



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 Tuesday, 1 April 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Lasso Mendoza (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

2. **The Chair** informed the Committee that the delegation of Brazil had indicated its wish to participate in the work of the Committee as an observer.

Preliminary report on the activities and outcome of the Committee visiting mission to New Caledonia

3. **Mr. Koroma** (Sierra Leone) said that the goal of the visiting mission, which he had led, had been to obtain information about the self-determination process in New Caledonia, including with regard to the review of the special electoral list for the provincial elections on 11 May 2014.

4. Meetings had been held with all relevant actors in the decolonization process, from 10 to 15 March 2014, and also with French officials in Paris on 17 March. Though some political actors had initially viewed the mission with distrust and suspected it of bias, it had been able to convey its neutrality, and an additional meeting with previously reticent stakeholders had been scheduled at the last moment to engage in dialogue on how the political process could be better managed.

5. The final report would contain detailed information on the issues encountered. In particular, the mission had noted discord over the status of the special electoral list and challenges relating to the work of the administrative review commissions, as well as a lack of adequate information — including the dates of a person's arrival, settlement and first registration in the territory — to review the special electoral list effectively; a lack of specialized training for the administrative review commission members; and difficulties in reaching voters in isolated places. Concerns had also been expressed about a purported increase in the circulation of small arms and ammunition, insufficient training opportunities for the Kanak population, the alleged influx of immigrants into the territory, and the difficulty of preserving the identity of the Kanak population and other immigrant groups.

6. Notwithstanding those concerns, tremendous progress had been made in the implementation of the

Noumea Accord. The University of New Caledonia now provided undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational training and research opportunities for approximately 3,000 students. The “Cadres for the Future” programme was training members of the Kanak and French populations to participate in the political process, and young people were being given vocational training within the framework of the safety net programme for youth. In addition, the multi-million dollar industrial complex, Koniambo Nickel SAS, to be operated on the basis of sustainable development principles, was designed to turn New Caledonia into one of the world's leading nickel producers.

7. A number of responsibilities had been transferred from the French State to the New Caledonian Government, including education, health and local government administration, although sovereign responsibilities such as defence, economy and foreign affairs remained in the hands of the administering Power. The mission had noted a healthy interaction between the Kanak and French populations, and between pro- and anti-independence groups. It concurred with those who called for continuous dialogue to preserve peace and harmony in New Caledonia and, noting the preparations for the final phase of implementation of the Noumea Accord under way, recognized the ongoing efforts of the French Government to rebalance the economic disparities of the Kanak population.

8. **The Chair** said that the final report of the visiting mission would be available at the next plenary meeting in June.

9. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea), recalling that the Noumea Accord would soon expire, said that it was incumbent on the administering Power to guarantee the accuracy of the special electoral list, on which the forthcoming referendum depended. It was to be hoped that the final report would refer to the need for training and capacity-building for the Kanak population, to facilitate their participation in the future governance of New Caledonia. The programmes highlighted by the representative of Sierra Leone were also important and, should be reflected in a future report on New Caledonia, pursuant to Article 73 (e) of the Charter of the United Nations.

10. Lastly, it was important to acknowledge the valuable participation of the President of the Congress of New Caledonia, without which the visiting mission could not have taken place.

Pacific regional seminar (A/AC.109/2014/17)*Guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the seminar*

11. **The Chair** drew attention to the guidelines, rules of procedure and provisional agenda for the seminar, as contained in document A/AC.109/2014/17. The text was basically the same as in previous years, except for the venue, dates and languages to be used by the seminar; the working languages would be English and Spanish, since he intended to preside over deliberations in Spanish. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the seminar.

12. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the official delegation

13. **The Chair** recalled that the Committee's official delegation to the seminar would comprise the Chair and Bureau members, plus one Committee member from each regional group represented on the Committee. Accordingly, it was necessary to select representatives from the Group of African States, the Group of Asia-Pacific States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, while the Group of Eastern European States would be represented by its sole member on the Committee, the Russian Federation.

14. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that if there were no other candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean, her delegation would be happy to represent the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States at the seminar.

15. **The Chair** urged the three regional groups to undertake the necessary consultations to present official nominations without delay. The United Nations would bear the travel costs of the delegation.

Extension of invitations to experts and organizations

16. **The Chair** said that the Bureau had decided to maintain the Committee's practice of extending seminar invitations to selected experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations. He took it that the Committee wished to authorize him to finalize the list of experts and organizations invited to the seminar.

17. *It was so decided.*

18. **The Chair**, recalling that the Committee maintained a database of experts on issues relevant to the Committee's work, renewed his invitation to all Committee members to submit the names of any independent experts from their countries and regions for inclusion in the database and possible consideration for subsequent seminars.

19. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea) said that, in previous years, the contribution of some experts had proved to be minimal. It was therefore important to ensure that the appropriate experts attended the seminar, with a view to achieving a productive outcome.

Extension of invitations to representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

20. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with the established practice of the Committee, invitations to the seminar would also be extended to all elected and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as to Member States that were not members of the Committee, administering Powers, specialized agencies within the United Nations system and some regional organizations. The United Nations would bear the travel costs of only three experts, three non-governmental organizations and the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. He took it that the Committee wished to maintain that practice.

21. *It was so decided.*

22. **Mr. Aisi** (Papua New Guinea) said that the Chair should liaise with the administering Powers to encourage their active participation in the seminar.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.