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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

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Draft proposals

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS (A/C.4/39/2/Add.2)

1. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had received a communication containing a request for a hearing on agenda item 18. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communication should be circulated as a Committee document (A/C.4/39/2/Add.2) for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

2. It was so decided.

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General debate (continued)

3. Mr. ADDABASHI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the ultimate objective of the United Nations was complete decolonization. In Namibia, people were still struggling for self-determination and independence from South Africa, despite efforts by the international community to implement Security Council resolution 435 (1978). The South African régime had for years used the pretext of negotiations to stall for time and create a client régime in Namibia to look after its selfish interests. A recent delaying tactic had been the insistence on linking the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, a manoeuvre which both impeded the independence of Namibia and interfered in the internal affairs of Angola.

4. In South Africa itself, the blacks were still struggling to achieve majority rule. Yet the racist régime always found other ways of perpetuating apartheid, the latest being the new Constitution which had established two powerless councils for Asian and Coloured citizens. Under the guise of reform, that Constitution served only to isolate blacks from Asians and Coloureds and to strengthen South Africa's military capability by allowing the recruitment of Asians and Coloureds. The international community had, in various General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, denounced that manoeuvre as null and void.

5. Despite the régime's illegal acts, some colonial States were still maintaining close relations with South Africa; in particular, the United States which, following its policy of constructive engagement, was dealing with the régime either directly or indirectly through its corporations. A study recently published by the Centre against Apartheid (document no. 11/84) on relations between the United States and South Africa showed, for instance, that the United States had greatly increased the level of its exports of ammunition to South Africa to \$28 million in the 1981-1983 period.

6. The Zionist entity in occupied Palestine was also still maintaining close relations in all fields with South Africa. Despite the secrecy of such relations,

(Mr. Addabashi, Libyan
Arab Jamahiriya)

United Nations documents had exposed their extent, especially in the military and nuclear fields. A New York Times article of 6 November 1984 had estimated the amount of trade between the two at \$250 million in 1983.

7. The United Nations must increase its assistance to the national liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa, and the Security Council must help by imposing mandatory comprehensive sanctions against South Africa.

8. Many other peoples were still struggling for independence, foremost among them the Palestinian people, living dispersed in tragic circumstances and as yet unable to achieve nationhood. The people of Puerto Rico as well were demanding their right to self-determination and freedom from colonialism. The Malvinas Islands should be returned to Argentina, as should the Comoros Islands to the Islamic Comori Republic. The military base on Diego Garcia should be dismantled and the island returned to Mauritius. In the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Administering Authority should protect the interests and accede to the wishes of the people and should work to repatriate those displaced from Bikini Atoll. Indeed, all administering Powers should co-operate fully with the Special Committee and provide the necessary information under article 73 e of the Charter, while the Special Committee should continue sending visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

9. The specialized agencies and institutions of the United Nations system also had an important role in the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. Most had commendably boycotted South Africa in accordance with United Nations resolutions; the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank had not. The international community should condemn them for their continued co-operation with South Africa and call upon them to end it.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the general debate on agenda items 18, 103, 105, 12, 106 and 107 was concluded.

AGENDA ITEM 106: UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued) (A/C.4/39/L.5)

Draft resolution

11. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.4/39/L.5 on agenda item 106, and announced that Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and the United Kingdom had become sponsors.

12. Mrs. SZOKOLOCZI DE ALCALA (Venezuela), Miss GORDON (Trinidad and Tobago), Ms. SWENGBE (Liberia), Mr. MOONYANE (Lesotho), Mr. M'TESA (Zambia), Miss MILLAN (Colombia), and Mr. MAUNA (Indonesia) said that their delegations were also sponsoring the resolution.

13. Draft resolution A/C.4/39/L.5 was adopted by consensus.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 106.

AGENDA ITEM 107: OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (continued) (A/C.4/39/L.6)

Draft resolution

15. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to draft resolution A/C.4/39/L.6 on agenda item 107, and announced that Czechoslovakia, Israel and Turkey had become sponsors.

16. Mr. KESAVAPANY (Singapore) and Miss MILLAN (Colombia) said that their delegations were also sponsoring the draft resolution.

17. Draft resolution A/C.5/9/L.6 was adopted by consensus.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 107.

AGENDA ITEM 105: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/39/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, para. 15; A/C.4/39/L.8, L.10)

Draft resolution

19. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the draft resolution proposed for adoption by the Special Committee on agenda item 105, contained in chapter VII, paragraph 15, of its report A/39/23 (Part IV); and to the amendments to that draft resolution proposed by the United States in document A/C.4/39/L.8 and by Cameroon on behalf of the African Group of States in document A/C.4/39/L.10.

20. Mr. FELDMAN (United States of America), introducing his delegation's amendments (A/C.4/39/L.8) to the draft resolution, recalled that some two weeks earlier the Committee had, in connection with a different agenda item but under almost identical circumstances, adopted a decision to eliminate references to specific countries in a draft resolution. The decision, in his view, had been a wise one, and for a broader reason than that it had directly involved the United States. In both cases, the passages which his delegation sought to delete were not motivated by genuine concern for the people of Namibia and South Africa but by a desire on the part of a few delegations to advance political ends of their own. In the case of the seventh preambular paragraph, the passage in question, as well as being an instance of the obnoxious practice of selective name-calling, was also completely wrong. Between 1980 and 1983, United States exports to South Africa had decreased by 13 per cent and its imports from that country, by 27 per cent. During the same period, South Africa's exports to almost every region of the world had risen; in particular, as the representative of Singapore had pointed out in an earlier debate, World Bank figures showed that the total trade of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe with South Africa had increased and was continuing to do so year

(Mr. Feldman, United States)

by year. As for concerted action in support of the people of Namibia, the United States was actively engaged in efforts to bring about a settlement of the Namibian crisis, and any attempt to disrupt the delicate negotiations which were taking place was to be deprecated.

21. The passage in operative paragraph 10 to which his delegation objected called for mobilizing public opinion in a Member State of the United Nations. There was, to his knowledge, no other resolution anywhere within the United Nations system which contained a similar invitation. The passage represented an open and straightforward attempt to defy Article 2, paragraph 7 of the Charter. It could be argued, of course, that the reference to public opinion in the United States of America was a tribute to the openness of his country's society. The very idea of mobilizing public opinion in certain other countries was incongruous. The paragraph in question was being thrust upon the Committee by the representatives of precisely those countries where public opinion was so tightly controlled that their Governments felt they had nothing to fear.

22. In conclusion, while not proposing any amendment to operative paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, he pointed out that the loan actually granted by the International Monetary Fund to South Africa in 1982 had corresponded to about 10 per cent of the figure cited, and that the United States vote in the International Monetary Fund accounted for only 19 per cent, 51 per cent of votes being needed to assure a loan.

23. The CHAIRMAN announced that Cameroon had informed him that the amendment contained in document A/C.4/39/L.10 was being withdrawn by the African Group and drew attention to the Arabic text of document A/C.4/39/L.8 which had been reissued because of a typographical error. He suggested that the Committee could take action on the draft resolutions and the amendments at a subsequent meeting.

24. Mr. BOUGUERRA (Algeria), speaking on a point of order, said that, although the Chairman of the African Group had just withdrawn the draft amendment in document A/C.4/39/L.10, the Group had in fact never met to take such a decision, and he therefore asked the Committee to suspend its consideration of that draft amendment until the African Group could meet.

25. Mr. FELDMAN (United States), speaking on a point of order, asked whether the Committee could not now decide at least on the draft amendments proposed by his delegation.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that at its following meeting the Committee would be informed of the status of amendment A/C.4/39/L.10, after his consultation with the Chairman of the African Group.

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AGENDA ITEM 103: INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/39/23 (Part IV), chap. VIII, para. 9)

Draft resolution

27. A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

28. The draft resolution was adopted by 130 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

29. Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had abstained because the draft resolution implied, in paragraph 2, that it was for the General Assembly to decide when a Non-Self-Governing Territory had attained a full measure of self-government. Such decisions were best left to the entities most directly involved, namely, the administering Power and the local Government.

30. The CHAIRMAN, replying to a question from the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of draft resolutions under agenda item 103.

AGENDA ITEM 18: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued) (A/39/23 (Part VI); A/C.4/39/L.4)

Draft proposals

31. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.4/39/L.4) containing information on the administrative and financial implications of proposals submitted under agenda item 18.

Question of Tokelau (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XIV, para. 10)

32. The draft consensus on Tokelau was adopted without objection.

Question of Pitcairn (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XV, para. 10)

33. The draft consensus on Pitcairn was adopted without objection.

Question of St. Helena (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XVI, para. 11)

34. The CHAIRMAN said that the United Kingdom had requested a separate vote on the sixth sentence of the text, which read: "The Assembly notes with concern the presence of a military base on the dependency of Ascension Island and, in that regard, recalls all the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning military bases and installations in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories".

35. Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom) said that his delegation objected to the sentence because no one had explained the reasons for the Assembly's "concern". The draft decision was meant to address the problems of the inhabitants of St. Helena; it was unclear how an airbase on Ascension Island, an extraordinarily isolated bit of rock inhabited solely by migratory birds, green turtles, Atlantic seals and employees on temporary contracts, could affect the fate of St. Helena's population. Ascension Island was a dependency of St. Helena, and it was perfectly logical that the administering Power should seek to establish some sort of administrative link between the two islands. Such attempts to facilitate administrative control could hardly be construed as a scheme to invade Ascension Island or justify the inclusion of polemical and wholly irrelevant language in what was otherwise a perfectly acceptable text. The Committee should concentrate on its job, which was to ensure the protection of the political, economic and social rights of dependent peoples, and not manipulate texts to make political mileage at the expense of an administering Power. If the sentence in question was not deleted, his delegation would be forced, on principle, to vote against the text as a whole. He hoped that delegations would support the deletion of the sentence: in doing so, they would be expressing their belief that references to Ascension Island were not appropriate in a text on St. Helena.

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36. Mr. BJURNER (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that they shared the view that Ascension Island was not covered by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which was clearly addressed to the peoples inhabiting Non-Self-Governing Territories. As Ascension Island had no indigenous population, the reference to it in a text on St. Helena was entirely inappropriate, and the Nordic countries would vote for the deletion of the sentence.

37. A recorded vote was taken on the sixth sentence of the draft decision on St. Helena (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XVI, para. 11).

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Grenada, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago.

38. The sixth sentence of the draft decision on St. Helena was retained by 61 votes to 33, with 36 abstentions.

39. Mr. ELMIRY (Qatar), Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait), Mr. MOHAMED (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. AL-QAHTANI (Bahrain) said that their votes had been misrecorded and should have been in favour.

40. A recorded vote was taken on the draft decision on St. Helena as a whole.

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Grenada, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sweden, Turkey.

41. The draft decision on St. Helena was adopted as a whole by 111 votes to 3, with 26 abstentions.

Question of American Samoa (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XVII, para. 10)

42. The draft resolution on American Samoa was adopted without objection.

Question of Guam (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XVIII, para. 11)

43. The draft decision on Guam was adopted without objection.

44. Mr. PHAN DINH TRUC (Viet Nam) said that his delegation had very strong reservations concerning the use in operative paragraph 6 of the word "could" before the words "constitute a major obstacle" and the use in operative paragraph 7 of the words "to continue" before the words "to take all necessary measures". Discussion in the Special Committee had made it clear beyond doubt that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory did in fact constitute a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration; and to imply that the administering Power was already taking "all necessary measures not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against any other States and to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly" was misleading to say the least.

Question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XXIX, para. 13).

45. The CHAIRMAN said that, on the basis of his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee and a number of delegations concerned, he would suggest that no action be taken at that stage on the draft resolution recommended by the Special Committee.

46. It was so decided.

Question of Bermuda (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XX, para. 11)

47. The draft resolution on Bermuda was adopted without objection.

48. Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom) said that there was considerable difference between texts which a delegation could grudgingly accept and those to which it willingly subscribed. So far as his delegation was concerned, the draft resolution on Bermuda fell into the former category. As with the question of Saint Helena, the difficulty lay in the passages relating to military activities in the Territory. In view of the United Kingdom's past record with regard to Bermuda, it was hardly necessary to remind it to take measures not to involve the Territory in any offensive acts or interference against other States. Similarly, it was somewhat irritating for the United Kingdom to be told to comply with the Charter as if it had previously failed to do so. As for the interests and well-being of the people of Bermuda, they were not even remotely in doubt. The passages in question had patently been inserted for political ends. The meaning of the term "consensus" was, he felt, being stretched almost to breaking point. He hoped that the draft resolution which the Special Committee would recommend the following year would be more universally acceptable, since otherwise his delegation would be constrained to call for a vote on the Bermuda text as it had done in connection with the question of St. Helena.

Question of the British Virgin Islands (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XXI, para. 10)

49. The draft resolution on the British Virgin Islands was adopted without objection.

Question of the Cayman Islands (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XXII, para. 10)

50. The draft resolution on the Cayman Islands was adopted without objection.

The question of Montserrat (A/39/23 (Part VI), chap. XXIII, para. 10)

51. The draft resolution on Montserrat was adopted without objection.

The question of the Turks and Caicos Islands (A/39/23, (Part VI), chap. XXIV, para. 10)

52. The draft resolution on the Turks and Caicos Islands was adopted without objection.

The question of the United States Virgin Islands (A/39/23, (Part VI), chap. XXV, para. 10)

53. The draft resolution on the United States Virgin Islands was adopted without objection.

The question of Anguilla (A/39/23, (Part VI), chap. XXVII, para. 12)

54. The draft resolution on Anguilla was adopted without objection.

The question of Gibraltar (A/C.4/39/L.7)

55. The draft consensus on Gibraltar was adopted without objection.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.