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Chairman: Mr. George J. TOMEH (Syria).

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Léon Mba, President  
 of the Gabonese Republic

1. The CHAIRMAN<sup>1/</sup> said that it was with great sorrow that he had to inform the Committee of the death of Mr. Léon Mba, President of the Gabonese Republic.
2. He paid a tribute to the memory of that outstanding African personage and asked the representative of Gabon to convey to the people of Gabon, the members of the Gabonese Government and Mr. Mba's family the condolences of the Fourth Committee on the occasion of the grievous loss that they had suffered.

<sup>1/</sup> On the proposal of the representative of Mexico, the Committee subsequently decided (1731st meeting, para. 24) that this statement should appear *in extenso*.

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Léon Mba.

3. Mr. MOUNGUENGUI (Gabon) thanked the Committee, on behalf of his Government, for the sympathy it had expressed to his delegation on the occasion of the death of President Mba.

Requests for hearings (continued)

REQUEST CONCERNING ANGUILLA (AGENDA  
 ITEM 23) (concluded) (A/C.4/694/ADD.2)

4. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to the request for a hearing concerning Anguilla (A/C.4/694/Add.2) received from Mr. Jeremiah Gumbs and Mr. Roger Fisher.
5. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would not raise any formal objection to the granting of the request for a hearing addressed to the Committee by Mr. Fisher and Mr. Gumbs, if that was the wish of the Committee. He would like, however, to make a few comments by way of reservation. First, Anguilla was an integral part of the Territory of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and had been so for well over a century. Secondly, at the beginning of the year the whole Territory had become a single Associate State with a full measure of self-government and hence it was no longer within the scope of Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter. That being so, it was clearly inappropriate for the Fourth Committee to grant a hearing on the subject. Thirdly, should the Committee decide nevertheless to hear the authors of the communication, that could not be considered to be any form of endorsement of any purported separate status for Anguilla.

6. In the light of those three points, he wished to reserve his Government's position on the request for a hearing and he would be glad if that reservation could be incorporated in the records of the Committee's discussion.

7. His delegation would make a detailed statement on the West Indies Associated States at the appropriate time.

8. The CHAIRMAN assured the United Kingdom representative that his delegation's reservations would be noted in the record.

9. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant the request for a hearing concerning Anguilla (A/C.4/694/Add.2).

*It was so decided.*

## AGENDA ITEM 24

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, South West Africa 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 (continued)\* (A/6868 and Add.1, A/C.4/L.875)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION  
A/C.4/L.875

10. Mr. FALL (Senegal) said that, before introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.875, he wished to point out that the name of Indonesia had been omitted from the list of sponsors and that the delegations of Algeria and Somalia had asked to be added to the list of sponsors.

11. Draft resolution A/C.4/L.875 was in line with the series of resolutions by the Fourth Committee which had been adopted by the General Assembly. Like those other resolutions, it reflected a declared determination to make a positive contribution to the struggle which was going on to put an end to the exploitation of man by man. If the draft resolution was looked at from that point of view, it could not be disputed that the text was the absolute minimum that could emerge from a discussion such as the one that had been devoted to the item under consideration.

12. He wished to point out that, despite the fact that the Special Committee's report on the question (A/6868 and Add.1) had received the support of the majority of the members of the Committee, the sponsors of the draft resolution, in a spirit of compromise, had avoided using the terms that representatives had employed during the discussion. The preamble mentioned the remarkable contribution made by the petitioner who had been heard on the item, as also the relevant resolutions adopted, and it referred to the implicit obligation assumed by the administering Powers themselves to ensure progress and justice in the Territories under their administration. It was all too clear that those Powers had not discharged that obligation, for, whether deliberately or under pressure from international financial groups, they had allowed economic activities to be developed which were manifestly impeding the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). That was the situation which the draft resolution sought to condemn and which it wished to bring to an end by advocating certain measures.

13. Having taken note of the report of the Special Committee, the draft resolution, in operative paragraph 2, reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of the colonial Territories to self-determination and independence; furthermore, it declared that the peoples of the Territories would never enjoy real sovereignty until such time as they had full control of their own resources and—therein lay the originality of the text—it placed the emphasis on economic independence. By placing the economic or financial in-

terests of their own nationals or of nationals of other countries above the interests of the indigenous inhabitants, the colonial Powers were violating their obligations under Chapters XI and XII of the Charter and were impeding the full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV); that was made clear in paragraph 3. Paragraph 4 condemned the foreign interests which, with the protection or collaboration of some Powers, were helping to perpetuate colonial domination by their exploitation of the colonial countries. Paragraph 5 deplored the policies of the colonial Powers which permitted such exploitation and promoted or tolerated unjust and discriminatory practice.

14. Paragraph 6 called upon the States concerned to fulfil their fundamental obligation to defend the interests of the indigenous inhabitants by opposing all abuses, both in the granting of concessions and in authorizing investments or exploitation of the land granted. Paragraph 7 called upon the colonial Powers to prohibit all practices which might give rise to injustice. Similarly, paragraph 8 called upon the colonial Powers to review all the privileges and concessions granted to foreign interests, in flagrant disregard of the true owners of the resources thus seized. No delegation should have any reservations about that measure.

15. Paragraph 9 was devoted to South West Africa. Paragraph 10, besides denouncing the dispossession of the indigenous inhabitants, which amounted to theft, requested the return to them of the alienated land. Paragraph 11 urged all States concerned to co-operate fully with the United Nations in order to ensure to the colonial peoples the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence and the full use of their natural resources.

16. Paragraphs 12 and 13 reflected the desire of the sponsors that the study of the problem should be continued, so that the task of the Fourth Committee might be successfully completed.

17. He pointed out, in connexion with operative paragraph 3, that the reference to Chapter XII of the Charter had been omitted from all texts except the French, and that the word "placés" in operative paragraph 5 of the French text should be deleted.

18. He thought that the deliberately moderate tone of the draft resolution, its restraint and its very realism should speak in its favour and should gain it the support of a large majority in the Committee.

19. Mr. MARTINEZ (Argentina) said that he too would like to introduce draft resolution A/C.4/L.875 on behalf of his own country and Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. He was glad to point out that for the first time the Afro-Asian group and the Latin American group had been able to pool their efforts in order to draw up a text which would serve as a starting point for action in favour of the process of economic decolonization. That was a development which should please all Member States, and not only the countries of Latin America. His delegation found it particularly encouraging that the negotiations which the drafting of the text had entailed had proceeded in a spirit of understanding and solidarity.

\*Resumed from the 1725th meeting.

20. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to set out explicitly certain principles stated in Chapters XI and XII of the Charter and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV); that was done in the preamble.

21. In the operative part, paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 defined the attitude of the international community towards States or interests which professed not to recognize the inexorable character of a process which all Members of the United Nations had undertaken to promote. They also defined the limits within which various interests could invest capital in the colonial Territories; such investments should contribute to the development of the Territories with a view to creating strong national economies.

22. Paragraphs 6 and 7 stressed the humanitarian factors which should be taken into account in any economic operations, especially in the colonial Territories. In that connexion, any discriminatory practice and any practice aimed at depriving the people of their wealth should be condemned. The study of the problem to be made by the Special Committee under the terms of paragraph 12 should be based on an analysis of current practices in the colonial Territories with regard to the exploitation of natural resources and the remuneration of indigenous labour. It should also deal with the practices of the various interests which profited from colonialism to the detriment of the indigenous population; lastly, it should determine, on the basis of objective data, whether there was a relationship between such phenomena and those which were impeding the process of decolonization. A study carried out along those lines would be unassailable, and no one could charge that it was inspired by ideological prejudices. There was no question that the United Nations had the technical capacity and the experience needed to discharge that task properly.

23. If the sponsors, despite their great number, had succeeded in reaching agreement on the text which they were submitting to the Committee, it was surely because they were all convinced of the need to state clearly the fundamental principles on which the activities of administering Powers and economic interests should be based—activities which should be aimed at creating economic conditions that would make independence viable. They had thought it necessary to say clearly to the administering Powers that the principles of decolonization proclaimed in resolution 1514 (XV) must be placed above economic interests and that the latter must be subordinated to the principles of the independence and territorial integrity of countries. The sponsors, who were concerned above all with expressing clearly the fundamental objectives towards which they wished their activities to be directed, had forgotten to recommend that the Secretariat should publicize the draft resolution as widely as possible; however, that omission would be unimportant if the Special Committee carried out its study of the problem in the way he had suggested, since the study would then be so authoritative that it would become an indispensable international reference work.

24. Mr. RODRIGUEZ ASTIAZARAIN (Cuba), speaking on a point of order, observed that his delegation had at no time been consulted during the preparation of the draft resolution now before the Committee (A/C.4/

L.875); Cuba had thus been the victim of discrimination on the part of the Latin American group.

25. His delegation reserved the right to take the floor at a later stage to state its point of view.

26. The CHAIRMAN said he hoped that the Committee would be able, at an early meeting, to take a decision on the draft resolution which had just been introduced.

#### 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/6664, A/6665, A/6700/Rev.1, chap. VI; A/6828)

#### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

27. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) read out the text of the following communiqué issued at Geneva on 29 November 1967 concerning South Arabia:

"The delegations of the United Kingdom and the National Liberation Front for South Yemen, led by the Right Honourable Lord Shackleton, O.B.E., Minister without Portfolio, and Mr. Qahtan Al Sha'abi respectively, met in Geneva from 21 to 29 November 1967.

"The two delegations discussed the transfer of sovereignty and the termination of Her Majesty The Queen's protection over the territory which will be incorporated in the People's Republic of Southern Yemen and agreed that all power and rights vested in the Crown immediately before independence would vest in the new sovereign state accordingly from 30 November 1967, the date of its independence.

"The two delegations agreed that their two countries would establish diplomatic relations and exchange Ambassadors.

"The British delegation took note of the public declarations by the NLF that the People's Republic of Southern Yemen would assure the safety of the foreign communities living in the territory.

"The delegations also discussed other matters of concern to the two sides including the provision of aid. The NLF delegation emphasized the importance of continuing British financial assistance for the maintenance of their civil and military establishments, the development of their country to meet the aspirations of their people, and the further equipment of their forces for defence. The British delegation, considering that the time before independence was too short to allow discussion of the problem to be completed, undertook to continue negotiations on the subject of aid after independence. They agreed, while these negotiations proceeded, to continue existing financial assistance for civil and military purposes for six months beginning on 1 December 1967.

"Lord Shackleton conveyed the good wishes of the British Government and people for the future of the

People's Republic of Southern Yemen and confirmed their desire to contribute to its prosperity and security on a basis of mutual respect and equality."

28. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela) said that he shared the joy and satisfaction which the inhabitants of Aden must be feeling now that they were within a few hours of independence.

29. Regarding the work accomplished by the United Nations Special Mission on Aden, while he would not attempt to determine who bore responsibility for the difficulties encountered by the Mission, he nevertheless wished to say that the latter had not met with all the understanding it had been entitled to expect from the United Kingdom Government. He must admit that the Mission had also encountered difficulties with the nationalists and had not succeeded in inducing them to co-operate with it for the good of the people of Aden.

30. The Mission had met with understanding and support from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, from the Chairman of the Special Committee and from many Governments, mainly in the region. On behalf of his colleagues and himself, he expressed his gratitude to those who had shown such a constructive attitude. In order to be completely impartial, he wished to say that in many British circles, including Parliament, concern had been expressed about the way in which Aden would attain independence.

31. In any event, Aden was independent, and it was now to be hoped that the people of the Territory would unite to work for the prosperity of the country in peace and harmony.

32. Mr. AL-DAOUD (Iraq) said that, having heard the statements made by the United Kingdom representative at the previous meeting and at the meeting now in progress, he would like to obtain a clear idea of the United Kingdom delegation's point of view concerning the question of the territorial integrity of South Arabia. In the view of his delegation—and, no doubt, in the view of the United Nations as a whole—the Territory of Aden included, in addition to Aden, the Eastern and Western Aden Protectorates as well as the islands of Perim, Kuria Muria and Kamaran and other off-shore islands; that was, indeed, stated in the first preambular paragraph of General Assembly resolution 2183 (XXI). The Special Mission on Aden, for its part, had pointed out in paragraph 178 of its report (A/6700/Rev.1, chap. VI, annex III) that it could not envisage any plan which would lead to dismemberment or the detachment of any part, however small, from the Territory.

33. He would welcome confirmation by the United Kingdom representative that his Government recognized the territorial unity of the whole of South Arabia.

34. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia) said he was pleased to welcome to the ranks of the independent countries the new State, which had at last succeeded in shaking off the colonial yoke under which it had suffered for so long. The people of South Arabia had won their independence; it had not been given to them. They had had to struggle against innumerable difficulties and undergo innumerable ordeals, which they might have been spared.

35. It was also regrettable that, instead of encouraging unity among the communities living in Aden, the colonial authorities had done their best to sow dissension. It could only be hoped that the people of Aden would be allowed to live in peace and thus recover their unity. No State whatsoever should henceforth interfere in the country's affairs.

36. Mr. CALINGASAN (Philippines) paid a tribute to the work done by the Special Mission on Aden. Its report bore witness to the determination with which its members had carried out their task.

37. Although it was a matter of satisfaction that Aden had become independent, it should be realized that the difficulties encountered by the people of that country throughout its colonial history would not, unfortunately, end with independence; if any advice could be given to the new country, it was that it should confine its attention to its present tasks, without lingering over the past. It was regrettable that the nationalist leaders had not heeded the appeal made to them to forget their differences and unite their efforts; it was to be hoped that they would soon achieve that unity.

38. Mr. THIAM (Mali) said that the announcement that South Arabia would become independent on 30 November 1967, after roughly a century and a half of United Kingdom rule, was unfortunately clouded by the difficult position in which the United Kingdom was leaving the Territory. When it was obliged to evacuate one of its colonies, the United Kingdom Government did not hesitate to employ every means to complicate the situation. Such had been the case in Palestine, in Southern Rhodesia and in Cyprus, the integrity and sovereignty of which had often been threatened since their independence. Like all the colonial Powers, the United Kingdom decided to grant independence to countries only when it found its interests threatened. Then it sought, by means of subtle manoeuvres, to install puppet régimes. Aden had been no exception.

39. In resolution 1949 (XVIII), the General Assembly had requested the administering Power to create favourable conditions for the transfer of power to the people of South Arabia. Faced with the evolution of events, the United Kingdom had tried in vain to impose a federation and suppress the nationalist movements, which his country congratulated on their courageous struggle.

40. The tension which had prevailed until now in the Territory was mainly the responsibility of the United Kingdom. As was to be expected, the United Nations Special Mission on Aden had not received the full co-operation of the United Kingdom Government, which had refused to end the state of emergency in the Territory. The Mission had therefore been obliged to carry out its task under extremely difficult conditions.

41. His delegation made a final appeal to the United Kingdom to give special consideration to what was said in paragraph 327 of the Mission's report (A/6700/Rev.1, chap. VI, annex III), so that the Territory would achieve true independence under more favourable conditions, in the interests of both the South Arabian people and the international community as a whole.



42. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria), supported by Mr. COLE (Sierra Leone), asked the United Kingdom delegation to indicate what decisions had been taken concerning the future of the off-shore islands of South Arabia. They had been surprised to note that the communiqué read out by the United Kingdom representative made no mention of those islands.

43. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) said that he would make a statement at the end of the meeting.

44. Mr. OULD CHEIKH ABDALLAHI (Mauritania) said that his delegation would confine its observations to welcoming the independence of South Arabia, wishing the latter all prosperity in the future and requesting the United Kingdom to help the Territory to resolve its difficulties.

45. His delegation paid a warm tribute to the people of South Arabia for their long and finally victorious fight and urged them to remain united.

46. Mr. SHAHI (Pakistan) said that his country, which had always taken an interest in the fate of the people of Aden, was delighted at their attainment of independence.

47. His delegation had fully supported the decision to send a United Nations Special Mission to Aden. It congratulated the members of the Mission on what they had accomplished in spite of many difficulties.

48. His country welcomed the emergence of the new State and hoped that the spirit which had inspired the people of South Yemen in their struggle for independence would guide them and help them to create institutions which would ensure a stable future.

49. Mr. COLE (Sierra Leone) observed that United Kingdom rule over South Arabia was soon to end in dramatic circumstances.

50. The United Kingdom representative had said that his Government's concern had been not to impose any particular form of government but to ensure the security and stability of Aden itself. Whatever history would record and whatever the administering Power would subsequently reveal, the results of at least 125 years of "association" with the United Kingdom were more than documented and indelibly inscribed in the mind of the world. It would be vain to comment on the statements by the administering Power that South Arabia had been the victim of historic forces which had caused it to settle political differences by arms rather than by negotiation and compromise. It was to be hoped that no scheme existed whereby the administering Power would be called upon to intervene as an arbiter in the Territory.

51. His delegation urged the people of South Arabia to look hopefully to an economic, social and political future which could be achieved only by hard work born of a strong sense of unity and responsibility. It also appealed to the friends of South Arabia to co-operate in building the new nation. The remaining administering Powers, and especially Portugal, should realize that decolonization was continuing and that resolution 1514 (XV) would have to be applied to all the remaining dependent Territories.

52. Finally, his delegation wished to thank the members of the United Nations Special Mission on Aden

for their tireless efforts to hasten the decolonization of the Territory.

53. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Soviet Union, which had always supported national struggles for independence, had unceasingly encouraged the people of South Arabia in their determined efforts to shake off the yoke of the administering Power. Now that they were about to regain their freedom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics wished them all prosperity.

54. Like other delegations which had previously made statements, his delegation considered it essential that all United Kingdom troops should evacuate the Territory and that the principle of territorial integrity should be duly respected, as laid down in General Assembly resolutions 2023 (XX) and 2183 (XXI).

55. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic) expressed pleasure at the end of United Kingdom rule over an Arab country. The United Kingdom representative had tried to justify his Government's policy in Aden, but one had only to consult the documents of the United Nations to recall the bloody struggles which had raged in the Territory; nor was Aden an exceptional case, for all the colonial Territories of the United Kingdom had paid dearly for their independence. The United Kingdom had disregarded the United Nations resolutions, the implementation of which would have spared the inhabitants of the Territory needless suffering.

56. The liberation of the Territory had been achieved essentially by its own people, who had successfully imposed their views on the administering Power. The United Nations had also played its part and, in that connexion, his delegation expressed its gratitude to the members of the Special Committee and its Subcommittee on Aden as well as to the members of the United Nations Special Mission on Aden.

57. His delegation was convinced that the people of South Arabia would be able to solve the many problems with which they would be faced, just as they had been able to break the chains of slavery.

58. Mr. MALECELA (United Republic of Tanzania) extended greetings to South Yemen, which was gaining sovereignty after undergoing many trials.

59. His delegation had been well aware, at the time of the formation of the Special Mission on Aden, that its task would be a difficult one, and it now wished to pay a tribute to the members of the Mission. It would also like to congratulate the people of South Yemen, which had won independence for their country by fighting fiercely for it. If the administering Power had only been willing to co-operate with the United Nations, much bloodshed could have been avoided.

60. His delegation urged the people of South Yemen to forget past antagonisms and united in an effort to make their independence a success.

61. In conclusion, he wished to point out that the administering Power was obliged to respect the territorial integrity of the new State.

62. Mr. LADGHAM (Tunisia) said that South Arabia's forthcoming attainment of independence gave the

United Nations cause for satisfaction. There was no need to go back over the long struggle carried on by the people of Aden, since their present concerns were directed towards the future.

63. His delegation expressed its congratulations and best wishes for future prosperity to the people and leaders of South Arabia, which was the fourteenth Arab country to gain sovereignty.

*Mr. Dashtseren (Mongolia), Rapporteur, took the Chair.*

64. Mr. NACER (Morocco) said that his delegation took greater pleasure in seeing an Arab country become independent. South Arabia faced grave problems, for it had the difficult heritage of colonialism to contend with, and the United Nations must therefore ensure that a democratic government was established in the Territory. His delegation hoped that the fraternal country of South Arabia would enjoy peace and stability.

65. Mr. GATUGUTA (Kenya) congratulated the people of South Arabia on their attainment of independence. Their task was now to create a viable nation on the basis of unity.

66. He wished to thank the Special Committee and the Special Mission on Aden for all the efforts they had made to hasten the liberation of the Territory. The United Nations must continue to give vigorous support to the decolonization of all the remaining dependent Territories. His delegation was pleased that South Arabia would soon have a seat at the United Nations and play a role in the conduct of international affairs.

67. Mr. SOYLEMEZ (Turkey) said that his country was most pleased to see a new State take its place in the international community of sovereign, independent States; he extended his delegation's congratulations to the people of Aden.

68. His delegation hoped that the internal strife which was unfortunately continuing in the Territory would soon be brought to an end and that peace would be restored in the area. He expressed appreciation to the Special Committee and the Special Mission on Aden for the part they had played in settling such a difficult question. His delegation also wished to pay a tribute to the United Kingdom Government, which had co-operated in implementing resolution 1514 (XV).

69. Mr. ISSAKA (Togo) said that his delegation warmly welcomed South Arabia's attainment of sovereignty. It shared the hope of the Malian delegation that the United Kingdom would attempt, before it left, to create conditions which would be favourable to the building of the new nation.

70. The people of South Arabia, who had fought so hard to gain their freedom, would surely join in helping other dependent peoples, particularly the people of Zimbabwe, which the United Kingdom should spare the necessity of paying the high price which South Arabia had had to pay.

71. Mr. BENKACI (Algeria) paid a tribute to the Special Mission on Aden for the efforts it had made; he fully supported its conclusions. He also wished to praise the people of South Arabia for the heroic

struggle they had waged for independence; it should be emphasized that the United Nations had played a decisive role in their attainment of independence. He hoped that South Arabia would be able to consolidate its independence on the basis of national unity.

72. Mr. ADEGOROYE (Nigeria) congratulated South Arabia on its attainment of independence under difficult conditions. Thanks were due to those who had helped it to achieve that goal, particularly the Special Mission and the United Kingdom Government.

73. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Special Mission on Aden, thanked the delegations which had expressed appreciation to the Mission. For his part, he wished to express his gratitude and that of Mr. Shalizi and Mr. Keita to Mr. Hassouma, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, for his stimulating support. As head of the Mission, he voiced the hope that South Arabia would achieve genuine, complete independence and would preserve its territorial integrity.

74. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) said that, while his delegation wished to avoid polemics, it felt that it should draw attention to a number of inaccurate statements which had been made by certain delegations.

75. Despite the fears that had been expressed, it had in fact been decided, at the Geneva talks, that the Eastern Protectorate would form part of South Arabia.

76. With regard to the economic backwardness of the interior of the Territory, for which attempts had been made to hold the United Kingdom responsible, he wished to point out that his country had not taken over the administration of that area until the formulation of the Federation in 1959; substantial progress had been made since that time.

77. A number of delegations had referred to the violence which had preceded Aden's attainment of independence. It should be pointed out, however, that 90 per cent of the casualties suffered in the incidents of recent years had been the result of clashes between nationalist groups with which the United Kingdom had had nothing to do.

78. The United Kingdom also rejected the accusation that it had failed to co-operate with the Special Mission. It was the political parties in Aden which had refused to have any contact with the Mission, and the United Kingdom had done everything it could to persuade them to change their minds. Broadly speaking, his Government had maintained constant co-operation with the United Nations during the period preceding independence, and its behaviour in that regard was quite possibly unique in the history of decolonization.

79. With regard to the islands of Perim and Kuria Muria and the other off-shore islands, he had nothing to add to the contents of the communiqué which he had read out to the Committee. Discussions were under way with the people, and, if that was what they wished, the islands would form part of the new State.

80. Mr. EL HADI (Sudan) pointed out that the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom had stated in Parliament on 2 November 1967 that his country favoured the internationalization of Perim and the other islands off the coast of Aden. The United Kingdom representa-

tive, on the other hand, had just said that the future status of the islands was currently under discussion. However, Perim, Kuria Muria, Kamaran and the other off-shore islands were an integral part of South Arabia, and colonial occupation could not turn them into a separate territory. They were inhabited by Arabs whose culture, history and aspirations had always been the same as those of the Arab people of South Arabia.

81. It was stated in resolution 1514 (XV) that "any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". In resolution 2183 (XXI), moreover, the General Assembly had taken note of the assurances given by the United Kingdom representative on 10 November 1966 (1633rd meeting) concerning the territorial integrity of South Arabia. If the United Kingdom, with the aim of dismembering the Territory, was now attempting to take action which gave the lie to those assurances, it was the duty of the United Nations to protect South Arabia against such manoeuvres.

82. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic) said that he would like further information on the discussions concerning the future of the off-shore islands to which the United Kingdom representative had referred. He recalled that, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 31 August 1967 by the Arab delegations (A/6700/Rev.1, chap. VI, annex III, appendix VI), those delegations had already expressed their concern regarding the United Kingdom's intentions with respect to Perim and the other islands. It was his delegation's view that any attempt to dismember South Arabia would constitute a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter.

83. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria) was happy to note that Mr. Luard had given an assurance that the Eastern Protectorate would form part of South Arabia, but he would like a similar assurance concerning the future of the off-shore islands.

84. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) shared the concern expressed by the representatives of the Sudan, the United Arab Republic and Syria, and said that his delegation looked for a more specific statement by the United Kingdom representative.

85. Mr. MWEMPU-SAMPU (Democratic Republic of the Congo) hoped that South Arabia's accession to independence after an arduous struggle would serve the colonial Powers, especially Portugal, as an example. He also hoped that the United Kingdom entertained no territorial ambitions with regard to certain parts of South Arabia.

86. Mr. AKONGO (Uganda) also hoped that the case of South Arabia would give the Portuguese Government cause for thought. He felt that in the light of that experience, the Fourth Committee would need to review the question of what should be done to enable the other colonial Territories to achieve independence.

87. Mr. NDAHAYO (Rwanda) addressed his country's congratulations to the people of South Arabia, who had fulfilled their aspirations at the cost of bitter sufferings.

88. Mr. WARSAMA (Somalia), recalling the assurances given by the United Kingdom as noted in resolution 2183 (XXI), called upon it to abandon its equivocal stand and to guarantee the territorial integrity of South Arabia.

89. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic) regretted the absence of a reply by the United Kingdom to the delegations which had expressed fears concerning South Arabia's territorial integrity. Perim, Kuria Muria, Kamaran and the other off-shore islands were obviously an integral part of that country, and it was difficult to see the point of the discussions referred to by Mr. Luard. The Committee would be unable to take a decision on that item of its agenda so long as it had not been given details and assurances in that connexion.

90. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) pointed out that the absence of any mention of the off-shore islands in the statement he had read out seemed to indicate that the concern expressed in the Committee might be exaggerated. With regard to Perim, the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Brown, in a recent statement in the British Parliament, had reiterated that the island would stay with South Arabia unless its inhabitants, against expectation, were to demand otherwise.

91. Mr. GAMIL (Yemen), after paying tribute to the people of South Yemen, who had fought an heroic struggle to put an end to 128 years of colonial occupation, and to the Special Committee and the Special Mission, which had played a leading role in South Yemen's accession to independence, expressed regret that the United Kingdom, in defiance of General Assembly resolutions 2023 (XX) and 2183 (XXI), in which it was stated that the off-shore islands formed part of the Territory of Aden, was refusing to define its position on South Yemen's territorial integrity, thus causing misgivings in the Committee and in the Organization as a whole.

92. In view of the fact that the Fourth Committee was about to conclude its discussion on Aden, it was absolutely essential that the United Kingdom representative should take a clear stand on that crucial question.

93. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria) said that what made the silence of the United Kingdom representative all the more regrettable was that the latter had stated, at the previous meeting, that he hoped to be in a position to define his Government's intentions regarding the off-shore islands at the present meeting. He should give the Committee an assurance that the independence to which South Arabia would accede would be genuine and total.

94. The CHAIRMAN felt that it would be hardly possible to conclude the discussion on Aden at the present meeting, in view of the problem which the Committee had come up against. He hoped that a further meeting would be devoted to that question in the course of the afternoon, and said he had already made contact with the Secretariat in order to find out whether that was feasible.

95. Mr. PEREZ GUERRERO (Venezuela) took the view that the United Kingdom should give firm as-

surances regarding South Arabia's territorial integrity, and that its representative, considering the scantiness of the information at his disposal, should get in touch with his Government forthwith and inform it of the Committee's misgivings.

96. Mr. JOUEJATI (Syria) also felt that the discussion could not be concluded until the United Kingdom representative had given a reply on the subject.

97. Mr. GAMIL (Yemen) said that at the end of the debate on Aden, the Committee would be called upon to adopt an historic decision on the future of that Territory, after 130 years of colonial status. In order for it to be able to do so, it would be necessary, he felt, for the United Kingdom representative to seek clarification from his Government, as the representative of Venezuela had suggested.

98. Mr. LUARD (United Kingdom) appreciated the concern which the Committee might feel, but doubted whether he would be in a position to give a reply concerning the future status of the off-shore islands

at a meeting that afternoon, as discussions were still in progress on that score.

99. Mr. ALWAN (Iraq) said that it was pointless to devote a further meeting to the question of Aden if the United Kingdom was unable to give the desired clarification during the afternoon.

100. Mr. ABDEL-WAHAB (United Arab Republic) deplored the ambiguous position of the United Kingdom and asked its representative to be good enough to state clearly whether his Government approved paragraph 323 of the Special Mission's report (A/6700/Rev.1, chap. VI, annex III).

101. The CHAIRMAN felt that in view of the seriousness of the question the Committee should avoid taking a hasty decision. The Secretariat had informed him that a further meeting could take place that afternoon, and he therefore proposed that the debate should be continued at that time.

*It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.*