



Twentieth Session
Agenda item 23

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 1965)

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CHAPTER VIII

COOK ISLANDS

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* This document contains the chapter on the Cook Islands. The general introductory chapter of the Special Committee will be issued subsequently under the symbol A/6000. Other chapters of the report have been issued as addenda.

I. INFORMATION ON THE TERRITORIES

A. GENERAL

1. Information on the Cook Islands is already contained in the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly at its nineteenth session (A/5800/Add.6, chapter XV). Supplementary information on recent developments concerning the Territory is set out below.

2. On the basis of a census conducted on the outer islands in 1963 and the estimated population of the main island of Rarotonga, the population of the Cook Islands totalled 19,214, showing an increase of 836 since the census in 1961.

B. POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

3. On 11 August 1964, the Cook Islands Constitutional Bill which provides a constitution for the Cook Islands after they achieve internal self-government in 1965, was introduced simultaneously in the New Zealand Parliament and the Cook Islands Legislative Assembly. In September it was passed with some amendments by the Cook Islands Assembly. Originally the High Commissioner was to represent the Queen as the Head of State. This provision was amended to include two Cook Islands representatives who would be chosen to sit with the New Zealand High Commissioner as a Council of State. They would be appointed for a term of four years and be eligible for reappointment. In October 1964, the Constitution Bill was passed by the New Zealand Parliament.

4. In February 1965, the New Zealand Government welcomed the recommendation to the General Assembly of the Special Committee of Twenty-Four that the people of the Cook Islands be enabled to express their wishes in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) through well-established democratic processes under United Nations supervision, and requested that an appropriate person or persons be nominated to be present in the Cook Islands on behalf of the United Nations for the election campaign and the election in April 1965, and for the debate and decision upon the draft constitution by the newly elected Legislative Assembly in May (A/5880).

5. In resolution 2005 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 the General Assembly authorized the appointment by the Secretary-General of a United Nations Representative to supervise the elections and to observe the proceedings concerning the draft