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Thirty-fourth session  
Agenda item 91

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ron S. MORRIS (Australia)

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-fourth session the item entitled "Question of East Timor: 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". At the same meeting, the Assembly decided to allocate the item to the Fourth Committee.
2. At its 2nd meeting, on 27 September, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 18, 89, 91, 93 and 12, 94 and 95, on the understanding that individual draft resolutions on matters covered by those items would be considered separately.
3. The Fourth Committee considered item 91 at its 12th to 24th meetings, between 17 October and 5 November.
4. At its 12th meeting, the Rapporteur 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 introduced chapter XI of the report of that Committee relating to East Timor (A/34/23/Add.3).
5. In connexion with its consideration of the item, the Fourth Committee also had before it the following communications addressed to the Secretary-General:
  - (a) Note verbale dated 6 April 1979 from Portugal (A/34/311);
  - (b) Letter dated 6 July 1979 from Sri Lanka (A/34/357);
  - (c) Letter dated 1 October 1979 from Cuba (A/34/542).

In addition, the Fourth Committee had before it the following letters addressed to its Chairman:

(a) Letters dated 1, 2, 12 and 18 October 1979 from Indonesia (A/C.4/34/5 and Add.1-3);

(b) Letter dated 15 October 1979 from Mozambique (A/C.4/34/8).

6. The Fourth Committee granted the following requests for hearings in connexion with its consideration of the item:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Meeting at which request for hearing was granted</u>
Mr. Paulo Pires, União Democrática Timorense (UDT) (A/C.4/34/3) . . . . .	3rd
Mr. Carlos Afonso Henriques, Movimento Nacional para a Libertação e Independência de Timor Dili (MNLITD) (A/C.4/34/3/Add.1) . . . . .	6th
Ms. Elizabeth Traube (A/C.4/34/3/Add.2) . . . . .	6th
Mr. José Ramos-Horta, Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN) (A/C.4/34/3/Add.3) . . . . .	6th
Ms. Maureen R. Berman, The International League for Human Rights (A/C.4/34/3/Add.4) . . . . .	11th
Mr. Noam Chomsky (A/C.4/34/3/Add.5) . . . . .	13th
Mr. John Dowd, International Commission of Jurists, Australian Section (A/C.4/34/3/Add.6) . .	14th
Mr. Bruce P. Cameron, Americans for Democratic Action (A/C.4/34/3/Add.7) . . . . .	17th
Father Francisco M. Fernandes (A/C.4/34/3/Add.8) .	17th

7. The Fourth Committee heard statements of the petitioners as follows: Ms. Traube and Mr. Pires at its 13th meeting, on 22 October; Mr. Roger Clark of The International League for Human Rights, Mr. Elias de Jesus Aniceto of MNLITD and Mr. Ramos-Horta at its 14th meeting, on 23 October; Mr. Chomsky at its 16th meeting, on 24 October; Mr. Dowd at its 17th meeting, on 25 October; and Mr. Cameron and Father Fernandes at its 18th meeting, on 26 October.

8. The general debate covering the items referred to in paragraph 2 above took place at the 12th to 23rd meetings, between 17 October and 2 November.

9. At the 21st meeting, on 31 October, the representative of Uganda introduced a draft resolution (A/C.4/34/L.3) on behalf of the following Member States: Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Benin, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Uganda.

10. At the 22nd meeting, on 1 November, the sponsors of the draft resolution, who were subsequently joined by the Congo, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Lesotho, Swaziland and Trinidad and Tobago, submitted a revised text (A/C.4/34/L.3/Rev.1), by which operative paragraph 5, which read:

"5. Requests the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to render all possible assistance to the people of East Timor particularly the children and those seeking to leave for another country;"

was replaced by

"5. Requests the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to render, within their respective fields of competence, all possible assistance to the people of East Timor, particularly the children and those seeking to leave for another country for purposes of family reunion;"

11. At its 23rd meeting, on 2 November, the Fourth Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.4/34/L.3/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 55 to 26, with 42 abstentions (see para. 12 below). 1/ The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Portugal, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Against: Australia, Bangladesh, Chile, Egypt, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Yemen.

1/ Statements in explanation of vote were made by the following Member States: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France and Sweden.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Bhutan, Burma, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

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

Question of East Timor

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Bearing in mind the section relating to East Timor contained in the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, 2/

Having examined the chapter of the 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 relating to the Territory, 3/

Having heard the statements by the representatives of Portugal, 4/ as the administering Power, and of Indonesia, 5/

Having also heard the statements by the petitioners, 6/ including the representative of the Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN), 7/

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2/ A/34/542, annex, sect. I, para. 155.

3/ A/34/23/Add.3, chap. XI.

4/ A/C.4/34/SR.13.

5/ A/C.4/34/SR.3, 6, 10, 13, 14 and 17.

6/ A/C.4/34/SR.13, 14, 16, 17 and 18.

7/ A/C.4/34/SR.14.

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);
2. Declares that the people of East Timor must be enabled freely to determine their own future, under the auspices of the United Nations;
3. Expresses its deepest concern at the suffering of the people of East Timor as a result of the situation now prevailing in the Territory;
4. Calls upon all parties concerned to facilitate the entry into the Territory of international relief aid in order to alleviate the suffering of the people of East Timor;
5. Requests the United Nations Children's Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to tender, within their respective fields of competence, all possible assistance to the people of East Timor, particularly the children and those seeking to leave for another country for purposes of family reunion;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;
7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled "Question of East Timor".

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