Twentieth session

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

GIBRALTAR

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2429 (XXIII) of 13 December 1968 on the question of Gibraltar. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the question of Gibraltar,

"Having heard the statements of the administering Power and the representative of Spain,

"Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

"Recalling also its resolution 2353 (XXII) of 19 December 1967,

"1. Regrets that the administering Power has failed to comply with General Assembly resolution 2353 (XXII);

"2. Declares that the continuation of the colonial situation in Gibraltar is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

"3. Requests the administering Power to terminate the colonial situation in Gibraltar no later than 1 October 1969;

"4. Calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to begin without delay the negotiations with the Government of Spain provided for in resolution 2353 (XXII);


2/ Ibid., paras. 47-97 and 114-125.

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"5. Requests the Secretary-General to give the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland any assistance they may require for the implementation of the present resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session."

2. In identical letters dated 7 January 1969, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of the resolution to the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations. The text of the letters reads as follows:

"I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the attention of your Government, the text of resolution 2429 (XXIII) on the question of Gibraltar which the General Assembly adopted at its 1747th plenary meeting, on 18 December 1968.

"In forwarding this resolution, I wish to note that the General Assembly has requested me, in operative paragraph 5, 'to give the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland any assistance they may require for the implementation of the present resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session'. Having regard to this request, I wish to reaffirm my readiness to extend assistance as appropriate to both Governments in connexion with this question."

3. In a note dated 23 January, the Acting Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom acknowledged the Secretary-General's letter and stated that the resolution had been forwarded to his Government.

4. On 9 April, the Permanent Representative of Spain addressed to the Secretary-General the following communication:

"With reference to your letter of 7 January 1969 enclosing resolution 2429 (XXIII) on Gibraltar, adopted by the General Assembly at its 1747th plenary meeting held on 18 December 1968, I have the honour to inform you, on the instructions of my Government, that despite the lapse of time Her Britannic Majesty's Government has taken no steps to implement that resolution. Furthermore, on 17 February 1969, replying to a question in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs stated that 'neither the Spanish Government nor Her Majesty's Government have proposed that the talks be resumed'.

"My Government notes that the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 4 of that resolution, 'calls upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to begin without delay the negotiations with the Government of Spain provided for in resolution 2353 (XXII)'. It is therefore Her Britannic Majesty's Government that should propose the opening of those negotiations. My Government is disposed to respond favourably to any British proposal aimed at implementing that resolution.
"Bearing in mind the offer that you have made pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of that resolution, my Government would be grateful if you would give all possible assistance to ensure that Her Britannic Majesty's Government begins the expected negotiations and is thus able to implement resolution 2429 (XXIII) within the period stated in that resolution."

5. Further reports by the Secretary-General in pursuance of operative paragraph 5 of resolution 2429 (XXIII) will be issued as necessary as addenda to the present document.