



## General Assembly

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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 2nd meeting**

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 12 March 2001, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué (Vice-Chairman) . . . . . (Côte d'Ivoire)

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*In the absence of Mr. Hunte (Saint Lucia), Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

### **Caribbean Regional Seminar**

2. **The Chairman** said that the Committee, at its organizational meeting on 21 February 2001, had accepted the invitation of the Government of Cuba to host the Caribbean Regional Seminar in Havana from 23 to 25 May 2001, which fell within the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories, as designated in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII). He took it that, if he heard no objection, the Committee wished to accept the invitation to hold its seminar in Havana from 23 to 25 May 2001 and celebrate the Week of Solidarity at the regional seminar.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chairman** said that recent consultations with three groups of States that were members of the Special Committee concerning the composition of the Special Committee's official delegation to the Seminar had yielded three delegations from each group that, it was proposed, should attend. The Bureau of the Special Committee had furthermore decided at its recent meeting that the full Bureau should attend the Seminar. The nine delegations proposed consisted of, for the Group of African States, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia, for the Group of Asian States, Fiji, Indonesia and Syrian Arab Republic, and for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela. The United Nations would bear the cost of travel of the official members of the delegation. He took it that, if he heard no objection, the Committee wished to approve the composition of the official delegation to the Seminar.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chairman** reminded members of the Special Committee that, in accordance with the understanding reached in 2000, the Russian Federation would participate in the next Pacific Regional Seminar in 2002. With regard to the extension of invitations to

experts and non-governmental organizations to attend the Caribbean Regional Seminar, he drew the attention of the Committee to the list of funded and non-funded experts and non-governmental organizations that had been circulated. The list had been approved informally and ad referendum by the Committee at its recent informal meeting, as had the funding of six experts and six non-governmental organizations from the list.

7. **Mr. Lewis** (Antigua and Barbuda) noted that there were more than six experts on the list and that only some of them had been assigned preference. He said that one expert known to him was on the list but had not been assigned preference. Mr. Kenneth Jordan was an expert with enormous experience in the Eastern Caribbean region and would be of immense value to the seminar.

8. **The Chairman** said that the list had been prepared on the basis of the Secretariat's large file of experts, which contained information on the specific expertise of each expert. Since only six could be funded, the list before the Committee had been prepared with the Secretariat's help and approved informally by the Bureau and the Committee. If one of the experts assigned preference was unable to attend, however, another could be chosen from the list to fill out the delegation. He pointed out that each expert was assigned a specific topic to work on and on which he was to make a presentation at the seminar.

9. **Ms. Maldonado** (Department of Political Affairs) said that the Secretariat had provided the Special Committee with 30 names, from which the Bureau had chosen 13, and eight had then been assigned preference by the Bureau. Of the eight, two were representatives of the territorial authorities and would be funded by those authorities. The list before the Committee was based on a consensus reached at the informal meeting. The list contained additional names in the event that one or more of the eight could not attend.

10. **Mr. Maquieira** (Chile) said that his Government would be sending an expert at its own expense. He would inform the Secretariat of the identity of the expert.

11. **The Chairman** reminded members of the Special Committee that the seminars were open to all Member States and that all were free to send experts, albeit at their own expense.

12. **Mr. Mohammad** (Iraq) asked how the selection of experts had been made and according to what criteria.

13. **The Chairman** said that experts from the region in which the seminar was held, typically either the Pacific region or the Caribbean region, had always attended the seminars, so that one criterion was geographic. Another criterion was the nature of the expertise and its relevance to the agenda of the seminar. The Special Committee had held many seminars over the years; members knew each other well and they knew the experts. Member States had been requested on several occasions to submit the names of additional experts who could be useful to the Committee. He took it that, if he heard no objection, the Special Committee wished to approve the list of experts and non-governmental organizations selected to attend the seminar.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The Chairman** said that members of the Special Committee had before them the draft agenda of the Caribbean Regional Seminar. He took it that, if he heard no objection, the Special Committee wished to approve the draft agenda.

16. *It was so decided.*

#### **Other matters**

17. **Mr. Lewis** (Antigua and Barbuda) recalled that in the past the Special Committee had invited the administering Powers to attend regional seminars, and in some cases representatives of those countries had attended. Their attendance had not been meaningful, however, as they had mostly ignored the substantive parts of the agenda and had attended only the social events. He wondered whether there were any signs of improvements on that score.

18. **The Chairman** said that representatives from two administering Powers, France and New Zealand, had attended seminars in the past. In some cases those representatives had participated in the discussion and in other cases they had simply followed the discussion. The Special Committee would, of course, like to see greater and more meaningful participation on the part of all the administering Powers.

19. **Mr. Dausá Céspedes** (Cuba) expressed his delegation's gratitude that the Special Committee had shown confidence in Cuba and had accepted his

Government's invitation to host the Seminar. All delegations were welcome in Cuba, and a member of his Permanent Mission, whose name he would give to the Secretariat, had been given responsibility for all arrangements, including travel. Cuba would have eight non-governmental organizations and two experts attending. Their names would also be given to the Secretariat.

20. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of Cuba and, through him, his Government for its generosity and help with arrangements for the Seminar.

21. **Mr. Donigi** (Papua New Guinea) expressed his satisfaction that arrangements for the Seminar were proceeding well. He shared the hopes of the representative of Antigua and Barbuda that participation on the part of the administering Powers would improve. An idea for 2002 might be to hold a seminar in New York, with all Member States invited. The administering Powers would then not be able to claim the pretext of distance for not attending.

22. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of Papua New Guinea for his suggestion. The Special Committee had consistently encouraged greater participation on the part of the administering Powers. Perhaps the idea of holding a seminar in New York might improve the situation.

*The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.*