

Organization of work

24. The CHAIRMAN requested delegations to co-operate so that the Committee might complete its debate on the item

on 11 October, in accordance with the programme, and urged members to be punctual in arriving at meetings.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

2084th meeting

Monday, 7 October 1974, at 10.45 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Buyantyn DASHTSEREN (Mongolia).

A/C.4/SR.2084

AGENDA ITEM 66

Question of Territories under Portuguese domination (*continued*) (A/9623/Add.1 (parts I and II), A/9694-S/11419, A/9697, A/9735, A/9769, A/9776, A/9788, A/C.4/773)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. TULA (Frente Nacional para a Libertação de Angola) noted that the armed struggle of the African peoples of the Portuguese colonies had succeeded in putting an end to the most retrograde of colonialist systems and that, the Portuguese people having regained their democratic freedoms, the so-called Portuguese Territories would be able to exercise their right to self-determination and independence. Since 1960 the free peoples who were Members of the United Nations had been aware of the struggle being waged by the people of Angola under the leadership of the Frente Nacional para a Libertação de Angola (FNLA). The mission of the United Nations, which received new Members each year and which granted one vote to each country regardless of its military strength and resources, was to do justice to the rights of all peoples; the problem of Angola was therefore of direct concern to the United Nations.
2. The Armed Forces Movement, which had seized power in Portugal in April 1974, had drawn up a decolonization programme which had already enabled Guinea-Bissau to achieve full and complete national and international sovereignty and which would enable Mozambique to proclaim its independence in 1975, but which, as far as Angola was concerned, was simply an ambiguous and dangerous declaration of intentions, because of the opportunities it afforded to right-wing extremists. Those extremists were forming fascist organizations and creating an atmosphere of insecurity and distrust in Angola and, on the pretext of respecting all shades of opinion, the Government of Portugal tolerated those movements. Consequently, as long as the counter-revolutionaries continued their activities, FNLA would consider that the decolonization programme had not been put into effect in Angola. However, FNLA was convinced that the Armed Forces Movement would honour its solemn commitments and would adopt the measures which the current explosive situation in Angola demanded, to enable that Territory to become independent in the near future.
3. The extremist organizations were carrying out punitive expeditions in the black quarters of Luanda, while the police, who were responsible for protecting "the whole population" looked on calmly while they committed their excesses. While all those organizations were recognized as "political parties" the militants of the liberation movements were seized and tortured because they belonged to "organizations which were still under arms". The propaganda material of FNLA was confiscated. Yet FNLA had been the first movement to take up arms against Portuguese colonialism in Africa.
4. The Armed Forces Movement had not yet established contact with FNLA and it was for all the world as if the neo-colonialist and extremist organizations were the representatives of the people of Angola. While it would certainly be necessary to take account of those organizations in the process of decolonization in Angola, the liberation movements were the only valid spokesmen.
5. The pretext of division within the ranks of the liberation movements, invoked by the Portuguese Government, was not sufficient to justify the delay in making official contact with the authentic representatives of the people of Angola, particularly since the extremist organizations were using that time to set up neo-colonialist structures. The Portuguese Government could, for example, draw up a draft agreement for consideration by the various liberation movements. Each movement would then give its opinion and the various viewpoints could be reconciled with a view to uniting all the liberation movements in a common front which would subsequently form a provisional Government. Moreover, as his statement at the 2239th plenary meeting showed, the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs shared that opinion, with a few minor reservations in view of the ambiguity of certain liberation movements. For its part, FNLA, which did not oppose the formation of a common front, considered that no further time should be lost.
6. FNLA harboured no animosity towards the Portuguese population in Angola and was sure that that population would understand its attitude if it were given a chance to explain it. The situation in Angola, which was a very rich country with almost 400,000 Portuguese inhabitants who identified with the Angolans, was particularly complex, and although FNLA might consider it necessary to abolish the unjust privileges of the settlers, it was far from believing that the black militants automatically had a right to occupy land belonging to the settlers. While it was true that any real progress called for a radical change in the situation, FNLA, as a responsible and well-organized movement, wished to keep clashes and violence to a minimum. The FNLA considered that the Portuguese who opted for Angolan nationality should be able to enjoy all the rights and advantages inherent in their status as Angolans and, in view of the bonds which united the peoples of Angola and Portugal, was ready to grant special status to the Portuguese in Angola who wished to keep their original nationality. The only reason, therefore, for the proliferation of political parties among the Portuguese minority in Angola was the determination to oppose changes which would put an end to the existing unjust situation.
7. In spite of the evasiveness of the Lisbon authorities, since the defeat of colonialism in Portugal itself the independence of Angola had become a reality. For that reason, he wished to ask the General Assembly to adopt measures to enable the specialized agencies and organizations associated with the United Nations to prepare, in collaboration with the compe-

tent offices of FNLA, programmes for the repatriation of Angolan refugees in Zaire. For its part, FNLA was already preparing a programme for the repatriation of its militants who had taken refuge in other parts of central Africa.

8. In conclusion, he stressed that FNLA would continue its armed struggle until the Government of Portugal took the necessary measures against the extremists in Angola and established a dialogue with the liberation movements. However, whereas the white racists were killing without reason, FNLA freedom fighters, aware of their responsibilities, had just occupied more towns in Angola without bloodshed. For all those reasons, FNLA considered that the question of Portuguese colonialism, which constituted an indivisible whole, should be kept on the General Assembly's agenda until the problem of Angola was solved. Otherwise, a severe blow would be dealt to the liberation process in southern Africa.

Mr. Suja (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

9. Mr. DIAS MINGAS (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola) said that anyone who had not had to contend with the daily problems of the fight for independence might suppose that the conflict created in Angola had been finally settled after more than 13 years of struggle. However, the Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) considered that the Portuguese colonial problem still remained to be solved and that the solutions envisaged represented no more than manoeuvres designed to serve interests extraneous to the wishes of the Angolan people. The current process of decolonization would be complete only when the Territories illegally occupied by Portugal were totally free from foreign domination and interference.

10. The privileged position of Angola, by virtue both of its riches and of its strategic geographical situation, made the Territory a prime target for the greed of the imperialists, who were doing their utmost to seek solutions calculated to weaken the exclusive representative character of the liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations as the only valid national political entities. Given the uncertainties of the situation in Angola, the solutions proposed by the Portuguese Government were nothing more than political gymnastics, which could only exacerbate anti-colonialist feeling among the people of Angola and prolong the armed struggle until their inalienable rights were respected. Consequently, to refer to the participation of all the political parties created just after the coup of 25 April, which included movements such as the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), which was known to follow a policy of collaboration with the Portuguese fascist authorities, or to refer to the need to convene a legislative and constituent assembly, on the pretext of alleged disunity among the nationalist forces, was tantamount to undermining a process designed from the outset to destroy all forms of colonialism, both direct and indirect.

11. It was not for Portugal to determine or impose rules of democratic procedure in Angola or to choose its methods of government. That was a matter to be decided solely and exclusively by the Angolan people, since it was their future that was at stake. Nor could it be said that there were divisions within the Angolan nationalist movement and that the existence of different groups made it difficult to find a solution when, precisely in the cases of Guinea-Bissau, with the Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC), and of Mozambique, with the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO), it had been argued that the existence of a single organization presented difficulties since it was undemocratic and dictatorial. Moreover, there was the question of who imposed the conditions for independence,

who had that right, and who was represented politically by organizations which, after more than 13 years of silence now set themselves up as defenders of the so-called silent majority. How was it possible that organizations prohibited in Portugal were considered representative in Angola? MPLA could not accept that covert form of colonialism and rejected a colonial government of tribal participation. There was also a noticeable tendency in certain African countries to transform the current process of decolonization into a model for Africa and the world. MPLA was not prepared to set up a Lusitanian community and questioned the notion that decolonization had ended with the recognition of the State of Guinea-Bissau and the formation of a provisional Government in Mozambique. Furthermore, he would like to know on behalf of which people the Cape Verde meeting had been held. He reiterated that the problem of a people could not be solved, or their future determined, without the participation of their legitimate and recognized representatives.

12. The eleventh Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU, held at Mogadiscio in June 1974, had made it clear that relations with Portugal would be established only when the colonial problem had been definitively solved; in the view of MPLA, there could be no solution with the participation of fascist elements of a neo-colonialist type. Africa would have to show its political maturity by strictly respecting the decisions of the OAU Assembly, since that was the only way to contribute to effective decolonization.

13. The so-called world energy crisis and the constant tension in the Middle East had concentrated attention on Angola, particularly on Cabinda and its enormous oil resources. The so-called Cabinda problem had not only evoked imperialist pressures aimed at obstructing the advance towards independence but had also made clear the expansionist claims of Angola's neighbours. In that connexion, he drew attention to the memorandum from the Government of Portugal, communicated by the Secretary-General (A/9694-S/11419, annex), concerning the territorial integrity of the Territories, which in the particular case of Angola included the area between Cabinda and the river Cunene. Those frontiers were the result of various agreements concluded in the nineteenth century and culminating in the Berlin Conference, held from November 1884 to February 1885 and the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. The attitude of certain States, aimed at the Balkanization of Angola, was therefore remarkable; such an intention was, in any case, contrary to the Charter of OAU with regard to non-interference in the internal affairs of other member States and acceptance of the frontiers determined by the Berlin Conference. The people of Angola, united from Cabinda to the Cunene, reaffirmed its decision to defend all of its territory with its blood. Its unity was not based on decisions of the Portuguese Government but was the result of its common ideal of presenting a united and indivisible front to the enemy oppressing it. The so-called unity of Angolan nationalism must never be made an indispensable condition for *de jure* recognition of an independence that had been achieved *de facto*. On that basis, MPLA hoped that the process of decolonization in the Cape Verde Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, Angola and the Madeira Islands would be accelerated.

14. Mr. TCHICAYA (Gabon), after welcoming the fraternal delegations of Guinea-Bissau, Grenada and Bangladesh, recalled the words spoken in the General Assembly at the 2247th plenary meeting by his country's Minister for Foreign Affairs, who had said *inter alia* that other countries should judge the new face of Portugal objectively and should collaborate with Lisbon in order that the Movimento de Libertação de São Tomé e Príncipe (MLSTP), MPLA and FNLA should, like PAIGC and FRELIMO, soon exercise effectively the administration of their respective Territories. The roles played by the Portuguese Army and by the liberation move-

ments of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola in the change that had taken place in Portugal should be given equal recognition.

15. The initiatives taken at Lisbon beginning on 25 April 1974 encouraged the world to believe that the Government of Portugal had definitively embarked on the road of decolonization, and that was confirmed by the statement made in the General Assembly by Portugal's Minister for Foreign Affairs (2239th plenary meeting). The impatience of the world could not be satisfied with good intentions and fine words, however; Portugal would not have paid in full its debt to Africa and to mankind until it had totally and completely decolonized its Territories of Angola, the Cape Verde Islands and São Tomé and Príncipe, as it had decolonized Guinea-Bissau and, to a lesser extent, Mozambique. Gabon hoped that a frank dialogue with the representatives of the liberation movements would soon be undertaken, in order to arrive at a solution that would bring their peoples immediate freedom and independence. It was prepared to co-operate with the Lisbon Government with a view to facilitating the dialogue with the representatives of MLSTP. His delegation suggested that in the current year, contrary to its previous practice, the Committee should adopt a draft resolution inviting Portugal to recognize implicitly the right to self-determination and independence of the inhabitants of São Tomé and Príncipe. The events he had mentioned were the first indication of an irreversible transformation, which was in keeping with the logic of historical dynamics; today, more than ever, the colonialist countries must convince themselves that the march of history could not be halted. Reason and wisdom demanded careful reflection on that question, and he hoped that the new Portugal would know how to take advantage of the present final opportunity.

16. Mr. ABDUL-LATEEF (United Arab Emirates) expressed condolences to Bangladesh, Honduras and Peru on the natural disasters that had recently struck those countries and said that the United Arab Emirates had done everything possible to assist their peoples. The independence won by Guinea-Bissau showed all the countries fighting for their freedom that victory was inevitable. The United Arab Emirates was prepared to co-operate with Guinea-Bissau and to help it eliminate the last traces of colonialism. He congratulated Portugal on the removal of the previous Government and believed that the change would not have been possible without the tenacity of the liberation movements of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola.

17. Portugal's Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated at the 2239th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1974, that the new Portugal would re-establish its historic relations with the Arab countries. He was gratified at the change that had taken place in Portugal's policy and hoped that that policy would soon be clearer and determined to eliminate all vestiges of colonialism.

18. There remained the concern caused by the situation in southern Africa, since the injustice represented by the racist policies of South Africa still continued. The United Arab Emirates wanted to help eliminate colonialism and would contribute by its support to the national liberation movements through OAU.

19. Mr. GASHUT (Libyan Arab Republic) recalled that his country had always supported the struggle of the peoples for independence and had contributed to it, to which fact the liberation movements could bear witness; it believed that in so doing it was not making a gift but fulfilling an obligation. The Libyan Arab Republic would spare no effort to support the liberation of peoples wherever the struggle to put an end to colonialism was being waged.

20. Portugal's previous policy had isolated it from the United Nations, placing it together with South Africa, the Ian

Smith régime and the Zionists, but the continued struggle of Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola had helped to liberate the Portuguese people from the dictatorship oppressing it. Portugal should quickly grant total independence to its former colonies, leaving no trace of any colonialist or imperialist link. Independence should be total and unconditional, since it was not a gift but the result of those peoples' struggle.

21. There was no ground for excessive optimism; until Angola, São Tomé and Príncipe gained independence and until the situation in the Cape Verde Islands changed, the work of liquidating Portuguese colonialism would not be finished.

22. He urged the leaders of FNLA and MPLA to end their differences and form a united front to negotiate with Portugal. That would make it possible to end the bloodshed and avoid the rise of opportunistic movements which would make negotiations more difficult.

23. Mr. DOLZHINTSEREN (Mongolia) expressed the view that in the current year the Committee was beginning its consideration of the question in a new situation, inaugurated on 25 April, when, to the joy of all democratic Governments, a half century of fascist domination in Portugal had been ended. One of the positive results was the granting of independence to the Territories under Portuguese domination, constituting a victory for Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola and all of progressive mankind, which had been urging for some time that the previous situation should be ended. The credit for it belonged not only to the democratic forces of Portugal but also to the struggle of the liberation movements.

24. Like the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, Mongolia believed that the only way to solve the problem of the Portuguese Territories was to grant them complete and unconditional independence.

25. The collapse of Portugal's authoritarian régime had produced as a first logical consequence the cease-fire on Portugal's African fronts and the initiation of contacts with the national liberation movements. The second stage had been the explicit recognition of the right of all of Portugal's Territories to independence and self-determination. That step was consistent with the interests of the people of Portugal and the peoples of the Territories. Mongolia, which had never hesitated in its support for the anti-colonialist struggle, welcomed the change that had taken place in Portugal's official position. The new leaders at Lisbon had taken practical measures for decolonization, such as the recognition of Guinea-Bissau and the support of its admission to the United Nations. They had also concluded an agreement with FRELIMO specifying, among other things, a date for the independence of Mozambique, which would mean the achievement of the goal sought by the patriots of that country. With regard to Angola, notwithstanding the continuing differences between the national liberation movements, promising contacts had been undertaken between Portugal and those movements, and it was to be hoped that those contacts would soon bear fruit. He also hoped that the people of São Tomé and Príncipe would be able at an early date to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

26. After Portugal's decision to guarantee the unity and integrity of its colonial Territories and to resist any attempt against their sovereignty, all other peoples of the world should support those new countries in strengthening their fledgling economies. As a result of those events, the balance of forces in southern Africa was changing. The position of the white minorities in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia and their protectors was growing weaker, and the time when justice would triumph could not be very far.

27. Mongolia was always prepared to support that process and to contribute to the elimination, as early as possible, of the last strongholds of colonialism.

28. Mr. TOLSTIK (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), after welcoming the new Member States, said that the presence of representatives of the national liberation movements as observers in the Committee would help to clarify the Committee's understanding of the situation in the Territories and would help it in the adoption of correct decisions.

29. The Byelorussian SSR had always insisted that the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence was universal. It therefore welcomed the new direction taken by events in the Portuguese Territories. Both the people and the army of Portugal had condemned the criminal colonialist war and had recognized the right of all the Territories to self-determination and independence, in addition to promising the United Nations their full co-operation in the implementation of the pertinent resolutions. That new attitude not only benefited the colonial peoples but also benefited the people of Portugal, which had suffered enormous damage as a result of that war.

30. In spite of the praiseworthy attitude of Portugal, which had recognized Guinea-Bissau, signed an agreement with FRELIMO (A/9769, annex I) and shown its willingness to co-operate with the United Nations, it should, however, be borne in mind that there still existed in Portugal some forces actively opposed to that process. The Byelorussian SSR paid tribute to the important role 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 in the decolonization process and supported its appeal to the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations to help the new countries establish themselves as such.

31. The events that had taken place in relation to the Portuguese colonies showed the irreversibility of the decolonization process and constituted a reward for their untiring struggle for independence, in which they had had the support of the socialist countries, the African countries and all progressive forces.

32. Mrs. CHI (China) welcomed the historic progress of the national liberation movements in the Portuguese colonies. Guinea-Bissau had achieved independence and had been unanimously admitted to the United Nations. FRELIMO had concluded the Lusaka agreement with the new Portuguese Government on 7 September (*ibid.*) and the independence of Mozambique would be proclaimed in June 1975. In Angola, the people, whose will for independence was indestructible, were intensifying their armed struggle.

33. However, those auspicious developments were by no means favours bestowed by colonialism. In the final analysis, they were the outcome of the struggle over the past decade of the people of the Portuguese Territories, relying only on their own strength and on the support of the peoples of the world. They had also been due to the years of struggle of the Portuguese people against the fascist yoke at home and against colonial wars abroad.

34. For many years, the Portuguese colonialist authorities had enforced a brutal rule in their African colonies through armed repression. The people of the Portuguese colonies had courageously kindled the flames of armed struggle and had achieved victory. The defeat of Portuguese colonialism was a concrete manifestation of the great historical trend that impelled countries towards independence and peoples towards revolution.

35. The current situation regarding the achievement of the aspirations of the peoples of the Portuguese Territories appeared highly satisfactory. However, the struggle for genuine and complete independence remained arduous and complex. It was true that Portugal had recognized the right of its Territories to independence, but it remained to be seen whether it would fully implement its promises and the agreements that it

had signed. Reality was one thing and promises on paper another. Recently, the Portuguese authorities had carried out repressive acts against the people of the Cape Verde Islands and not long before there had also been disturbances at Lourenço Marques, the capital of Mozambique. All that showed that the colonialist forces were ready to stir up trouble and that constant vigilance must be maintained.

36. The other colonialists in southern Africa would never give up their spoils of their own accord. The South African racist régime had recently announced an increase in its military budget. It had carried out military manoeuvres along the frontier with Mozambique and had made large-scale arrests among the indigenous population. Thrown into panic by the changes in the situation in Mozambique and Angola, the Southern Rhodesian régime was waiting for an opportunity to take action.

37. There was one super-Power which was anxious to protect its extensive economic interests in Africa and would not easily abandon its policy of support for the colonialist forces. The other super-Power, which flaunted its support for the national liberation struggle in Africa and styled itself the natural ally of the liberation movements, was busily engaged in creating divisions among the liberation movements and changing the direction of the struggle of the peoples in the Portuguese Territories. It had been spreading the idea that no excessive demands should be made on Portugal and trying to bring the struggle of the people of the Portuguese Territories under its control. Those people, who had gained considerable experience in combat, would certainly be able to foil such machinations.

38. China, too, had suffered from imperialist aggression, oppression and plunder, China supported the just struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau for the liberation of the whole of its territory; it supported the thorough implementation of the Lusaka agreement regarding the independence of Mozambique and the struggle of the people of Angola and other Territories for independence and national liberation. The present Portuguese régime must carry out to the letter the various promises it had made. The people of the Portuguese colonies would have to strengthen their unity, persevere in the struggle and maintain their vigilance in order to win complete national independence.

39. Mr. COGAN (Ireland) felt that the events of the past 12 months in Portugal had inaugurated a new era in the history of the African peoples. Guinea-Bissau had already taken its place among the nations of the world, while in Mozambique arrangements had been made for a Transitional Government until the Territory achieved full independence in 1975. The statement by the President of Portugal on 27 July 1974, as reflected in the memorandum from the Government of Portugal (A/9694-S/11419, annex), indicated that the right of Angola and the other Territories to self-determination was no longer disputed. Moreover, the resurgence of the people of Portugal, as demonstrated by the reassertion of human rights and the rejection of colonialism by the new Government was indeed inspiring. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland had said at the 2243rd plenary meeting, in welcoming Guinea-Bissau, such a new attitude also reflected the rebirth of democracy in Portugal, whose previous policy had represented an injustice to the Portuguese people, their traditions and their contributions to human knowledge and culture.

40. Ireland had consistently supported the right of the peoples in the Portuguese-held Territories to self-determination, because Ireland itself had regained independence only after several centuries of having been denied that right. It was now to be hoped that an independent Mozambique and Angola would soon be welcomed into the United Nations. In that connexion, his delegation wished to draw attention to the message from the President of FRELIMO on the occasion of

the investiture of the Transitional Government of Mozambique (A/C.4/773) and was confident that the assurances contained therein would be realized. In conclusion, it was also to be hoped that the example set by the new Government of Portugal would serve to underline the urgency of working out a solution for Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa.

41. Mr. DE GUILHEM DE LATAILLADE (France) expressed his delegation's satisfaction at the participation in the work of the Committee of the new Member States of the United Nations, namely, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Grenada and, in particular, Guinea-Bissau. The attainment of independence by the latter, demonstrated, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France had indicated at the 2238th plenary meeting that the decolonization of the Portuguese Territories redounded to the benefit of a number of valiant peoples which desired to achieve the independence enjoyed by their neighbours. France, which had long since established friendly relations with the African countries, had consistently favoured the holding of negotiations to end too lengthy a period of armed confrontation between Portugal and the Territories under its administration.

42. His delegation hoped that the dialogue which had led to the achievement of a peaceful solution would be succeeded by co-operation. In that regard, he drew attention to the statement made by President Luiz Cabral on 24 September, on the occasion of the celebration of the first anniversary of the independence of Guinea-Bissau, to the effect that Guinea-Bissau was interested in having the best relations of co-operation with Portugal in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural spheres. France was ready to establish such co-operation with Guinea-Bissau, if that country so desired. The positive results of the negotiations held in Lusaka seemed to indicate that the following year a new State would join the United Nations. Moreover, the implementation of the principles of self-determination would certainly be extended to Angola and the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe.

43. The satisfaction at seeing the United Nations steadily draw closer to the goal of universality was enhanced by the restoration of democracy in a European country with which France, although holding different views regarding the problems of decolonization, had for a very long time maintained friendly relations. Consequently, the tribute paid to the negotiators who had so quickly brought about the changes that had occurred should also be extended to the Portuguese delegation. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Senegal had said at the 2254th plenary meeting the new Portugal deserved encouragement and assistance. That factor should be borne in mind in the light of the press release issued following the visit of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Lisbon, which indicated that the objectives of the Portuguese Government were in line with the interests of the peoples which were the Committee's main concern.

44. Mr. AL-SAID (Oman), on behalf of his delegation, welcomed Bangladesh, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau as Members of the United Nations. The election of the representative of Guinea-Bissau to the post of Rapporteur was most auspici-

ous, for it symbolized the constructive role that Guinea-Bissau and other nations liberated from colonial rule could play, and had traditionally played, in the United Nations.

45. His delegation wished to express its warm congratulations to the new Government of Portugal on its wise and sensible policy regarding the Territories which had formerly been under its domination. That, together with Portugal's new attitude with regard to *apartheid* and other issues, was justification for all countries devoted to the cause of peace and justice to support the new Government of Portugal in its policy of decolonizing the remaining Territories. The Government of Oman hoped that during the decolonization process every attempt would be made to preserve and enhance the territorial integrity of those nations.

46. It also wished to express its gratitude to various African countries, such as Algeria and Zambia, and to OAU, for the exemplary assistance they had provided in the decolonization process, and to the Secretary-General for his personal efforts in that cause. The discussions in the General Assembly and the resolutions adopted by that body had proved their value in the process of the decolonization of the Portuguese colonies. The moral pressure and the condemnations of the world community had finally borne fruit and it was only regrettable that so much blood had been shed and so many resources and so much time had been wasted. That lesson deserved to be brought to the attention of the racist colonialists, particularly the *apartheid* régime in South Africa and the Zionists in the Middle East, whose challenges would, however, still have to be met. It should also be recognized, as the representatives of Guinea-Bissau and FRELIMO had so ably and soberly recognized, that the road ahead was long and arduous.

47. The efforts of the new nations to achieve genuine independence and economic and social development deserved the broadest support from the world community and the United Nations, and it was to be hoped that the United Nations, and not just the group of African nations, would play a constructive role in ensuring a harmonious decolonization process and in helping the newly independent nations to recover from the years of destruction and bloodshed.

48. In conclusion, his delegation wished to express the deep solidarity of the Government and people of Oman with the Governments of Peru and Honduras, whose countries had recently been stricken by natural disasters.

Requests for hearings (continued) (A/C.4/774)

49. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Committee wished to grant the request for a hearing (A/C.4/774) submitted by the Reverend Michael Scott, of the International League for the Rights of Man, in connexion with the questions of Namibia and Southern Rhodesia, agenda items 65 and 67.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.