



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERALA/44/800  
27 November 1989  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/FRENCH/  
RUSSIAN/SPANISH

## Forty-fourth session

Agenda item 18

INTERNATIONAL ~~DECADE~~ FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISMReport of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 November 1988, at its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism". In paragraph 2 of that resolution the Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism".

2. Accordingly, on 31 January 1989, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of resolution 43/47 to all States and organizations of the United Nations system and invited their suggestions in connection with the preparation of the report requested of him. The Secretary-General wishes to inform Member States that, as of November 1989, he has received 16 replies from Member States, one from a non-Member State and three from organizations within the United Nations system.

3. To enable the Secretary-General to prepare a draft action plan as broadly based as possible, and in keeping with the request of the General Assembly, it is necessary that he receive the views of those Member States and organizations of the United Nations system that have yet to reply to his communication of 31 January 1989.

4. Such replies should be received not later than 1 April 1990 to allow the draft action plan to be prepared and circulated among Member States and organizations well in advance of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

5. The Secretary-General has noted recent actions taken by the international community in support of resolution 43/47. At the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, members expressed their desire to contribute effectively to the carrying out of a United Nations plan of action for the implementation of the Decade and decided to assign the Co-ordinating Bureau the task of developing a Non-Aligned Movement Work Plan and of creating a Non-Aligned Movement Work Group. Furthermore, States members of the Organization of American States recently adopted a resolution on the International Decade committing their organization to participating fully in the activities to be conducted by the United Nations during the Decade.

6. For the reasons given above, the Secretary-General has confined the following interim report to the reproduction of the text of replies received thus far.

## II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

## ARGENTINA

[Original in Spanish]

[2 May 1989]

1. The question of the Malvinas Islands is among those colonial situations which are as yet unresolved. The colonial situation of the Islands, which rightfully belong to the Argentine Republic, stems from their occupation by force in 1033 by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Argentine Republic never accepted this situation or affirmed its validity and has since that time been engaged in an historic conflict of sovereignty with the Government of the United Kingdom.

2. Since 1946, the Malvinas Islands has been on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories which are to be decolonized. In 1965, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted its first decision on this Territory (resolution 2065 (XX)). In addition, the Assembly has adopted the following resolutions on this question: 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 15 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988.

3. In its resolution 3160 (XXVIII), the General Assembly expressly declared that the way to put an end to the colonial situation in the islands was to solve the conflict of sovereignty over this Territory between Argentina and the United Kingdom. In keeping with this fundamental principle, in this and other declarations, the Assembly has repeatedly requested Argentina and the United Kingdom to put an end to the colonial situation in the Malvinas Islands through bilateral negotiations. In its most recent resolutions, including resolution 43/25, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to undertake a mission of good offices in order to assist the parties in complying with these and other resolutions. It further requested him to report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolutions. Unfortunately, as of this date, the Secretary-General has been unable to report any progress in the matter to the Assembly. In this context, Argentina has repeatedly expressed its acceptance of the resolutions in question and its willingness to comply with them, but so far, the United Kingdom has not responded in the same manner.

4. Moreover, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has consistently and repeatedly reaffirmed its full support for the right of the Argentine Republic to have its sovereignty over the Malvinas restored through negotiations. This firm position has been reiterated at summit and ministerial conferences of the Movement, including the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Harare in September 1986, and the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia in September 1988.

5. In the view of the Argentine Government, the United Nations should once again call on the **Governments** of Argentina and the United Kingdom, with the valuable co-operation of the Secretary-General, to resume negotiations without delay on the Problems pending between both countries, including all aspects on the future of the **Malvinas** Islands, in accordance with resolution **43/25** and **other** relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

6. Full respect for and compliance with the General Assembly **resolutions** on the question of the **Malvinas** are the pathway to a **just** and lasting **solution** to the conflict of sovereignty over this colonial Territory, and will contribute effectively and **concretely** to the attainment of the universal **objective**, stated in resolution **43/47**, of ushering in the twenty-first century in a world free from colonialism,

#### AUSTRALIA

(Original! English]

[13 June 1989]

1. Australia is pleased to inform the Secretary-General that **Australia** has a **strong** and long-standing commitment to decolonization and actively supports the principles of decolonization enshrined in General **Assembly** resolutions.
2. Australia has brought two Trust **Territories** of the **United Nations**, Papua New Guinea and Nauru, to independence with the full involvement of the United Nations and a **third** Australian territory, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, voted to integrate with Australia when it exercised its right to self-determination in **1984** in a plebiscite observed by the United Nations and later endorsed by the General **Assembly** (see resolution **39/30**).
3. Australia looks forward in the coming decade to the continuing strengthening and diversification of its bilateral relationship with Papua New Guinea. Australia administered the territories of Papua and New Guinea as a United Nations **Trust** Territory from the end of the Second World War until Papua New Guinea achieved its independence in **1975**. **Australia's** **stewardship** of **Papua** and **New Guinea** was conducted with a commitment to facilitate the eventual transition of the Territory into an independent State.
4. Since that time, Papua New Guinea and Australia have developed a close political and **economic** relationship marked by full respect for each other as independent, sovereign **States**. As the relationship **between Papua New Guinea** and Australia moves towards the twenty-first century, it will be guided by the joint declaration of principles guiding relations between Papua New Guinea and Australia. Australia commends this declaration to the United **Nations** as an example of how relations between two States with close traditional and historic ties can be conducted in **accordance** with the principles of mutual respect for one another's independence, sovereignty and equality.

**BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC**

[Original: Russian]

[28 September 1989]

1. The Byelorussian SSR is of the belief that General Assembly resolution **43/47**, proclaiming 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, is an important and timely initiative representing a real effort to mobilise the international community against colonialism, racism and apartheid, and an endorsement in world policy and practice of a democratic legal order that excludes all forms of national oppression.
2. Achievement of the goals of the Decade, which will be an integral aspect of international relations in the last decade of this century, will, of course, depend entirely on emergent and evolving general political developments marked by new approaches to the solution of international problems on the basis of political dialogue, a balance of interests and a shift to constructive co-operation. It is important, in the course of these developments, to ensure strict respect for freedom of political choice, treating it as a universal principle to be extended to the peoples of **all dependent** Territories. This would pose an insuperable obstacle to perpetrated acts in violation of the United Nations Charter against some Non-Self-Governing Territories - for example, Micronesia.
3. The United Nations, which in 1960, at the initiative of the Soviet Union, adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)), has played an important role in the decolonisation process. The International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism which it has proclaimed, and the national liberation of peoples, should be the concluding stage of that process.
4. The immediate and complete settlement of the Namibian question, initiated on 1 April 1989, must provide a powerful impetus for the entire International Decade. The task of the international community is to promote this process, particularly, the effective implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978), which is the only realistic plan for freeing the last colonial Territory in Africa.
5. Implementation of the International Decade will require further efforts by States in various areas. In the area of military activity, the primary task is to involve new States actively in the process of disarmament, to prevent their being drawn into military confrontation and to end the use of colonial and dependent Territories as military bases and bridgeheads. Especially relevant in this regard is the Soviet proposal put forward at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, 1/ calling for the elimination of foreign military presences from other countries by the year 2000. The implementation of this Soviet initiative would be an important practical step in the transition of the dependent Territories to self-determination.
6. One of the main obstacles to the immediate full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as

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the relevant United Nations documents rightly state, is the activity of foreign economic and other circles exploiting Territories' natural and human resources against the interests of the indigenous population. Putting an immediate end to the plundering of colonial peoples' national wealth, finding ways to solve the problem of foreign debt, intensifying efforts to restructure international economic relations on a just and democratic basis and reflecting in practice the interrelationship between disarmament and development are, in our view, the most important tasks the United Nations must cope with in order to hasten the development of the new States and overcome their social and economic backwardness. This would go a long way towards ensuring the success of the Decade.

7. The eradication of colonialism would also be facilitated by making fuller use of the available potential of United Nations bodies, notably the Special Committee on decolonization. In our view, the proposed expansion of the Committee's activities from the political to the economic, social and information fields and the idea of formulating measures under United Nations auspices to ensure the environmental safety of the Non-Self-Governing Territories also deserve careful study.

8. It is also important for the United Nations to develop an appropriate public information programme for the International Decade, providing for the distribution of material on the goals and purposes of the Decade, the struggle of the colonial peoples for their independence and the importance of eradicating colonialism for improving the political climate of the planet.

9. Non-governmental organizations have an important role to play in achieving the goals of the Decade.

10. Consistent support for the struggle of peoples to bring about the complete elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid and secure their right to independent development has been and remains among the major areas of activity by the Byelorussian SSR in the international arena. The Byelorussian SSR supports the noble goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and is prepared to contribute to its practical development.

CANADA

(Original : English)

[17 August 1989]

The eradication of colonialism since the 1950s has been one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations. The large current membership of the United Nations is eloquent testimony to this fact. An International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in the 1990s may be a time for reflection on past success. Certainly any attention given to the process of self-determination on very small islands should not be allowed to overshadow these achievements. The road ahead is considerably shorter than that already travelled.

CHAD

[Original: French]

[24 April 1989]

1. In the view of the **Chadian Government**, the formulation of an action plan aimed at freeing the **world** from colonialism by the beginning of the twenty-first century **suggests** the following **measures**:

(a) A **commitment** by the international **community** to exert political and diplomatic pressure *on* the colonial Powers so as to induce **them** to create, in the Territories **under** colonial domination, conditions which would enable the peoples concerned to exercise freely and without **interference** their inalienable right to self-determination and **independence**. To this end, **information** should be collected *on* their evolution in accordance with General **Assembly** resolution 1514 (XV).

(b) An appeal to the colonial Powers to put an immediate **end** to the shameful exploitation of the human and **natural** resources of the Territories they administer and to the **use** of **some of those** resources for military purposes.

(c) **Activities** to increase the awareness of the international **community** by **means** of public meetings, seminars, radio and television broadcasts, and the publication of articles in the national daily press on colonialism and its various **manifestations**.

(d) **Mobilization** of associations of young people and women, professional **associations** and trade unions around a priority theme such as "Colonialism is a **crime against humanity**".

(e) The establishment of study groups to work towards increasing the awareness of and mobilising nations and international institutions so as to achieve the **ideal** of peace that would enable each **man** to live his life to the full with equal opportunities, rights and duties.

2. These are the suggestions and comments which constitute the contribution of the Government of the Republic of Chad to the formulation of this action plan.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish ]

[28 April 1989]

1. The Revolutionary Government of **Cuba** considers that the General Assembly, in adopting resolution **43/47** on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, has demonstrated its firm determination to undertake the final battle against the remaining bastions of that disgrace to mankind and welcome the advent of a world free **from that** evil in the twenty-first century.



2. To that end it was decided that the Organisation should adopt an action plan that, in the view of the Cuban Government, should, inter alia:

- (a) Request all **States**:
  - (i) In the case of those which are still administering **foreign** Territories, to establish the necessary conditions as soon as possible to enable the peoples of those Territories to gain their political, economic and military independence before 31 December 1999 in accordance with the principles of resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 **December 1960**;
  - (ii) To refrain from taking any measures which might perpetuate or establish foreign domination in other countries)
  - (iii) To discourage all commercial enterprises, including **transnational** corporations under **their** jurisdiction and control, from continuing or initiating activities that are prejudicial to the natural and human resources of the peoples under foreign domination and totally or partially impede the implementation of General **Assembly** resolution 1514 (**XV**);
  - (iv) To dismantle existing **bases** and installations and refrain from establishing new ones in Territories under foreign domination;
  - (v) To take measures in the sphere of education, scientific research, news and information **for the full** and immediate **implementation** of resolution 1514 (XV),
  - (vi) To promote the human rights of the peoples under foreign domination and of minority groups and migrant workers from those Territories who are victims of colonial exploitation;
  - (vii) To consider the promulgation of legislation on **recourse procedures** for the victims of **colonialism**;
- (b) Recommend the adoption of laws and the establishment of national institutions to promote the struggle **against** colonialism:
- (c) Declare that the struggle for independence **by** all necessary and possible **means** is **just** and **legitimate**;
- (d) Stress the need for the **specialized** agencies of the **United Nations system** and governmental and non-governmental international and regional **organizations** to contribute to the eradication of colonialism:
- (e) Strengthen the work and prestige of the United Nations bodies **concerned** with **decolonization**;
- (f) Request the United Nations bodies concerned with **decolonization** to carry out an exhaustive study of the aspects of this **matter** which still remain pending

and recommend to the international community an effective course of action for their complete elimination, and to consider other Territories which in one way or another depend on a foreign Power and are not currently on the official list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, so as to recommend the inclusion of these Territories on the lists and the implementation of the necessary **decolonizing** measures;

(g) The United Nations should **organize** an international conference to combat colonialism with the participation of all its Member States at both the governmental and the non-governmental levels, to assess the current situation with regard to the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) and in accordance with the principles of that resolution, with the recommendations and criteria of the **specialized** organs and agencies of the United Nations **system** and with the feelings of non-governmental **organizations** and international political opinion, to determine which other Territories or situations should be included in the **official** decolonization list of the United Nations, including Territories or situations which were on the original list of the Special Committee of 24, but for **one** reason or another are no longer Included, although they do not have the "status" of genuine independence:

(h) The Special Committee should intensify its activities in respect of visiting missions, regional events with non-governmental organisations and dissemination of information in order to **mobilize** international public opinion.

#### CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Original! English]

[3 May 1989]

1. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic has always been striving for complete eradication of the remnants of colonialism, racism and **apartheid** and advocating implementation of the right of all nations under foreign domination to decide freely on their future. Of extraordinary importance in the struggle for self-determination of colonial **peoples** was the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, whose thirtieth anniversary is to be observed by the whole international community next year. That event gave a strong impetus, both morally and politically, to the entire decolonization process.

2. The successes achieved by the **United** Nations and the whole **international** community in the sphere of decolonization are undeniable. We highly appreciate the fact that since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples **more** than 50 countries have liberated **themselves** from colonial oppression. We are following with hope the process which has been initiated, aimed at granting independence to Namibia, in which Czechoslovak **military** observers are participating within the United Nations Transition **Assistance** Group (UNTAG) forces. We trust that the people of Western Sahara will also be allowed in the foreseeable future to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

3. However, even when Namibia becomes independent and the question of Western Sahara is settled the decolonization process will not have been concluded yet. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic deems it necessary that the action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, which is currently in preparation, should entrust the Special Committee with the task of reviewing the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples until such time as the population of the last Non-Self-Governing Territory exercises its right to decide freely about its future. **Questions** like size, geographical isolation or limited resources of the remaining dependent Territories do not affect in any way the **fact** that the provisions of the Declaration fully apply to such Territories as well.

4. In order to fulfil the objective of ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, the action plan should deal with all the prerequisites needed for successful conclusion of the decolonization process. They include, in the opinion of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, particularly the following:

(a) Continuation of the efforts to prevent such activities and practices from promoting foreign economic and other interests in Non-Self-Governing Territories that impede implementation of the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples:

(b) Adoption by all Member States of legislative, administrative or other **measures** preventing their nationals and companies under their jurisdiction from **engaging** in such activities and practices;

(c) Continuation of efforts to prevent misuse of dependent Territories for military purposes:

(d) Adoption by all Member States of the necessary measures to prevent a flow of immigrants to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories which threatens to change the demographic structure of their population and thus to create a major obstacle to the genuine exercise of their right to self-determination:

(e) Concrete steps aimed at resolving the problem of suppression of the cultural and national identity and heritage of colonial peoples and at dealing with its consequences, such as unemployment and criminal activities:

(f) Ensuring that real conditions (political, economic, cultural) be created by the administering Powers for a free choice among the existing alternatives of self-determination;

(g) Granting **of** support and material assistance to the non-self-governing peoples by **specialized** international agencies and institutions of the United Nations system.

5. When evaluating the results of the decolonization process, it should be borne in mind that a number of the newly established States have not yet freed themselves from the bonds of neo-colonialism, dependence and exploitation, especially in the economic field. The action plan should therefore direct the efforts of United

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Nations organs towards supervising the creation of conditions for self-determination and viable and free development **following** the act of self-determination in the hitherto Non-Self-Governing Territories and towards **questions relating to the overcoming of the colonial legacy** as well as **of the neo-colonial** pressures in newly independent States,

6. In connection with the approaching thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and with the preparation of the action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic reaffirms its readiness to take an active part in the struggle of the international community for eradication of all remnants of colonialism, racism and **apartheid**, expressing its conviction that given the present positive changes in international relations, marked by new, more constructive approaches to the solution of the principal problems of universal human nature, there is every prerequisite for fulfilling the lofty goal of freeing the world from colonialism, racism and **apartheid** before the end of this century.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

(original : Spanish )

[11 May 1989]

The Government of the Dominican Republic, which upholds the rule of liberty as a fundamental and natural human right, views sympathetically the elaboration of an action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twentieth century, a world free from colonialism.

EGYPT

{Original! English]

[20 March 1989]

1. Egypt has always advocated the demand for **decolonization and eradication** of colonialism. Egypt has always believed that goals of international peace, security, and welfare would not be achieved or enhanced unless an end to colonialism is reached. It has long shared the anti-colonial concerns of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, and has always been committed to the issue of decolonisation as a just cause of nations and peoples under colonial domination everywhere.

2. Egypt has effectively contributed to the international tide combating colonialism. Such a tide was culminated by the General Assembly's adoption of its historical resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

3. Egypt has **been** a pioneer in the issue of decolonisation in Africa. It **has** a particular role to play and special responsibility towards the issue of decolonisation in the continent, **A** task which emanated from the Egyptian firm conviction of the common history **of the future of** African peoples. Shouldering the **responsibility of** assisting brotherly peoples in Africa in their struggle against colonialism, Egypt has always politically and materially supported their **legitimate** cause,

4. Egypt spared no effort to support the African liberation movements. **Off** ices of all such movements were hosted in Cairo, from which a historical campaign was directed to world opinion in order to enhance its **awareness of the** issue of decolonisation. Egypt has led a world-wide political effort aiming at supporting the African rejection of colonialism and aspirations for freedom and independence. It continued to defend the legitimate cause of African peoples in several international and regional forums until their struggle was **crowned** and they obtained their long-awaited freedom.

5. Faithful to its commitments to the issue of a completely decolonised Africa, Egypt supported the **Namibian people's** inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and national independence in a united Namibia. Egypt welcomed the diplomatic effort aimed at paving the way for the implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) and hosted in Cairo one of its crucial rounds. It has also contributed a police unit to the United **Nations** Transition Assistance Group (**UNTAG**) in Namibia.

6. Egypt, looking forward to a world free from **colonialism**, supported General Assembly resolution **43/47 of 22 November 1988** calling for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

#### GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original : French]

(25 April 1989)

1. Since its establishment, nearly 40 years ago, the **German Democratic Republic** has been working resolutely for the final elimination of colonialism. This attitude is in line with the fundamental principles of its foreign policy aimed at peace, understanding among **peoples** and equal co-operation of all States, **It was** also in this spirit that the German Democratic Republic welcomed the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted on 14 **December 1960** by the General **Assembly** at its fifteenth session, as a milestone in the work of the United **Nations**, and has contributed actively to its implementation. This **is** reflected in its support for the relevant activities of the United Nations and in the direct **assistance** it accords to peoples under colonial domination. The German Democratic Republic has regularly transmitted **information** to the Secretary-General on its efforts in this regard.

2. Since the adoption of resolution 1514 (XV), the people8 have achieved great **success** in the struggle for liberation and the achievement of their right to self-determination. Most countries have been **freed** from the colonial yoke. The **transition** of Namibia to independence, which was begun on 1 April 1989, is the most **recent example** of the continuation of the decolonisation process. The implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978) proves that good sense and realism on the part of all the parties concerned make it possible to find political solutions to complex colonial problems which have been pending for decades. This example should inspire the settlement of other conflicts of colonial origin. The General Assembly has on many occasions condemned all forms of colonialism, which is anachronistic and odious and constitutes a threat to peace. It is particularly urgent that the **vestiges** of colonialism should be **eliminated** once and for all before the end of the century. The German Democratic Republic therefore welcomes the decision taken by the General Assembly at its forty-third session (resolution 43/47) to declare the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. It **hopes**, however, that decisive success in the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism will be achieved before the end of the Decade.

3. The German Democratic Republic reaffirms its position that the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session (resolution 35/118), remains fully valid and should serve as a basis for an extensive programme for the Decade. The close link between the elimination of **colonialism** and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in all regions of the world should be the focal point of the new action plan for the 1990s. Particular importance should be accorded to respect for the right of each people to determine freely its political, economic and social systems and its social development. The success of the Decade requires political will on the part of the colonial Powers to initiate development processes in the dependent Territories in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and resolution 1514 (XV) and in the interests of the peoples of the Territories in question. In the view of the German Democratic Republic, that means putting an end to the misuse of colonial Territories for military purposes, to their inclusion in systems of military bases and to nuclear or military tests in those Territories. The administering Powers should firmly oppose foreign groups of economic interests whose practices are contrary to the interests of the indigenous population, the harmony of their economic and social development and the protection of their natural resources.

4. Consideration should also be given to the question of how the Decade could contribute to overcoming the colonial legacy of the States of Africa, Asia and Latin America and what measures could be taken to put an end to the practices of neo-colonialist exploitation. Studies, reports and recommendations could be prepared by the Special Committee of 24 or by the Fourth Committee and adopted by the General Assembly. Effective seminars, symposiums and hearings held at United Nations Headquarters, in the dependent Territories or in the territory of the administering Powers could encourage such measures. Extensive public information activities by units of the Secretariat should be continued. The purpose of these activities should be to enable the peoples under colonial oppression to express themselves freely and under the auspices of the United Nations regarding their future.

5. The German Democratic Republic once again reaffirms its strong determination to make an active contribution to the elimination of colonialism.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

[Original: English]

{3 May 1989}

1. There is great cause for regret that even more than 40 years after the establishment of the United Nations, we are still faced with a number of non-self-governing, dependent islands and territories.

2. It is indeed painful that in spite of the adoption **of** several statements, declarations and resolutions by legal and humanitarian international bodies **concerning** eradication of racial discrimination and affirming the equality of all peoples regardless of their ethnic backgrounds and nationalities, we still witness the continuation of discrimination against the indigenous people in the Non-Self-Governing **Territories** (who are the principal, genuine owners of these Territories) by administering Powers. Even worse are the violations by the administering countries of their international commitments and responsibilities stipulated in Article 73 of the United Nations Charter, as well as the disregard and opposition displayed by these countries towards the resolutions of the General Assembly during the past decades, which have regrettably continued with impunity.

3. We sincerely hope that these violations and the total heedlessness of the administering (and **colonizing**) Powers will not lead to reinforcement of the notion that the United Nations may face difficulties in the process of eradication of colonialism in Non-Self-Governing Territories in the future,

4. While the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes General Assembly resolution **43/47** concerning the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and strongly supports the action plan envisioned "aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", it presents its viewpoints and suggestions in this respect as follows:

(a) The international community and the States with no history of colonialism in other Territories and/or those States which presently do not insist on perpetuating colonialism in other Territories can adopt practical, appropriate measures against the States which disregard their international commitments in the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories, thus impeding the process of their autonomy and independence in order to compel them through political, economic and other measures to discharge their binding responsibilities. Within this framework, the administering States must be required to increase their close co-operation with the United Nations and to expedite granting independence to Non-Self-Governing Territories. Along with the betterment of conditions in these Territories, improvement in their socio-economic conditions, and development of awareness and capabilities of the indigenous population in self-government, the administering States must, in close co-operation with the United Nations, draw up

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and submit specific phased plans for granting independence to these Territories containing the timetable for **transition** of power to the indigenous population. In **this** plan, Territories enjoying better conditions should be given **priority** in the **attainment** of their independence and provisions **must** be made for launching appropriate programmes to prepare other Territories **for self-government**.

(b) The international community can call on **the administering States** to expedite the release of **statistics** and information to the United Nations concerning these Territories at **much** shorter intervals than they have done so far. Furthermore, the administrators **must** closely co-operate with **United Nations** representatives and experts **dispatched** to these Territories and **provide them** with the necessary facilities for the discharge of their duties.

(c) Using its authority and facilities, the **international** community can adopt **strict** measures against both administering and non-colonial **States** which have turned these Territories **into** land-fills for their nuclear wastes or into testing **grounds** for their nuclear weapons, or have created and maintained military **bases** in these Territories. It **must** also prevent such **acts** and measures **in** the future.

(d) The international **community** has the authority to demand from an administering or any other State whose military policies impede the process of independence in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that it not only put an **end** to these inhumane actions but also adopt **measures** so as to allow these bases and military **installations** to be used for peaceful purposes **and** gradually transferred to the indigenous **peoples** of these Territories. The **existence** of such **bases** and installations contributes to the **crises** in these Territories and **jeopardizes** the international peace and security which is inconsistent with the responsibilities of the administering Powers towards the Territories, and is **in** violation of paragraph **a** of Article 73 **of** the United Nations Charter. In this connection, the international **communi**ty must demand, in accordance with paragraphs **a**, **b** and **d** of Article 73 of the Charter, that the **administering** Powers allocate the cost of establishing and maintaining such bases and installations in Non-Self-Governing Territories for the socio-economic, political and educational development of the Territories to prepare the ground *for* their self-determination and independence,

(e) In order to preclude the sad recurrence of past experiences and to prepare the ground for the implementation of practical and effective **measures by** the international community aimed at eradication *of colonialism*, that we **adopt** strict measures against those **countries** which support the illegal and inhumane actions of certain administering **Powers** in Non-Self-Governing Territories so as not to allow this tactical support to contribute to the continuation of colonialism and further delay in granting independence to those Territories.

(f) **States** Members of the United Nations can, should they possess the political will, lend their quantitative as well as qualitative support to **specialized** programmes to enable them to embark on educational programmes for the indigenous population of these Territories. The **agencies** should of course be comprehensive enough to



**include** all the areas necessary for running an **autonomous**, independent territory and provide for the training of efficient **manpower** in every field to replace effectively the foreign personnel **from** the administering States. This policy will preclude the emergence of a manpower vacuum after the departure of the administrators **from** these **Territories**.

(g) The United Nations **must** demand that the administering States prepare the proper conditions for this replacement process and agree to reduce gradually their physical presence in these Territories by filling the positions **with** well-trained indigenous people. The way **in** which this replacement process is to be implemented should be worked out by the United Nations **in consultation** with the administering States. The United Nations can play an effective role **in** this "transitional period". Should a **certain State** or States **be unwilling** to co-operate with the United Nations in the replacement process and wish to **resort to obstructionism** in this respect, the international community, with its practical **measures**, **can persuade them to** fulfil their **commitment** and to co-operate with the United Nations.

(h) In order to **ensure** success in this respect, it is necessary to point out that the specialised international agencies affiliated with the **United Nations must, in conjunction** with **international** monetary bodies, adopt appropriate measures aimed at assisting the peoples of these Territories and work out necessary programmes for the **reinforcement** and preparation of popular liberation **movements** for living **in** a modern world **in order** to pave the ground for the peaceful **attainment** of independence and to preclude further violence and bloodshed by expediting decolonisation. Various aid and **assistance** programmes rendered by these bodies and **agencies should** continue until the achievement of independence in these Territories. This aid should continue even after independence **until such time as** the establishment of a real political and **economic** independence has been secured **in** the newly independent States.

#### JORDAN

(Original! Arabic]

(5 April 1989]

1. The delegation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan voted in favour of **General** Assembly resolution **43/47** of 22 November 1988, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", proceeding from Jordan's **firm** position on the need to grant independence to colonial countries and peoples and the right of peoples **to** self-determination without **pressure** or outside interference.

2. Jordan **stresses** that the persistence of **colonialism** in **all** its forms and manifestations, including foreign occupation of the territory of others, **is** incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the purposes and principles of the **Organization**, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the **Granting** of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, **just as it** constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan urges all States to take all **necessary** measures for the complete eradication of **colonialism** in all its forms and manifestations.

3. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan supports the proposal that the United Nations should elaborate an action plan aimed at expunging colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and that the countries of the world should adopt such a plan and endeavour to implement it fully and sincerely. Jordan further supports intensive contacts between the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and those foreign States administering, **colonizing** or occupying countries and peoples with a view to reaching a solution or agreement ensuring the granting of independence to those countries and peoples and removing from the world the danger of confrontation and conflict.

NEW ZEALAND

[Original: English]

[22 May 1989]

1. New Zealand welcomes the interest of the Secretary-General in the decolonization process, and particularly his direct role in the preparation of an action plan to bring about a world free of colonialism.

2. In New Zealand's view the principles governing decolonization are well established and should continue to guide the United Nations and its Member States. In general the elimination of colonialism requires adherence to existing guidelines rather than any search for new approaches or principles. The fundamental principles laid down in Article 73 of the United Nations Charter and expanded in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) should be reaffirmed in any action plan and adhered to without exception by the administering Powers. In this context, the obligation of administering Powers contained in Article 73 e of the Charter, regarding the transmission of information, is of particular importance.

3. New Zealand believes that consideration by the United Nations of particular decolonization situations should continue to be marked by understanding and flexibility. This has been a distinguishing characteristic of the decolonization process in the South Pacific region, in which decolonization has so far been carried out in a way that reflects great credit on the United Nations and the various administering Powers concerned. Within the South Pacific a number of countries have proceeded under United Nations supervision to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and have achieved full independence. In certain other Territories, in accordance with the wishes of their inhabitants, the path of full independence has not been chosen: instead, under United Nations supervision, self-government in free association has provided an alternative **solution** for Territories wishing to retain their links with the former administering Power. In the case of one Non-Self-Governing Territory, Tokelau, for which New Zealand is the administering Power and on which it reports regularly to the United Nations, the people have been of the view that independence should not, at least for the present, be their principal objective. New Zealand respects their wishes and expects that the international community will also continue to be guided by them.

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4. In considering the future status of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the New Zealand Government will continue to accept and to place full importance on the provisions of resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), including the principles annexed to the latter resolution. It therefore considers that any act of self-determination must, inter alia, involve the offer of a full range of options, must be preceded by proper and unbiased education of the populations concerned, and must involve no attachment of either overt or hidden penalties to the exercise of that right to self-determination.

5. While bearing in mind the record of successful decolonisation under United Nations auspices, New Zealand considers that the remaining instances of colonialism may present special difficulties. Nevertheless, in such situations, New Zealand considers that the administering Power has the clear responsibility to create as quickly as possible, in consultation with the populations concerned, the conditions in which an act of self-determination can take place consistent with United Nations principles and under United Nations supervision. It should be recognised that in some instances the populations concerned may favour a long-term approach to self-determination.

## UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[24 July 1989]

1. In accordance with its position of principle, the Ukrainian SSR consistently supports efforts by the United Nations to bring about the final abolition of colonialism. It regards as a positive and timely step the proclamation by the General Assembly at its forty-third session of the years 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

2. The Ukrainian SSR, as it indicates its desire to promote the attainment of the goals of the Decade, believes that the formulation and implementation of an action plan under the Decade should be predicated on full implementation of existing United Nations decisions to do with **decolonization**. These include, for example, the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution **35/118**; and the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 to combat racism and racial discrimination.

3. An important prerequisite for the accomplishment of the goals of the International Decade is a growing inclination around the world to be governed in international affairs by common human values, to strengthen the democratic underpinnings of the world order, to uphold the primacy of law in international policies, to seek peaceful political solutions to complex problems, and to make full use of the creative peace-making potential of the United Nations.

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4. The positive effect of the new political processes was revealed in the attainment of agreement on the start, as of 1 April 1989, of the United Nations operation to bring independence to Namibia - the largest of the Territories still in colonial status. It is essential to make sure that the agreements on Namibia are fully carried out. The peoples of all dependent Territories **must** be given an opportunity to **exercise** their right to self-determination.

5. The last Trust Territory, Micronesia, must also be given an opportunity to exercise its right under the United Nations **Charter** without external pressure and, through a free expression of will by its people, decide on the issue of self-government or independence. The goal of complete and final decolonization **may** be said to have been reached only when the right of indigenous populations freely to choose the path of their development is honoured without reservation and emergent States become not only politically autonomous but socially and economically viable. Implementation of the proposals put forward, inter alia, at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, **1/** calling for the dismantling of foreign bases and abolition of foreign military presences in the territory of other countries by the year 2000 and the cessation of military activity by the colonial States in the Territories under their administration, would significantly ease and hasten the attainment of the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

6. The affirmation of an all-embracing approach to international security, covering not only military and political but also the economic, environmental, social and legal defences of States, will promote the swift implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the elimination of veiled colonial ambition from relations between States. In this regard it would **seem** appropriate to step up and diversify the activities of the relevant United Nations bodies, in **particular** the Special Committee of 24. That Committee might take up the practical consideration of not only the political but also the economic, environmental, social, legal and informational aspects of final and complete decolonization. Between General Assembly sessions, the Special Committee could evidently keep a close watch on the progress of the plan of action for the Decade.

7. The programme for the Decade should encourage non-governmental organizations and the **mass** media to mobilize public support for Decade events and objectives.

8. The practical programme for the Decade might also call for a co-ordinated series of events - seminars, symposiums and encounters - to keep the public well informed and boost solidarity with the popular anti-colonial struggle, fostering respect for and compliance with the rights of individuals and peoples throughout the world. The measures proposed for inclusion in the action plan for the Decade must facilitate the development of international co-operation and the constructive involvement in such co-operation of the maximum number of States.

9. The Ukrainian SSR, which lends every assistance to the United Nations efforts in the campaign for the complete eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid, **is** prepared to take an active part in the formulation and implementation of the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[29 May 1989]

1. The decision by the General Assembly to **declare** 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is regarded in the Soviet Union as a timely initiative, in keeping with the spirit of the positive changes taking place around the world, and a practical step towards mobilising the international community against colonialism, racism and avartheid, confirming the pre-eminence of universal human values in world politics and creating a world order organized along democratic lines.

2. The United Nations has played a prominent role in the process of **decolonization**, which has significantly changed the political face of the planet. Its adoption in 1960, on the initiative of the Soviet Union, of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples gave an important moral and political boost to the campaign for national liberation. The International Decade is to be the decisive phase in the complete implementation of that historic Declaration.

3. The Decade is beginning as, both in the activities of the United Nations and in world politics generally, a market shift is taking place in favour of concrete action and seeking a balance of interests when dealing with highly complex international issues. The start, on 1 April 1989, of the United Nations operation to bring independence to Namibia, was a graphic illustration of this trend. The Soviet Union regards the task of the United Nations as being to see the national liberation of Namibia through to completion and ensure the genuine, unqualified implementation of Security Council resolution 435 (1978). It also believes that the addition of Namibia to the family of equal African States will lend impetus to United Nations activities connected with the International Decade as a whole.

4. Obviously, the vigour with which the confirmation of the principles of the new political thinking and the development of an all-encompassing approach to the strengthening of international security are pursued will obviously have a decisive influence on whether the Decade accomplishes its ends. The Soviet Union regards freedom of political choice as a key element in the new thinking. It believes that this principle extends undiluted to the peoples of all dependent Territories and should become a universal norm of international life, but must not be allowed to be used as a pretext for action vis-à-vis Non-Self-Governing Territories which is not consistent with the Charter, as is happening in Micronesia.

5. The complete eradication of colonialism will depend on continuing intensive efforts by the world community in a wide variety of areas of international relations. The question of military activity by colonial Powers in the Territories under their administration remains as pertinent as ever. Implementation of the proposal put forward by the Soviet Union at the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, 1/ calling for the elimination of foreign military presences and bases from the territory of other countries by the year 2000, would be a major contribution to the establishment of conditions in which colonial peoples could advance to self-determination.

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6. The International Decade is intended to help to strengthen the political and economic self-reliance of newly independent States. In the view of the USSR, thought should be given to the formulation of reliable safeguards for the post-independence security of these countries. The United Nations should also make practical efforts to prevent new States from being dragged into military competition and to involve them actively in the disarmament process.

7. The Soviet Union considers that, as part of the International Decade, the United Nations could embark on effective measures to hasten the process of national maturation in the economic field. The exploitation by foreign economic circles of Territories' natural resources against the interests of the indigenous population is rightly described in United Nations decisions as a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Making more active efforts to rebuild international economic relations on just and democratic foundations, to establish a new international economic order, and to find effective means of dealing with the problem of external debt and translating the relationship between disarmament and development into practical terms is a priority assignment for the United Nations.

8. If the International Decade is to be successful in accomplishing its objectives, it is obvious that the entire potential of the organs of the United Nations will have to be harnessed and the largest possible number of States will have to become associated with this activity on a new basis. The Soviet Union, which favours an overall enhancement of the effectiveness of the Organization, feels it would be worthwhile, in the context of the Decade, to examine the question of how to make the Special Committee of 24 more dynamic. It considers that the proposed extension of the activities of that Committee to encompass not only political but economic, social and informational matters merits attention. It regards the idea of drawing up a programme, under United Nations auspices, to protect the environmental security of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as being equally topical.

9. Non-governmental organizations and the mass media have an important part to play, in collaboration with the United Nations, in mobilizing the international community to attain the aims and objectives of the International Decade. It would also appear desirable for the Organization to embark as of now on a suitable programme of news coverage for the Decade, including a review of material on the struggle of peoples for self-determination and independence, the role of national liberation movements, and efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

10. Solidarity with the peoples fighting for the eradication of colonialism, racism and apartheid and the attainment of national independence remains a fundamental principle of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. The USSR supports and subscribes to the high and noble goal of the International Decade and is ready to apply itself actively to their attainment.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[29 May 1989]

As far as Britain and the few remaining British Non-Self-Governing Territories are concerned, the colonial era is over. The peoples of those Territories enjoy a status which conforms to their wishes: their choice is to maintain their links with Britain. The proposed International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is therefore irrelevant to them. The British Government sees no need for such a Decade, nor for time and resources to be devoted to drawing up an action plan as envisaged in paragraph 2 of resolution **43/47**.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-MEMBER STATES

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

[Original: English]

[30 June 1989]

1. The Democratic! People's Republic of Korea is of the view that the national liberation struggle in colonial countries is one to free a territory and people from the colonialists and to establish national sovereignty throughout the country.
2. All forms and manifestations of colonialism, which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, constitute a grave threat to national unity and territorial integrity, as well as to global peace and security as a whole.
3. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has expressed its support to the peoples' struggle for national liberation in colonial countries and to the struggle of all Governments and peoples to take back their Territories usurped by the colonialists.
4. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomes the decision of the General Assembly at its forty-third session (resolution **43/47**) to declare the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, aimed at the complete and early eradication of colonialism at the global level.
5. The Government of the Democratic! People's Republic of Korea is also of the view that concrete steps and measures which provide for the granting of independence to colonial peoples, free selection of their political systems and enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural development in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting

of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as actions aimed at eliminating all attempts **and** manifestations which encourage military occupation, armed intervention, sabotage and establishment of a puppet regime and undermining partially and completely the national unity and territorial integrity **of** a nation, should be properly considered and reflected in an action plan aimed at ushering in the **twenty-first** century, a world free from colonialism.

IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS  
WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[3 April 1989]

In this respect, . . . UNESCO has no particular comment to make on General Assembly resolution **43/47**. We noted, however, with satisfaction that the resolution is in line with resolution 24 **C/22.1** concerning "UNESCO's contribution to peace and its task with respect to the promotion of human rights and the elimination of colonialism and racism" adopted by the General Conference at **its** twenty-fourth session **on** 6 November 1987 and by which the Director-General is invited to submit a report on this matter to the General Conference at its twenty-fifth session.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[6 March 1989]

ICAO is providing technical assistance, as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**), to a number of dependent Territories to enable them to be self-reliant in the field of international civil aviation. With regard to Namibia, . . . within the context of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, ICAO continues to co-operate with the United Nations Council for Namibia and invites it to ICAO meetings dealing with matters pertaining to the relevant region. ICAO participates actively in the Nationhood Programme for Namibia: the UNDP-funded programme **of** civil aviation training fellowships, in full implementation for several years following evaluation of civil aviation needs by an adviser, is in the process of being expanded **again**. ICAO is also providing advice to the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia regarding placement of trained personnel in **the** civil aviation departments and airlines of other African countries to **obtain** practical experience.



## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

{Original: English}

{8 May 1989}

1. WHO supports the declaration by the **United Nations** of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, in accordance with General Assembly resolution **43/47** of 22 November 1988. Indeed, only two months after the adoption by the General Assembly in 1960 of the **Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**, the Fourteenth World Health Assembly took note of the Declaration and expressed the belief that the **World Health Organization** "... has **an** important part to play in promoting the **fundamental** and inalienable right of colonial **countries** and peoples to freedom and independence through assistance in raising levels **of** physical **and** mental health, and that one of WHO's urgent tasks is to help newly **independent** countries, **and those preparing for independence**, to overcome deficiencies in health **programmes** and **serious** shortages in trained medical and health personnel" (resolution **WHA14.58**).

2. WHO has provided assistance in the field of health to people in the colonial **Territories** and invited the representatives of liberation **movements** to its meetings in an **observer** capacity, in order to facilitate the Organization's understanding of the health needs and problems **of** the peoples whose aspirations they represent.

3. **World** **basic** human right and and that it is essential to the satisfaction of **basic** needs and the quality of life. Furthermore, ultimate constitutional objective of **WHO** highest possible level of **health** and decided that the **main social** Governments and WHO in the **coming** decades should **be** the attainment by all the **citizens** of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that would permit, them **economically** productive life (resolution

4. It is **in** the light of the above-mentioned principles that WHO **extends** its support to the international Decade for the **Eradication** of Colonialism and renews its readiness to help, **as** it **done** before, in the achievement of health for all 2000.

**Notes**

1/ See A/S-15/AC.1/12.