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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD  
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES\*

(covering its work during 1991)

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CHAPTERS II and III

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\* This document contains chapters II and III of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/46/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report have been issued under the symbol A/46/23 (Parts III to VII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

## CHAPTER II

### DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

#### A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1377th meeting, on 21 February 1991, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1755), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to maintain its Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance and allocated to it certain specific items for its consideration. The Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization, as appropriate, at its plenary and subcommittee meetings.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1383rd and 1387th meetings, on 7 and 9 August 1991, respectively.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, resolution 45/35 of 20 November 1990 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 45/34 of the same date, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Committee also considered Assembly resolutions 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating, respectively, to the twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration. In addition, the Committee paid due regard to the relevant information furnished to it by the representatives of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), as well as non-governmental organizations.
4. In connection with the annual observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat undertook a number of activities during the week of 20-24 May 1991 (see para. 8), as set out in the 285th report of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1760), which the Special Committee approved on 9 August 1991 on the basis of related consultations and on the understanding that further consultations would be held, as appropriate and necessary, in connection with the implementation of specific recommendations contained therein.
5. On the basis of the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance at its 484th meeting on 2 May, Mr. J. A. González-González made a statement at the 488th meeting, on 1 August 1991 (GA/COL/2806).
6. At the 1383rd meeting, on 7 August, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1383), introduced the 285th report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1760). The 285th report related to the organization of work of the Subcommittee; Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom,

Independence and Human Rights (20-24 May 1991); implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations; question of dissemination of information on decolonization; rationalization of work; examination of petitions; consultations with the Organization of African Unity and other intergovernmental organizations regarding questions of information and assistance and with non-governmental organizations on questions relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; and consultations with the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations.

7. At its 1387th meeting, on 9 August, the Special Committee adopted the 285th report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1760) and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see paras. 8 and 10).

#### B. Decision of the Special Committee

##### Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

8. The 285th report of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1760), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1387th meeting, on 9 August 1991 (see para. 7), contained the following conclusions and recommendations, on the basis of which a number of activities were undertaken during and in the framework of the Week:

(a) A public screening of films produced in English, French and Spanish should be held;

(b) Articles in the UN Chronicle and Objective: Justice (1991 edition), published by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should feature the activities of the Week;

(c) The Department of Public Information, in addition to short items in news and current affairs magazines, should produce special feature radio programmes on the Week;

(d) The United Nations information centres and information services worldwide should undertake activities which would reflect the current situation and expectations with regard to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) The statement of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the activities of the Week should be issued as a press release;

(f) Information packages containing United Nations publications on decolonization issues should be distributed to the media and the non-governmental organizations.

9. In accordance with the above decision (see para. 8 (e)), the Chairman of the Special Committee issued on 23 May the following statement in commemoration of the Week of Solidarity:

Statement issued by the Chairman on 23 May 1991  
on the Week of Solidarity

"The Special Committee, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, first observed a week of solidarity with colonial peoples fighting for freedom and against oppression in 1973. Over the almost 20 years that have elapsed since that time, massive changes have occurred in the field of decolonization through the implementation of Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. Some 26 former colonial Territories, scattered throughout the world, irrespective of their size, geographical location and richness in natural resources, have acceded to independence, and millions of men and women, finally enfranchised, have been unable to pursue their own destinies.

"Despite the giant strides towards the eradication of colonialism, which collectively constitute one of the most monumental feats of the United Nations, much has yet to be accomplished. Hence, the Special Committee of 24, which has always been in the forefront of the battle against colonialism, remains committed to the cause of peoples everywhere struggling against colonialism in whatever forms it may manifest itself.

"The Special Committee is deeply committed to the goal of eradicating colonialism before the end of this century, in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, which clearly state the goals to be pursued by the United Nations in the field of decolonization up to the year 2000, and to ushering in a new millennium free from the scourges of colonialism and racism in all their manifestations.

"The Special Committee has also been concerned with the persistence of the evil of colonialism in hybrid forms. The most widespread and common of these stem from racism and other similar violations of the rights of peoples. The ongoing struggle against the practice and institution of racism is equally as vital as the battle waged against colonial Powers that had disenfranchised entire populations.

"One of the clearest examples of the above is the persistence of the policy of apartheid practised in South Africa. In recognition of this, the General Assembly once again spelled out the inextricable link between apartheid and colonialism in its resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In that resolution, the Assembly unequivocally declared that the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, including racism and apartheid, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration and the principles of international law. In the same resolution, the Assembly also called upon Member States to take effective steps with a view towards the complete, unconditional and speedy eradication of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and to the faithful and

strict observance of the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council.

"We stand in solidarity with all the colonized peoples throughout the world that have yet to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Our fervent hope, and a goal towards which we are striving every day, is, that as changes of a positive nature occur in the area of international relations, they will augur favourably for the colonized peoples.

"Finally, I wish to appeal to all Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as to non-governmental organizations and individuals of good will, to increase their assistance and support to the oppressed peoples of South Africa and to the peoples of all colonial Territories in order to enable them to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence without further delay."

#### C. Other decisions of the Special Committee

10. The 285th report of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1760), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1387th meeting, on 9 August 1991 (see para. 7), contained the following conclusions and recommendations:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Special Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue to intensify, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in the

annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all of the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate information on all remaining colonial Territories under the consideration of the Special Committee, including information on military bases or facilities in any of those Territories;

(d) To disseminate more widely, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, basic decolonization resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(e) To pursue its cooperation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and to provide it on a regular basis with varied publicity material and information concerning United Nations activities in the field of decolonization;

(f) To continue to disseminate materials prepared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning decolonization;

(g) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(h) To continue to provide information material on decolonization through, inter alia, exhibitions to be shown outside United Nations Headquarters, to all United Nations information centres and to increase assistance to them in all related activities;

(i) To produce new visual material on problems of decolonization in cooperation with the Special Committee;

(j) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on

decolonization and, in particular, on the activities undertaken in 1991 in relation to the celebration of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that information bodies provide better coverage of decolonization in all regions.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to increase its speaking engagements at university campuses across North America and, if requested, in other regions on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee of the experience and the results achieved.

(7) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration of the Committee. The Committee requests the two Departments to continue to intensify their cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization, particularly through briefings and the provision of relevant printed materials.

(8) The Special Committee appeals to the mass media to regard it as their task to contribute to the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism by disseminating information on the decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of the colonial countries.

(9) The Special Committee expresses the view that the mass media could provide broader coverage of events and activities relating to the decolonization process through conferences, seminars and round tables, as well as the publication and wide distribution of pertinent resolutions and decisions of such bodies.

(10) The Special Committee should continue to consider new ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the dissemination of information relating to decolonization.

11. The Special Committee also took decisions during the year relating to publicity in connection with other items on its agenda as follows:

(a) In a resolution concerning foreign economic activities in colonial countries, adopted at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991 (see A/AC.109/1091 and A/46/23 (Part III), chap. IV), the Special Committee, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue, through the Department of Public Information, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also appealed to mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to coordinate and intensify their efforts to mobilize international public opinion against the policy of the apartheid regime of South Africa and to work towards the non-relaxation of existing measures against that regime in order to accelerate the process of constitutional change.

(b) In a decision on military activities in colonial Territories, adopted at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991 (see A/AC.109/1090 and A/46/23 (Part III), chap. V), the Special Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue, through the Department of Public Information, to inform world public opinion of the facts concerning the military activities and arrangements in colonial Territories which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).



## CHAPTER III

### QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

#### A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1377th meeting, on 21 February 1991, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1755), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Committee further decided that the item should be considered at its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, by its Subcommittee on Small Territories in connection with its examination of specific Territories.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1381st, 1383rd, 1387th and 1393rd meetings, between 1 and 14 August 1991.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, those provisions relating to the question contained in resolution 45/34 of 20 November 1990 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolutions 45/23 to 45/32, all of 20 November 1990 and Assembly decision 45/409 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Committee also considered Assembly resolutions 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating, respectively, to the twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration.
4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Acting Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1757) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1365th meeting, on 6 August 1990. <sup>1/</sup> In his report, the Acting Chairman stated, *inter alia*, that he had informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing firsthand information on those Territories and that it was the understanding of the Committee that a number of territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive such missions.
5. The Acting Chairman reported that the administering Powers consulted had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their respective administration in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations. Those already participating in the work of the Special Committee had further assured the Acting Chairman that they would in principle continue to do so. As regards the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions, however, the same willingness had not been displayed, and it appeared that in most cases, further consultations with the administering Powers concerned would be necessary.

6. The Acting Chairman had been gratified to learn from one administering Power that the United Nations could be invited in 1992 to send another visiting mission to the Territory it administers, as soon as some technical problems have been solved. Other administering Powers, however, had pointed out that while they might be willing to examine the possibility of receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, they considered it essential to first ascertain that the peoples of those Territories really wanted such missions and, if so, to determine the objectives of those missions on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, in their view, a clear demonstration by the Committee of its determination to concentrate its efforts exclusively on the well-being of the peoples of the remaining small Territories might facilitate the acceptance of such missions by all concerned.

7. The Acting Chairman reported that he had drawn attention to the series of reforms undertaken by the Special Committee in recent months which were aimed at improving the Committee's efficiency and method of work in fulfilling its mandate. He had stressed that the full cooperation of the administering Powers would be an important complement to those efforts.

8. The Acting Chairman noted that the administering Powers consulted had indicated that they had followed with great interest and appreciation the efforts of the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work. They had expressed the hope that the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee to the General Assembly would reflect those efforts, thereby paving the way for a renewed and closer cooperation of the administering Powers.

9. The Acting Chairman reported that he had reiterated the Special Committee's conviction of the importance of the participation of all administering Powers in the work of the Committee and their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their respective administration. With regard to visiting missions in particular, he had expressed the hope that the Special Committee would receive in the near future invitations from all administering Powers to send visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. It was agreed that the question should be kept under review and that further consultations should take place.

10. At the 1381st meeting, on 1 August, the Acting Chairman drew attention to his report on the item (A/AC.109/L.1757) as well as a related draft resolution prepared by him (A/AC.109/L.1758). At the 1383rd meeting, on 7 August, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1383). The representative of Norway made a statement at the 1393rd meeting, on 14 August (A/AC.109/PV.1393).

11. At the 1387th meeting, on 9 August, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1758) without objection (see para. 15).

12. On 15 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1085) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

13. In addition to the consideration of the item at the plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as described below, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, in considering the specific Territories referred to it, took into

account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions and decisions mentioned in paragraph 3, as well as previous decisions of the Committee relating to the item.

14. By approving the relevant reports of that Subcommittee, the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter IX of the present report (A/46/23 (Part VI)), relating to Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Tokelau, American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands.

B. Decision by the Special Committee

15. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1085) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1387th meeting on 9 August 1991, to which reference is made in paragraph 11, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question, 2/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of colonial Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

#### Notes

1/ A/45/23 (Part III), chap. IV, para. 11. To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

2/ A/AC.109/L.1757.

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