

resources by taking effective measures which guarantee the rights of the peoples to own and dispose of those natural resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development;

7. *Welcomes* the positive attitude of the administering Power with respect to the receiving of United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under its administration and requests the Chairman of the Special Committee to continue his consultations with a view to the dispatch of such missions, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to enlist the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in accelerating progress in all sectors of the national life of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to seek the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration with respect to Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands, including the possible dispatch of visiting missions in consultation with the administering Power, and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*85th plenary meeting  
1 December 1976*

### 31/53. Question of Timor

*The General Assembly,*

*Recognizing* the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

*Recalling* its resolution 3485 (XXX) of 12 December 1975 and Security Council resolutions 384 (1975) of 22 December 1975 and 389 (1976) of 22 April 1976,

*Having examined* the chapter of the 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 relating to the Territory,<sup>43</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that part of the Political Declaration adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Colombo from 16 to 19 August 1976, relating to the question of East Timor,<sup>44</sup>

*Having heard* the statement of the representative of Portugal,<sup>45</sup>

*Having also heard* the statement of the representative of the Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente,<sup>46</sup>

*Mindful* that all States should, in conformity with Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity

or national independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

*Deeply concerned* at the critical situation resulting from the military intervention of the armed forces of Indonesia in East Timor,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of East Timor to self-determination and independence and the legitimacy of their struggle to achieve that right;

2. *Reaffirms* its resolution 3485 (XXX) and Security Council resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976);

3. *Affirms* the principles stated in that part of the Political Declaration adopted by the Fifth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries relating to the question of East Timor;

4. *Strongly deplores* the persistent refusal of the Government of Indonesia to comply with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 3485 (XXX) and Security Council resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976);

5. *Rejects* the claim that East Timor has been integrated into Indonesia, inasmuch as the people of the Territory have not been able to exercise freely their right to self-determination and independence;

6. *Calls upon* the Government of Indonesia to withdraw all its forces from the Territory;

7. *Draws the attention* of the Security Council, in conformity with Article 11, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, to the critical situation in the Territory of East Timor and recommends that it should take all effective steps for the immediate implementation of its resolutions 384 (1975) and 389 (1976) with a view to securing the full exercise by the people of East Timor of their right to self-determination and independence;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to keep the situation in the Territory under active consideration, to follow the implementation of the present resolution, to dispatch to the Territory as soon as possible a visiting mission with a view to the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-second session an item entitled "Question of East Timor".

*85th plenary meeting  
1 December 1976*

### 31/54. Question of the British Virgin Islands

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the British Virgin Islands,

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the Territory,

*Having examined* the relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XII.

<sup>44</sup> A/31/197, annex I, para. 36.

<sup>45</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Fourth Committee, 13th meeting, paras. 1-5.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 7-23.

to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,<sup>47</sup> including in particular the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission dispatched to the Territory in May 1976 at the invitation of the administering Power, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,<sup>48</sup>

*Having heard* the statement of the administering Power,<sup>49</sup>

1. *Approves* the chapter of the 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 relating to the British Virgin Islands;<sup>50</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the British Virgin Islands to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Visiting Mission dispatched to the Territory in May 1976<sup>51</sup> and expresses its appreciation to the members of the Visiting Mission for the constructive work accomplished and to the administering Power and the Government of the British Virgin Islands for the close co-operation and assistance extended to the Mission;

4. *Requests* the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to continue to take all necessary measures, in consultation with the Government of the British Virgin Islands, to expedite the process of decolonization in the Territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration;

5. *Endorses* the view of the Visiting Mission that measures to promote the economic development of the British Virgin Islands are an important element in the process of self-determination and expresses the hope that the administering Power will continue to intensify and expand its programme of budgetary and development aid;

6. *Requests* the administering Power, in the light of the conclusions and recommendations of the Visiting Mission, to continue to enlist the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in the development and strengthening of the economy of the Territory, and requests those agencies and organizations to respond appropriately to the development needs of the British Virgin Islands;

7. *Further requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the Government of the British Virgin Islands, to pay particular attention to the training of qualified local personnel;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the full examination of this question at its next session in the light of the findings of the Visiting Mission, including the possible dispatch of a further mission to the

British Virgin Islands at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

*85th plenary meeting  
1 December 1976*

### 31/55. Question of American Samoa

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of American Samoa,

*Having examined* the relevant chapters of the 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,<sup>52</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to American Samoa,

*Conscious* of the need to promote progress towards the full implementation of the Declaration with respect to American Samoa,

*Bearing in mind* the constructive results achieved as a consequence of previous visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and reiterating its conviction that the dispatch of such missions is essential for securing adequate and first-hand information in regard to the conditions prevailing in those Territories and to the views, wishes and aspirations of the peoples therein with respect to their future status,

*Mindful* that American Samoa requires the continued attention and assistance of the United Nations in the achievement by its people of the objectives embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration,

*Aware* of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of American Samoa, and stressing the necessity of diversifying its economy as a matter of priority in order to reduce its dependence on fluctuating economic activities,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the 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 relating to American Samoa;<sup>53</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration;

3. *Reaffirms its conviction* that questions of territorial size, geographical location and limited resources should in no way delay the implementation of the Declaration with respect to American Samoa;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America, as the administering Power, in consultation with the freely elected representatives of the people, to continue to take all the necessary steps to ensure the full and speedy attainment of the goals set forth in the Declaration with respect to the Territory;

5. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take all possible steps to diversify the economy of American

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), chaps. III and XXVIII.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XXVIII, annex.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Fourth Committee, 11th meeting, paras. 1-11; and *ibid.*, Fourth Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), chap. XXVIII.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XXVIII, annex, paras. 154-170.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, chaps. III and XXII.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. XXII.