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Agenda item 39

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Antonio HOUAISS (Brazil)

1. Subsequent to the adoption of its report on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/4997), the Fourth Committee considered outstanding matters under sub-item (c), General questions relating to the transmission of and examination of information, from its 1251st to 1254th meetings.

2. At the 1251st meeting, the Chairman announced the receipt of a request from Mr. Cheddi Jagan, Premier of British Guiana, for permission to address the Fourth Committee on 18 December 1961.

3. At the same meeting, the Committee decided, without objection, to grant Mr. Jagan a hearing, leaving open the question of the capacity in which he would address the Committee.

4. At the 1252nd meeting, the Chairman stated that Mr. Jagan had expressed the wish to address the Committee in the capacity of a petitioner.

5. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that, as there was a grave implication of a major question of principle involved, his delegation would not take part in the proceedings, if the Committee decided that Mr. Jagan could address it as a petitioner. He reserved the position of his Government in the matter.

6. Following statements by a number of representatives, a motion for the closure of debate was moved by the representative of Poland.

7. The Committee approved the motion for closure of debate by a roll-call vote of 33 to 21, with 21 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Argentina, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ceylon, Congo (Leopoldville), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Chile, China, Congo (Brazzaville), Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritania, Nigeria, Panama, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela.

8. Following further discussion, the Chairman ruled that Mr. Jagan could appear before the Committee as a petitioner. Mr. Jagan then addressed the Committee[1] and answered questions.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it a joint draft resolution submitted by Cuba, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia (A/C.4/L.728).

10. This joint draft resolution, in its operative paragraphs, would have the General Assembly: (1) request the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of British Guiana to resume negotiations immediately with a view to reaching agreement on the date of independence for British Guiana, bearing in mind the wishes of the people of British Guiana as expressed by their Parliament; and (2) request the Special Committee appointed by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 to consider the question of independence for British Guiana at the earliest possible stage of its operation, and report on the results of these considerations to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

11. The Committee discussed joint draft resolution A/C.4/L.728 at its 1254th and 1255th meetings.

1/ See A/C.4/515.

12. At the 1255th meeting the representative of India informed the Committee that, in a spirit of compromise, the co-sponsors had decided to suggest that further discussion of their joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.728) be postponed until the resumed session of the sixteenth session of the General Assembly. This proposal was accepted by the Committee.

13. At the 1255th meeting, the Committee also had before it a joint draft resolution (A/C.4/L.729) submitted by Burma, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Mali, Morocco, Philippines, United Arab Republic and Yugoslavia.

14. This draft resolution, in its operative paragraphs, would have the General Assembly: (1) request the Special Committee established by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, to consider whether the territory of Southern Rhodesia had attained a full measure of self-government; and (2) request the Special Committee to report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session on this matter.

15. On the recommendation of the representatives of Ghana, India and the United Arab Republic, the Committee decided to recommend postponement of the consideration of the draft resolution (A/C.4/L.729) until the resumed session of the General Assembly.

16. In the light of these recommendations, the Chairman announced that she would convey to the General Assembly the desire of the Committee to continue the discussion of item 39 of the agenda of the General Assembly at its resumed session.

17. The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America reserved the positions of their Governments with regard to the consideration of these two draft resolutions.