

UNST
PSCA
(OS)
D3
No. 29
ENG
COP.1

DECOLONIZATION



A publication
of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs,
Trusteeship and Decolonization

No. 29
July 1986

DECOLONIZATION ISSUES BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS FORTIETH SESSION

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	2
II. ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE FOURTH COMMITTEE	3
A. General	3
B. 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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, <u>apartheid</u> and racial discrimination in southern Africa; Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	4
C. Specific Territories and other related questions	5
D. Hearings concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Namibia	10
III. ISSUES CONSIDERED IN PLENARY MEETING	11
A. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	11
B. Question of Namibia	12
C. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	14
D. Vacancy in the membership of the Special Committee	15

I. INTRODUCTION

At its fortieth session, the General Assembly, in the disposition of the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", allocated to the Fourth Committee specific aspects of the question and considered in plenary meeting the general aspect of the decolonization issues as a whole. In so doing, the Assembly referred to the Fourth Committee all the chapters 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 specific Territories ^{1/} (agenda item 18), as well as the agenda items relating to:

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (agenda item 109);
- 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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (agenda item 110);
- 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 (agenda item 111);
- United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (agenda item 112);
- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (agenda item 113).

With regard to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (agenda item 23), the General Assembly decided to take it up directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Fourth Committee in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.

Concerning the question of Namibia (agenda item 34), the General Assembly also decided that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that the hearings of the organizations concerned would be held in the Fourth Committee.

The General Assembly also decided to postpone consideration of the question of East Timor and to include the item in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session.

II. ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

A. General

At the outset of the session, the Fourth Committee elected by acclamation the following officers: 2/

Chairman: Ambassador Javier Chamorro Mora, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nations;

Vice-Chairmen: Ambassador Bouba Diallo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mali, and Mr. Vladimir Fedorovich Skofenko, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to the United Nations;

Rapporteur: Mr. Stefano Stefanini, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations.

In organizing its work for the session, the Fourth Committee, in accordance with established procedure and bearing in mind the availability of the relevant documentation, decided to hold two general debates: one relating to "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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa" and "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", and the other, on the remainder of the agenda items allocated to it by the General Assembly. The Committee in so doing agreed that draft resolutions and/or proposals would be considered separately.

The Fourth Committee held a total of 23 meetings, heard 122 statements in the general debates and held hearings of 32 petitioners. Following its consideration of all the items referred to it by the General Assembly, the Fourth Committee submitted to the Assembly eight reports, two on hearings concerning Namibia and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and six containing its recommendations on specific Territories and other related items. Seventeen of the 20 sets of recommendations contained in these reports were prepared by the Special Committee in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979; 12 recommendations were adopted by the Fourth Committee by consensus.

B. 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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

In considering the item relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests, the Fourth Committee followed the procedure adopted at its previous sessions on the recommendation of the Special Committee, namely, to consider the chapter of the report of the Committee relating to military activities in conjunction with that item. Following its consideration of the item, which took place between 23 September and 30 October 1985,^{3/} the Fourth Committee approved the draft text of its recommendations prepared by the Special Committee on these two questions.

Subsequently, the General Assembly, at its 99th plenary meeting, on 2 December, adopted the draft resolution relating to the activities of foreign economic and other interests by a recorded vote of 125 to 9, with 16 abstentions (resolution 40/52). At the same meeting, it adopted the draft decision relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers by a recorded vote of 125 to 10, with 15 abstentions (decision 40/415).

During the general debates, the Fourth Committee heard 66 statements by representatives and also heard the following four statements by petitioners:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
Mr. Romesh Chandra, World Peace Council (WPC)	A/C.4/40/SR.6
Mr. Luis Echeverría (WPC)	A/C.4/40/SR.6
Mr. J. A. González-González	A/C.4/40/SR.6
Mr. Rafael Anglada-López, Puerto Rican Socialist Party	A/C.4/40/SR.6

The majority of the speakers viewed the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories as a way of denying the right of those peoples to dispose of their natural resources in their best interests. They condemned those activities and considered them to be, particularly in southern Africa and Namibia, one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the

Declaration. The systematic plundering of the natural resources of colonial Territories was a major obstacle to political independence and racial equality.

The majority of the speakers noted that the relevant decisions of the United Nations continued to be disregarded and therefore urged the adoption of more decisive measures to put an end to foreign investments detrimental to the peoples of colonial Territories, particularly in Namibia, including the adoption of effective sanctions against South Africa in order to isolate the racist régime. A number of delegations considered that South Africa's collusion with certain Western and other countries in the nuclear field constituted a threat to peace in the region. While some delegations stressed the need to differentiate between the effects of foreign economic interests in Namibia and those in other colonial Territories, others condemned the nefarious effects of the activities of foreign economic interests and of transnational corporations in all colonial Territories as they exploited cheap labour and repatriated their profits to metropolitan countries.

As regards military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers, the overwhelming majority of speakers denounced the military activities of South Africa in and around Namibia as one of the major impediments to the independence of the Territory and as a serious threat to peace in the region. They condemned also the escalating militarization of Namibia, in particular the use of the Territory as a springboard for aggression against independent neighbouring States. Many members considered that, in view of the nuclear ambitions of South Africa, its free access to Namibian uranium was a cause for real concern. Many delegations denounced the use of other Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, especially small island Territories, for military purposes and called for the dismantlement of all military bases and installations in those Territories.

C. Specific Territories and other related questions

The Fourth Committee considered the remaining items, namely, specific Territories and other related questions, between 30 October and 12 November 1985. ^{4/} A general debate was held covering all these items, in which 46 delegations participated. The Committee also heard 16 petitioners, as follows:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
<u>Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</u>	
Mr. Glenn Alcalay, National Committee for Radiation Victims	A/C.4/40/SR.11 and 13
Senator Jeton Anjain, on behalf of the people of Rongelap Atoll	A/C.4/40/SR.11

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
<u>Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</u> <u>(continued)</u>	
Mr. Glenn Petersen, Baruch College, Department of Sociology and Anthropology	A/C.4/40/SR.11 and 13
Mr. J. Roman Bedor, citizen of the Republic of Palau	A/C.4/40/SR.11
Ms. Susan Quass, United Methodist Church	A/C.4/40/SR.11
Miss Sue Rabbitt Roff, Minority Rights Group	A/C.4/40/SR.11
Mr. Fritz Cruz, on behalf of the Old Peoples Square Level and Justice Organization of Ponape	A/C.4/40/SR.12
<u>Guam</u>	
Mr. Ronald Franquez Teehan, on behalf of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights and the Guam Landowners' Association	A/C.4/40/SR.11-13
<u>Western Sahara</u>	
Miss Teresa K. Smith, Western Sahara Campaign for Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief, USA	A/C.4/40/SR.14
Mr. Mansour Omar, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO)	A/C.4/40/SR.14 and 19
Mr. Gana Fofange, Minority Rights Group	A/C.4/40/SR.14
Mr. Breika Zerouali, on behalf of the elected representatives of the communities and the parents of persons abducted and illegally held in Algerian territory	A/C.4/40/SR.14

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
Mr. Biadillah Mohamed Cheikh, on behalf of deputies of Saguia el-Hamra	A/C.4/40/SR.14 and 20
Mr. Ahmed Rachid, Mouvement des originaires du Sahara (AOSARIO) and Mouvement de Résistance des Hommes Bleus (MOREHOB)	A/C.4/40/SR.15
Mr. Mohamed Taquiollah Maalainine, on behalf of representatives of Río de Oro	A/C.4/40/SR.15

Subsequently, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted on 2 December the following resolutions and decisions in relation to these items:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
40/41	American Samoa	Without objection
40/42	Guam	Without objection
40/43	Bermuda	Without objection
40/44	British Virgin Islands	Without objection
40/45	Cayman Islands	Without objection
40/46	Montserrat	Without objection
40/47	Turks and Caicos Islands	Without objection
40/48	Anguilla	Without objection
40/49	United States Virgin Islands	Without objection
40/50	Western Sahara	96-7-39
40/51	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter	149-0-3

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
40/52	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 Namibia and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, <u>apartheid</u> and racial discrimination in southern Africa	125-9-16
40/53	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	126-3-22
40/54	United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	Without objection
40/55	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	Without objection
<u>Decision</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
40/411	Tokelau	Without objection
40/412	Pitcairn	Without objection
40/413	Gibraltar	Without objection
40/414	St. Helena	121-2-31
40/415	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	125-10-15

In the course of the general debate, many delegations underlined their conviction that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population or a lack of resources should not delay the process of self-determination of small island countries. It was the primary responsibility of the administering Powers to promote the political, economic and social progress of the inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to protect their cultural and national heritage and to provide training programmes for their educational advancement.

A number of delegations strongly condemned the continued colonial exploitation and militarization of small island Territories. Many members stressed the importance of diversifying the economies of those Territories, away from their dependence on the single-crop type of economy. Many members emphasized that the dispatch of visiting missions was an indispensable means of securing first-hand information on Territories and ascertaining the true aspirations of the peoples thereof concerning their future status; they called for the continued co-operation of the administering Powers concerned in that regard.

The majority of delegations speaking on the question of Western Sahara stated that the solution to the question lay in the implementation of resolution AHG/Res.104 (XIX) adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which had been endorsed by the General Assembly and by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. The parties to the conflict must agree to the holding of a referendum on self-determination under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations, at which the Saharan people could decide for themselves their own future status. The establishment of a cease-fire, however, was a prerequisite for the establishment of such a referendum. It was of the utmost importance that the conflict in Western Sahara be resolved peacefully, as early as possible and within the framework of the resolutions of OAU and the United Nations. Several delegations urged Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to overcome their differences and reach an understanding. Morocco, on the other hand, stated that its presence in the Territory was legitimate, legally attested to and accepted by the international community; Morocco could not negotiate with a liberation movement which had no legitimacy and consisted of foreign elements imposed on the Territory from the outside. Morocco stressed that the solution to the problem lay in holding a referendum in Western Sahara to be organized by the United Nations; the peace plan proposed by OAU was no longer applicable to Morocco, since that country no longer belonged to that organization.

Many delegations stressed the importance of the role played by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Although the specialized agencies had made a significant contribution to the process of decolonization by providing assistance to colonial peoples and their national liberation movements as well as to refugees, much more

remained to be done, especially with regard to Namibia. They called upon those specialized agencies which had not yet done so to include in the agenda of the regular sessions of their governing bodies an item dealing specifically with the review of the implementation of the Declaration. A number of speakers condemned the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for defying the will of the international community by maintaining relations with South Africa and stated that decisive action must be taken to isolate totally the South African régime.

A number of delegations appealed to all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to pledge increased financial support for the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa and requested Member States to provide or continue to provide the inhabitants of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories with financial assistance and scholarships, as well as training facilities for both secondary and post-secondary education.

D. Hearings concerning the Falkland Islands
(Malvinas) and Namibia

While the General Assembly decided to consider in plenary meeting the questions of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) [agenda item 23] and Namibia [agenda item 34], it allocated to the Fourth Committee the hearings of bodies and individuals having an interest in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the hearings of organizations concerned on the question of Namibia.

1. Hearings concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The hearing in the Fourth Committee on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) of the following persons took place on 27 November, an account of which is contained in the summary record of that meeting, in document A/C.4/40/SR.23: Mr. D. L. Clifton and Mr. J. E. Cheek, elected members of the Falkland Islands Council; Mrs. Susan Coutts de Maciello; Mr. Alexander Jacob Betts and Mr. Raúl Milton McBurney.

2. Hearings concerning Namibia

The hearing in the Fourth Committee on Namibia of the following petitioners took place on 12 November, an account of which is contained in the summary record of that meeting, in document A/C.4/40/SR.22: Miss Karen Talbot, World Peace Council; Miss Jeanne M. Woods, Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO); Mr. James Cason, American Committee on Africa; Mr. William Johnston, Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa; Miss Jennifer Garvey, National Lawyers Guild; Mr. A. W. Singham, Brooklyn College and Mr. David Mesenbring, USA National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation.

III. ISSUES CONSIDERED IN PLENARY MEETING

A. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Following a general debate on the item, in which 19 delegations took part, the General Assembly adopted on 27 November 1985 a thirteen-Power draft resolution (A/40/L.19 and Add.1) on the question by 107 votes to 4, with 41 abstentions (resolution 40/21). In this resolution, the Assembly requested the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to initiate negotiations with a view to finding the means to resolve peacefully and definitively the problems pending between both countries, including all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; and also requested the Secretary-General to continue his renewed mission of good offices in order to assist the parties in that connection and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-first session.

Prior to its adoption of the draft resolution, the General Assembly rejected an amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (A/40/L.20), by which the Assembly would reaffirm that "in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations all peoples have the right to self-determination and by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." The other United Kingdom amendment (A/40/L.20), by which the words "and the right thereunder of peoples to self-determination" would be added to operative paragraph 1 after the words "in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations", was also rejected.

During the general debate on this question, the representative of Argentina stated that his country had never ceased to claim sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, including the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, as an integral and inseparable part of its territory. His Government had stated its willingness to resolve this issue through peaceful negotiations and was convinced that the rule of international law and peaceful settlement of disputes was the effective way to resolve conflicts. He stated that the Argentine Government was undoubtedly making a gesture of goodwill to facilitate the opening of negotiations by voting in favour of a draft resolution before the General Assembly. In expressing regret concerning an amendment to the draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom wherein reference was made to the principle of self-determination, he stated that an element which referred to the positions of the parties, and which might prejudice the final solution of negotiations, distorted the aims of the draft resolution and hindered the efforts of those who had introduced it, as well as the steps taken by Argentina to promote a peaceful settlement to the dispute. A number of delegations associated themselves with the position taken by Argentina and spoke as well in support of the draft resolution. ^{5/}

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the position of his Government was quite clear with regard to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and was not a matter for negotiation and that the people of the Territory had the right to self-determination like other people, a principle enshrined in the Charter and in innumerable documents of the

United Nations, to which his Government was committed. He regretted that the draft resolution before the General Assembly made no change in the position of the Argentine Government, either on sovereignty or on self-determination. Self-determination was the right of the Falkland Islanders and not a matter for negotiation. His Government believed that the right course for both sides was quiet diplomacy and renewed contact working towards the normalization of relations, without prejudice to the question of sovereignty, about which the two countries continued to differ. His Government was ready for dialogue and friendship with a democracy committed to the same ideals as his and guided by a Government with exemplary attachment to the rule of law. He looked forward to the day when the democratic peoples of Argentina and Britain happily normalized their relations and when, at the same time, the democratic people of the Falklands were freely determining their political status and freely pursuing their economic, social and cultural development. ^{6/}

B. Question of Namibia

Following the introduction of the reports of the Special Committee and the United Nations Council for Namibia as well as statements by the presiding officers of those two bodies, the General Assembly heard statements of 95 delegations participating in the general debate.

Delegations in their statements referred to the fact that 19 years had elapsed since the General Assembly had terminated South Africa's Mandate and had assumed direct responsibility over the Territory. The question of Namibia continued to be one of the most important matters dealt with at the United Nations. More than seven years had elapsed since the Security Council adopted its historic resolution 435 (1978) embodying, together with resolution 385 (1976), the United Nations Plan for Namibia. Yet Namibian independence remained a cherished dream, bringing with each passing year further anguish, frustration and indignation. Security Council resolution 435 (1978) was universally accepted as the only basis for a peaceful settlement of the Namibian question, and its implementation remained a primary objective of the international community. Despite the repeated calls for implementation of the resolution by the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, OAU and other international and regional organizations, South Africa had refused to comply with those decisions. In order to delay the independence of Namibia even further, South Africa had introduced the concept of linkage, a concept linking the liberation of Namibia to the presence of Cuban forces in Angola. The people of Namibia were being penalized for matters that were totally irrelevant to their demands. Any extraneous question could not, and should not, be acceptable as a pre-condition to the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). Delegations called for renewed and intensified pressure to be put on South Africa by severing all contact and co-operation with it. That pressure should include the adoption of mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter which, in addition to the arms embargo, would involve the cessation of economic, military, cultural and scientific co-operation with South Africa.

Members called for stepped-up assistance and support to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. Without SWAPO there could be no solution to the Namibian issue, and any attempt to deny that fact would amount to an attempt to rob the Namibian people of their leader in the liberation struggle and should be rejected outright.

Delegations attached great importance to the solution of the question and the rights of the Namibian people to self-determination and independence. The international community must assume vested responsibility in order to end the suffering of the Namibian people and terminate the illegal occupation of their country.

Members paid tribute to the United Nations Council for Namibia, as the legal Administering Authority for Namibia, which was responsible for preparing for Namibia's independence, for the intensification of the process leading up to it and for informing the international community objectively and accurately of the situation in and around Namibia. They also commended the Secretary-General for his untiring efforts in seeking the implementation of the United Nations Plan for Namibia. 7/

On 13 December, the General Assembly, by approving the draft recommendations submitted by the United Nations Council for Namibia, adopted the following six resolutions on the item:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
40/97 A	Situation in Namibia resulting from the illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa	131-0-23
40/97 B	Implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978)	130-0-25
40/97 C	Programme of work of the United Nations Council for Namibia	147-0-6
40/97 D	Dissemination of information and mobilization of international public opinion in support of Namibia	132-0-23
40/97 E	United Nations Fund for Namibia	148-0-6
40/97 F	Special session of the General Assembly on the question of Namibia	148-0-6

In addition, by decision 40/317, the General Assembly extended the appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia for a one-year term beginning on 1 January 1986. 8/

C. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

On 16 October 1985, the General Assembly held a special commemorative meeting in observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was the subject-matter of a separate Decolonization Bulletin, No. 24 of December 1985.

Following an introductory statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee concerning the work of the Committee for the year, statements were made by 27 delegations in the general debate on the item. Delegations pointed out that the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had helped to change the fate of many colonial countries, providing a basis for the struggle of oppressed peoples for their liberation. These former colonial countries from the regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania made up almost two thirds of the membership of the United Nations.

Many representatives felt that despite these accomplishments, of which the international community could be proud, the objectives of the Declaration had not been fully met and the process of decolonization had not been completed. A great deal remained to be done before colonialism, racism and apartheid in all its forms and manifestations could finally be eliminated. The continued existence of colonialism could not be seen more clearly than in the case of Namibia, which had been the subject of a special debate in the General Assembly as well as in the Security Council in the recent past. For more than two decades the United Nations had tried in many ways to put pressure on the Pretoria régime to grant independence to Namibia, all of which had proven unsatisfactory. The Security Council adopted resolution 435 (1978) embodying the Plan for the peaceful transfer of power to the Namibian people. Seven years after the adoption of that resolution, the people of Namibia continued to suffer under the colonial domination of the South African racist régime. The introduction of extraneous issues by that régime had not only impeded the decolonization of Namibia but was cause for serious concern. Colonialism in Namibia was a direct threat to the peace and security of the region and must be eradicated forthwith.

Delegations paid tribute to the Special Committee for its dedicated endeavours to promote the interests of the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories and to uphold their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. They pointed out that for the small Territories, because of their special features and

environment, special solutions might be required in the implementation of the principles on decolonization. However, the people in each Territory must determine freely, and from a well-informed standpoint, what was in their own best interests, particularly with regard to their future political status. It was the responsibility of the administering Powers to facilitate such unfettered expression of their wishes. A number of speakers stated that the obstacle impeding the process of decolonization was the maintenance of military bases and military arrangements of the colonial Powers in the colonial Territories. Despite the repeated calls by the international community, it was evident from the report of the Special Committee that the colonial Powers had not complied with these appeals. The speakers expressed the view that the military bases and installations constituted a threat to regional and international security.

Delegations considered that colonialism, in whatever form, was a contradiction to the principles set out in the Charter and was a major obstacle to the success of the many efforts undertaken by the United Nations to bring about freedom, justice and equality. The speedy implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the United Nations designed to eliminate the remaining vestiges of colonialism would no doubt speed up the process of decolonization and lead to the realization of the legitimate aspirations of the people still living under colonial domination. 9/

On 2 December, the General Assembly, by 141 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions, adopted a 23-Power draft resolution dealing with general aspects of decolonization (resolution 40/57), by which the Assembly, inter alia, renewed the mandate of the Special Committee in relation to the implementation of the Declaration with respect to the remaining colonial Territories.

The General Assembly also adopted, by 142 votes to 3, with 6 abstentions, a 23-Power draft resolution concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization (resolution 40/58), in which a series of action-oriented publicity programmes were called for.

D. Vacancy in the membership of the Special Committee

On 17 December, the President informed the General Assembly that consultations concerning a vacancy in the membership of the Special Committee had not been concluded. On his suggestion, the Assembly postponed consideration of the matter to a later date. 10/

Notes

- 1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/40/23).
- 2/ A/C.4/40/SR.1-3.
- 3/ A/C.4/40/SR.2-11.
- 4/ A/C.4/40/SR.11-21.
- 5/ A/40/PV.92.
- 6/ A/40/PV.93.
- 7/ A/40/PV.81-87.
- 8/ See A/40/1055 and A/40/PV.120.
- 9/ A/40/PV.96, 97 and 99.
- 10/ A/40/PV.120.