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

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Report of the Fourth Committee (part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. James E.K. AGGREY-ORLEANS (Ghana)

1. At its 1676th plenary meeting, on 27 September 1968, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/7250), decided to include in the agenda of its twenty-third session an item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and to allocate to the Fourth Committee those chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories.
2. At its 1758th meeting, on 1 October, the Fourth Committee decided that the chapter of the Special Committee's report relating to Southern Rhodesia (A/7200/Add.1) should be taken up separately and as the first item on its agenda.
3. At the 1759th meeting, on 7 October, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee introduced the chapter of that Committee's report concerning Southern Rhodesia.
4. The Fourth Committee considered this question at its 1759th, 1760th and 1762nd to 1772nd meetings, from 7 to 25 October.
5. The general debate on the question took place at the 1759th, 1760th and 1762nd to 1771st meetings, from 7 to 23 October.

6. At its 1760th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee considered a request for hearing from Mr. Robert John, President of the International Council for Rhodesia (A/C.4/706). At the same meeting, the Committee agreed, by consensus, not to accede to this request. At its 1765th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee considered a request for hearing from Mr. Robin H. James (A/C.4/706/Add.1). At the same meeting, the Committee decided, without objection, not to accede to the request.

7. At its 1771st meeting, on 23 October, on the proposal of the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking on behalf of African and Asian delegations of the Fourth Committee, the Committee agreed to consider, as a matter of urgency, a first draft resolution dealing with a specific aspect of the question. At the same meeting, the representatives of Mauritania, Zambia, and India introduced a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.908) which was finally sponsored by the following Member States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Barbados, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cyprus, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia and Zambia (A/C.4/L.908/Rev.1).

8. At the 1772nd meeting, on 25 October, the Representative of Ghana, on behalf of the sponsors, submitted an oral revision to the draft resolution, by which, in operative paragraph 2, the words "any independence to Southern Rhodesia" were replaced by the words "any form of independence in Southern Rhodesia".

9. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee adopted the revised draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 87 to 2, with 16 abstentions (see paragraph 12 below). The result of the voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Ceylon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Portugal, South Africa.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee decided that, in view of the urgency of the matter, the revised draft resolution should be submitted without delay to the General Assembly for consideration.

11. Another report covering the Committee's further consideration of the question of Southern Rhodesia will be submitted at a later date as an addendum to the present document.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

12. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of Southern Rhodesia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 ~~containing~~ the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling further all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and by the Security Council concerning the question of Southern Rhodesia,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of the people of Zimbabwe to self-determination, freedom and independence,

Considering that any independence without a government elected by a majority of the people of Zimbabwe is contrary to the provisions and objectives of resolution 1514 (XV),

1. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland not to grant independence to Southern Rhodesia unless it is preceded by the establishment of a government based on free elections by universal adult suffrage and on majority rule;

2. Calls upon all States not to recognize any form of independence in Southern Rhodesia without the prior establishment of a government based on majority rule in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).