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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 1485th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 30 April 1998, at 5.30 p.m.

Chairman:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ PARRILLA
(Vice-Chairman)

(Cuba)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.50 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR

2. The CHAIRMAN said that the Secretariat had circulated a summary of the recommendations of the Open-ended Bureau to the Special Committee of 24 on the arrangements for the forthcoming Pacific Regional Seminar. He thanked the Government of Fiji for offering to host the seminar. He suggested that the Committee should adopt those recommendations, which included authorizing the Chairman to finalize all arrangements regarding the Seminar in consultation with the Bureau.

3. It was so decided.

OBSERVANCE OF THE WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ALL COLONIAL TERRITORIES FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

4. Mr. STANISLAUS (Grenada) said that the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Montserrat had suffered several volcanic eruptions in recent years, and that the United Kingdom, as the administering Power, was providing assistance to the population. He hoped that the Committee would approve the Bureau's recommendation that the Chief Minister of Montserrat should be invited to participate in the Seminar in order to inform the Committee concerning the aftermath of the natural disaster in that Territory, and that funding should be provided for that purpose. He also hoped that the United Kingdom would act expeditiously to allow the Chief Minister to accept the Committee's invitation.

5. Mr. ARAIM (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Committee's invitations to the chief ministers of Non-Self-Governing Territories were normally issued through the intermediary of the administering Power.

6. Mr. LEWIS (Antigua and Barbuda) said that, during the past two years, the United Kingdom had focused on the problems faced by the population of Montserrat and that the population of his own country had increased by 5 per cent through absorption of displaced persons from Montserrat. His Government had received assistance in building the infrastructure needed to support that increase, including the construction of schools and clinics. In addition, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was in the process of creating a "CARICOM village" which would provide housing for many of the displaced persons.

7. The fragile status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories was illustrated by the fact that, although Montserrat was a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - which was a part of CARICOM - it must seek the authorization of the administering Power, in order to implement decisions of those groups and others of which it was a member. The resulting inability of Montserrat to interact with the rest of CARICOM on certain issues was a step backwards; it was

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therefore especially important for the Committee to invite the Chief Minister of Montserrat to convey the concerns of his people to the Committee at the Seminar.

8. Mr. SOERYO LEGOWO (Indonesia) said that he shared the concern expressed by the representative of Grenada with regard to Montserrat and supported the proposal that the Chief Minister of that Territory should be invited to participate in the Seminar, with funding provided for that purpose.

9. With regard to paragraph 2 of the summary of the recommendations of the Open-ended Bureau to the Special Committee of 24, his delegation was of the view that, in extending invitations to the Seminar, the Committee should take into consideration the values and views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and that the list of representatives whom the Bureau proposed to invite should be circulated to the Committee before those invitations were issued.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau would discuss that matter.

11. Mr. OVIA (Papua New Guinea) said that he supported the proposal to invite the Chief Minister of Montserrat to participate in the Seminar in order to inform the Committee of the humanitarian, rather than the political, problems faced by his people, and urged the administering Power to view the Committee's invitation in that light.

12. The current year was of particular importance for the Pacific region because of the referendum scheduled to be held in New Caledonia. He suggested that the representatives of Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau and perhaps Pitcairn should be invited to provide the Committee with an update of their situation at the Seminar.

13. Mr. HU Zhaoming (China) said that his delegation attached great importance to the Pacific Regional Seminar. He asked whether the words "all Member States" in paragraph 2 of the summary of recommendations referred to members of the Special Committee or to Members of the United Nations as a whole.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the reference was to States Members of the United Nations.

15. Mr. LEWIS (Antigua and Barbuda) said he believed that it was the Committee's practice to include a representative of the State which had chaired the most recent Seminar in the six-member delegation of the Committee to the following year's Seminar.

16. The CHAIRMAN replied that it was the Committee's practice for the Chairman to conduct consultations with the Vice-Chairmen in order to determine the composition of the delegation, bearing in mind the wishes of the members of the Committee.

17. Mr. ARAIM (Secretary of the Committee) noted that, in 1996, when the Seminar had been held in Papua New Guinea, the Chairman had not invited a representative of Trinidad and Tobago, which had hosted the 1995 Seminar, to form part of the Committee's delegation. The position adopted in that regard

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was that the Chairman would consult with the regional groups in order to determine which member States wished to be included in the delegation.

18. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the recommendations of the Bureau, taking into account the statements made by the representative of Grenada and the Secretary of the Committee.

19. It was so decided.

OTHER MATTERS

20. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to an aide-mémoire dated 30 April 1998, in which the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia invited the Chairman of the Committee to attend the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to be held in Colombia from 18 to 20 May 1998. He said he took it that the Committee wished to accept the invitation and to authorize the Chairman to participate in the meeting.

21. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.