

Aug. 25, 1972

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw the attention of members of the Committee to a further communication relating to this item which has just been circulated in document A/AC.109/415. This reproduces a letter which I received from the Chargé d'affaires of Chile quoting a statement made by the Foreign Minister of Chile on the subject. Does any member wish to speak on the item?

Mr. AL-ZAHAWIE (Iraq): We believe that the agenda item before us has been amply discussed by all those who have participated in the debate on it. The information imparted to us by the representative of Cuba the other day has demonstrated the need for support for the request made in document A/AC.109/392. The question merits the consideration of the Special Committee, and this fact prompts my delegation to introduce the following draft resolution, which is very simple and short:

"The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Having considered the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable,

"Recognizing the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

"Instructs its Working Group to submit to it a report, at an early date in 1973, relating specifically to the procedure to be followed by the Special Committee for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) with respect to Puerto Rico." (A/AC.109/L.837)

(Mr. Safronchuk, USSR)

We wish to express the hope that the Working Group -- which, under the draft resolution, should submit a report at an early date in 1973 to the Special Committee -- will take account of the recognition contained in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and prepare appropriate procedures to enable the Special Committee to take steps to ensure the immediate implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) with respect to the people of Puerto Rico.

Mr. JOUEJATI (Syrian Arab Republic) (interpretation from French): My delegation is grateful to the delegation of Iraq for having submitted a draft resolution on the question of Puerto Rico. That text maintains intact all the principles contained in resolution 1514 (XV); furthermore, it lays down a procedure which will perhaps meet the various viewpoints that have been expressed in the Committee. It therefore represents a very practical compromise.

Mr. Chairman, in supporting this draft my delegation would not want to miss this opportunity to express its deep appreciation to you personally for your efforts during the consultations you held, which were so difficult at times.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Syria for his encouragement. Does any other representative wish to speak?

As that is not the case, and in accordance with the usual practice, I would like to suggest that the Committee proceed at its meeting on Monday afternoon to the adoption of the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Iraq.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.