



General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 July 2003

Original: English

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 Friday, 11 April 2003, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Huntley. (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.55 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Caribbean Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2003/6)

2. **The Chairman** thanked the Government of the United Kingdom and the Governor of Anguilla for offering to host the Special Committee's Caribbean Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Caribbean and Bermuda at The Valley, Anguilla, from 20 to 22 May 2003. The letter of invitation was contained in an aide-memoire dated 28 February 2003. He took it that the Committee approved the arrangements and wished to commemorate the Week of Solidarity during the Seminar.

3. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee

4. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to be represented at the Seminar by Saint Lucia, Côte d'Ivoire and the United Republic of Tanzania (for the African Group of States), the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and India (for the Asian Group of States), Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia and Cuba (for the Latin American and Caribbean Group of States) and the Russian Federation (for the Eastern European Group of States). The travel costs of representatives of those 11 States would be met by the Organization.

5. *It was so decided.*

Extension of invitations

6. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to extend invitations to the following experts: Mr. Carlyle Corbin, Sir Dwight K.D. Venner, Mr. Vaughan Lewis and Sir Walton Brown (listed in an aide-memoire circulated to all members), as well as a fifth expert. The Organization would fund their participation.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairman** said that invitations would also be extended to other Member States, administering Powers, United Nations specialized agencies and certain regional organizations, as well as to all elected

and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Their travel costs would not, however, be met by the United Nations.

9. *It was so decided.*

Guidelines, rules of procedure and draft agenda of the Seminar

10. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve the rules of procedure and provisional agenda of the Seminar contained in document A/AC.109/2003/6.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba), supported by **Mr. Yauvoli** (Fiji), welcomed the fact that the Seminar was to be held for the first time in a Non-Self-Governing Territory. Not only did that bode well for future cooperation with the administering Powers, but it would also further the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2001-2010).

13. **Mr. Ovia** (Papua New Guinea) agreed and expressed the hope that other administering Powers would follow suit, especially in the Pacific subregion.

14. **Mr. Ortiz Gandarillas** (Bolivia) said that the holding of the Seminar in Anguilla represented a milestone in the decolonization process; such had been his own delegation's proposal the previous year. The Chairman should clarify the status of the Committee's reply to the letter of 10 April 2003 from the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre concerning the participation in the Seminar of non-governmental organizations.

15. **Mrs. Mulamula** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that her country, one of the Committee's founding members, looked forward to participating in the Seminar. Concerned that equitable geographical distribution should be taken into account, she would appreciate clarification of the procedure for appointing the officers of the Seminar.

16. **Mr. Rudakov** (Russian Federation) said that the Seminar would contribute significantly to the work of the Committee. All members would have the opportunity to participate, since representatives of each regional group would be taking part. Oddly enough, it appeared from the documents before the Committee that Mr. Carlyle Corbin would be serving in a dual capacity, both as a funded expert and as an adviser in the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda.

17. **Mr. Okio** (Congo) said that his delegation had long called for the holding of the Seminar in a Non-Self-Governing Territory. It was to be hoped that such a welcome gesture from the administering Power would herald a new era of cooperation with the Committee and that other administering Powers would follow suit. The Second International Decade should lead not to a third decade, but to the eradication of colonialism, and it was to be hoped that the Seminar would provide momentum towards that goal.

18. **Mr. Rilmania** (Indonesia), having stressed Indonesia's readiness to contribute to the Seminar, requested clarification of the topic of the fifth expert's discussion paper.

19. **The Chairman** said that the intention was not to exclude non-governmental organizations from the work of the Committee; the fact that they had not been invited to attend that particular Seminar would not create a precedent. The Seminar in question had been convened for the specific purpose of advancing the decolonization process by furthering dialogue between the administering Powers and elected representatives of the Territories.

20. The officers of the seminar would be appointed by its presiding officer during the proceedings; those officers would not be the same as the members of the Committee's Bureau.

21. Mr. Carlyle Corbin had not intentionally been accorded a dual role; the matter would be raised with the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda.

22. The fifth funded expert was Mr. Howard Fergus, former Acting Governor of Montserrat; the topic of his discussion paper was "modernization by the United Kingdom of the constitutions of Non-Self-Governing Territories".

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.