UNITED NATIONS

Press Section
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Special Committee of 24
on Implementation of Declaration
on Granting Independence
834th Meeting (AM)

Press Release GA/COL/1258
10 February 1972

DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSES ORGANIZATION OF YEAR'S WORK

Hears Statement by Chairman on Security Council Meetings in Africa

The Special Committee of 24* on decolonization continued this morning consideration of its work programme for the current year, including an invitation from Ethiopia that it meet in Addis Ababa if it should decided to visit Africa.

At the outset of the meeting, the Committee's Chairman, Salim A. Salim (United Republic of Tanzania), reported on the recent meetings of the Security Council in Addis Ababa at which he represented the Committee.

In another development, the representative of Sierra Leone read a cable from the World Peace Council calling on the Committee to take action in view of reports that the Portuguese authorities were planning to use herbicides on crops in Guinea (Bissau).

Concerning the 1972 work programme, the Committee has before it a note by the Secretary-General (document A/AC.109/391) containing relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Committee. The invitation from Ethiopia is contained in a letter to the Chairman of the Committee from Yohannes Tseghe, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations (document A/AC.109/389).

Statements on the organization of work were made by the representatives of Indonesia, Czechoslovakia and Sierra Leone.

The Committee will meet again at a date to be announced.

Statement by Chairman

The Chairman, Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania), told the Committee that he had attended the meetings of the Security Council between 28 January and 4 February in Addis Ababa and had addressed the Council. He described the actions taken and resolutions adopted and rejected by the Council.

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* Members of the Committee are Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Poland, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. There are three vacancies.

He said he had consulted with officials of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), including its Administrative Secretary-General, and with leaders of numerous liberation movements in southern Africa. During these consultations, he said, he had raised the possibility of special missions of the Committee to liberated areas in the region.

Statements by Representatives

J.B.P. MARAMIS (Indonesia) said that Indonesia had done everything it could to promote the struggle against colonialism since the Bandung Conference in 1955. It had worked actively on the 1960 Declaration on decolonization and had also supported resolutions adopted at the non-aligned countries' conference in Lusaka recently.

He went on to say that his delegation believed that the Committee's journey to Africa should be delayed until May or June, when enough time would have passed to see whether Security Council resolutions would be implemented.

The Vice-Chairman ILJA HULINSKY (Czechoslovakia) said his delegation would do everything to support the "united front" in assisting the liberation struggles against colonialism.

As to organizational matters, he said he hoped these could be rapidly disposed of. His Government's position was that the Working Group should be maintained along last year's lines, and the Sub-Committees should continue as before with approximately the same membership. His country wished to join Sub-Committee II (Pacific Ocean Territories), he said.

He agreed with the proposal to hold a two-to three-week session in Africa in a place near the Territories under consideration. This, he felt, should be done after enough time had passed to ascertain the response to Security Council resolutions adopted in Addis Ababa.

MATTHEW BENEDICT GANDA (Sierra Leone) stated that the President of Sierra Leone had followed the proceedings of the Committee closely.

On organizational matters, he believed that the Committee should make an effort to take concrete actions, rather than just adopting resolutions.

His delegations believed the Sub-Committees and the Working Group should continue as before, with changes only in the distribution of some of the items.

The United Nations should, as had been decided in a previous General Assembly resolution, invite leaders of liberation movements to participate in the meetings of the Committee, he said.

Mr. GANDA said that, contrary to what the representative of Indonesia had said, the Committee should act now on Rhodesia as a matter of priority.

He also said that the dissemination of information should take "some sort of effective form" during this session.

(more)

Mr. GANDA then read a telegram from the World Peace Council calling on the Committee to take steps to prevent the Government of Portugal in its alleged plans to use herbicidal sprays on crops in Guinea (Bissau). He urged that the Committee follow up these reports immediately.

Reverting to organizational matters, he said he favoured a redistribution of membership in the Sub-Committees to make the share of work for each Committee member more equitable.

He asked why there were no summary records available yet for the meeting of 19 January.

In reply, THOMAS TANAKA, The Committee Secretary, said the meeting of 19 January had coincided with preparations for the departure of the Security Council for Addis Ababa and thus the verbatim record had been delayed.

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Press Release GA/COL/1258/Corr.1
11 February 1972

DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE DISCUSSES ORGANIZATION OF YEAR'S WORK

CORRECTION

In Press Release GA/COL/1258 of 10 February, the members of the Committee given in the footnote on page 1 should read:

Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Mali, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

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