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

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO CAPE VERDE

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Terms of reference

1. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly unanimously adopted resolution 3294 (XXIX) of 13 December 1974, by which it welcomed the declaration of the Government of Portugal accepting to fulfil its obligations under the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and recognizing the right of the peoples concerned to self-determination and independence. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee to keep the situation in those Territories under continuous review, in particular through the dispatch of visiting missions as appropriate, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.
2. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3328 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, which called upon those administering Powers which had not done so to co-operate fully with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate, to participate in the relevant work of the Committee relating to the Territories under their administration and to permit the access of visiting missions to the Territories under their administration, in order to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants.
3. In a letter dated 29 October 1974, addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/470), the Partido Africano da Independência da Guiné e Cabo Verde (PAIGC) invited the Special Committee to dispatch a visiting mission to Cape Verde on a mutually agreeable date in early 1975. In extending the invitation, PAIGC was mindful of the positive results of a special mission sent by the Special Committee to Guinea-Bissau in April 1972. a/ The PAIGC was confident that the visit of the mission to Cape Verde would help significantly to accelerate the process of decolonization in their country.
4. In keeping with his Government's declared policy of co-operation and collaboration with the United Nations, the Permanent Representative of Portugal, in a letter dated 28 November 1974, addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/C.4/781), expressed his Government's readiness to receive a visiting mission of the Special Committee in any of the Territories under its administration for such period of time as might be considered appropriate. The Permanent Representative added that, in the view of his Government, the presence of such missions in the Territories would help to verify in loco the sincerity and honesty of the decolonization process being carried out by the Portuguese Government.
5. Accordingly, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly and in response to the invitations extended to it by the parties concerned, the Special Committee, at its 992nd meeting, on 10 February 1975, requested its Chairman to take the necessary steps, in consultation with its members, to dispatch a visiting mission to Cape Verde at an early date in 1975.

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a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. X, annex I.

6. At the 993rd meeting, on 18 February, the Chairman of the Special Committee announced that, on the basis of his consultations, the visiting mission would be composed of the representatives of Czechoslovakia, Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

7. In a statement issued by the Chairman on the same day (A/AC.109/478), he noted that, with the co-operation of the Government of Portugal and PAIGC, the forthcoming visit to Cape Verde would enable the Special Committee to put forward constructive suggestions and recommendations concerning the conditions prevailing in the Territory, with particular emphasis on the provision of all possible assistance to the people, both bilaterally and on an international scale.

## 2. Composition of the Mission

8. The Mission was composed as follows:

H.E. Mr. Haissam Kelani	Syrian Arab Republic (Chairman)
Mr. Stanislav Suja	Czechoslovakia
Mr. Moumou Diakite	Mali
Mr. Vincent D. Lasse	Trinidad and Tobago

9. The following staff members accompanied the mission:  
Mr. Gilberto B. Schlitter-Silva, Principal Secretary; Mr. Yutaka Nagata, Photographer; Mr. Frank Beeftink, Administrative Officer; and Mrs. Yolande Zahler, Secretary.

## 3. Itinerary b/

10. The Mission visited Lisbon from 23 to 25 February, where it was briefed by Portuguese authorities. It subsequently flew to Cape Verde where it visited four islands as follows:

25 February:	Sal Island (Santa Maria, Espargos and Palmeiras)
25 to 27 February:	Santiago Island (Praia, the capital)
27 February to 1 March:	São Vicente Island (Mindelo) and Santo Antão (Porto Novo and Ribeira Grande)
1 to 2 March:	Sal Island (Santa Maria and Espargos)

11. Except for the round-trip from São Vicente to Santo Antão Islands on a Portuguese naval patrol boat, the Mission travelled throughout its visit on military aircraft provided by the Portuguese Air Force.

12. On 2 March, the Mission returned to Lisbon, where it held further meetings with Portuguese authorities. The Mission departed Lisbon on 5 March for United Nations Headquarters.

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b/ For details of the itinerary of the Mission, see appendix I to the present report.

4. Meetings with authorities

13. On 24 February, the Mission was briefed at a working session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon. The Portuguese delegation, led by Mr. Magalhães Cruz, Director-General of Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, comprised the following: Mr. Sérgio Sacadura Cabral, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Director-General of Political Affairs; Mr. Fávila Vieira, Counsellor, Chief of the Office of International Political Organization, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Luís Abecassis, Higher Inspector; Mr. Manuel Vidigal, Higher Inspector; and Mr. Cravo Silva, Director of Department of the Ministry of Inter-territorial Co-ordination.

14. In Cape Verde, the Mission held two working sessions with the Transitional Government, on 25 February at Praia and on 1 March at Mindelo. These sessions were attended by Admiral Vicente Almeida d'Eca, the High Commissioner, and the members of the Cabinet: Major José Manuel Vaz Barroco, Minister of Internal Administration; Mr. Carlos Reis, Minister of Justice and Social Affairs; Mr. Amaro Alexandre da Luz, Minister of Economic Co-ordination and Labour; Mr. Manuel Faustino, Minister of Education and Culture; and Lieutenant-Colonel Wilton Pereira, Minister of Public Works and Environment.

15. On 27 February, the Mission held a working session with a PAIGC delegation at PAIGC headquarters in Praia. The PAIGC delegation, which was led by Mr. Aristides Pereira, its Secretary-General, comprised the following members of PAIGC's National Directorate in Cape Verde: Mr. Pedro Pires, the head of PAIGC in Cape Verde, Mr. Silvino da Luz, Mr. Oswaldo Lopes da Silva, and Mr. Olívio Pires; and three PAIGC members of the Cabinet of the Transitional Government: Mr. Carlos Reis, Mr. Amaro da Luz and Mr. Manuel Faustino.

16. On the same date, the Mission held a working session with members of the PAIGC Regional Directorate at Mindelo. The PAIGC delegation was led by Mr. Victor Fidalgo, Mr. António Lima and Mr. Ludgero Lima.

17. Upon its return to Lisbon, on 3 March, the Mission was received by General Francisco da Costa Gomes, the President of Portugal, at the Palácio Belém. On the same date, the Mission was received by General Vasco dos Santos Gonçalves, the Prime Minister. Also present at that meeting were Mr. António de Almeida Santos, the Minister of Inter-territorial Co-ordination; Major Ernesto Augusto de Melo Antunes and Major Vitor Manuel Rodrigues Alves, Ministers without Portfolio; and Mr. Jorge Campinos, the Secretary of State. Also on the same date, the Mission met separately with Mr. António de Almeida Santos.

18. On 4 March, the Mission was received by Mr. Mário Soares, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Palácio das Necessidades.

19. On the same date, the Mission held its final working session in Lisbon with the same members of the Portuguese Administration referred to in paragraph 13 above.

20. Upon completion of its programme in Lisbon, the Mission returned to United Nations Headquarters at New York where it adopted the present report at its final working sessions, held on 25 and 26 March 1975.

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## 5. Acknowledgements

21. The Mission wishes to place on record its deep appreciation to the Portuguese Government, the Transitional Government of Cape Verde and PAIGC for the co-operation and assistance which it received during its stay in Portugal and Cape Verde.

22. The members of the Mission wish to express their profound gratitude for the opportunity afforded to them to meet personally with the President of Portugal, the Prime Minister of Portugal, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Inter-territorial Co-ordination, the Ministers without Portfolio and the Secretary of State. It also wishes to convey its appreciation for the close co-operation and kind hospitality of the members of the Portuguese administration, in particular, the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Inter-territorial Co-ordination.

23. The members of the Mission wish further to convey their deep appreciation to the members of the Transitional Government and the people of Cape Verde for the co-operation and overwhelming hospitality extended to the Mission. The Mission wishes in particular to thank the High Commissioner and members of the Cabinet.

24. The Mission wishes further to express its profound gratitude to PAIGC for its assistance and warm hospitality throughout its visit to Cape Verde, and in particular to convey its appreciation to the Secretary-General of PAIGC, and to the members of the PAIGC National Directorate in Cape Verde, as well as to all members of the PAIGC regional directorates who assisted the Mission.

25. The Mission wishes to single out for special commendation those who were its constant companions throughout its visit to Cape Verde: Lieutenant Luís Bilreiro, liaison officer of the Transitional Government, and Mr. Corentino dos Santos, liaison officer of PAIGC. The Mission also wishes to thank the local authorities and the Portuguese air force and navy officers for their courtesy and kindness.

26. Finally, the members of the Mission also wish to place on record their gratitude for the assistance and courtesy extended to it by Mr. Arnaldo Araújo, Counsellor of the Guinea-Bissau Mission to the United Nations, and Mr. Rui Quartim Santos, Second Secretary of the Portuguese Mission to the United Nations whose helpful suggestions and close co-operation proved most useful.

## A. PREVAILING CONDITIONS IN THE TERRITORY

27. The information on the Territory presented in this section is the result of the Mission's direct observation; information provided by Portuguese authorities, the Transitional Government of Cape Verde and PAIGC; and information contained in working papers prepared by the United Nations Secretariat for the Special Committee.

### 1. General description

28. The islands of the Cape Verde Archipelago lie off the west coast of Africa, the nearest point being about 600 kilometres from Dakar. They form a crescent-shaped archipelago facing west, which lies between 14°48' N and 17°12' N latitude and 22°41' W and 25°22' W longitude. There are 10 islands and five islets divided into two groups: the Barlavento or windward islands and the Sotavento or leeward islands.

29. The Barlavento islands comprise two groups: Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santa Luzia and São Nicolau to the westerly end of the upper arm of the crescent; and Sal and Boa Vista at the centre of the crescent. The Sotavento islands are Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava.

30. The total area of the Cape Verde islands is 4,033.3 square kilometres. The islands range in size from 991 square kilometres (Santiago) to 35 square kilometres (Santa Luzia). The smallest populated island is Brava, with an area of 64 square kilometres. Santa Luzia is inhabited by one shepherd. Branco and Razo, two very small uninhabited islands, are situated between Santa Luzia and São Nicolau.

31. The islands are of volcanic origin. Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Santiago and Fogo have rocky coasts and high volcanic peaks. The volcano in Fogo last erupted briefly in 1951 and was reported active in March 1962. Sal, Boa Vista and Maio are low and sandy and have little or no vegetation.

32. Although the high peaks are often cloud covered, there is little rainfall. Only four of the islands, Santo Antão, São Nicolau, Santiago and Brava, have running streams all the year round. The other islands have streams only during the rains. São Vicente, where the largest urban centre, Mindelo, is located, has no permanent source of fresh water; before the installation of a desalination plant, water had to be imported during most of the year from Santo Antão.

33. This situation is partly the result of the deforestation of the islands under the former Portuguese colonialist régime. The increasing aridity is also attributed to the general drying up of the southern fringe of the Sahara.

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34. According to the provisional results of the 1970 census, the total population of the Territory was 272,071, compared with 199,902 in 1960. Almost half of the population lives on Santiago. The population is unevenly distributed, with population density varying from 5.7 inhabitants per square kilometre on Boa Vista, to 152.2 inhabitants on Santiago. The only important towns are Mindelo, on São Vicente, with a population of 28,797; Praia, the capital, on Santiago, with 21,494 inhabitants; and São Filipe, on Fogo, with 3,359 inhabitants. The latest information available on the ethnic distribution of the population dates from 1950. At that time, it was as follows: mestiço, 69.09 per cent; African, 28.84 per cent; and European, 2.06 per cent.

35. As a result of increased emigration the rate of population increase dropped from 3.5 per cent per annum in the 1950s to 2.6 per cent per annum between 1963 and 1971.

## 2. Constitutional and political developments

### Agreement between the Government of Portugal and PAIGC c/

36. On 18 December 1974, in Lisbon, the Portuguese Government and PAIGC signed an agreement on the future status of Cape Verde. Under the terms of the agreement, the Transitional Government of Cape Verde would be constituted by a High Commissioner appointed by Portugal, who would also exercise the functions of Prime Minister. Portuguese sovereignty would be vested in the High Commissioner who would be the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and would hold the portfolios of defence and social communication. The Portuguese Government would appoint two cabinet ministers in addition to the Prime Minister; three other members would be appointed by the High Commissioner on the recommendation of PAIGC.

37. On 30 June 1975, the people of Cape Verde would elect a constituent assembly which would be empowered to proclaim the independence of Cape Verde and to elaborate its constitution.

38. The proclamation of independence would coincide with the investiture of the elected representatives and would take place in the city of Praia on 5 July 1975.

39. The provisions governing the administration of the Territory until independence are defined in a constitutional act of the Portuguese Government, namely the Organic Statute of the State of Cape Verde.

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c/ For the full text of the agreement, see appendix II to the present report.



Organic Statute of the State of Cape Verde d/

40. The Organic Statute was promulgated as Law 13/74 of 17 December 1974 by the President of Portugal.

41. Under the Organic Statute, the former "overseas province" of Cape Verde became the State of Cape Verde, a body corporate under domestic public law, possessing political, administrative and financial self-government within the meaning of the constitutional laws of the Portuguese Republic. Until the election of the constituent assembly and the proclamation of independence on 5 July 1975, the State of Cape Verde will be governed by a Transitional Government, as stated above.

42. The Statute provides that Cape Verde shall be represented by the President of Portugal, in consultation with the Transitional Government in its relations with foreign countries, including the conclusion of agreements and conventions.

43. The Transitional Government has legislative and executive powers. The legislative power lies with the Transitional Government as a plenary.

44. The executive powers of the Transitional Government include the conduct of general policy, as well as the policy of economic and social development, financial administration and the guarantee of freedom and independence of the judiciary.

45. The judicial organization will remain the same, regulated by the Portuguese Republic, until a new judicial organization is promulgated by the Transitional Government.

46. Cape Verde has its own budget. The Territory may negotiate domestic and foreign loans and undertake any credit operations.

47. The Transitional Government will be responsible for the election by universal and direct suffrage on 30 June 1975 of a constituent assembly which will have the power to declare the independence of Cape Verde and draft its future political constitution.

48. The official declaration of independence of the State of Cape Verde is to coincide with the investiture of the elected representatives of the people of Cape Verde and will take place at Praia on 5 July 1975 in the presence of the President of Portugal or his representative. On that occasion the Portuguese Government will transfer total and definitive sovereignty to the new nation.

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d/ For the full text of the Organic Statute, see appendix III to the present report.

Transitional Government

(a) Establishment

49. The investiture of the Transitional Government took place on 30 December 1974 at Praia, in the presence of Mr. Abdulrahim A. Farah, Assistant Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, who represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(b) Membership

50. The Transitional Government is composed as follows:

High Commissioner: Admiral Vicente Almeida d'Eca (who is also Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces)

Minister of Internal Administration: Major José Manuel Vaz Barroco  
(Portugal)

Minister of Education and Culture: Mr. Manuel Faustino (PAIGC)

Minister of Economic Co-ordination and Labour: Mr. Amaro Alexandre da Luz  
(PAIGC)

Minister of Public Works and Environment: Lieutenant-Colonel  
Wilton Pereira (Portugal)

Minister of Justice and Social Affairs: Mr. Carlos Reis (PAIGC)

(c) Measures taken by the Transitional Government leading to independence

51. One of the first measures taken by the Transitional Government after its inauguration was to request assistance from the United Nations to meet the Territory's most urgent needs for subsistence. The assistance is considered necessary not only to ensure the attainment of independence according to the time-table established with the Portuguese Government, but also to guarantee the consolidation of independence afterwards.

52. The High Commissioner told the Visiting Mission that the most important responsibility of the Transitional Government was the holding of elections to the constituent assembly. A very important task of the Transitional Government was the replacement of the colonial structure by an authentic Cape Verdian structure.

53. On 1 January 1975, the Transitional Government issued a communiqué informing the people of Cape Verde that the Government was aware of the need to revise the existing administrative structure. Subsequently, the Government established committees composed of an officer of the Portuguese armed forces and a PAIGC representative to obtain the views of the population on this matter.

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The function of these committees was to collect information with a view to enabling the Transitional Government to promote the democratization of existing structures and to make recommendations in connexion with the establishment of administrative commissions, including the names of the representatives to be appointed to the commissions.

54. On the basis of these reports, the Transitional Government has begun to set up administrative commissions, each composed of five members recommended by the above-mentioned commissions. The new committees replace the autocratic concelho administrators, who had maintained complete control at the local level of administration under the former régime.

55. The first administrative commissions were inaugurated on 18 February 1975. By 25 February, out of the 13 concelhos (municipalities) of the Territory, seven were already being governed by administrative commissions. The last six administrative commissions were expected to be inaugurated during the first week of March.

56. The Transitional Government plans to continue the decentralization and democratization of the local administrative system at the lower echelons. For that purpose, it has requested concrete proposals from the new administrative commissions.

#### Co-operation between the Portuguese Government and PAIGC

57. The PAIGC members of the Cabinet of the Transitional Government expressed their appreciation of the efforts of the Portuguese Government to end decolonization in the Territory, particularly implementation of the provisions of the agreement between the Portuguese Government and PAIGC and the new Organic Statute. The PAIGC ministers also expressed deep appreciation of the efforts and co-operation of the Portuguese members of the Transitional Government. Nevertheless, in many fields, according to PAIGC members, the Transitional Government could do little more than take measures to solve immediate day-by-day problems, owing to the social and economic difficulties inherited from the colonial régime. The strengthening of progressive forces in Portugal was viewed as a guarantee that Portugal's assistance would not end with the proclamation of independence.

58. In his talks with the Mission, Mr. Aristides Pereira, the Secretary-General of PAIGC, stated that the former Portuguese colonial régime was responsible for most of the problems facing the people of Cape Verde. Some Portuguese authorities were aware of this and had already initiated discussions with PAIGC on the possibilities of aid beyond independence. PAIGC, however, was aware of Portugal's limitations. Portugal's responsibility was a moral one, and Portuguese authorities should be always reminded of that. Portugal itself was interested in developing new relations with its former colonies. Mr. Pereira expressed the view that, if democratic forces remained in power in Portugal, there was a certainty of an increasing co-operation between the Portuguese Government and PAIGC.

(a) Political education undertaken by PAIGC

59. Since 1956, PAIGC has been engaged in political activities to make the people of Cape Verde aware of their right to self-determination and independence. Prior to 25 April 1974, these activities were carried out by PAIGC as an underground organization in the Territory. Despite colonial repression, PAIGC had never relented in its efforts to lead the people of Cape Verde towards the attainment of their rights.

60. The PAIGC had also been active abroad, particularly at the United Nations, where PAIGC representatives kept the international community informed of the plight of the Cape Verdian people under colonial oppression.

61. After 25 April 1974, PAIGC greatly expanded its activities and concentrated on the political education of the population. It is now organized throughout the Territory at three levels: a national directorate under the leadership of Mr. Pedro Pires, President of the National Committee of PAIGC, regional directorates and sector directorates.

62. Over the past 10 months PAIGC has intensified its efforts to organize the population in Cape Verde through programmes for children and the organization of youth, women and workers' groups.

63. The strength of PAIGC as the sole representative of the people of Cape Verde was patent in the population demonstration to welcome Mr. Pereira, on his arrival at Praia on 26 February. He was greeted at the airport by a crowd variously estimated from 30,000 to 50,000 people. Later on the same day, he addressed a crowd of some 20,000 people from the terrace of PAIGC Headquarters in the main plaza of Praia. It should be noted that fewer than 140,000 people inhabit Santiago, where Praia is located, and that means of transportation to reach the capital are not readily available.

3. Economic Conditions

General

64. Cape Verde has scanty natural resources and generally suffers from lack of rainfall. On Sal, Maio and Boa Vista, there is little else but salt and sand. On most of the other islands, the soil is poor and there are only small areas in valleys or in the upper regions where vegetation grows. Prior to the long and continual droughts which have afflicted Cape Verde in the recent past, Brava, Fogo, São Nicolau, Santo Antão and Santiago had considerable vegetation, but all except Braza suffer from aridity and soil erosion.

65. The main economic importance of Cape Verde lies in its function as a refueling station for ships and aircraft travelling between Europe and the southern part of Africa.

66. In 1975, the latest drought in Cape Verde entered its eighth consecutive year. Agricultural production has reached a point of total collapse, with all crops lost, and Cape Verde has had to import all basic food-stuffs.

#### Agriculture

67. Agriculture was the main sector of the economy of Cape Verde before the current drought. Now, however, it is not sufficient even to feed the population at a subsistence level. The latest available statistics on agricultural production are for 1972 and show a drop of over 4 per cent from 1970 (see the working paper prepared by the Secretariat, table 4).

68. Banana and sugar cane are the only crops of significant size; bananas were the main export crop in the past. Production of maize, which is the main staple of the Cape Verdian population, currently does not even meet 4 per cent of its needs.

69. The largest banana producer is the Fazenda Santa Cruz, a 30-hectare plantation located in the village of Santa Cruz in the concelho of Pedra Badejo on Santiago. After the change of Government in Portugal in April 1974, the Portuguese owner gradually abandoned the plantation which in December of that year, was taken over by its workers.

#### Industry

70. Cape Verde's industrial activity is very limited. The only industry observed by the Visiting Mission was the extraction of salt and pozzolana for export.

71. The only important concern involved in pozzolana mining is the Companhia de Cimento Pozzolana de Cabo Verde, SARL, located in the concelho of Porto Novo on Santo Antão. Its production has declined significantly in recent years, and its staff of 300 has been reduced to 70. The company is owned by Champalimaud, a Portuguese group.

72. On Sal Island, there are two companies exploiting the salt industry: the Portuguese-owned Companhia de Fomento, with headquarters in Portugal, and the French-owned Compagnie des Salins du Cap Vert, with headquarters in Morocco. Neither company is very active. They operate at low cost and have a profit rate high enough to enable them to be selective in filling orders from abroad. Their low rate of activity is partly the result of inadequate facilities for the handling of salt exports at the port of Santa Maria on Sal.

#### Fisheries

73. The two main fisheries are the Companhia de Pesca e Congelação de Cabo Verde (CONGEL) and the Empresas de Conservas Ultra, SARL, both of which were badly run under managers linked to the former régime. The fishing industry could play

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a very important role in the future economic development of Cape Verde. The fishing resources of Cape Verde are estimated to be extensive, but their development would require large capital investments and extensive technical assistance.

74. Currently, Portugal is representing Cape Verde's interests at the United Nations conferences on the law of the sea.

#### Transport and communications

75. Recent information on this sector is contained in the working paper prepared by the Secretariat.

76. As stated above, the Visiting Mission was informed that the inadequate port facilities at Santa Maria on Sal Island were a negative factor in the development of the salt industry.

#### Public finance

77. In 1974 and 1975, Portugal granted annual non-reimbursable subsidies equivalent to \$US 12 million to help the people of the Territory meet the emergency situation created by the drought which has left them without work and with a scarcity of food.

78. Although willing to continue technical and cultural assistance to Cape Verde after its independence, the Portuguese Government has indicated that it will be in a difficult position in connexion with granting further financial aid to Cape Verde. e/

79. In recent years, Cape Verde has imported practically all of its needs; at the same time, exports have declined. In 1973, exports covered only 5 per cent of imports by value. The resulting trade deficit reached 785.3 million escudos. f/ The trade deficits have been covered by non-reimbursable subsidies from Portugal (see appendix IV to the present report.)

#### Development projects

##### (a) Portugal's development plan

80. In 1974, Portugal granted Cape Verde a non-reimbursable subsidy equivalent to \$US 6 million for development projects. The same amount has been granted by Portugal for 1975. (See appendix IV to the present report.)

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e/ For detailed information on Portugal's financial aid to Cape Verde, see appendix IV to the present report.

f/ In April 1975, 23 escudos were equivalent to approximately \$US 1.00.

(b) Projects sponsored by the United Nations

81. Following the dispatch by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, early in 1975, of a special mission to Cape Verde to assess the critical situation in the Territory, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has already planned assistance totalling over \$US 1.7 million for the period 1975-1976, of which some \$US 500,000 is to be spent in 1975. Funds already available for these projects amount to \$US 1 million which has been allocated to PAIGC. The full implementation of the UNDP programme could be guaranteed if there were additional funds in trust available from Member States.

82. There were also reports of other projects as follows: the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), \$US 210,000; the World Food Programme (WFP), over \$US 2 million; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), \$US 300,000; and the World Health Organization (WHO), \$US 85,000. The WFP projects will provide food for 110,000 people, or approximately one third of the population.

4. Social conditions

Labour

83. As a result of the continuous drought, the majority of the working population, which depends on agriculture for a living, has had to rely on relief assistance or on work programmes set up by the Portuguese Government. Statistical data for 1970, the latest available, show that 77,392 workers, or 91 per cent of the working population, were engaged in agriculture.

84. For the first half of 1975, the Portuguese Government has granted non-reimbursable subsidies amounting to 196.8 million escudos to make possible the employment of 56,019 workers including 22,565 men, 26,275 women and 7,181 children.

85. The majority of peasants in Cape Verde are landless and have to seek work at very low wages. Job security and trade union organizations are non-existent.

86. Workers are usually assigned to frentes de trabalho (work fronts) and the work generally involves public works such as road construction. The Mission saw one such group at work on road construction at Porto Novo on Santo Antão. There were many school-age children among the workers. It was explained to the Mission that the number of persons of a single family who are permitted to work depends on the size of the family. It is sometimes necessary for children to work in order to help the family survive at subsistence level.

87. Workers in the frentes de trabalho work a five-day week and receive basic wages of 30 escudos per day for men; 22.5 escudos per day for women; and 18 escudos per day for children. Even this kind of work may no longer be available if the Portuguese Government is unable to continue to provide non-reimbursable subsidies for this programme and if no other funds become available.

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### Emigration

88. Over the past years, the population of Cape Verde has shown sharp fluctuations. Thousands of Cape Verdians have emigrated to Portugal and other Territories under Portuguese administration or to foreign countries, owing to the severe drought in the Territory.

89. The PAIGC has charged that the former Portuguese Government took advantage of the drought situation by exporting workers to Portugal and other Territories under its administration in order to undermine the struggle of the people for national liberation.

90. According to a Portuguese source, there were 15,000 Cape Verdians working in Portugal in 1972; other estimates range as high as 50,000. The Cape Verdians who emigrated to Portugal apparently replaced Portuguese emigrants who sought work in foreign countries. With the return to Portugal of many Portuguese nationals, however, it is feared that there has been a worsening of the situation of Cape Verdians in Portugal.

91. There are also Cape Verdian communities in other countries. It has been claimed that there are as many Cape Verdians in the United States of America as there are in Cape Verde. The Secretary-General of PAIGC pointed out to the Mission, however, that that figure includes large numbers of people with a Cape Verdian background who were not born in Cape Verde.

### Co-operative society

92. The banana plantation on Santa Cruz mentioned earlier (see para. 69 above), used to employ some 1,000 workers. With the deterioration of the economy, however, the Portuguese owner of the plantation gradually reduced the number of workers and allowed the plantation to deteriorate.

93. Subsequently, after the change of Government in Portugal, in April 1974, the workers took over the plantation and organized a co-operative run by an administrative committee. There are now 200 workers, including 50 women, on the plantation. Thirty hectares are under cultivation and efforts are being made to expand the cultivated area to 60 hectares.

94. Wages have been increased from 22.5 to 30 escudos per day for men. Women receive five escudos less per day. At the end of the year, the profits will be distributed to workers.

95. This was a de facto situation observed by the Visiting Mission on which, however, the Transitional Government had not yet reached a decision.



Public health

(a) Food situation

96. Aridity on some of the islands, particularly Sal, Boa Vista and Maio, reaches desert proportions, while on others drought has caused many severe famines. Cape Verde is now going through its eighth year of continuous drought, and its population has been seriously afflicted by malnutrition.

97. The maximum intake of calories of a Cape Verdian worker was estimated at 1,446 calories daily, compared with the accepted average of 3,000 calories daily on a well-balanced diet.

98. Most of the food necessary to maintain the population at a subsistence level has been imported. As indicated above, this has resulted in large trade deficits which have been met with non-reimbursable subsidies from the Portuguese Government. For the first half of 1975, these subsidies amount to 180 million escudos, including 46.2 million escudos to help pay for petroleum imports necessary for the desalination plants on São Vicente and Sal. This grave situation is reaching dramatic proportions because the Portuguese Government will not be able to increase or even maintain the level of its present subsidies to the Territory.

(b) Public health facilities

99. Currently, there are 12 doctors in Cape Verde, a ratio of one doctor per 25,000 inhabitants. On Santo Antão, the second largest island, there is one doctor for 45,000 inhabitants. There are no doctors on São Nicolau, Maio and Boa Vista.

100. The Territory has two hospitals, one at Praia (200 beds) and one at Mindelo (120 beds). The hospitals are poorly equipped and can only handle routine cases. There is only one surgeon in the Territory and there are no specialists.

101. The Mission received the following information from the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs of the Transitional Government on present public health facilities in Cape Verde:

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Cape Verde: public health facilities

<u>Island and population</u>	<u>Hospital and staff</u>	<u>Health post and staff</u>	<u>Emergency post and staff</u>
Santiago (135,000)	Praia: 4 doctors 18 nurses 20 asst. nurses 1 X-ray technician 5 asst. pharmacists	Santa Catarina: 3 nurses 2 asst. nurses 1 asst. pharmacist  7 other posts: 1 nurse each	-
Fogo (35,000)	-	Brava, at Nova Sintra: 1 doctor 2 nurses 1 asst. nurse	-
Maio (3,000)	-	1, with 1 nurse	-
São Vicente (42,000)	São Vicente: 4 doctors 12 nurses 12 asst. nurses 1 X-ray technician 2 asst. pharmacists 1 asst. laboratory technician	1, with 2 nurses	-
Santo Antão (54,000)	1 doctor	3, with 1 nurse each	3, with 1 asst. nurse each
São Nicolau (16,000)	-	2, with 1 nurse each	-
Sal (4,000)	-	3, with 1 nurse each	-
Boa Vista (3,000)	-	1, with 1 nurse 1, with 1 asst. nurse	-

102. The Mission inspected a health post at Porto Novo on Santo Antão which had been installed in the former Portuguese military barracks. The sanitary conditions of this health post were most shocking. There were not even beds, and the patients had to bring along their own mattresses. The patients, particularly the children, were a dramatic example of the tragic colonial legacy in Cape Verde.

(c) Health priorities

103. The Minister of Justice and Social Affairs of the Transitional Government presented a list of priority areas of health assistance to meet the more urgent needs of the Territory. The specialists most required urgently are:

- 2 general surgeons
- 2 anaesthetists
- 1 ophthalmologist
- 1 radiologist
- 2 analysts
- 2 obstetricians
- 2 public health specialists (already requested from WHO)
- 2 paediatricians
- 1 lung specialist
- 1 psychiatrist
- 2 dentists
- 1 orthopaedist

Housing and water supply

104. Housing conditions in Cape Verde are extremely poor and usually below the minimum level for sanitary conditions. Because of other priorities essential for survival, no housing projects of any significance have been initiated.

105. The Mission inspected a slum area known as Chã de Camoca on the outskirts of Porto Novo on Santo Antão. Most of the houses consisted of caves dug into pozzolana heaps. In one case, nine persons were living in a single room. Some of these caves fetch prices up to 600 escudos.

106. There is only one water fountain for the whole of Chã de Camoca. Water costs 20 centavos for 25 litres and may only be purchased during certain hours in the morning and afternoon. Owing to the hazardous sanitary conditions in the area, there have been serious outbreaks of contagious disease. In the summer of 1974, there were four cases of cholera.

107. Water is scarce on most of the islands and is consequently one of the most serious problems in Cape Verde. On islands such as Santo Antão, where there are springs, the use of water resources has not yet been rationalized. Some surveys of underground water sources have been made, including one carried out at a cost of \$US 2 million, but it must be followed by other surveys to determine the age of the water.

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108. Up to 1972, the town of Mindelo received its water from the island of Santo Antão. Mindelo now has its own desalination plant. The island of Sal has a desalination plant at the international airport of Espargos. According to the High Commissioner, the facilities at Sal are rudimentary and will require replacement in the near future, although no plans are envisaged for such a project at the present time.

## 5. Educational and cultural conditions

### Statistical data

109. According to PAIGC, the illiteracy rate in Cape Verde is an estimated 75 per cent. Of the 25 per cent who can read and write, some 90 per cent have had only a primary school education. A privileged minority has university degrees. The latest figures from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (1960) place the illiteracy rate at 72.8 per cent. Under the colonial régime, education was not compulsory in the Territory.

110. Facilities for pre-school age children are lacking, and the education of small children is thus left to parents, the majority of whom are themselves illiterate. Cape Verde now has 465 primary schools. It should be noted, however, that a number of these schools are rented rooms in private houses where classes are held in an atmosphere of family life. Some 70,000 students are enrolled in primary schools. The teachers number 1,220, of whom some 55 per cent have had only four years of primary education and four weeks of "intensive training". Only 7.5 per cent of the teachers are fully qualified,

111. There is one school for the training of "school post" teachers, who are less qualified primary school teachers. g/ The school has a staff of 16 teachers and an enrolment of 300 students. In Praia, there is one primary school teacher-training facility, with 9 teachers and an enrolment of 44 students.

112. The Territory has two full liceus (secondary schools), at Mindelo and Praia. In addition, there is one vocational school, at Mindelo and eight government schools and six private schools offering the preparatory cycle of secondary education. Approximately 7,000 students are enrolled in secondary schools, which have a staff of 247 teachers, only 46 of whom are permanent. The remaining teachers work under contract and are not considered adequately qualified for their jobs.

113. The latest available statistics for adult literacy courses (1973/74) show an enrolment of 3,216 students.

114. In 1974, budgeted expenditures for education amounted to 53.3 million escudos of which 31.8 million escudos were from Cape Verde's own budget and 21.5 million escudos were granted by Portugal to subsidize projects under the development plan.

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g/ For description of the school system see Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1), chapter VII, annex I.E., para. 60.

### Educational system and cultural situation

115. The educational system imposed by the Portuguese colonial régime was meant to inculcate in the Cape Verdians the values of Portuguese culture and to deny them the preservation and development of their own values. Such a policy could be clearly seen, for example, from the textbooks used in Cape Verde schools. Students had to learn details about Portugal's geography and history. Teachers served the function of colonial agents.

116. Colonial oppression was pervasive in all areas of cultural activity. Education and culture were used as weapons to dominate and control people. This oppression was increased to oppose the political awareness brought about by PAIGC.

### PAIGC cultural and educational goals

117. The PAIGC envisages the promotion of education and culture as a means of consolidating national independence, and has announced its intention to revise the educational system to meet this objective. Inasmuch as a complete transformation of the system cannot immediately be implemented, owing to more pressing needs, PAIGC is giving urgent priority to primary and secondary education. New textbooks are being prepared, and all the school programmes are being revised. The Paulo Freire method has been adopted for adult literacy campaigns.

118. The Transitional Government and PAIGC are faced, however, with serious financial and material limitations in their efforts to transform and expand educational and cultural facilities. At present, they are trying to secure assistance in the form of school materials and funds for school construction; they are also attempting to obtain scholarships for secondary school and university students in foreign countries.

## B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Conclusions

119. On the basis of the contacts made during its visit to Cape Verde and to Lisbon with Portuguese authorities, the Transitional Government of Cape Verde, PAIGC and the people of Cape Verde as described above, the Mission wishes to put forward the following conclusions.

120. The accession of Cape Verde to independence is undoubtedly the result of the heroic struggle of the people of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, under the guidance of its national liberation movement, PAIGC. The action which has been taken in Portugal by the Movement of 25 April 1974 constitutes significant progress towards the decolonization of Cape Verde.

121. On the basis of its talks with Portuguese authorities in Lisbon and with the members of the Transitional Government in Cape Verde, and of the facts it has noted and the events it has witnessed, the Mission commends the Government of Portugal for the course it has followed in the implementation of its decolonization policy, which is in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At its twenty-ninth session, the General Assembly welcomed the declaration of the Government of Portugal accepting to fulfil its obligations under the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and recognizing the right of the peoples to self-determination and independence. The sincerity of the new Portugal cannot be questioned, since it has agreed that United Nations missions and observers should visit the Territories under its administration in order to observe the progress of the decolonization process and the transfer of powers to representatives of the people. The Visiting Mission to Cape Verde is concrete evidence of this policy.

122. The Mission received from the Portuguese Government, from the Transitional Government of Cape Verde and from PAIGC, which also co-operated whole-heartedly with it, all necessary assistance and useful information. Their contributions facilitated the work of the Mission and enabled it to accomplish its task.

123. The Visiting Mission considers that the decolonization of Cape Verde has unusual features not encountered before. The present situation is the result of a colonization process which lasted almost five centuries, during which time nothing was done to prepare the Cape Verdian people for independence. All that colonialism achieved was to distort the social, economic and cultural structures, to neglect development in all areas and to treat the Territory as a huge reserve of cheap labour available to the colonial authorities and foreign enterprises. The mass emigration of Cape Verdians is the result of this colonial situation.

124. The Mission is convinced that the firm determination of the people of Cape Verde, under the banner of PAIGC, the avant-garde and revolutionary party of the people, together with the sincere intent of the Portuguese Government to impleme

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the provisions of the agreement of 18 December 1974 (see appendix II to the present report) and the supervision of the Special Committee, guarantees that the Cape Verdian people will accede to independence and freedom.

125. The leaders of PAIGC expressed their satisfaction with the co-operation existing between them, the Portuguese Government and the representatives of the Portuguese Government within the Transitional Government. They also expressed their satisfaction with the measures already taken or being taken with a view to the accession of the Territory to independence.

126. The Mission verified that:

(a) The people of Cape Verde are determined to accede to independence under the banner of PAIGC; and,

(b) PAIGC is the sole authentic representative of the people of Cape Verde and enjoys their full support.

127. The Mission is convinced that the people of Cape Verde are ready to move towards independence under the guidance of PAIGC. The Cape Verde Islands intend to establish a union with Guinea-Bissau following independence. The Mission is convinced that this is fully in accordance with the genuine wishes of the population of Cape Verde.

128. The Mission believes that the accession of Cape Verde to independence will come about in particularly difficult economic, social and cultural circumstances. The Territory is experiencing a very serious economic crisis. It is afflicted by a very severe drought and by shortages of water and food. For this reason, there is an urgent need for the Member States and all organizations within the United Nations system concerned with development, in particular the international financial institutions, to take immediate action to develop, in close consultation with the Transitional Government of Cape Verde, and later with the national Government of Cape Verde, specific programmes and projects of economic, technical and financial assistance, bearing in mind the need to employ the most flexible procedures possible in drawing up and implementing such projects. It is essential that such assistance should begin to arrive as early as possible in order to help the Cape Verdian authorities to tackle immediate and pressing economic and social problems resulting from the drought and from the fact that the country is about to accede to independence.

129. There is an urgent need for the extension of assistance in the field of public health and medical care. At the time of the visit, there were only 12 doctors in Cape Verde, 1 of whom was a surgeon. On the island of Santo Antão, there was 1 doctor for a population of 45,000; patients in the health post at Porto Novo were required to prove their own beds. The Mission noted that the adverse sanitary conditions prevailing in all the islands endanger the health of the population as a whole.

130. The Mission noted that some of the inhabitants of Santo Antão live in holes hewn out of the mountain, and that the only furniture some of them possess is made

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of stone, including the beds. In other areas, particularly in Mindelo, there are shanty-towns without sanitary facilities.

131. Colonialism has left behind a deplorable situation with regard to educational and cultural conditions in Cape Verde:

(a) About 75 per cent of the population is illiterate. Many children of school age have had no primary education, let alone secondary and higher education. The number of teachers, the number of class-rooms and the teaching material are insufficient to meet the needs of the Territory. The few existing primary, secondary and technical schools cannot meet the requirements of the country;

(b) Although PAIGC has done everything in its power since the overthrow of the colonialist Portuguese régime, it has been unable to change the ideas and methods used in the schools by the colonial régime;

(c) One of the principal objectives of PAIGC is the eradication of illiteracy, an essential prerequisite for the development of Cape Verde. PAIGC is in the process of launching projects to eradicate adult illiteracy, but is still facing serious problems because of the lack of teachers and schools;

(d) The Mission found that education is not compulsory in Cape Verde;

(e) The lack of day-care centres and kindergartens, which was inherited from colonial times, means that the education of children has been left to parents, the majority of whom are themselves illiterate and who are therefore not in a position to provide adequate education to their children;

(f) Despite the fact that there are people living in the Territory who have received education and adequate training, the basic facilities for the spread of mass culture are insufficient. These facilities, such as public libraries, newspapers, periodicals, cinemas, theatres, are very sparse and found only in the larger towns, such as Praia, the capital, and Mindelo.

132. The Mission is convinced that, even in the long run, the economic, social and cultural independence of the Territory will be achieved only if it receives intensive, co-ordinated and planned international, multilateral and bilateral assistance spread over several years. The Transitional Government and the national Government which will follow cannot tackle the day-to-day problems and at the same time deal with the problems of economic, social and cultural independence without such assistance.

133. The Mission firmly believes that such assistance is a responsibility which falls upon the entire international community and that it is the natural continuation of the efforts of the United Nations on behalf of the countries and peoples which are in the process of achieving independence.

134. Although the Portuguese authorities acknowledged the historical and moral responsibility of Portugal to continue to provide planned, organized and intensive aid to Cape Verde, they have also called attention to the economic and social

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difficulties of Portugal itself. As a result of its discussions with Portuguese government authorities, the Mission has learned that that Government will not be able to provide financial assistance to Cape Verde after independence on account of its own economic situation. However, the Mission was assured that the Portuguese Government will provide technical assistance and that it has already started to do so by sending technicians, doctors and teachers to the Territory.

135. On the basis of its findings, the Mission has drawn up the following recommendations which, if adopted and implemented, may avoid the development of a catastrophic situation. While the situation in Cape Verde is not yet catastrophic, the seeds of possible disaster are latent and could sprout at any time.

## 2. Recommendations

136. The Mission recommends that the Special Committee continue to secure information from the Portuguese authorities, the Transitional Government and PAIGC on all new developments and measures taken with a view to the accession of the Territory to independence by 5 July 1975.

137. Bearing in mind its historical responsibility to develop the Territory, Portugal should direct its efforts in the immediate future, in close co-operation with the Government of Cape Verde, to provide assistance in the development of primary and secondary education and the elimination of illiteracy. The Mission, therefore, recommends that Portugal should, to the extent of its possibilities, obtain both teachers for the existing schools and assistance for setting up new schools, in order to meet the fundamental needs of the Territory in this field. The Mission also considers it desirable that the Portuguese Government help the Government of independent Cape Verde to develop the means to introduce new teaching methods and concepts.

138. A start should be made immediately on building nurseries and kindergartens, supplying them with the necessary equipment and materials and finding the staff to run them. The Mission recommends that the international community should concentrate its bilateral and multilateral efforts on providing aid to build new schools and other cultural facilities in the Cape Verde Islands and provide them with all necessary supplies. The Mission draws the attention of the international community to the need to make available scholarships to Cape Verdian nationals in order to train the specialists needed in many fields.

139. The Mission believes that, in view of Portugal's moral responsibility, and for humanitarian reasons, the Portuguese Government should, in conjunction with the Government of Cape Verde, work out an acceptable solution to the problems of the thousands of Cape Verdians working in Portugal.

140. In view of the present economic situation and of the scarcity of food, the Mission suggests that priority be given to emergency and relief assistance to provide:

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- (a) Essential food-stuffs such as flour, maize, milk and sugar;
- (b) Financial aid for creating, on the basis of economic planning, a basis for economic and social development; and,
- (c) The technical and capital assistance required to implement economic and social plans.

141. On the basis of its observation that there are prospects for expanding a number of existing industries, such as salt, fisheries, agriculture (subject to the implementation of irrigation projects) and pozzolana earth, the Mission recommends that Cape Verde should be given aid for the development of these industries.

142. The Mission finally suggests that:

- (a) The appropriate United Nations bodies, particularly the specialized agencies dealing with economic, social and cultural activities, and the financial and health institutions, should be mobilized to begin at once to plan the aid described above and implement the relevant programmes;
- (b) An appeal should be made to the international community, and to Portugal in particular, to participate in providing assistance at the bilateral and multilateral levels; and,
- (c) An international appeal should be made for emergency relief to supply Cape Verde as soon as possible with vital food-stuffs (such as maize, milk, sugar and rice) and health assistance (such as doctors, nurses, medicines and health equipment).

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