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Agenda item 43:
Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (continued). 41

Chairman: Mr. Humberto DIAZ CASANUEVA (Chile).

AGENDA ITEM 43

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, since some delegations were anxious to proceed to the vote on the draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination while others had asked for more time to consider the many amendments submitted, the general debate should be closed at the current meeting and the vote taken at the 1220th meeting on the afternoon of the following day, 3 October.

2. Mr. MEANS (United States of America) said that his delegation had not yet had time to consider the amendments with the necessary care or to obtain instructions from its Government; consequently, it would be unable to participate in the general debate at the current meeting. He suggested that the Committee should adjourn until the afternoon of 3 October.

3. Mr. SOLODOVNIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) saw no reason to prolong the proceedings. There was unanimous approval of the basic provisions of the draft Declaration, and most of the amendments submitted were designed to improve the text. His delegation was prepared to continue the debate and to vote on the morning of 3 October.

4. Miss WACHUKU (Nigeria) said that she was as yet without instructions from her Government. In the interest of the African countries, to which the draft Declaration was of vital concern, she appealed to the Committee to adjourn the meeting so that the sponsors of the various amendments could negotiate with a view to preparing compromise texts.

5. Mrs. VILLGRATNER (Austria) stated that her delegation would like sufficient time to study all the amendments and to obtain instructions from its Government before voting.

6. Mr. MORENO SALCEDO (Philippines) formally proposed that the Committee should adjourn and that no meeting should be held on the morning of 3 October, in order to allow delegations time to study the amendments and to negotiate among themselves with a view to withdrawing or consolidating some of the amendments. That course of action would expedite the Committee’s work.

The Philippine proposal was adopted by 62 votes to none, with 17 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.