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Chairman: Mr. Karel KURKA (Czechoslovakia).

AGENDA ITEM 88


GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. BITSIOS (Greece) wished to explain his Government’s intentions in connexion with the United States delegation’s appeal. Within the limits of its capacity, Greece was determined to respond to that appeal. Owing to its economic situation and its lack of natural resources, Greece’s direct contribution to a United Nations fund would necessarily be small. However, in the field of technical assistance, it would make available to the United Nations, as it had done for the Congo, skilled personnel who could help to carry out administrative and educational programmes planned for Africa.

2. There were two main ideas in the United States proposal: first, that assistance provided to the African States should be the result of the combined efforts of the international community channelled through the United Nations; and second, that the programme of African development should be drawn up by Africans and for Africans.

3. Until recently, the concept of free assistance had been entirely unknown. The newly emancipated countries had had to obtain loans at high interest rates. The creditor Powers had set up commissions in those countries which controlled their finances and exerted a direct influence not only on their economic affairs but on their political development. After the Second World War, however, the United States had made an unprecedented gesture by making available to the victims of Nazi aggression the resources necessary for their recovery. Now that same Power was proposing that assistance for the development of the countries of Africa should be channelled through the United Nations and that the Africans themselves should be allowed to decide how they wished to carry out their development, thus excluding any possibility of outside interests influencing the growth of the economy of the new States. Under that new concept of assistance, the States which would be invited to benefit would no longer have any cause to fear for their independence and freedom. The Greek delegation was convinced that the feeling of continental solidarity which had already been shown by the African leaders would keep Africa safe from the blasts of the cold war. The Members of the United Nations were being asked to help the African States in that endeavour.

4. Greece unreservedly supported the principles set forth in the draft resolution in document A/4515/Add.1, principles which Member States should observe so that a peaceful and peace-loving Africa might emerge from the concerted effort of the international community.

5. The CHAIRMAN, noting that there were no more speakers on his list, and that unofficial negotiations were in progress, suggested that the Committee should adjourn sine die and meet again when he decided to convene it after consulting the delegations concerned.

6. Mr. GEBRE-EGZY (Ethiopia) wondered whether the Committee could not, in the meantime, take up other items of its agenda.

7. The CHAIRMAN said he would consult the various delegations so that at the next meeting the Committee might be in a position to organize its programme of work.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.