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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 1968)

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CHAPTERS XVIII-XXV

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\* This document contains chapters XVIII-XXV of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued subsequently under the symbol A/7200. Other chapters of the report will be issued subsequently under the same symbol (A/7200) or as addenda.

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CHAPTER XVIII

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS, PITCAIRN AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

I. CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its 594th meeting, on 1 April 1968, the Special Committee, by approving the thirty-fourth report of the Working Group (A/AC.109/L.454/Rev.1), decided, inter alia, to take up the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands as a separate item and to refer it to Sub-Committee II for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 605th to 608th, 619th, 620th and 644th meetings between 5 June and 18 October.
3. In its consideration of this item, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII) of 16 December 1967, as well as other resolutions of the General Assembly, particularly resolution 2357 (XXII) of 19 December 1967, concerning twenty-six Territories, including the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands, by operative paragraph 7 of which the General Assembly requested the Special Committee "to continue to pay special attention to these Territories and to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution".
4. During the consideration of this item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on action previously taken by the Special Committee as well as by the General Assembly, and on the latest developments concerning the Territories.
5. In addition, the Special Committee had before it the following written petitions containing requests for hearing concerning the Gilbert and Ellice Islands:
  - (a) Cable dated 19 April 1968 from the Babi Island Council for the Banaban people and letter dated 25 April 1968 from A.D. Patel and Company, Nadi, Fiji (A/AC.109/PET.967);
  - (b) Cable dated 9 May 1968 from Mr. Reuben K. Uatioa, Chief Elected Member, and others (A/AC.109/PET.986).
6. At its 601st and 602nd meetings, on 8 and 16 May, the Special Committee, by adopting the 123rd and 124th reports of the Sub-Committee on Petitions (A/AC.109/L.466 and A/AC.109/L.467), decided to grant the requests for hearing contained in the petitions referred to in paragraph 4 above.