



General Assembly

PROVISIONAL

A/44/PV.80

22 December 1989

ENGLISH

Forty-fourth session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 11 December 1989, at 4 p.m.

President: Mr. GARBA (Nigeria)

later: Mr. SALLAH (Gambia)
(Vice-President)

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations: report of the Fourth Committee [116]
- 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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa: report of the Fourth Committee [117]

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- 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; report of the Economic and Social Council: report of the Fourth Committee [118 and 12]
- United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa: report of the Fourth Committee [119]
- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Fourth Committee [120]
- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [18] (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) Reports of the Secretary-General
 - (c) Draft resolutions
 - (d) Draft decision
 - (e) Report of the Fifth Committee
- Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations [38]
 - (a) Note by the Secretary-General
 - (b) Draft resolution
- Programme of work

The meeting was called to order at 4.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 18 (continued), 116, 117, 118 and 12, 119 and 120

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/44/739)

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 NAMIBIA AND IN ALL OTHER TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/44/664)

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; REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/44/740)

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/44/741)

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE (A/44/742)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the United Arab Emirates, Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee, to introduce six reports of the Fourth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates), Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee (interpretation from Arabic): I have the honour to present to the General Assembly for its consideration six reports of the Fourth Committee, relating, respectively, to agenda items 18, 116, 117, 118 and 12, 119 and 120.

The first report (A/44/738) relates to those Territories not covered by other items of the agenda, which the Committee took up under agenda item 18. Set out in the report are 12 draft resolutions, two draft consensuses and one draft decision, relating, respectively, to: Western Sahara, New Caledonia, Tokelau, the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, Gibraltar, Pitcairn and St. Helena.

(Mr. Al-Kindi, Rapporteur,
Fourth Committee)

By adopting these proposals, the General Assembly would, among other things, reaffirm the full application to those Territories of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the inherent right of their peoples freely to decide their own future political status. The Assembly would request the administering Powers concerned to take all possible measures to expedite the process of decolonization. The Assembly would also urge the administering Powers, with the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to accelerate the social and economic development of those Territories.

In noting with appreciation the continuing co-operation of certain administering Powers in that regard, the Assembly would once again emphasize the importance of dispatching United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to enable the United Nations to be fully apprised of the conditions prevailing in those Territories.

As regards Western Sahara, the General Assembly would, inter alia, reiterate its support for the joint good offices process of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations initiated in New York on 9 April 1986 with a view to promoting a just and lasting solution of the question of Western Sahara, in accordance with resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity and General Assembly resolution 40/50, of 2 December 1985.

Reaffirming that the question of Western Sahara is a question of decolonization, the Assembly would stress the importance of the agreement in principle given on 30 August 1988 by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO) to the joint

(Mr. Al-Kindi, Rapporteur,
Fourth Committee)

proposals of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to the holding of a "referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara", organized and supervised by the United Nations in co-operation with the Organization of African Unity.

Welcoming the talks in Marrakech between His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and POLISARIO, the Assembly would endorse the hope of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity that there would be further meetings of this nature to improve the prospects for the success of the peace process. The Assembly would express its conviction that the continuation of direct dialogue between the two parties to the conflict could contribute to the completion of the joint good offices process of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the restoration of peace in Western Sahara, and to stability and security in the whole region. The Assembly would also appeal once again to the Kingdom of Morocco and POLISARIO to display the co-operation and the political goodwill necessary for the success of the joint good offices of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

With regard to New Caledonia, in noting the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination, the Assembly would urge all the parties involved to maintain their dialogue and to refrain from acts of violence. The Assembly would invite all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians.

(Mr. Al-Kindi, Rapporteur,
Fourth Committee)

The second report (A/44/739) relates to agenda item 116, "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations". The Fourth Committee recommends, among other things, that the Assembly reaffirm that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e with respect to that Territory, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments.

The third report (A/44/664) relates to agenda item 117, "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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa". Among other things, the General Assembly would, in condemning the intensified activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests that continue to exploit the natural and human resources of the colonial Territories, call once again upon all Governments to take the necessary steps to put an end to such activities and to prevent new investments that run counter to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories.

(Mr. Al-Kindi, Rapporteur,
Fourth Committee)

In a separate decision on the military activities and arrangements in colonial Territories which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration the Fourth Committee recommends that the General Assembly call upon the colonial Powers concerned to terminate such activities immediately and unconditionally, in compliance with the relevant resolutions.

The fourth report (A/44/740) relates to agenda items 118 and 12, in regard to the 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. In the draft resolution recommended by the Committee, the General Assembly would, among other provisions, request those organizations to render or continue to render, as a matter of urgency, all possible moral and material assistance to the colonial peoples in their struggle to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

The fifth report (A/44/741) relates to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa - agenda item 119. In the draft resolution recommended by the Committee, the General Assembly - expressing its appreciation to all those that have supported the Programme by providing contributions, scholarships or places in their educational institutions - would appeal to all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to offer greater financial and other support to the Programme in order to secure its continuation and steady expansion.

The last report (A/44/742) - on agenda item 120 - relates to offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. In the draft resolution recommended by the Committee, the Assembly would express its appreciation to those Member States that have made scholarships

(Mr. Al-Kindi, Rapporteur,
Fourth Committee)

available to the inhabitants of such Territories and its strong conviction that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships are essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance. Considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers, the Assembly would also urge the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to such offers made by States.

On behalf of the Fourth Committee I commend these reports to the General Assembly for its attention.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, Ambassador Robert F. Van Lierop of Vanuatu, for his leadership and for the advice and guidance he has given me in connection with my tasks as Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee. I express my gratitude also to the other officers and the members of the Fourth Committee and to the secretariat of the Committee for the co-operation and assistance extended to me during the session.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fourth Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the various recommendations of the Fourth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

(The President)

May I remind members of the Assembly that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401 the General Assembly agreed that

"When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

I would also remind delegations that, again in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

We shall first consider the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/739) on agenda item 116, "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under article 73 (e) of the Charter of the United Nations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan,

Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: None

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The draft resolution was adopted by 150 votes to none, with 3 abstentions (resolution 43/83).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes the Assembly's consideration of item 116.

We turn next to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/664) on agenda item 117, entitled "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 Namibia and in all other territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa".

I now call upon the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to explain his vote before the voting.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution and the draft decision which are recommended under agenda item 117 and which strongly and rightly condemn, inter alia, the collaboration of the racist régime in Tel Aviv with the racist minority régime of South Africa in the nuclear and military fields.

It should be noted, however, that the draft resolution and the draft decision merely condemn the military and nuclear collaboration between the two racist régimes, in Tel Aviv and Pretoria, while it is no secret that that collaboration extends to all economic and cultural fields.

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Not only that, but the economic relations between these two racist régimes, which are overlooked in the draft resolution and the draft decision, are constantly growing. In fact, the Financial Mail of Johannesburg reported the following in its issue of 5 May 1989:

"In 1987 the total trade between Israel and South Africa was \$247 million. In 1988, the figure rose to \$341 million. In 1988 imports of goods from Israel to South Africa exceeded exports by some \$80 million. Among the major products imported by Israel from South Africa are mineral products, petrol, coal and base metals. In 1988, exports from Israel totalled \$131 million; the main exports were chemical products, precious stones and metals and machinery. Also included were medical and optical products, rubber, plastics and textiles." (Israel today, A survey, Supp., p. 11)

With regard to military and nuclear collaboration, which are rightly condemned in the draft resolution and the draft decision, we need only say that it is an ongoing activity. The information reported by the NBC television network on 25 October 1989 confirmed that the racist régime in occupied Palestine is assisting the South African racist régime in the manufacture of long-range nuclear missiles, in return for enriched uranium to be used in producing nuclear warheads. In fact, that information has never been denied or refuted by either régime in view of the categorical evidence provided.

We believe that the draft resolution and the draft decision should condemn all forms of collaboration between the two racist régimes, of Tel Aviv and Pretoria, especially since all the evidence points to the continuance of that collaboration in all its forms, despite efforts to camouflage it in order to avoid international reprimand.

It goes without saying that that collaboration, which stems from the very

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab Republic)

motives behind the creation of the two régimes, poses a serious threat to the peace and security of the African continent and the Arab region. Also, that collaboration has encouraged the two régimes to persist in their racist policies and defy the international community.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that this obvious and flagrant gap in the draft resolution and the draft decision is the responsibility of one of the members of the Committee of 24, who has made a practice of dealing from a position of power with amendments that do not appeal to him.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will first take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 9 of its report (A/44/664). A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey

The draft resolution was adopted by 125 votes to 10, with 17 abstentions (resolution 44/84).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report. A recorded vote on that draft decision has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey

The draft decision was adopted by 125 votes to 12, with 13 abstentions.*

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 117.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/740) on agenda item 118, entitled "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", and on agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet

* Subsequently, the delegation of Bulgaria advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal

The draft resolution was adopted by 142 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions (resolution 44/85).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 118 and of chapters I and VI (section C) of the report of the Economic and Social Council, agenda item 12.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/741) on agenda item 119, entitled "United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 8 of its report. The Fourth Committee adopted the draft resolution without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/86).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 119.

We turn now to the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/742) on agenda item 120, entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories".

The Assembly will take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The Fourth Committee adopted that draft resolution without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/87).

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 120.

(The President)

We shall now consider the report of the Fourth Committee (A/44/738) on agenda item 18 concerning chapters of 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 relating to specific Territories not covered by other agenda items.

The Assembly will now proceed to take decisions on the various recommendations of the Fourth Committee. We turn first to the 12 draft resolutions recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 21 of its report.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Question of Western Sahara". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 44/88).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Question of New Caledonia". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution also without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 44/89).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III is entitled "Question of Tokelau". The Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution III without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 44/90).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution IV is entitled "Question of the Cayman Islands". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 44/91).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution V, is entitled "Question of Bermuda".

This draft resolution was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 44/92).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution VI, entitled "Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands", was adopted by the Fourth Committee without objection. May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 44/93).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution VII is entitled "Question of Anguilla". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 44/94).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution VIII is entitled "Question of the British Virgin Islands". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 44/95).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution IX is entitled "Question of Montserrat". The Fourth Committee adopted this draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 44/96).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution X is entitled "Question of American Samoa". The Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution X without a vote.

May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution X was adopted (resolution 44/97).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution XI is entitled "Question of Guam". The Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution XI without objection.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XI was adopted (resolution 44/98).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution XII is entitled "Question of the United States Virgin Islands". The Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution XII without objection.

May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution XII was adopted (resolution 44/99).

The PRESIDENT: I now invite representatives to turn to draft consensus I and draft consensus II recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 22 of its report.

Draft consensus I is entitled "Question of Gibraltar". The Fourth Committee adopted draft consensus I without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft consensus I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Draft consensus II is entitled "Question of Pitcairn". The Fourth Committee adopted draft consensus II without objection. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft consensus II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to the draft decision entitled "Question of St. Helena" recommended by the Fourth Committee in paragraph 23 of its report. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Samoa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey

The draft decision was adopted by 122 votes to 2, with 27 abstentions.*

* Subsequently the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Jamaica for an explanation of his delegation's position.

Mr. WOLFE (Jamaica): The Jamaican delegation warmly welcomes the action just taken by the General Assembly in adopting without a vote the resolution on Western Sahara on the basis of the report and recommendation of the Fourth Committee. As with other delegations, Jamaica regards that decision to be of major political significance inasmuch as it represents the first time since 1983 that the General Assembly has been able to adopt by consensus a resolution on Western Sahara. It also underlines the spirit of flexibility, co-operation and compromise which has been displayed by all the parties concerned in making this decision by the General Assembly possible this year.

This latest action by the General Assembly represents also the logical fruition of the positive developments which have taken place in Western Sahara over the past year, as confirmed in the Secretary-General's report (A/44/634 and Corr.1) of 12 October 1989. These positive developments are in large measure due to the active involvement of the United Nations in the search for a negotiated settlement through the Secretary-General's good offices in co-operation with the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the diplomatic mission entrusted to his Special Representative, in accordance with Security Council resolution 621 (1988).

We therefore wish to commend the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for their unstinting efforts towards forging a negotiated political settlement of the Western Sahara issue. The principal parties to the conflict also deserve our full support and commendation for the new spirit of co-operation which has been evinced in the efforts towards a political settlement.

In this connection the agreement given in principle by the Kingdom of Morocco and the POLISARIO Front to the joint proposals of the Secretary-General and the current Chairman of the OAU was an important step in the right direction.

(Mr. Wolfe, Jamaica)

We also welcome in particular the initiation of contacts and dialogue between Morocco and the POLISARIO Front, as evidenced in the high-level meetings that took place between King Hassan II and representatives of the POLISARIO Front. We earnestly share the hope of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the OAU that there will be further meetings of that nature, since they could improve the prospects for the success of the peace process.

Finally, Jamaica wishes to renew its appeal to the parties concerned to ensure that the important progress made to date be sustained and further developed to the extent of facilitating an early resolution of all the outstanding issues of concern, so as to establish without delay the necessary conditions for holding the proposed referendum in the Territory on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

AGENDA ITEM 18 (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

- (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/44/23; A/AC.109/975 and Add.1, A/AC.109/976-978, A/AC.109/979 and Add.1, A/AC.109/980, A/AC.982-990, A/AC.109/992-998, A/AC.109/999/Rev.1, A/AC.109/1000, A/AC.109/1007 and Corr.1)
- (b) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/634 and Corr.1, A/44/800)
- (c) DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (A/44/23 (Part I), chap. II, para. 5; A/44/L.55, A/44/L.56)
- (d) DRAFT DECISION (A/44/L.57)
- (e) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/44/860)

The PRESIDENT: May I remind representatives that the debate on agenda item 18 was concluded at the 75th plenary meeting, held on Tuesday, 5 December 1989.

(The President)

The Assembly will now turn to the recommendations contained in chapter II of part I of the report of the Special Committee (A/44/23), to draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and A/44/L.56, and to draft decision A/44/L.57 -

I call on the representative of Syria on a point of order.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation wishes to speak on a point of order to seek a clarification.

Recently, the world has been witnessing certain developments, some of which have not reached their culmination, while others are still in their initial stages. Regardless, however, of any developments that may be taking place at this stage, we believe that principles do not change and that values shared by all humanity are unalterable. The right of peoples to self-determination remains one of the principles that we should defend with the utmost vigour.

Since its inception the United Nations has given the highest priority to enabling the peoples who do not enjoy self-government to exercise the right to self-determination enshrined in the Charter. With this in mind, the General Assembly adopted its vitally important resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Over the years, the importance of that resolution has become manifest. It has accelerated the independence of countries that now account for more than half of the States Members of the United Nations. Nevertheless and as the Secretary-General said in his opening statement this year before the Committee of 24:

"While it is true that the past 30 years have seen remarkable achievements in the field of decolonization, an accomplishment of which our Organization can be justly proud, the fact remains that some 19 Territories, with a population of some 3 million, have yet to exercise their right to self-determination and independence." (A/AC.109/PV.1346, p. 6)

(Mr. Shaheed, Syrian Arab
Republic)

The truth of the matter is that the failure to implement the Declaration has not been limited to the 19 Territories referred to by the Secretary-General. There are other flagrant violations, as in the case of Palestine. We must pay a tribute to the consistent and unremitting efforts of the Secretary-General and his many initiatives on behalf of the peoples that have not yet been able to exercise the right to self-determination and independence.

Syria's unwavering commitment to the cause of decolonization dates back to our own day of independence. We have always been in the forefront of the struggle for the achievement of self-determination by every colonized country. We have always supported the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. We were active in the establishment of the United Nations and have continuously supported its efforts to achieve peace and end colonialism.

In conclusion, we would like to say that the two draft resolutions before us could have reflected more fully the newer realities that have become clear to all of us, were it not for that single member of the Bureau of the Committee of 24, who saw fit to deal from a position of power with regard to the amendments that had been introduced with a view to making the two draft resolutions more consistent with reality.

The PRESIDENT: I would like to announce that Pakistan has become a co-sponsor of draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and A/44/L.56.

I now call on those representatives wishing to explain their votes before the voting.

Mr. OSANAI (Japan): My delegation will vote in favour of draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and A/44/L.56, because we firmly support the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and hope that it will be duly implemented.

(Mr. Osanai, Japan)

At the same time, however, I must regrettably express my delegation's reservations on certain provisions contained in those documents. My delegation cannot support some parts of the report of the Special Committee that are approved in operative paragraph 5 of A/44/L.55 and operative paragraph 1 of A/44/L.56.

For reasons we have made clear on a number of occasions, including at meetings of this session of the General Assembly, my delegation has reservations on other paragraphs of A/44/L.55 as well, particularly paragraphs 4, 6 and 9.

In addition, my delegation wishes to indicate its reservations on the seventh preambular paragraph of A/44/L.55. Moreover, it is my delegation's understanding that operative paragraph 7 of the same draft resolution is not intended as a condemnation of all foreign economic activities, but rather of a particular type of such activities that in fact impedes the process of self-determination in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom): My delegation wishes to explain why it will vote against the draft resolutions and draft decision before us. A number of speakers in last week's debate suggested that the time was right for a final push - as they would put it - to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism. That same thought is implicit in the proposals that have been made to celebrate next year the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It likewise underlies the declaration of the 1990s as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.*

* Mr. Sallah (Gambia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

We sometimes describe a man of great vision as being ahead of his time, or we speak of far-sighted ideas whose time has yet to come. Here, on the other hand, we have a clear example of an idea whose time has passed, conceived by those whose thinking is quite literally behind the times. Decolonization has been one of the major success stories of recent history. A decolonization decade could have been a fitting epitaph for the 1950s, the 1960s, or even the 1970s, but surely not for the 1990s.

The colonial era is all but over. Since 1945, the membership of the United Nations has almost tripled. Many of those new Members are countries that have achieved independence through the process of decolonization. Forty-nine of the Organization's current membership were at one time administered by Britain and were brought to independence in accordance with the wishes of the peoples concerned.

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

For the peoples of the few remaining British dependent Territories the colonial era is over too. In their case the outcome has been different: they have freely chosen to govern themselves, under their own democratic systems, while retaining certain links with Britain. But what they have done is exactly the same: they have exercised their right to self-determination. They happen not to have chosen independence. But that does not alter the validity of their choice, nor Britain's commitment to honour it, and the General Assembly should do likewise. Those who seek to undermine these peoples' choice might take advantage of the coming thirtieth anniversary to reread the Charter and to rededicate themselves to the principle of self-determination.

The picture is clear. On the one hand, the number of Territories that have yet to exercise their right to self-determination has been reduced at most to a handful. On the other, the Organization is being asked to heighten its activity in this field. This simply does not make sense. The thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on decolonization should be the time for a careful rethink, not for a reiteration of the same old sterile and polemical arguments. As my delegation made clear in the Fourth Committee, it is time to take a good look at the practices and procedures of the United Nations in the field of decolonization. What should be eradicated are repetition, duplication and redundancy. We need a more streamlined, pragmatic approach, adapted to changing times and respectful of the present-day needs of the peoples of the remaining Territories.

Of the three draft resolutions and one draft decision before us, the first two, A/44/L.55 and A/44/L.56, differ depressingly little from their predecessors. Like them they are couched in the tired, disobliging rhetoric of previous decades. They have nothing of relevance to say to the self-governing peoples of the British dependent Territories. One of them also misinterprets the provisions of the settlement plan for Namibia, which is being implemented successfully by the

(Mr. Richardson, United Kingdom)

Secretary-General, under the aegis of the Security Council, and which will shortly lead to an independent Namibia taking its rightful place in the United Nations. Let us hope that in 1990 these texts can finally be consigned to the archives where they belong. We shall vote against both of them.

As for the draft resolution approving the proposed programme of action to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration, we find it incomprehensible that additional effort and resources should be devoted to decolonization work at a time when the United Nations tasks in this field are diminishing rapidly. A modest commemoration might be in order. But the expenditure of well over \$1 million on regional seminars of the Committee of 24, to give only one example, is quite indefensible. No one can justify such expenditure when there are real and pressing needs to be met by the Organization. If such money is really available - at a time when the finances of the Organization are under strain - it would be better devoted to assisting the economic development of the remaining Territories. We shall vote against this draft resolution too.

As for the commemoration of the proposed decade, we cannot fail to notice that scarcely one tenth of the membership have even taken the trouble to reply to the Secretary-General's request for suggestions. This less than overwhelming response by Member States speaks eloquently of the importance attached to this ill-considered, irrelevant initiative. Rather than prolong the agony until next April, as the draft decision proposes, should we not now let this initiative die quietly?

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the recommendations contained in chapter II of part I of document A/44/23, on draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and A/44/L.56 and on draft decision A/44/L.57. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications is contained in document A/44/860.

(The President)

The Assembly will now begin the voting process and vote first on the draft resolution entitled "Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" contained in paragraph 5 of chapter II of part I of the report of the Special Committee (A/44/23).

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden

The draft resolution was adopted by 137 votes to 2, with 14 abstentions (resolution 44/100).*

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/44/L.55.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

* Subsequently the delegation of Mozambique advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Abstaining: Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Draft resolution A/44/L.55 was adopted by 142 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions (resolution 44/101).*

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft resolution A/44/L.56.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

* Subsequently the delegation of Mozambique advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Against: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining: Belgium, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Draft resolution A/44/L.56 was adopted by 143 votes to 2, with 7 abstentions (resolution 44/102).*

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now vote on draft decision A/44/L.57.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Against: None

* Subsequently the delegation of Mozambique advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

Abstaining: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Dominica, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Draft decision A/44/L.57 was adopted by 130 votes to none, with 22 abstentions.*

* Subsequently the delegation of Mozambique advised the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on representatives who wish to explain their votes.

Mr. SAVUT (Turkey): In conformity with our policy of supporting the efforts of the international community to ensure the complete elimination of colonialism, my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/44/L.55. I wish to place on record, however, our reservations with regard to operative paragraph 9 of the resolution. We do not consider the wording of this paragraph to be satisfactory.

Mr. HAJNOCZI (Austria): Austria considers that the process of decolonization constitutes one of the outstanding achievements of the United Nations. Austria has therefore consistently supported the efforts of the United Nations in this regard. It is because of its sincere commitment to the process of decolonization and to the right of peoples to self-determination that Austria has supported draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and L.56 and the draft resolution contained in document A/44/23 (Part I).

However, this should not be interpreted as approval of all the provisions in these texts. We have reservations with regard to some of them. In particular, I should like to refer to operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/44/L.55 and underline that Austria understands that paragraph as referring exclusively to struggle by peaceful means, as Austria, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, is firmly convinced that necessary change should be brought about by peaceful means alone.

My delegation abstained in the vote on draft decision A/44/L.57.

In conclusion, I reaffirm Austria's continuing and unequivocal support for the process of decolonization.

Mr. GRONDAL (Iceland): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. The Nordic countries' abiding commitment to the process of decolonization is well known. That process has very nearly run its course. This is one of the historic achievements of the United Nations.

The Nordic countries voted in favour of draft resolutions A/44/L.55 and L.56. Regrettably, however, we could not do so without certain reservations.

Draft resolution A/44/L.55 contains formulations to which we cannot give our consent. For example, operative paragraph 4 contains formulations which are contrary to the principle upheld by the Nordic countries that, in conformity with its Charter, the United Nations should always encourage peaceful solutions. We also find operative paragraph 9 too categorically formulated. As regards the seventh preambular paragraph, we cannot accept interpretations which are at variance with the responsibilities assigned to the Constituent Assembly in the United Nations settlement plan.

As regards draft resolution A/44/L.56, our vote on operative paragraph 1, regarding the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on Decolonization relating to the dissemination of information should not be interpreted as approval of all specific parts of that chapter.

The Nordic countries abstained in the vote on draft decision A/44/L.57 as a consequence of their vote on last year's resolution on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Furthermore, with regard to the report of the Special Committee of 24 (A/44/23 (Part I)), the Nordic countries have reservations regarding the financial implications of the two seminars proposed in the draft resolution on the Programme of Activities in Observance of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Cuba in his capacity as Vice-Chairman 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.

Mr. ORMAS OLIVA (Cuba), Vice-Chairman 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 (Special Committee of 24): On behalf of the Special Committee of 24, I have the honour of making the following statement.

During the course of our meeting this afternoon the representative of the United Kingdom, whose Government is responsible for the administration of 10 of the remaining 19 Non-Self-Governing Territories, indicated that decolonization has been one of the major success stories of the past four decades. No one will disagree with him in this assessment. At the same time, we are painfully aware that, while a number of former colonial Territories attained independence in peaceful transition, often with the close co-operation of the administering Powers, a number of other Territories had to struggle for recognition of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, at the cost of enormous sacrifice and bloodshed, against the combined forces of the colonialists and vested interests. It is also a matter of record that the United Nations, too, has played a decisive role in that process.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that for Britain the colonial era is long over as most of the former British dependencies have already become independent and a small number have preferred to remain in close association with the United Kingdom. For the United Nations, however, the General Assembly has repeatedly held that the peoples of the remaining island Territories,

(Mr. Oramas Oliva, Vice-Chairman,
Special Committee of 24)

irrespective of their size and population or the paucity of their resources, have the same inherent right to self-determination as others, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration.

In order to ensure that the true aspirations of dependent peoples as regards their future status are expressed fully and without interference, the Assembly has stressed time and again the imperative need for, first, the participation of the administering Power and representatives of the peoples of the Territories concerned in the relevant proceedings of the United Nations bodies; secondly, the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to those Territories in order to ascertain at first hand the true aspirations of the inhabitants; and, thirdly, to associate the United Nations in such acts of self-determination as may be conducted in those Territories in relation to their future status.

On the matter of British non-participation in the related work of the Special Committee of 24, I can only reiterate the repeated appeal addressed to the United Kingdom to reconsider its position and take into account these imperatives set forth by the Assembly.

(Mr. Oramas Oliva, Vice-Chairman,
Special Committee of 24)

We are gratified to note the continued readiness of the United Kingdom to discharge faithfully the obligations it assumed under Article 73 of the Charter. The General Assembly has established the mechanism and procedure for examining the extent of such compliance, and that is precisely the purpose of this annual review. Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, we shall continue to fulfil our responsibilities. Unless the Assembly decides otherwise, we shall not give up until the last Territory falling within the purview of Chapter XI of the Charter is no longer of concern to the Organization.

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 18.

AGENDA ITEM 23

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- (a) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/44/747)
- (b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/44/L.58)

The PRESIDENT: The note by the Secretary-General on the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields has been issued as document A/44/747.

In this connection, the Assembly also has before it a draft resolution (A/44/L.58). A draft resolution (A/44/L.53) and a draft decision (A/44/L.54) previously submitted under this item have been withdrawn.

I call on the representative of Bolivia to introduce draft resolution A/44/L.58.

Mr. NAVAJAS MOGRO (Bolivia) (interpretation from Spanish): It is an honour for me to report to the Assembly the outcome of the consultations on the proposals submitted to the Assembly under this agenda item, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

(Mr. Navajas Mogro, Bolivia)

This issue has been before the General Assembly for several years. Member States are unanimous that there is a need to strengthen the United Nations intergovernmental and secretariat structures in the economic, social and related fields to enable it to address more effectively and efficiently the present and new requirements of the international community. The process, however, has been complex. The Special Commission established by the Economic and Social Council carried out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic, social and related fields, but was unable to reach agreement on a set of measures.

The Economic and Social Council has since 1988 adopted two important resolutions aimed at revitalizing its functions. This process is still continuing, and a number of very important measures have been taken to enable the Council to carry out its responsibilities more effectively.

The General Assembly is considering agenda item 38 at its current session in the light of the work already done as well as the Secretary-General's note (A/44/747). As a result of informal discussions among groups and interested countries, two draft proposals were submitted to the General Assembly. The first (A/44/L.53) was sponsored by Australia, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom. The second (A/44/L.54) was presented by Malaysia on behalf of the Group of 77.

In the light of the convergence of views and the desire of Member States to reach a consensus on the subject, the President of the General Assembly requested me, as a Vice-President of the General Assembly, to facilitate the process of consultations on agenda item 38. A number of informal meetings were held to facilitate an exchange of views on the two draft proposals. I am pleased to report

(Mr. Navajas Mogro, Bolivia)

that as a result of those consultations we have draft resolution A/44/L.58, a merger of the principal elements of the two draft proposals that formed the basis of the consultations. The draft resolution, which maintains the essential thrust of the two texts, is intended to assist the process of bringing about improvements in the structure and functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

The draft resolution reflects the general view that reform is a continuing process and that it is in the common interest of all countries to ensure the effective functioning of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields so that it is more responsive not only to current issues but also to emerging problems and issues, particularly those relating to the development of the developing countries. The draft resolution also reaffirms that the main goal of restructuring and revitalizing the United Nations in those fields is not to make financial savings, but to ensure effective and efficient use of resources in support of the objectives determined by Member States in the economic, social and related fields.

The draft resolution also reflects general agreement on the need to strengthen international co-operation. It recognizes that the intergovernmental deliberations scheduled to take place in the beginning of the 1990s - including, in particular, the special session of the General Assembly on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs; the special session of the Assembly devoted to international economic co-operation, in particular the revitalization of economic growth and development for developing countries; the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries; the elaboration of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade; the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade

(Mr. Navajas Mogro, Bolivia)

and Development, and the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development - will have a big impact on the functioning of the United Nations intergovernmental machinery and secretariat structures in the economic, social and related fields.

The draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, when this matter will again be considered.

The draft resolution also stresses the need for the full implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, including the provisions related to the secretariat support structure of the Council, and requests the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of these resolutions to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1990.

In the informal consultations that I held I found all the principal participants forthcoming and co-operative, which enabled me to present the draft resolution now before the General Assembly. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for their co-operation. I hope that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. CHOO (Malaysia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77.

The Group of 77 wishes to reaffirm the significance it attaches to the question of the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, while taking note of the useful information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

We are witnessing a rapid transformation of the world political and economic situation. There is a lessening of political tension between the two super-Powers, while major developments continue to take place in Eastern Europe. The centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe appear poised to integrate into the world economic grid, while efforts are under way to regionalize developed countries in various ways in both Western Europe and North America. Japan has emerged as a major economic Power. At the same time, the economic gap between the developed and the developing countries has widened in the 1980s.

These developments, have served among other things, to underline the increasing, albeit gradual, realization of the interdependence of the developed and developing countries. Countries, both developed and developing, have been drawn closer in economic linkages, including globalization of financial markets and integration of capital markets. Interdependence indeed holds the key to the future well-being of both developed and developing countries. In this regard, the United Nations system must adapt to these developments shaping the world-wide political and economic environment.

The Group of 77 welcomes the positive response of all countries on development and international co-operation issues, as demonstrated in the United Nations agenda for the early years of the new decade of the 1990s. We wish in particular to refer, inter alia, to the 1990 special session of the General Assembly devoted to

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international economic co-operation, in particular to the revitalization of economic growth and development of the developing countries, the new international development strategy, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the proposed United Nations conference on environment and development and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Given the changing global environment, as well as the United Nations agenda for the 1990s, the Group of 77 recognizes the need for the United Nations system to be more effective and efficient. It was in this spirit that the Group of 77 took the initiative of introducing the draft resolution on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. However, it regrets that the implementation of some parts of the resolution have been delayed. We would like to reiterate the need for urgent implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, on the revitalization and effective functioning of the Council. This would enable the Council to carry out the functions envisaged for it in the Charter. The Group of 77 would like to reiterate the need for a system-wide approach to issues of co-ordination and the reassertion of the policy guidance and co-ordination functions of the Council.

As stated at this year's summer session of the Economic and Social Council during the discussion on the agenda item entitled "Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council", the Group of 77 is ready to engage our partners in a dialogue on the establishment of the multi-year work programme in the context of the Council's in-depth discussion of major policy themes. We would like further streamlining and consolidation of documentation. The specialized agencies, funds and programmes should be further encouraged to provide the Economic and Social Council with analytical summaries and other inputs, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77. By clearly identifying issues and their

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interrelationships and the role in action in their respective areas of various bodies of the United Nations system, our in-depth discussion of major themes can be given an operational content as well as policy direction. The monitoring arrangements, follow-up and reporting procedures also need to be clearly spelt out.

The general thrust of restructuring in the United Nations has been limited, and undertaken generally from the perspective of cutting the budget. The real issue, however, is whether the system of multilateral co-operation is responding to evolving needs and to the objective with the highest priority, namely the development of the developing countries.

The Group of 77 wishes to emphasize at this point the need for care and caution in undertaking reforms, particularly when those reforms affect the interests and concerns of developing countries. In this connection, we wish to stress that committees and bodies which promote the interest of developing countries should not be subsumed, ostensibly on the ground of savings. Instead, some of these bodies should be enhanced and strengthened. We are quite clear that the purpose of such reform is to achieve better and more effective utilization of available resources.

In conclusion, we call upon all countries to make their assessed contributions to the regular budget, as we believe that the efficiency of the United Nations system is also dependent on sound financial underpinnings.

Mr. LEMERLE (France) (interpretation from French): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Community and its member States on that part of agenda item 38, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", set aside for consideration by the General Assembly itself. This part of the agenda concerns the in-depth study of the machinery for intergovernmental co-operation in the economic and social spheres.

(Mr. Lemerle, France)

The way in which our delegations have for years participated in various successive efforts to reform the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations in the economic and social area demonstrates the importance we attach to increasing the efficiency of the Organization in this sphere and our desire to participate in the efforts already under way.

I reaffirm that the Community and its member States believe that one of the essential functions of the Organization is to make possible the exchange and harmonization of the views of all Governments on major problems of economic and social life throughout the world. If this function is carried out properly and in a constructive spirit, political action must find in it a wellspring of inspiration.

(Mr. Lemerle, France)

The structure of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social sector and that of the Secretariat support services must therefore remain constantly under scrutiny, so that nothing may hamper delegations or the Secretariat - in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Trade and Development Board - when they launch constructive and convergent initiatives. That is why we have been taking part in the long series of efforts that are under way, in a variety of fields, to spur on this reform; that is also why, in the final analysis, we agreed to the decision to request a report from the Secretary-General and why we were prepared to support a more detailed and more strongly worded draft resolution than the one which, in the end, after difficult consultations, has now been put to us.

Until the Secretary-General's report has been complemented by practical proposals, and until we have had a chance, at leisure, to go again through this file, which must never be closed, I shall confine myself to recalling what seem to us to be the essential points, which are as follows.

No reform in the rules, the organization or the administrative support concerning our work could, by itself, make up for any lack of interest, on the part of our States, in this work. It is thus up to States to send here representatives who are well prepared and ready to work effectively at exchanging and reconciling views, so that our respective political endeavours in this work may be truly inspired.

Structural reform of the Organization, then, is not enough. But it is necessary. There are too many bodies that no longer attract to their regular, routine sessions anyone except members of Permanent Missions, and national experts remain indifferent. Too often the same group of representatives deal with the same subjects without taking the time to consider them in depth or to go into ways

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of making progress. We make poor use of Secretariat resources. The cost-effectiveness ratio of what we do in the economic and social field should be much improved. Above all, constructive criticism of our machinery, our methods and our participation should be a constant feature.

That is the positive and forward-looking attitude we should like to maintain and to have others share.

Mr. WILENSKI (Australia): On this occasion I speak on behalf of the delegations of Australia and New Zealand.

At the time of the creation of the United Nations an innovative feature of the new Organization, hailed as one of the very considerable improvements on the discredited League of Nations, was that it would deal not only with political but also with economic and social issues. It was recognized for the first time, through the Charter of the United Nations, not only that political, economic and social issues were closely interconnected, not only that economic and social issues often lay at the root of political differences, but also that international co-operation on economic and social issues in the post-war world would be essential and could be highly productive.

The political effectiveness of the United Nations has at different times waxed and waned, and some of its structures have been adapted or augmented as changing circumstances demanded. But we must note with regret that the United Nations has never been as effective in the economic and social sectors - with the important exception of considerable progress made in the human-rights area - as its founders would have wished and expected. This is not to say that the operational agencies have not done extraordinarily valuable work. But the economic and social policy-making organs have never exercised the influence and authority that were anticipated.

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

It is commonplace to note that today the United Nations, in its political activities, has entered a new period of revitalization and accomplishment. The Organization has seized the opportunities presented by a thawing of the cold war to act vigorously in a number of situations in different parts of the world.

Regrettably, however, this revitalization of the political sector places in stark relief the relative lack of progress and accomplishment in the economic sector. When considered alongside the great range of economic and social problems faced today, particularly by developing countries, this creates a new urgency in the need to examine and to reform decision-making, within the Organization, on economic and social issues. Without concerted action to ensure that the economic and social sectors of the United Nations are fulfilling their mandates, the Organization will be able to hobble forward only on one leg. Without such concerted action, there is a danger that ineffectiveness in one major area could prejudice continued success in other areas.

What we now need to focus on is improving the effectiveness of the economic and social sectors. What we now need to ensure is that the discussions and the decisions in the Organization are effective in influencing the actual policies being pursued by Member States and in influencing the realities of economic life. Our delegations are not as much concerned by the repetitiousness of the economic debate in different forums with overlapping mandates - though it would obviously be desirable if debate could be more singularly focused - as by the fact that the debate, no matter how often repeated, does not have an appreciable impact on economic decision-making where it counts.

Before we can discuss the reform of these closely interrelated economic and social sectors we therefore need to be very clear about the results that we expect

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of them. Our delegations consider that the economic and social areas of the United Nations systems should be: forward-looking, accountable and responsive to the changing needs of Member States; productive of high-quality relevant advice which has impact and authority; and productive of programmes which are well co-ordinated and avoid duplication, both at Headquarters and at field level.

Once Member States have, together, identified and agreed on the detailed and priority objectives in the economic and social fields for the 1990s and beyond, decisions can be taken on the structures which are best suited to attain those objectives. Form should follow function.

Of course, reform will make no difference unless there is a political will to make effective use of the relevant organs of the United Nations and to conduct discussions in these organs on all issues and at an appropriate level. This is a central point that we would emphasize: there is little purpose in improving the structures unless we are prepared to use them. But progress on the issues should go hand in hand with progress on structural reform. Without political will, results will not be achieved, whatever the structure; but without the appropriate structure, political will can be rendered ineffective.

These are the big issues we face. Debate on reform has in the recent past been coloured by the fact that the principal forces behind it appeared to many to be solely concerned with cutting costs. That approach may well have been relevant to some at that time, but this is not our focus today - indeed, we believe that any costs which might be saved in the process should be reinvested in other high-priority economic and social areas. Our focus today, and from now on, should be on improving the effectiveness of the overall Organization.

(Mr. Wilenski, Australia)

We recognize that, unfortunately, debate on this issue is still troubled by the legacy of the immediate past, but we do believe that in the longer term, that is, over the next few years, with this new focus we should be able to tackle the big issues. In the longer term, we should be deciding which problems are best dealt with in the economic and social bodies and what results we expect. The special session on economic co-operation and development should be an important event in shaping those expectations. We should then be ready to examine and take decisions on the most appropriate relationship between the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and its various committees, as well as on the workings of the subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the various regional and functional commissions, and indeed whether any new high-level body is necessary.

In the end, we believe, there must be consensus on a cohesive package of changes to be implemented in an agreed order and over an agreed time frame. There must also be a clear and explicit strategy for implementation, to support and guide what will inevitably be a difficult process and an agreed review mechanism which from time to time analyses and reports on progress on the agreed package.

What I have been raising are the issues which it seems to our delegations the Organization will need to face in the medium term. We have no illusions about how ambitious such an approach is, how difficult progress will be or how much time it will need. However, while informal discussions continue on these larger issues, we believe it is also worth while to continue progress at an immediate level, both because the changes that are being sought are worth while in themselves and because the experience of co-operation and, we trust, success at this level will make it easier for us to make progress on the major issues.

In this context, we must acknowledge that the latest round of reform activity on the United Nations economic and social sectors, beginning with the report of the

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Group of 18, has made only slow progress. The exercise was fundamentally endangered from the beginning because there was no universally shared understanding of the objectives of reform. Yet, slowly, we have moved ahead. The Special Commission pointed to areas where more work could usefully be done. This year and last, the Economic and Social Council took important decisions to improve its own effectiveness, and work on the "revitalization" of the Economic and Social Council continues. We were also encouraged by a unanimously expressed desire at the forty-third session of the General Assembly, in resolution 43/174, to continue to search for ways and means to promote organizational reform.

In this respect, therefore, we were particularly disappointed by the very limited nature and scope of the Secretary-General's note (A/44/747) and the failure to provide the detailed report requested in resolution 43/174. Incidentally, the Secretary-General's note is numbered 747. It may once have been a 747, but I think it now more resembles a stripped-down Fokker Friendship, and I doubt that we could fly anywhere in it.

We also join in the consensus on the draft resolution before us today but we must admit to more than a little disappointment that the steps forward it takes are not larger ones. We should have liked to see something less general and more substantive.

Nevertheless, the draft resolution does keep the way open to further measures, and we believe that these should be approached with many of the same elements as I have just outlined: that is, there should be a focus on effectiveness; any financial savings which happen to result from structural programme alterations should be reinvested in priority programmes as an integral part of the change process, and there should be a strategy for implementation. In that way useful progress can be made.

It is most important that review and reform work should stay in front of us as

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part of our regular agenda. Thus we support the draft resolution as a means to develop further confidence and co-operation among delegations and look forward to some future occasion when the Assembly will examine in depth the major issues encompassed under this item.

Mr. TELMANN (Norway): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway.

An important stage in the United Nations reform process was reached when the Fifth Committee reviewed the implementation of resolution 41/213 under this same agenda item 38, several weeks ago. On that occasion, the Nordic countries expressed their general satisfaction with the implementation of the specifically agreed measures but stressed that reform was an ongoing process and that much remained to be done.

An important element in the package that was agreed in resolution 41/213 was a decision to undertake a thorough review of the functioning of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, which consume the lion's share of the Organization's resources. The Special Commission, which was established to conduct that review, completed only part of its task, and the most important part of the work, in the form of conclusions, recommendations and follow-up, still remains to be done.

Let me stress that the Nordic countries do not view the reform process, which must be a continuous one, as an exercise aimed at achieving further savings in the budget. If reforms result in cost savings, these funds should be invested in priority programmes. Furthermore, more efficient machinery would better justify demands for increased resource allocations. We do believe, however, that the tasks of the Organization will multiply and increase in importance, and that the resources available to carry them out will continue to be limited. It is therefore essential that they be used as efficiently as possible and with a reasonable sense of priority.

(Mr. Tellmann, Norway)

The Nordic countries expect the Secretary-General to play a crucial role in the reform efforts, especially in the light of the partial failure of the Special Commission in its work. This applies not only to carrying out necessary reforms on a continuing basis and ensuring that resources are used as efficiently as possible within the Secretariat itself but also to making reform proposals and recommendations regarding the intergovernmental machinery. A request to that end was addressed to the Secretary-General in last year's resolution 43/174.

The Nordic countries regret the failure to produce a comprehensive report with substantive reform proposals to this General Assembly. Instead of the report, we have received a note by the Secretary-General in which the issue of concrete reform proposals is more or less postponed, to be considered in the light of the special session and the international development strategy.

We wish at this juncture to recall some points submitted to the Secretary-General by the Nordic countries last April in response to his request.

First, we should try to identify and assign priority to those problem areas that best lend themselves to multilateral solutions and where, consequently, the United Nations can play the most useful role.

Secondly, a new look should be taken at the roles of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Reports to the Economic and Social Council from subsidiary bodies must be transmitted to the General Assembly only if it is explicitly decided to do so. The role of the Economic and Social Council as a "filter" for reports, resolutions and topics should be strengthened. This would make it possible for the General Assembly to concentrate its attention on major policy issues confronting the international community. In this context, we should like to reiterate that the Nordic countries attach great importance to the biennialization of work programmes and meetings.

(Mr. Tellmann, Norway)

Thirdly, the subsidiary bodies are generally seen to be functioning satisfactorily but certain bodies would benefit from wider participation by experts and some could no doubt be phased out and their tasks be taken over by others. The Economic and Social Council itself should be given an expanded role with regard to policies and co-ordination within the fields which will be subject to reform.

We urge the Director-General, who has now been charged by the Secretary-General with the responsibility of providing a substantive report, to identify concrete areas for improvement of the United Nations machinery in the economic and social fields.

Since the Nordic countries do feel that further reform measures are overdue we had expected at least some reform decisions at this session of the General Assembly. The draft resolution the Assembly will adopt today does not in any way go as far as we should have liked in this regard. It does, however, serve the purpose of sustaining the reform process and contain certain elements that provide some basis for intensified efforts in the future.

Next year, it is to be hoped, will see the successful conclusion of three very important exercises in the economic field: the special session of the General Assembly devoted to revitalization of growth and development, particularly in developing countries; the second conference on the least developed countries; and the adoption of a new international development strategy for the 1990s. These three exercises, perhaps in particular the strategy, will, it is to be hoped, succeed in establishing an agreed agenda for the United Nations system, with some indication of priorities. They should also generate a political will leading to stronger commitment by the Member States to the United Nations, thereby providing needed impetus to further reform efforts to reflect the new emerging spirit in the dialogue between the developing and the developed countries. Next year's General Assembly session will therefore be an opportune moment to take up again in earnest

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the broader reform issues and to see where we need to change or sharpen our tools in order to achieve common objectives.

Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Tunisia): Speaking on behalf of the delegation of Tunisia I wish to underline the critical importance we attach to the question of the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields in an era characterized by a rapid and almost unexpected acceleration of events.

The world seems now to have entered a period of great political and economic transformations provoked by the progressive establishment of a new global equilibrium. That equilibrium is, however, accompanied by unprecedented domestic and international imbalances and by an increasing gap between industrialized and developing countries. While interdependence becomes an increasingly inescapable fact of life, it happens also to be more inequitable. Such a situation undeniably constitutes one of the most complex and urgent challenges to the international community, to the United Nations and to the United Nations system as a whole.

The adaptation of the system in the economic, social and related fields appears to remain a priority to which all Member States seem to be attached, particularly the developing ones, as demonstrated by the leadership role they continue to play under the aegis of the Group of 77 Chairmanship, presided over by Ambassador Razali of Malaysia, whose delegation has just addressed the Assembly on behalf of the Group.

The Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council created by the Council's resolution 1987/112 in implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 was unable - although the in-depth study of the economic and social sector of the United Nations was performed with great seriousness and efficiency - to reach any conclusion because of the then current unsupportive political environment and of the related lack of relevance of the Commission's

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mandate. That explains why the developing countries, within the framework of the Group of 77, initiated a set of ideas and proposals which, finally, gained the acceptance of the developed countries members of the Economic and Social Council in the first instance, and then of the universal membership of the General Assembly itself.

That endeavour led to the adoption, without a vote, of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, on the revitalization of the Council and of its central co-ordinating role system-wide, and of General Assembly resolution 43/174.

The Assembly is meeting today to consider the note prepared by the Secretary-General in implementation of resolution 43/174, on the basis of consultations with all member States and of the outcome of the 1989 discussions by the Economic and Social Council itself on its revitalization.

It is significant that the relationship between the exercises performed respectively by the Assembly and the Council had already been established as a successful attempt to delink efforts devoted by most to achieve a genuine reform of the economic and social sector from those which were designed to erode further the effectiveness and uniqueness of the United Nations and of multilateralism and which led to the financial crisis and non-adherence to assessed contributions obligations under the Charter.

The delegation of Tunisia considers that the effective implementation of any review, reform or other restructuring of the intergovernmental structure in the economic, social and related fields and of their secretariat support structures depends primarily on the willingness of Member States to utilize fully the United Nations and its structure in those fields.

In this regard it could be of some interest to note that after significant emphasis was placed by the membership on the relevance and uniqueness of the

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Organization in contributing to the solution of regional conflicts and in ensuring peace-making and peace-keeping as a manifestation of the relaxation of East-West relations, the same Member States seem finally resolved to resort to the United Nations for the addressing of questions on which the Organization's competence has been constantly denied during the 1980s.

For the record we wish to mention in this context the emerging consensus on development and international economic co-operation issues like the 1990 special session of the General Assembly on the revitalization of economic growth and development of developing countries, the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations decade for development, the 1992 United Nations conference on Environment and development, the special session of the General Assembly on narcotics, or issues such as driftnet fishing and its impact on marine living resources, or external indebtedness of developing countries.

Priority should therefore continue to be given to strengthening further the effectiveness of the economic, social and related sectors of the United Nations and to its co-operation with the various institutions of the system, on the basis of their complementarity and in order to increase their impact on the world economy, through efficient support and promotion of the socio-economic development of developing countries and of multilateral co-ordination of the international economic system.

The central co-ordinating role of the United Nations system is one of the major prerogatives of the Economic and Social Council under the Charter.

(Mr. El Ghouayel, Tunisia)

Full implementation of resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, without further delay, is therefore of the utmost importance. My delegation is particularly concerned about the delays in the efforts in this regard, including the implementation of the provisions relating in particular to the preparation of consolidated reports and executive summaries of the various agencies of the United Nations system, and to the establishment of a separate and identifiable secretariat support structure for the Council.

The delegation of Tunisia wishes to underscore its agreement with the proposal made by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution 43/174. As a matter of fact, my delegation has stated repeatedly that any in-depth reform, to be realistic, viable and effective, would have to be based on agreed priorities for the 1990s. Taking into account the fact that the priorities in the economic and social field for the next decade are to be set by a number of crucial meetings that are to take place from 1990 to 1992, premature action could damage and prejudice the results expected from such a complex process.

The special session of the General Assembly, which is to take place in April 1990, the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which is to take place in September 1990, the international development strategy to be adopted during the forty-fifth session of the Assembly, the final assessment of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, which is to take place at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in 1991, and finally, the United Nations conference on environment and development, which is to take place in 1992, are the main mechanisms designed for this purpose.

In concluding this statement the delegation of Tunisia wishes to recall that the General Assembly is at present considering the final report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 41/213. Implementation of

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that resolution depends on the restoration of the financial health of the Organization, its viability and effectiveness.

Finally, with regard to one major aspect of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, my delegation considers that the secretariat support structure of the Council, provided for by resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, should be placed under the direct authority of the Secretary-General.

We express the hope that the General Assembly will be in a position to take a decision on this matter, as well as on other matters related to the subject under consideration today, including the venue of the various sessions of the Council, with a view to increasing the participation of Member States and ensuring greater consistency in the economic and social activities of the United Nations system as a whole.

We also wish here to express once more the full support of Tunisia and of its President, Mr. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, to the Secretary-General, with whom privileged relations have always been entertained. The recent special visit of President Ben Ali, from 11 to 13 November 1989, to the Organization and its Secretary-General symbolizes the height of that co-operation, which is based on confidence, active reciprocal support, and faith in the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. We are therefore confident that the Secretary-General will continue to contribute actively and systematically to the strengthening of the role of the Organization, particularly in the economic, social and related sectors.

The Tunisian delegation, as a member of the Group of 77, supports the draft resolution which was negotiated under the highly competent direction of Ambassador Navajas Mogro of Bolivia.

Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) (interpretation from Chinese): I wish first of all to express thanks to the Secretary-General for providing, under item 38, his note on the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. I should like to present some of our views on the restructuring of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields.

The restructuring in the economic and social fields has proceeded simultaneously with reforms in the political field and in the fields of budgetary procedure, and personnel management. Although the achievements in the economic and social fields are not fully satisfying, some progress has been made.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Council, by its resolution 1987/112, established the Special Commission on the In-Depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the economic and social fields. Under the guidance of the Bureau headed by Ambassador Badawi, the Commission held 36 official meetings and a number of informal meetings within a period of 15 months, studied in great depth the functioning of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields and existing problems, and presented a report on its work, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

As a result of the work of the Commission, Member States have gained a better understanding and greater knowledge of the economic and social system of the United Nations. On the basis of such common understanding, the Council, at its 1988 and 1989 summer sessions, adopted two resolutions on the revitalization of its work. The resolutions contain some clearly stated provisions with regard to the formulation of policy, monitoring, operational activities, work programmes and co-ordination, working methods and arrangements, and further measures for their implementation. This is commendable. This year, the Council, under the chairmanship of Ambassador Mortensen, made a successful attempt to increase the

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efficiency of its work and to save time. It may therefore be said that the Economic and Social Council has taken a practical step towards its revitalization. At the same time, however, we should not overlook the fact that the stipulations in the aforementioned resolutions have not yet been carried out accurately and adequately. The most outstanding case in point is the delay in the distribution of documents at this summer's session of the Council, which made it impossible for the Council to conclude its deliberations on some important issues on schedule, thereby hampering the work process and adding to the work-load of the current session of the General Assembly. Apart from this, a lot still remains to be done with regard to making proper use of the existing mechanisms for effective co-ordination and monitoring of various activities, ensuring and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the secretariat structure, and improving the organizational work of the Council. We must, therefore persevere and continue to put forth efforts.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to state once more the position of the Chinese delegation on this subject. The Chinese Government has always supported all reasonable proposals and recommendations with regard to streamlining the structure of the Organization, increasing its efficiency and effectiveness, and strengthening its role. We are in favour of streamlining, merging and consolidating certain structures, but haste will not yield good results. We have to proceed with caution. Furthermore, the streamlining process needs a set of appropriate criteria and should be implemented only after consensus has been achieved and practical steps have been planned. The purpose of the streamlining is to strengthen, not to weaken, the role of the United Nations.

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We believe that the restructuring in the economic and social fields is already off to a good start. We support the two draft resolutions on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. It is our hope that all parties concerned will make a concerted effort to implement them fully.

In co-operating with other parties to advance the reform process, we shall continue to take an attitude that is serious, responsible, positive and flexible, as well as practicable. We are ready to participate in discussions and consultations and to offer our comments and proposals on concrete issues.

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to take a decision on this proposal, I shall quote from rule 78 of the rules of procedure in regard to proposals before the Assembly:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

In view of the limited time available and the desire of members to dispose of this item expeditiously, I would like to suggest that, with the concurrence of the Assembly, we proceed to take a decision on draft resolution A/44/L.58 even though it has been circulated only this morning.

If I hear no objection I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to my proposal.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/44/L.58?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 44/103).

The PRESIDENT: We have concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 38.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: The next plenary meetings of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session will take place on Friday, 15 December, when the Assembly will consider First and Third Committee reports and the appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit and of the Committee on Conferences.

During the special session, the Second and Fifth Committees of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session will continue to meet as required.

The meeting rose at 6.55 p.m.