

## 2101st meeting

Thursday, 31 October 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Buyantyn DASHTSEREN (Mongolia).

A/C.4/SR.2101

### *Requests for hearings*

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to two requests for hearings concerning Namibia: one from Miss Barbara Rogers, of the Friends of Namibia Committee (A/C.4/771/Add.1), and the other from Mr. David E. De Beer, a former resident of Namibia (A/C.4/771/Add.2). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant those requests.

*It was so decided.*

2. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received a communication containing a request for a hearing concerning Namibia from Mrs. Yoko Kitazawa. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to have the communication circulated as a Committee document<sup>1</sup> and, bearing in mind the petitioner's readiness to make her statement at the current meeting, to grant the request contained therein.

*It was so decided.*

### AGENDA ITEM 65

**Question of Namibia (continued)** (A/9623/Add.3, A/9624 (vol. I), A/9624/Add.1, A/9725 and Corr.1, A/9728, A/9775-S/11519, A/9786-S/11526, A/C.4/771 and Add.1 and 2)

3. The CHAIRMAN announced that he had received a communication dated 10 October from the South West Africa National United Front (SWANUF), requesting that the contents be transmitted to the members of the Committee. In accordance with normal procedure, the communication would be available to members through the secretariat of the Committee:

#### HEARING OF PETITIONERS (continued)\*

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. David E. De Beer and Mrs. Yoko Kitazawa took places at the Committee table.*

4. Mr. DE BEER explained that he had been expelled from Namibia in March 1972 for his assistance to the Namibian people. Originally a South African national, he had subsequently assumed Netherlands nationality and was currently working in London for the Right Reverend Colin Winter, Bishop of Damaraland, who had also been exiled.

5. Throughout the period of South Africa's oppressive and illegal rule, the churches had played an important part in the daily life of the Namibian people. From the time of South Africa's occupation of South West Africa, in 1915 until the mid-1960s, all educational and medical activity in the northern part, where over 50 per cent of the Namibian people lived, had been in the hands of the churches—a factor which had bound the churches and the people of Namibia closely together; furthermore, the great principles of liberty, justice and responsibility which made the Namibian people want their independence were those principles that were valued and taught by the churches. Unfortunately, they were not values

to which the South African Government subscribed and, because of that basic difference, South Africa, which had agreed to uphold the freedom of the churches, had extensively harassed and hindered the churches' activities. When, in 1966, it had adopted the Odendaal plan for the development of the Territory, South Africa had begun to make embarrassed and belated attempts to "develop" the people of Namibia, but using methods designed to divide and keep in subjugation the Namibian nation, as reflected in South Africa's education policy and its method of social control, which included detention and torture.

6. In 1967 the leaders of the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Anglican churches had called on the South African authorities to stop torturing and oppressing the Namibian people. It had been at that time that the South African authorities had begun seriously to interfere with the work of the churches by refusing permits to teachers and hospital workers who wished to work in the mission schools and mission hospitals. In 1968 the Anglican Bishop in Namibia, the Right Reverend Robert Mize, had been forced to leave the country. In 1971 the Church Boards of the two Lutheran churches, supported by the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, had addressed an open letter to Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, pointing out that South Africa was ruling Namibia in defiance of international law and the decisions of the United Nations, and that the people of Namibia were being denied their human rights. Several church leaders had been expelled from Namibia in 1972, and the South African authorities had continued their policy of systematically hampering the work of the churches by refusing to grant permits and by opposing the activities justly carried out to bring about an end to the inhuman treatment inflicted upon the Africans in Ovamboland.

7. In recent weeks, however, the South African authorities had struck at the very heart of the churches' work in the development of the people, namely, its medical and educational work. Two hospitals specializing in maternity and tuberculosis care had been closed at the end of September on instructions from the South African authorities, leaving thousands of people without medical care—a gap which could not be adequately filled by existing medical facilities. In addition, the South African Government was threatening to close the high school at Odibo, which was also run by the Anglican Church. That school had been the target of official harassment for years, and, during the past year, many teachers and students had been detained without trial for extensive periods. Yet it was the only school for blacks in Namibia that taught through the medium of English, thus preparing Namibians to share in the culture of a freer society.

8. All those facts clearly indicated that the South African authorities, in a desperate attempt to tighten their ever-loosening control of Namibia, were determined to reduce the influence of the churches, which sought to provide a just and humane programme of development as an alternative to the South African Government's oppressive measures.

9. Mrs. KITAZAWA said that, as a Japanese, she had been able to travel to South Africa as an "honorary white". The granting of that privilege by the South African Government was a direct result of Japan's economic commitments in South Africa and Namibia.

<sup>1</sup> The communication was subsequently circulated as document A/C.4/771/Add.3.

\* Resumed from the 2092nd meeting.

10. She briefly summarized the Japanese Government's official position on the questions of Namibia, South Africa and southern Africa in general. Since 1962 Japan had consistently voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions on economic sanctions, the breaking of diplomatic relations with and the general boycott of South Africa, and had always supported the sanctions policy. She wished, however, to stress the difference between the stated policy of the Japanese Government and the actual practice followed by Japanese corporations.

11. In Namibia, for example, where the world's second largest uranium deposits were situated, private Japanese electric power companies had arranged long-term contracts providing for nearly 80 per cent of their uranium needs for a 10-year period. Those companies dealt with the Rössing Uranium Mine, which was operated by a partnership between the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd. and the South African Government, through its state-owned Industrial Development Corporation: Japanese companies were therefore purchasing uranium directly from a mine financed and run, at least partially, by South Africa, which illegally occupied the Territory. Thus, Japan and other big Powers which had dealings with the Rössing Mine, implicitly recognized South Africa's occupation of Namibia, in violation of United Nations decisions, and at the same time enabled South Africa to derive profit from that occupation—thereby increasing South Africa's vested interest in staying in Namibia—and to rob the Namibians of their natural resources. She urged the Committee to use its powers to stop the purchase of Namibian uranium by Japanese companies. She also pointed out that Japanese power companies would purchase uranium directly from South African mines during the period 1975-1985. In addition, certain United Nations documents and the press in South Africa and Japan indicated that Japan might participate in a large number of South African economic activities, including the construction of a nuclear power station near Cape Town, and might assist South Africa in the production of nuclear weapons.

12. Currently, more than 70 Japanese firms had representatives and offices in South Africa, particularly in the car, electrical and electronic equipment and rubber industries. In the current decade, the trade between the two countries had developed to the extent that Japan was in effect almost the sole purchaser of South Africa's iron ore exports and bought more than 50 per cent of South Africa's sugar exports. A high percentage of Japanese imports of chrome, manganese and

asbestos—54 per cent, 44 per cent and 33 per cent respectively—came from South Africa, and those figures probably included products from Southern Rhodesia. Since 1972, Japan had become the fourth largest trading partner of South Africa; the total volume of trade between the two countries in 1973 had exceeded \$1,000 million, and continued to grow. The growing role played by Japanese corporations in South Africa's economy ran directly counter to the Japanese Government's official position on *apartheid*.

13. In the case of industrial development projects, the white minority in South Africa sought to strengthen its political and economic power base by encouraging rapid industrial development and building up its military strength. No other nation was as heavily involved as Japan in South African Government-sponsored economic projects. In particular, it contributed to five major projects for expanding the production of iron ore, manganese, coal, electricity and iron and steel by means of loans, technical assistance and the provision of equipment, and by concluding advance purchase agreements. Consequently, without investing Japanese capital, Japanese companies had become major cogs in South African industry.

14. In addition, Japanese companies often participated in joint ventures in which South Africa provided the capital and Japanese companies the blueprints, technical expertise and sometimes the necessary equipment. Many of those joint ventures were located near the Bantustans, thus assisting the South African Government in moving Africans out of the cities into miserable reservations. Among the Japanese companies in South Africa, Toyota and Nissan could be mentioned: they paid their employees in South Africa starvation wages that were far below those paid by other foreign companies such as General Motors or Ford.

15. There was a need for the most careful scrutiny of any support, whether diplomatic, economic or political, which strengthened the white minority Government in South Africa, since any such support indirectly assisted and encouraged South Africa in its continued illegal occupation of Namibia.

16. Mr. TAKASUGI (Japan) said that his delegation would state its position on the question of the activities of Japanese companies in South Africa in due course, when the matter had been investigated.

*The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.*

## 2102nd meeting

Friday, 1 November 1974, at 3.15 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Buyantyn DASHTSEREN (Mongolia).

### AGENDA ITEM 65

**Question of Namibia (continued)** (A/9623/Add.3, A/9624 (vol. I), A/9624/Add.1, A/9725 and Corr.1, A/9728, A/9775-S/11519, A/9786-S/11526, A/C.4/771 and Add.3)

#### GENERAL DEBATE (continued)\*

1. Mr. ENAHORO (Nigeria) said that the question of Namibia was different from all other decolonization issues because it was purely and simply a question of the illegal occupation by a Member State of a Territory under United

Nations trusteeship. In 1966, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2145 (XXI), had terminated South Africa's Mandate and had declared that thenceforth South West Africa, namely, Namibia, was the direct responsibility of the United Nations. Subsequently, in 1967, in its resolution 2248 (S-V), the General Assembly, cognizant of the need to transfer powers to the people of South West Africa, had established the United Nations Council for South West Africa—renamed the following year "United Nations Council for Namibia"—and entrusted it with the responsibility of administering the country until it attained independence. The United Nations had, however, been unable to exercise its responsibility because of

\* Resumed from the 2100th meeting.

A/C.4/SR.2102