

take the legitimate rights of the inhabitants of the Territories into consideration. The enormous profits that they made were not invested in order to improve the economic and social conditions of the indigenous people but went to the benefit of foreign interests, which in turn helped to keep the colonial régimes in power. The foreign companies were exploiting not only the natural resources but also the indigenous labour.

36. Venezuela's position on the item was clear: it was opposed to foreign investments which were not of benefit to the indigenous people of the colonial Territories and to the manipulations of the monopolies that were prejudicial

to the genuine aspirations of the indigenous peoples, and it fully supported the inalienable right of the colonial Territories to political independence and to sovereignty over their natural resources.

37. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the closure of the list of speakers in the general debate should be postponed until 6 p.m.

*It was so agreed.*

*The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.*

## 2059th meeting

Wednesday, 14 November 1973, at 10.55 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Leonardo DIAZ GONZALEZ (Venezuela).

A/C.4/SR.2059

### AGENDA ITEM 73

**Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid, and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued) (A/9023 (part III), A/9061)**

#### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mrs. JIMENEZ (Cuba) said that it was clear from recent United States policy in Africa that the changes caused in the world by the rise of socialism and national liberation were obliging the class enemy to readjust its techniques: it frequently tried to resolve the contradictions inherent in capitalist imperialism by resorting to its well-known means of brutal repression, ranging from genocide practised against the peoples of the third world to the overthrow of popular Governments by fascist soldiers, recent examples of which had occurred in Cambodia and Chile respectively.

2. The argument that investments in the third world were such a small fraction of the gross national product of the United States that they could not justify its intervention in under-developed countries was easy to refute, because it was not a question of the quantity of investments but of their quality and because private interests exerted all their influence on the imperialist State to intervene in support of those interests. What was involved was a world-wide system, a mechanism with several separate parts: an attack on one part could be amply justified if there was a danger that that part might be lost and that a chain reaction might be set in motion.

3. In an official document from Washington, on which she would base her remarks, it was stated that between 1968 and 1972 United States policy with regard to Africa and its 41 independent States had emphasized the importance of economic and social development. That document contained the observation that a developing Africa represented a more stable partner for trade and investment. United States companies were playing an increasingly important role in relations between the United States and the African countries, whose leaders welcomed the contributions of United States investors to the economic growth of their countries. According to that same document, so-called bilateral economic assistance from the United States to Africa had amounted to \$397.5 million in 1972, according to official spokesmen in Washington, was the highest level since 1963. At a joint conference organized in October 1972 on opportunities for trade and investments in the developing countries of Africa, the former Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, had warned the African countries not to change the rules in the middle of the game, in other words, not to take measures which could affect United States investors, a warning which was in contrast with the statement that the United States did not establish any ideological barriers in its relations with African Governments.

4. It was worth pointing out that imperialism was a specific form of organization of capitalist production, reproduction and expansion derived from the concentration and centralization of capital, that it exercised monopolistic and oligopolistic control over market prices and that it therefore inevitably stimulated authoritarian and aggressive control in all spheres of social life. The exercise of imperialist power had many facets: internally, from fascist dictatorships to constitutionally elected governments, and externally, from extreme forms of direct administration to covert indirect administration following political independence and even with a small measure of economic auton-

5. According to the principles governing the development of the world-wide system of capitalism, such development would always have to be uneven: the cities developed at the expense of the countryside, some industrial regions grew at the expense of others, and a handful of countries, which had been the first advanced countries at the end of the previous century, grew at the expense of others which were already backward at that time. Mr. Rogers, in saying that a developing Africa represented a more stable partner for trade and investment, was perhaps referring to the fact that imperialist capitalism combined development with under-development and the rapid growth of some nations with the delayed growth of others.

6. High officials in the United States Department spoke of "substantial United States contributions to multilateral aid programmes in Africa". That referred to the famous multinational corporations which tried to guarantee themselves a sequence of markets at different levels of economic development so that their monopolistic positions in the more developed markets were complemented and secured by a monopoly of the markets of the under-developed world.

7. On rare occasions, capitalist imperialism supposedly assisted in the industrialization of an under-developed country by exporting public capital to it, but that did not alter qualitatively or quantitatively the nature of the trade exchange between the under-developed world and economic imperialism. By sending public capital, the imperialist State was creating an additional market for key sectors of monopolistic capital which exported machinery and equipment for the installation of industries. Imperialism tried to alter the international division of labour, specializing in some "semi-colonies" in branches of light industry which used machinery and equipment from the imperialist countries. The favoured "semi-colony"—whose Government was in general obliged to pay the "empire" in political terms and by acting in some measure as a satellite policeman in its region—in fact continued to be victimized in economic terms. In the case of Africa, that type of unequal interchange increased the degree of exploitation of the continent by multinational corporations, the majority of which were under the remote control of United States financial capital and indirectly controlled through the so-called "development assistance" which was publicly proclaimed by the ruling imperialist State, the United States.

8. According to official United States sources, direct investment of United States capital in Africa was concentrated in the extractive, mining and petroleum industries. The distribution was: 73 per cent in the petroleum sector, 13 per cent in mining and foundries, and the remainder in industrial and agro-industrial projects. Investments had totalled \$3 thousand million since 1969. The United States bought tropical agricultural products and minerals from Africa and Africa bought equipment and considerable quantities of cereals from the United States. The State Department report added that Eximbank had in recent years granted loans and guarantees to the African countries amounting to \$750 million—to buy United States goods. However, if, as Mr. Rogers said, the rules were changed in the middle of the game or rather if the limits of United

States tolerance were exceeded, then the United States was also prepared to overthrow the order, intervene in the internal affairs of any African State and involve their intelligence services in plotting conspiracies against national liberation and progress towards socialism.

9. The imperialists and colonialists had used Africa, Asia and Latin America to extract raw materials and consequently to exploit its natural resources. The case of Puerto Rico had already begun to be studied by the United Nations and was a current example of United States colonial domination in the continent. Apart from the control which the United States Congress held over such aspects of Puerto Rican life as foreign relations, communications, nationality and citizenship, emigration and immigration, internal and external trade, salaries, labour legislation, etc., United States multinational corporations controlled 80 per cent of Puerto Rico's economy.

10. Mr. KATZEN (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that the remarks of the Cuban delegate had nothing to do with the item under discussion and were, therefore, out of order.

11. Mrs. JIMENEZ (Cuba) continued by saying that the recent installation of a superport, together with a vast network of refineries and petrochemical complexes, represented the culmination of the ambition of United States imperialism on the American continent.

12. Mr. KATZEN (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that, while he was not requesting a decision on the Chairman's part, he maintained that the observations of the representative of Cuba were totally unrelated to the item under consideration. He asked the Chairman to request the speaker to confine her observations to item 73. He also asked that his delegation's objections should be recorded in the summary record.

13. The CHAIRMAN pointed out to the representative of the United States that both the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had adopted resolutions on the application of the Declaration to the case of Puerto Rico, as could be seen from chapter I of the report of the Special Committee (see A/9023 (part I), paras. 75-85). The observations of the representative of Cuba were, therefore, within the scope of item 73. The observations of the United States representative would, of course, be reflected in the summary record of the meeting.

14. Mrs. JIMENEZ (Cuba) went on to say that the superport would be used to unload, refine and reload petroleum, aluminum and other minerals. The petroleum would come mainly from the Persian Gulf. The United States Government had selected Puerto Rico for that purpose for various reasons, among others because of the depth of its waters for deep-draught vessels, the tax exemptions the United States consortiums that owned the vast industrial complex would have and, therefore, the consummation of the total annihilation of the yearnings of the Puerto Rican people for independence. However, that superport was threatening to cause the destruction of the

ecology, the total exhaustion of the water reserves of the country, the degeneration of the flora, fauna, marine life and human life, the contamination of the environment, the impoverishment of the most fertile land in the country, the reduction of energy productivity and the forced emigration of thousands of Puerto Ricans who would be directly affected.

15. Those activities had caused such concern that the Special Committee, at its 948th meeting, had adopted a resolution (*ibid.*, para. 84), in paragraph 2 of which it had requested the Government of the United States of America to refrain from taking any measures which might obstruct the full and free exercise by the people of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, as well as their economic, social and other rights, and in particular to prevent any violation of those rights by bodies corporate under its jurisdiction. In paragraphs 3 and 4, the Special Committee had requested the Rapporteur to collect all pertinent information on the question and had decided to keep the question under continuous review. It should be remembered that, when they had appeared before the Special Committee at its 943rd and 944th meetings, representatives of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and the Puerto Rican Independence Party had requested that a visiting mission should be sent to Puerto Rico to study the situation and to collect relevant information (*ibid.*, para. 81).

16. Despite the pressures of United States imperialism, the Puerto Rican people had for many years been trying to obtain independence. In the long run, Puerto Rico would join the community of free and independent Latin American nations, whatever price it might have to pay.

17. Mrs. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone) thanked the Committee for having agreed to the Special Committee's request that it should discuss the question of foreign economic activities as a separate agenda item. That question formed the main foundation on which the whole problem of colonialism was built, since the colonies which had been established had been the direct result of trade, and the perpetuation of colonialism in Africa and other parts of the world had its roots in foreign economic exploitation.

18. She hoped that other delegations would participate in the debate, especially those from countries whose nationals were engaged in economic activities in southern Africa. It would be interesting to hear their views on economic exploitation as it currently existed in the colonial Territories and on the opinions expressed in the discussion, for it was often said in the Committee that Governments could not prevent their nationals from investing wherever they wished.

19. The Portuguese, like other colonialists, had always regarded the African labour force as one of the colonial resources to be exploited for the benefit of the colonialists. In the Territories under Portuguese administration the following six types of labour could be defined: correctional labour, which was imposed instead of a prison sentence and which was generally unpaid; obligatory labour, which was the result of a Government order in 1947 decreeing that all natives must work for six months in the year, and for which payment was usually very low; contract labour, usually

between employer and employee, which was also paid at very low rates; voluntary labour, which was confined to domestic work and was carried out mainly in the towns; forced labour, in which the employee was paid not for his work but for the product; export labour, in which workers were sent abroad, mainly to South Africa, in return for various payments to the Portuguese Government.

20. In those Territories, the practice of forced labour was rationalized as a way of making the lazy African civilize himself through work. Based on the assumption that the African must not remain idle, and in the absence of effective curbs on the power of the local officials to administer the system, Africans were sent to work in the South African mines, on the roads and plantations of Mozambique and on the cotton plantations. The South African Government guaranteed that nearly 50 per cent of sea-borne import traffic to the Johannesburg area would pass through Lourenço Marques in return for the privilege of recruiting an average of 100,000 workers per year. Portugal also received a bonus payment for each worker recruited, which consisted of half of his wages, to be paid on his return to Mozambique. The result of that labour migration to South Africa and, on a lesser scale, to Southern Rhodesia was that about two thirds of the mature able-bodied men of southern Mozambique were employed in so-called foreign Territories.

21. The working conditions on the plantations in Mozambique were deplorable. She was sure that, if share-holders of different companies operating in Mozambique and Angola knew what their investments in Africa entailed, they would need no legislation to prevent them from participating in an enterprise that could spell so much misery to so many people.

22. Her delegation was not opposed to investments or exploitation of natural resources as long as those activities had the over-all effect of training and benefiting the indigenous population and of involving them as partners in the enterprises. That was not the case, however, in the Territories under Portuguese administration, where efforts to increase exports of minerals had led to a lack of development in the industrial sector, which, in turn, affected the local inhabitants by depriving them of the opportunity of obtaining industrial employment and acquiring more complex skills. Similarly, the accelerated exploitation of petroleum in Angola led to a depletion of an energy source which was of great importance for the future development of the Territory and that activity provided the Portuguese authorities with increased revenues, which were used to support their repressive activities against the liberation movements. When that exploitation attracted foreign economic interests, thus accelerating even further the process of depletion of the Territory's natural resources, her delegation could not but condemn such activities strongly and unreservedly.

23. The Republic of South Africa was one of the most important of the countries on which Portugal depended for help in maintaining its colonial rule in Africa. Recently, the incentives for closer co-operation between the two white Powers had increased and that would bring about closer economic and military ties. South Africa's economic

involvement in the Portuguese Territories could be seen in the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric project in Mozambique and the Cunene River Basin scheme in Angola. The Cunene River Basin scheme would serve South Africa's interests in Namibia and would bring about increased co-operation between South Africa and Portugal. It would also help to increase the activities of foreign economic interests such as those of the Federal Republic of Germany and of Japanese companies directly involved in trading with the Companhia Mineira do Lobito, which was depleting Angola's reserves of iron ore. Furthermore, the threatened regrouping of Africans was designed to remove them from the central plateau area, the region of Angola which enjoyed the best climate and offered the best conditions for agriculture. The Cabora Bassa dam was not a necessity for Mozambique, which was already provided with enough electricity for its needs. The Cabora Bassa project would cover an area of 85,000 square miles, where it would provide electric power and facilitate agricultural development, mineral development, navigation and flood control. It would also mean a forced relocation of Africans under various settlement and resettlement projects, which would cause severe hardship to the African population.

24. The ties between the United Kingdom and Portugal were of long standing. The United Kingdom had set the limits to Portugal's acquisition of African territory and had undertaken the major investments in Angola and Mozambique. The United Kingdom was still Portugal's most important trading partner and its traditional influence over Portugal had been reflected in the Southern Rhodesian crisis. Portugal had actively assisted that country in avoiding the sanctions and was co-operating militarily and economically with the Smith régime. Nevertheless, yielding to United Kingdom pressure to keep up appearances, Portugal had officially withdrawn its Consul in Southern Rhodesia in 1970. Regrettably, the United Kingdom had not exercised that kind of influence on Portuguese colonial rule. Its record at the United Nations since 1962 had been consistently negative; it had voted against or had abstained in the vote on resolutions condemning Portuguese colonialism.

25. Since 1960, the Federal Republic of Germany had become one of Portugal's most important trading partners and maintained close diplomatic and military relations with that country. It had delivered ships to Portugal, and German capital was involved in the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric project and in prospecting for petroleum and coal in Mozambique and for iron ore in Angola.

26. Besides its involvement in the Cabora Bassa project, France had also participated in prospecting for oil in Mozambique and had made investments in both that Territory and Angola.

27. Trade with the United States was crucial to both Angola and Mozambique. Almost 50 per cent of Angola's coffee production was exported to the United States, with the Netherlands and South Africa as other major consumers. United States capital had played its most important role in the mining sector and in petroleum prospecting and production in particular. United States involvement in the Territories under Portuguese administration in Africa provided powerful reinforcement to the military strategic and other influences at work in the area.

28. It was not surprising that the beginning of expansion of foreign economic activities coincided with the beginning of the liberation struggle. That showed how Portugal had been forced to make conditions more and more attractive for foreign investors in order to obtain the necessary finances to continue its repressive war.

29. The pattern of exploitation and monopoly of the economy of the Portuguese Territories by foreign economic interests was the same in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and other smaller Territories. In none of those cases was any thought given to the possibility of involving the indigenous inhabitants with a view to training them or preparing them for eventual partnership. The administering Powers had introduced tax exemption schemes which had encouraged an intensification of foreign involvement in the economy of those Territories, thus making the prospect of self-determination and eventual independence for the indigenous population even more remote. Furthermore, the working conditions were bound to give rise to racial animosities which in many cases would lead to open conflicts.

30. In the Seychelles and St. Helena, *apartheid*-like conditions were spreading, and in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia the creation of Bantustans was similar in every respect to *apartheid* as practised in South Africa.

31. During the current year, the question of the evils of foreign economic interests in colonial Territories had finally attracted world public opinion, and different church groups and other organizations in Europe, Canada and the United States had reacted to the publicity given to those evil practices.

32. Mr. GARVALOV (Bulgaria) considered that the item under consideration was important enough to merit a separate discussion. The findings of the research conducted by the Special Committee, as set out in chapter IV of its report (A/9023 (part III)), unequivocally proved the detrimental role of the economic and financial activities which were impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

33. Foreign monopolies and other concerns from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and other Western countries continued to exploit unabatedly the human and natural resources of the Territories, thus violating the fundamental human rights of the indigenous inhabitants and their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence.

34. African workers were paid wages several times lower than those paid to European and white workers. The study of the Special Committee dealing with employment conditions and wages in Namibia (*ibid.*, annex, appendix IV, sect. 5) showed that in cases such as that of the 50,000 migrant labourers in the Territory, most of whom were Ovambos, there was no minimum wage legislation and no system of pensions or medical care. In certain capitals, a conspiracy of silence had encouraged the belief that the companies in question were making a positive contribution to the economic and social advancement of the indigenous population, while in reality the racist régimes were perpetrating cruel and inhuman acts of repression and waging a genocidal war of annihilation.

35. The foreign corporations involved in southern Africa were interested in developing only those economic sectors which would be beneficial to them. The system of the high level of profits on foreign investments in the colonial Territories was based solely on the exploitation of cheap labour. At the same time, the profits of foreign enterprises had never been used to develop projects that were beneficial to the indigenous population; on the contrary, those profits were either transferred to or shared with the racist and colonialist régimes.

36. In Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, foreign companies were financing the colonialist régimes by reinvesting their profits. The racist régimes had taken every step within their power to provide guarantees to the foreign economic interests so that the latter could continue to exploit the human and natural resources of the colonial peoples. In many cases, foreign companies were exempt from taxes, fees and contributions in respect of immovable property and installations, as also on capital and profits.

37. It was obvious that the more closely the economy of the colonial countries was linked with Western economic interests, the greater would be the political support commanded by those régimes. That point explained a recent phenomenon, that of the growing co-operation between Western economic interests and private and State capital of the colonial and racist régimes.

38. The Special Committee had repeatedly drawn attention to the real objectives pursued by Portugal in the Cunene River Basin scheme in Angola and the Cabora Bassa hydroelectric project in Mozambique. The influx of foreign capital, the settlement of immigrants and the relocation of the local people had all been part of Portugal's war against the peoples of Angola and Mozambique. Those projects served to maintain Portugal's presence in Africa. Furthermore, the increase of South Africa's economic involvement in both schemes and the promotion of South Africa's interests in Namibia had resulted in increased co-operation between Portugal and South Africa. His delegation fully endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee regarding those foreign economic interests (A/9023 (part III), paras. 6 and 7).

39. His delegation also shared the concern of the Special Committee at the support given by the big monopolies of the Western countries to the Lisbon-Salisbury-Pretoria axis. The financial and technological participation by those countries, particularly the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in the exploitation of the colonial Territories strengthened the oppressive minority racist régimes in southern Africa. Undoubtedly, that assistance must be condemned. The United Nations must take effective steps to counter those foreign economic interests and must reaffirm the right of colonial peoples to dispose freely of their natural resources.

40. For all those reasons, his delegation considered that the Special Committee had performed valuable work and should continue its task. His delegation was ready to co-operate with other delegations in drawing up the relevant recommendations to the General Assembly, thus making an important contribution to the great endeavour

of the United Nations to bring about the speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

*Mrs. Joka-Bangura (Sierra Leone), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

41. Mr. MONTROYA (Peru) considered that item 73 was particularly important, since it might perhaps provide an answer to the problem of the persistence of colonialism up to then.

42. It was clear from chapter IV of the report of the Special Committee (A/9023 (part III)) that, besides ignoring the United Nations resolutions, the colonial Powers and foreign enterprises had intensified their policy of economic pillage and had continued to exploit to the hilt the human and natural resources of the colonial Territories.

43. The big monopolies spread their activities to the outside world in total disregard of the legitimate interests of the inhabitants of those Territories. Peru joined its voice to those who had spoken out against the oppressive activities of foreign economic interests which were impeding the free exercise of the right of self-determination and independence of the colonial peoples, a situation which affected Latin America also.

44. Colonialism was a threat to international peace and security, and foreign economic activities, which were the main cause of its persistence, should be regarded as economic aggression.

45. The Revolutionary Government of Peru associated itself with the condemnation of foreign economic activities which were impeding the attainment of independence by colonial countries and it firmly supported those who were struggling against any form of dependence and against imperialism.

*Mr. Díaz González (Venezuela) resumed the Chair.*

46. Mr. CHANG Yung-kuan (China) said that the monopolistic capital of certain Western Powers had been participating in the exploitation of the colonies, especially in Africa, for a long time. Their participation had reached an alarming level, for, according to statistics, the investments of monopolies in the colonial Territories of Africa had exceeded \$10,000 million. In Angola, for example, they controlled the exploitation of diamonds, petroleum, manganese, iron and other minerals. Among those monopolies, United States capital occupied a preponderant position. From 80 to 90 per cent of the mining industry of Southern Rhodesia was owned by the capital of some Western Powers. Since the illegal declaration of independence, the circulation of capital between the United Kingdom and Southern Rhodesia had remained unimpeded. Worse still, between 1965 and 1971, United Kingdom investment in Southern Rhodesia had risen to \$111.6 million. In South Africa the investments of some Western Powers had reached \$6,000 to \$7,000 million, exercising control over mining, oil refining, chemical industries and so forth.

47. Year after year the monopoly capital of those Western Powers plundered the colonies and, according to reliable



statistics, took from those regions 77 per cent of the cocoa, 32 per cent of the coffee, over 12 per cent of the cotton, 82 per cent of the diamonds, 70 per cent of the gold and 26 per cent of the platinum. Moreover, the reason why they made such profits was that they used cheap labour. In Southern Rhodesia, the monthly wage of an African worker amounted to only one twenty-third of that of a white worker. In South Africa, the wages that foreign capitalist enterprises paid the Africans were even below the bare subsistence level set by the South African authorities.

48. By its systematic plunder, the monopolistic capital of some Western Powers had drained those regions of many of their natural resources. The diamond deposits at Oranjemund, in Namibia, would be exhausted by 1980. The natural resources of Namibia could last for only another 25 years. The ruthless exploitation by foreign monopoly capital and the prolonged rule of racism and colonialism in those regions had plunged the indigenous people into dire misery: the annual *per capita* income was only about \$20; some 95 to 98 per cent of the population were illiterate; the death rate was very high; and the people were deprived of all their political and human rights.

49. Despite the grave consequences that the activities of the monopolistic capital of the Western Powers had had for the people of those regions, some publications were doing their utmost to convince public opinion that those activities were promoting civilization in the Territories. They had tried to spread the idea that the investment of monopolistic capital was designed to bring the local people out of their backward state; such fallacious arguments, however, which were intended to justify the criminal colonialist rule of some Western Powers, had been refuted by the facts. The object of the racist régimes was to consolidate their reactionary alliance with those Powers in order to gain their political, military and diplomatic support for the suppression of the liberation movements and the maintenance of reactionary rule. That was the very essence of the reactionary alliance between the Western monopolies and the racist régimes.

50. The apologists of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism were also propagating the idea that the Cabora Bassa dam and Cunene River Basin projects were of benefit to the local people. It should be pointed out that, before a nation achieved independence, all the activities of the colonialist régime were for the sole purpose of consolidating its rule. Those projects were among the colonialist schemes of strategic significance which were designed to check the advance of the national liberation movements and to gain huge economic benefits. Thus, whether politically or economically, both projects served the reactionary purpose of maintaining and consolidating the rule of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism.

51. It was obvious that the United Nations could not tolerate the continuation of such a situation. Those Western Powers should be condemned and effective steps should be taken to compel them to cease such activities. Furthermore, the information services of the United Nations should give publicity to the activities of the monopolies in order to draw the attention of world public opinion to them.

52. Mr. PAVLOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, during the general debate on the Territories under Portuguese administration, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, a number of delegations had spoken about the activities of foreign economic interests which were detrimental to the situation of the indigenous inhabitants of the colonies. In resolution 2979 (XXVII), the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the activities of those interests constituted a major obstacle to political independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of those Territories by the indigenous inhabitants. It was indeed the imperialism of the multinational monopolies that was responsible for the persistence of terrible forms of racial discrimination, disease, hunger and economic and social backwardness in the colonies. Furthermore, the monopolies were savagely destroying the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as had been rightly pointed out by the representative of Cuba.

53. It was stated in chapter IV of the report of the Special Committee (see A/9023 (part III), para. 6) that the profits of foreign enterprises were never used for the development of projects which were in any way beneficial to the local population. They either remained in the hands of the monopolies or were shared with the racist régimes, which protected the foreign economic interests and received assistance from them for the purpose of liquidating the national liberation movements. The receipts of the great imperialist monopolies operating in the colonies were usually greater than the gross national product of many of the Territories where they operated. For example, the profits of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, which was engaged in diamond mining in Namibia, were more than double the budget for the whole of Namibia. The Non-Self-Governing Territories were ruthlessly exploited and subjected to the most despicable forms of racial discrimination and slavery; by that system, the rich became richer and the poor became poorer and poorer.

54. A perfect example of that was Southern Rhodesia, which, under the fascist rule of Ian Smith, had become a real concentration camp for the indigenous inhabitants and a mere source of raw materials for the United Kingdom. Despite the economic blockade imposed on that régime by the Security Council, the United Kingdom imported various materials of strategic importance, such as chrome, copper etc., from Southern Rhodesia, in open defiance of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

55. In a book concerning the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation,<sup>1</sup> the English journalist Richard West pointed out that the United Kingdom capital invested in Southern Rhodesia formed the economic basis for the prosperity of the Ian Smith régime. A similar situation prevailed in Angola and Mozambique, where Portugal, which had no means of its own for the investment of capital, was encouraging the entry of capital from the United Kingdom, the United States or any other source into the colonies and was preparing, with its help, to crush the national liberation movements.

<sup>1</sup> *River of Tears; the Rise of the Rio-Tinto-Zinc Mining Corporation* (London, Earth Island, 1972).

56. Similarly, in an article on Southern Rhodesia which had appeared in *Le Monde diplomatique* in May 1973, it was stated that the average monthly wage of the Africans employed in agriculture was 10 Southern Rhodesian dollars and that of those employed in industry was 40 Southern Rhodesian dollars, while the equivalent figures for Europeans were 230 and 315 Southern Rhodesian dollars respectively. Moreover, the sum spent on the education of the Africans was scarcely one tenth of that spent on education programmes for the children of the settlers.

57. The blatant activities of the economic interests in the Non-Self-Governing Territories constituted a monstrous crime which gave rise to all kinds of aberrations such as racial discrimination, *apartheid*, genocide and so forth.

58. It had been pointed out by a member of the United Kingdom Parliament that it was the investments of United Kingdom capital in South Africa that made it possible for that country to maintain the system of *apartheid*. Another Member of Parliament had declared that the economic activities of the United Kingdom constituted a real investment in the *apartheid* system by the United Kingdom.

59. In the recent World Congress of Peace Forces, held at Moscow in October 73, it had been pointed out that the colonialist and racist régimes based on terror and the barbarous exploitation of millions of people were a monstrous anachronism. Those régimes had the full support

of international imperialism, which managed to keep them in power by recourse to the most shameful methods, including economic aggression.

60. His delegation was convinced that the economic expansion of the foreign monopolies operating in the colonies must be brought to an end. In accordance with the recommendations of the Special Committee (*ibid.*, para. 7), the Fourth Committee should reaffirm, in its draft resolution on the item, the right of the colonies to self-determination and independence and to the use of their natural resources for their own benefit; it should condemn the support that the capitalist Governments were giving to the activities of the economic interests which were so basely exploiting the natural and human resources of the Territories and should do its utmost to ensure compliance with the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and decisions concerning South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. His delegation thought that more information was needed on the activities of the monopolies in the colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Committee that the Secretariat's Office of Public Information should endeavour to keep world public opinion as fully informed as possible of the facts concerning the pillaging of natural resources and the exploitation of human resources by the colonialist régimes.

*The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.*

## 2060th meeting

Thursday, 15 November 1973, at 11.15 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Leonardo DIAZ GONZALEZ (Venezuela).

A/C.4/SR.2060

### AGENDA ITEMS 70, 71 AND 72

Question of Namibia (*continued*)\* (A/9023/Add.2, A/9024, A/9061, A/9065, A/9066, A/9225 and Corr.1, A/C.4/764)

Question of Territories under Portuguese administration (*concluded*)\*\* (A/C.4/764)

Question of Southern Rhodesia (*continued*)\*\*\* (A/9023/Add.1, A/9061, A/C.4/764)

### HEARING OF PETITIONERS

1. The CHAIRMAN reminded the members of the Committee that, at its 2037th meeting, the Committee had decided to grant the request for a hearing from the representatives of the World Peace Council (A/C.4/764).

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Romesh Chandra, Mr. Emilson S. Randriamihasinoro and Mr. Gordon*

\* Resumed from the 2054th meeting.

\*\* Resumed from the 2058th meeting.

\*\*\* Resumed from the 2045th meeting.

*Schaffer, representatives of the World Peace Council, took places at the Committee table.*

2. Mr. CHANDRA (Secretary-General of the World Peace Council) thanked the Committee for having acceded to the request of the World Peace Council for a hearing during the important discussions currently taking place (A/C.4/764). It was a special privilege for the World Peace Council to come once again before the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly to report on the work that the Council and other non-governmental public organizations were doing in support of the resolutions of the United Nations on the urgent problems of the liberation struggles against colonialism and racist régimes.

3. During the current session, members of the Fourth Committee would not be able to hear, as they had at the previous session (1986th meeting), the voice of one of the most outstanding men of the age—that valiant and indomitable fighter for the liberation of his own people and for the peace and independence of all peoples of Africa and of the world, Amílcar Cabral.

4. The World Peace Council was proud to have had the privilege of having amongst its leaders a man who had