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DECOLONIZATION ISSUES BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION (1987)

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I. INTRODUCTION

At its forty-second (1987) 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 for its consideration specific aspects of the question and considered, in plenary meetings, the general aspects of the decolonization issues as a whole.

In so doing, the General 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/ namely, Western Sahara, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Anguilla, Pitcairn, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Tokelau, the Cayman Islands, St. Helena, Bermuda, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In addition, the Assembly referred the following items to the Fourth Committee for its consideration:

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations;
- 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;
- 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;
- United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;
- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

As in previous sessions, the General Assembly decided to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) directly in plenary meetings, on the understanding that the hearings of bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be held in the Fourth Committee.

The General Assembly also decided that the question of Namibia should be considered directly in plenary meetings, on the understanding that the hearings of the organizations concerned would be held in the Fourth Committee.

As at its five previous sessions, the General Assembly decided not to include the question of East Timor in the agenda of its 1987 session and thus the question was not considered during the session. In his 1987 progress report to the General Assembly, on the basis of which this decision was taken by the Assembly, the Secretary-General gave an account of the action taken in exercise of his good offices under the terms of Assembly resolution 37/30 and stated, among other things, that Indonesia and Portugal had "reaffirmed their commitment to co-operate, under my auspices, in the search for a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution" and that "I shall also continue to follow the humanitarian situation closely". 2/

II. ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SECOND SESSION

A. Issues considered by the Fourth Committee

1. General

At the outset of the session, the Fourth Committee elected by acclamation the following officers for its 1987 session: 3/

Chairman: Mr. Constantine Moushoutas, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations;

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Joaquim Rafael Branco, Permanent Representative of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations, and Mr. Alexander Vasilyev, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic;

Rapporteur: Mr. Alvaro Carnevali-Villegas, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations.

By approving the suggestions put forward by its Chairman on organization of work for the session, the Fourth Committee decided to follow the practice established at its previous sessions, namely, 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 the second on all other items. The Committee also agreed that draft resolutions and/or proposals would be considered separately.

In considering these items, the Fourth Committee took into account the related chapters of the report of the Special Committee and various reports of the Secretary-General, as well as a number of related communications. 4/

The Fourth Committee held a total of 24 meetings, heard 121 statements in the general debates and also heard 31 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, respectively, Namibia and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and six containing its recommendations on specific Territories and other related items. Seventeen of the 21 sets of recommendations contained in those reports were prepared by the Special Committee, in keeping with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401; 14 recommendations were adopted by the Fourth Committee by consensus.

2. 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

As in previous sessions, on the recommendation of the Special Committee, the Fourth Committee considered the chapter of the report of the Committee relating to military activities in conjunction with the item on foreign economic and other interests.

Forty-eight delegations participated in the general debate and made their statements between 29 September and 6 October. ^{5/}
The Committee also heard a statement by a petitioner, Mr. G. A. González-González. ^{6/}

During the debate, the majority of the speakers condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in colonial Territories and considered them to be one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration, particularly in relation to Namibia. They held that the systematic plunder and depletion of the natural resources of colonial Territories created a major obstacle to political independence and racial equality. Many speakers declared that it was the responsibility of the administering Powers to protect the natural resources of the colonial Territories, to permit the peoples of the Territories to exercise their legitimate rights over those natural resources and to develop their economies in line with their will and choice. Through concessions to foreign corporations, administering Powers were creating new forms of colonial dependence and domination in Non-Self-Governing Territories, they asserted.

Speakers noted that the relevant decisions of the United Nations were being disregarded and urged the adoption by all concerned of more decisive measures to put an end to foreign investments detrimental to the peoples of colonial Territories, particularly in Namibia. While several delegations welcomed the efforts made by a number of industrialized countries to bring about divestment of foreign economic interests from South Africa, they urged them to support the international community's call for comprehensive sanctions. They also called on the Security Council to assume its responsibility and impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

Several delegations called for strict compliance with Decree No. 1 for the Protection of the Natural Resources of Namibia ^{1/} and called upon members to assist the United Nations Council for Namibia in fulfilling its mandate.

As regards military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers, speakers denounced 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 and security 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. A number of delegations denounced military activities by colonial Powers in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, especially small island Territories, and demanded the dismantlement of all military bases and installations in those Territories, as called for by the General Assembly.

On 7 October 1987, the Fourth Committee approved the text of the recommendations prepared by the Special Committee on the two questions and submitted it to the General Assembly for adoption. The Assembly in turn adopted the recommendations of the Fourth Committee on those questions at its 92nd plenary meeting, on 4 December.

By its resolution 42/74, the General Assembly condemned the activities of foreign economic and other interests in the colonial Territories impeding the implementation of the Declaration on decolonization. It also condemned the collaboration of "certain Western and other countries with the racist minority régime of South Africa" in the nuclear field and called upon those and all other Governments concerned to refrain from supplying that régime, directly or indirectly, with installations, equipment or material that might enable it to produce uranium, plutonium and other nuclear materials, reactors or military equipment. The Assembly further called upon all States to take urgent, effective measures to terminate all collaboration with the racist régime of South Africa. The vote was 133 in favour to 10 against (Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America), with 12 abstentions.

In its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, the General Assembly reiterated its condemnation of such activities that were detrimental to the rights and interests of the peoples concerned and deplored the fact that the colonial Powers concerned had taken no steps to implement the repeated requests of the Assembly to withdraw their military bases and installations from colonial Territories immediately and unconditionally and to refrain from establishing new ones.

The General Assembly condemned South Africa for its military buildup in Namibia, particularly its persistent acts of aggression and subversion against Angola and Mozambique and its use of mercenaries to reinforce its illegal occupation of Namibia and to participate in attacks against independent African States. It demanded the urgent dismantling of all military bases in Namibia and called for the immediate cessation of the war of oppression waged by the racist minority régime. The text was approved by a vote of 131 in favour to 12 against (Belgium, Canada, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States), with 13 abstentions.

3. Specific Territories and other related questions

The Fourth Committee considered all the remaining items between 9 and 28 October 1987. ^{8/} During the general debate, the Committee heard statements by 73 delegations. The Committee also heard 13 petitioners, as follows, on the subject-matters indicated below:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
<u>New Caledonia</u>	
<u>Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</u>	
Mr. Glenn Alcalay, National Committee for Radiation Victims	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Mr. Roger Clark, on behalf of the International League for Human Rights	A/C.4/42/SR.11
Miss Ingrid Kircher, on behalf of the Minority Rights Group	A/C.4/42/SR.11
<u>Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands</u>	
Mr. G. A. González-González	A/C.4/42/SR.11
Miss Susan Quass, United Methodist Office for the United Nations	A/C.4/42/SR.11

New Caledonia

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| Mr. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, Front de libération nationale Kanak socialiste (FLNKS) | A/C.4/42/SR.11 |
| Mr. Arthur Lewis, Friends of Vanuatu | A/C.4/42/SR.11 |
| Mr. Michael Lawrence, on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People | A/C.4/42/SR.12 |
| Miss Angela Gilliam, International Women's Anthropology Conference | A/C.4/42/SR.14 |
| Mr. Simon Loueckhote, Association de solidarité, liberté, culture et sécurité | A/C.4/42/SR.14 |

Western Sahara

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| Miss Deborah Jackson, American Association of Jurists | A/C.4/42/SR.17 |
| Miss Cheri Attix, Western Sahara Campaign, U.S.A. for Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief | A/C.4/42/SR.17 |
| Mr. Omar Mansur, Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) | A/C.4/42/SR.17 |

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 serve as a pretext for delaying the process of self-determination of small island countries. They urged the administering Powers, whose primary responsibility it was 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 intensify political education in those Territories, particularly in relation to the options available for the future of their countries.

Many members stressed the importance of diversifying the economies of those Territories and called for intensified international assistance in the economic and social fields to the Territories concerned. Several 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 concerning their future status.

On the question of Western Sahara, speakers considered 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 in its resolution 38/40 and by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. ^{9/} They called upon the parties to the conflict to 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; they also called for a cease-fire as a prerequisite for the establishment of such a referendum. Delegations supported the dispatch of a technical survey mission to Western Sahara for the purpose of gathering information necessary for the formulation of proposals on the organization of a referendum. Many delegations urged Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to overcome their differences and reach an understanding. They expressed support for the joint good offices of the Secretary-General and the Chairman of OAU.

A number of delegations stated that the adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/41 A by an overwhelming majority had clearly demonstrated that New Caledonia was a Non-Self-Governing Territory and that France was obliged to comply fully with its obligations under Article 73 e of the Charter. Speakers called upon France to co-operate with the United Nations in pursuit of the decolonization process. They believed that the problem could only be settled through friendly dialogue between France, the countries of the South Pacific region and the Kanak population, represented by FLNKS, with the participation of the United Nations. The representative of France stated that the people of New Caledonia "had voted for keeping the Territory within the French Republic" through a referendum held on 13 September 1987.

A number of 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. A number of speakers regretted that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank still maintained financial and other relations with South Africa, and called for the discontinuance of all such relations with South Africa.

Speakers 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 colonial Territories with financial assistance and scholarships, as well as training facilities for both secondary and post-secondary education. In that regard, the Chairman of the

Advisory Committee of the Programme announced an increase of 20.6 per cent for 1987 in the number of students in the Programme, as compared with 1986. He also indicated that, as the last three students from Zimbabwe had completed their studies, the Programme would henceforth provide educational and training assistance exclusively to South African and Namibian students. Some delegations called for the evaluation of the medium- and long-term results of the assistance provided.

With regard to the obligation of the administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter, many delegations called upon them to co-operate closely with the United Nations by transmitting all the information at their disposal on time, and appealed to the United Kingdom to resume its participation in the Special Committee's work.

On 4 December, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions and decisions on these items:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
42/73	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <u>e</u> of the Charter of the United Nations	154-0-3
42/74	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	133-10-12
42/75	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	130-3-23

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
42/76	United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	Without objection
42/77	Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	Without objection
42/78	Western Sahara	93- 0-50
42/79	New Caledonia	69-29-47
42/80	Anguilla	Without objection
42/81	Montserrat	Without objection
42/82	British Virgin Islands	Without objection
42/83	Turks and Caicos Islands	Without objection
42/84	Tokelau	Without objection
42/85	Cayman Islands	Without objection
42/86	Bermuda	Without objection
42/87	Guam	Without objection
42/88	American Samoa	Without objection
42/89	United States Virgin Islands	Without objection
<u>Decision</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
42/417	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	131-12-13
42/418	Gibraltar	Without objection
42/419	Pitcairn	Without objection
42/420	St. Helena	119-2-30

As at its six previous sessions, the Fourth Committee, on the basis of the consultations held by its Chairman, decided not to take action at that stage on a draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

By its resolution 42/78, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the question of Western Sahara was one of decolonization, and that its solution lay in the implementation of the plan approved in 1983 by OAU. Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO were asked to undertake direct negotiations, in the shortest possible time, with a view to bringing about a cease-fire to create the necessary conditions for a peaceful and fair referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, a referendum without any administrative or military constraints, under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations. The Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General of the United Nations were invited to continue to exert every effort to persuade Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO to negotiate, in the shortest possible time and in conformity with the OAU plan and General Assembly resolutions 40/50 and 41/16, the terms of a cease-fire and the modalities for organizing the referendum. The Assembly took note of the joint decision of the current Chairman of OAU and the Secretary-General to send a technical mission to Western Sahara.

With respect to New Caledonia, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of New Caledonia to self-determination and independence and requested France to transmit information in keeping with its obligation under Article 73 e of the Charter. The Assembly declared that progress towards a long-term political solution in New Caledonia required a free and genuine act of self-determination consistent with the United Nations principles and practices and called upon France to resume dialogue with all sections of the population.

By adopting texts on 13 small dependent Territories, the General Assembly reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of those Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, and reiterated the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by those peoples of their right to self-determination and independence.

The General Assembly stated that it was ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status and reaffirmed the importance of fostering an awareness among those peoples of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence.

It also reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers to promote the economic and social development of the respective Territories and urged them to safeguard the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures to ensure their right to own and dispose of those natural resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development.

In regard to Bermuda, Guam and St. Helena, the General Assembly reaffirmed its strong conviction that the presence of military bases and installations in those Territories could be a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration and that it was the responsibility of the administering Powers concerned to ensure that the existence of such bases and installations did not hinder the population of the Territories from exercising their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly urged the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve these Territories in any offensive acts or interference against 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 relating to military activities and arrangements.

By its consensus on Gibraltar, the General Assembly took note that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom had met in Madrid on 5 and 6 October 1985 and in London on 13 and 14 January 1987 as part of the negotiating process provided for in the Brussels declaration, 10/ and urged them to continue those negotiations with the object of reaching a definitive solution to the problem of Gibraltar.

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

Although the General Assembly decided to consider the questions of Namibia and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) in plenary meetings, it requested the Fourth Committee to hold hearings on these questions.

(a) Hearings concerning Namibia

The hearings in the Fourth Committee on Namibia took place between 9 and 16 October 1987, as follows:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
Miss Angela Gilliam, on behalf of the Namibia Information Service	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Landis, National Namibia Concerns	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Mr. William Johnston, Episcopal Churchpeople for a Free Southern Africa	A/C.4/42/SR.10

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Summary record</u>
Mr. Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr., Lutheran World Federation	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Mr. Anwar Barkat, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Miss Deborah A. Jackson, American Association of Jurists	A/C.4/42/SR.10
Miss Gail Hovey, on behalf of the American Committee on Africa	A/C.4/42/SR.11
Miss Vicki Erenstein, National Lawyers Guild	A/C.4/42/SR.11
Mr. Lennox S. Hinds, International Association of Democratic Lawyers	A/C.4/42/SR.12
Mr. Damu Smith, Washington Office on Africa	A/C.4/42/SR.12
Mr. Alun R. Roberts, Namibia Support Committee	A/C.4/42/SR.12
Mr. Arnold Braithwaite, on behalf of the United States Peace Council	A/C.4/42/SR.12
Miss Sylvia Hill, Southern Africa Support Project	A/C.4/42/SR.14

(b) Hearings concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

On 17 November, the Fourth Committee heard the following persons concerning the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): Mr. Terry S. Betts, Mr. J. E. Cheek, Mr. Alexander Jacob Betts and Mr. James Douglas Lewis. An account of the hearings is contained in the summary record of that meeting. 11/

B. Issues considered in plenary meetings

1. Question of Namibia

The General Assembly, following the introduction of the reports of the Special Committee 12/ and the United Nations Council for Namibia 13/ and statements by the presiding officers of those two bodies, as well as by the observer of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), heard statements of 91 delegations participating in the general debate.

Speakers regretted that more than nine years had elapsed since the Security Council had adopted its resolution 435 (1978) embodying, together with resolution 385 (1976), the United Nations plan for Namibia. They rejected the issue of "linkage", introduced by South Africa to delay the independence of Namibia, as extraneous to the implementation of resolution 435 (1978). Some delegations welcomed and were encouraged by the recent adoption by the Security Council of resolution 601 (1987), which authorized the Secretary-General to arrange a cease-fire between South Africa and SWAPO as the next step towards the independence of Namibia. Delegations reaffirmed that the question of Namibia was one of decolonization and not one of East-West confrontation. A number of speakers called for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa. 14/

On 6 November, the General Assembly, by approving the draft recommendations submitted by the United Nations Council for Namibia, adopted the following five resolutions on the item:

<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Voting</u>
42/14 A	Situation in Namibia resulting from the illegal occupation of the Territory by South Africa	131-0-24
42/14 B	Implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978)	130-0-24
42/14 C	Programme of work of the United Nations Council for Namibia	149-0-6
42/14 D	Dissemination of information and mobilization of international public opinion in support of the immediate independence of Namibia	133-0-22
42/14 E	United Nations Fund for Namibia	149-0-5

In addition, by decision 42/311, the General Assembly extended the appointment of the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia for a one-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. 15/

2. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Fourteen delegations took part in the general debate on the item. Opening the general debate on this question, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina stated that the refusal of the British Government to abide by General Assembly resolution 41/40 was responsible for the continuing anomaly. That resolution offered both parties the possibility freely to state their points of view within an extremely broad and flexible framework. He stated that so long as the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom continued, the situation in the area would still be basically precarious and unstable.

The Foreign Minister further stated that the General Assembly should insist on appealing to both parties to start negotiations as soon as possible in order to find the means to resolve peacefully the existing bilateral problems, including all aspects on the future of the Malvinas Islands. Argentina, he stated, had repeatedly invited the United Kingdom to resume negotiations.

Several delegations associated themselves with the position taken by Argentina and spoke in support of the draft resolution supported by Algeria, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe, which would urge the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to initiate negotiations with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute and would invite the Secretary-General to continue his renewed mission of good offices. Speakers appealed to both parties to resume dialogue and negotiations without pre-conditions.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the talks between the two Governments had floundered because the Argentine side had not respected an understanding reached beforehand on how to deal with the sovereignty issue. Argentina's reluctance to contemplate a multilateral solution to the fisheries problem and its bilateral fisheries agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, according to the representative of the United Kingdom, had led to the British decision to introduce an interim fisheries régime in the south-west Atlantic.

The United Kingdom regarded the call in the draft resolution for negotiations as constituting a thinly disguised demand for negotiations on sovereignty, negotiations which the Argentine Government had made clear could have only one outcome: annexation of the Islands by Argentina.

His Government considered that the right to self-determination should apply to all and that a vote in favour of the draft resolution was a vote against the principle of self-determination.

On 17 November 1987, the General Assembly adopted a 14-Power draft resolution on the question (A/42/L.17 and Add.1) by 114 votes to 5 (Belize, Gambia, Oman, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom), with 36 abstentions (resolution 42/19). By that 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; 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-third session.

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

The General Assembly devoted three meetings, on 3 and 4 December 1987, to the consideration of this item.

Following an introductory statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee concerning the work of the Committee for the year, statements were made by 22 delegations in the general debate on the item. In their statements, the delegates pointed out that the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had helped to change the fate of many colonial countries. The Declaration had become an important instrument in the efforts towards the elimination of colonialism, but a great deal remained to be done before the complete elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid. Many delegations felt that, despite the great accomplishments achieved in the decolonization process, the fact remained that some peoples and Territories were still subjected to colonial oppression and exploitation.

Speakers pointed out that the failure to achieve independence for Namibia through the United Nations plan for Namibia, contained in Security Council resolution 435 (1978), was due mainly to the intransigent attitude of South Africa, which continued its illegal occupation of Namibia and the exploitation of its human and natural resources. Speakers rejected the extraneous issues which were being used by Pretoria as a pre-condition for Namibia's independence.

Speakers 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 considered it imperative that the peoples of those Territories be well informed so that they could determine freely and without hindrance what was in their own best interests, particularly with regard to their future political status.

Several members stated that the obstacle impeding the process of decolonization was that some of the small Territories were being used by colonial Powers for military purposes. They noted that, despite repeated calls by the international community, the colonial Powers had not withdrawn their military presence from those Territories. The members

renewed their demand for such action without any further delay. Many speakers considered that the merciless exploitation and depletion by the administering Powers and foreign transnational corporations of the human and natural resources of the colonial Territories had further hampered the decolonization process in those Territories.

On 4 December, the General Assembly, by 131 votes to 2 (United Kingdom, United States), with 7 abstentions, adopted a 33-Power draft resolution dealing with the general aspects of decolonization (resolution 42/71), by which the Assembly renewed the mandate of the Special Committee to continue to seek the full implementation of the Declaration with respect to the remaining colonial Territories.

The General Assembly also adopted, by 135 votes to 2 (United Kingdom, United States), with 6 abstentions, a 35-Power draft resolution (resolution 42/72), calling for a series of action-oriented publicity programmes.

Notes

1/ A/42/23 (Parts I-VI). To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/42/23).

2/ A/42/539, para. 17.

3/ A/C.4/42/SR.1 and 2.

4/ A/42/23 (Part III). For final disposition see footnote 1; A/42/264 and Add.1, A/42/577/Rev.1, A/42/578, A/42/596, A/42/601 and A/42/732.

5/ A/C.4/42/SR.2-8.

6/ A/C.4/42/SR.4.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/35/24), vol. I, annex II.

8/ A/C.4/42/SR.9-23.

9/ A/41/326-S/18049, annex III.

10/ See General Assembly decision 40/413 of 2 December 1985.

11/ A/C.4/42/SR.24.

12/ A/42/24 (Parts I and II). To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/42/24).

13/ A/42/23 (Part V). For final disposition see footnote 1.

14/ A/42/PV.54-59.

15/ A/42/848.