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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1496th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 July 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. RODRÍGUEZ PARILLA (Cuba)
(Acting Chairman)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.45 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

QUESTION OF NEW CALEDONIA (continued) (A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1; A/AC.109/2114)

2. Mr. OVIA (Papua New Guinea) introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1 on the question of New Caledonia. His delegation had taken into consideration all the suggestions made by delegations during the informal consultations leading up to the meeting, and he expressed its gratitude for their flexibility. The consensus draft should open up new avenues for cooperation with the administering Power; in talks with that Power, an understanding had been reached whereby the United Nations, and the Special Committee in particular, would have a specific role to play in New Caledonia's self-determination process, including in information matters. He expressed the hope that in future resolutions on the question of New Caledonia the Special Committee would succeed in reflecting the need for the administering Power to provide the Special Committee, through the Secretary-General, with the relevant information under Article 73 (e) of the Charter.

3. Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1878/Rev.1 was adopted.

QUESTION OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1879) (continued)

4. Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1879 was adopted.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (continued) (Aide-mémoire 13/98)

5. The CHAIRMAN drew members' attention to aide-mémoire 13/98 of 30 June 1998, which contained an annotated list of pending matters, and suggested that the Committee should take note of paragraphs 2 to 13 of the aide-mémoire, explaining that further consultations would be required on the pending matters. To assist the work of the Committee, the secretariat again circulated the text of the draft report of the Special Committee, which also contained a list of pending matters.

6. Mr. EGUIGUREN (Chile) said that the draft report of the Special Committee should be approved as a whole rather than in sections, once the necessary consultations had been held, for which more time would be needed.

7. Mr. BENÍTEZ VERSÓN (Cuba) said that under the established practice the Special Committee did not need to approve the draft report and therefore did not need to ask for more time to be spent on it.

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8. The CHAIRMAN stressed that the Committee should merely take note of paragraphs 2 to 13 of the aide-mémoire and that the Committee had already held exhaustive consultations on those items.

9. Mr. ZAEMSKY (Russian Federation) requested the Chairman to clarify how the Special Committee's future work on its draft report would be structured. He supported the statement of the representative of Chile, and proposed that adoption of the draft report should be deferred at the current stage and discussed prior to its August 1998 session.

10. Mr. MEKDAD (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Committee, following its long-established practice, had for a number of years taken note of the paragraphs of its draft report. It should therefore follow that practice now, the more so because the content of those paragraphs had been agreed among the members of the Committee. As far as the Committee's future work was concerned, delegations would be given enough time to discuss any issues that came up in that connection.

11. Mr. EGUIGUREN (Chile) said that whereas it was indeed not formally necessary for the Committee to approve its draft report, the Committee would still need more time to study it. The section entitled "Future work" in particular contained interesting proposals that ought to be discussed. He supported the notion advanced by the representative of the Russian Federation, as he believed that a formal meeting should be held, as part of the August session, at which the Committee could either approve or take note of its draft report.

12. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should revert to the item at its next session as a number of delegations wished to study the draft report in greater detail.

13. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.