr. PINOCHET (Chile) reserved his delegation's right to speak again on the question of Southern Rhodesia during the general debate.

12. The contents of draft resolution A/C.4/L.774 had already been considered in the Security Council; the text was drafted firmly and precisely, but so moderately that the Chilean delegation believed it would be supported by a very large majority. It was regrettable that the resolutions recalled in operative paragraph 3 had not yet been put into effect by the United Kingdom. The Chilean delegation hoped that the United Kingdom Government would change its position in that respect, and thus prevent the situation in Southern Rhodesia from deteriorating, with consequences which all would regret.

13. Mr. MOLINA (Guatemala) said that his delegation was more and more disappointed to find that the United Kingdom continued to disregard the resolutions on Southern Rhodesia adopted by the General Assembly and 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 had gone so far as to use its veto in the Security Council to defeat a decision supported by the overwhelming majority. With the active or passive complicity of the United Kingdom, the majority of the people of Southern Rhodesia were still being persecuted and deprived of their rights, particularly their electoral rights. Nevertheless, the Guatemalan delegation still hoped that the efforts of the United Nations and the pressure of world opinion would cause the United Kingdom to change the position from which it had thus far refused to budge. The fact that no voice had been raised to justify the United Kingdom's attitude proved that it was condemned by world opinion. The legal arguments in which the administering Power

sought refuge were not valid, and the Guatemalan delegation would vote for draft resolution A/C.4/774, which it enthusiastically endorsed.

14. Mr. KHALAF (Iraq) said that his delegation would support draft resolution A/C.4/L.774. His only regret was that operative paragraph 3 did not record that the United Kingdom had already been invited in 1962 to give effect to the General Assembly's resolutions on Southern Rhodesia. The present text might give the impression to one unfamiliar with the record that the United Kingdom Government was being invited for the first time to do so. To correct that omission the words "once more" might be added after the word "Invites" at the beginning of that paragraph. However, to avoid delaying the Committee's work the Iraq delegation was prepared to vote in favour of the draft resolution as it stood.

#### Requests for hearings (continued)

#### REQUEST CONCERNING SOUTHERN RHODESIA (AGENDA ITEM 75)

15. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received a request from a petitioner, Mr. Mugabe, of the Zimbabwe African National Union, to be heard by the Committee on the situation in Southern Rhodesia. If there were no objections, the request would be circulated as a document, in accordance with the usual procedure, and would be considered by the Committee later.

*It was so decided.*<sup>1/</sup>

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.

<sup>1/</sup> The request was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/605.