

important step in the progress of Papua New Guinea towards independence,

Mindful that the House of Assembly has affirmed its right as the duly elected parliament of the people of Papua New Guinea to decide when independence is to come and that the administering Power accepts that the House of Assembly represents the wishes of the people on the question of independence,

Recognizing that the administering Power has progressively transferred governmental powers to the Government of Papua New Guinea and that it has announced that, pending the final decision of the House of Assembly to declare independence for Papua New Guinea, the Government of Australia is conducting its relations with the Government of Papua New Guinea as a Government of an independent nation to which Australia has certain special and inescapable obligations,

Noting that, on 9 July 1974, the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly resolved "that Papua New Guinea do move to independent nation status as soon as practicable after a constitution has been enacted by this House and that any proposed date of independence be endorsed by this House",

Noting also the continued willingness of the administering Power and of the Government of Papua New Guinea to receive, at an appropriate time, a visiting mission to be composed as recommended in General Assembly resolution 2590 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Having considered the report of the Trusteeship Council covering the period from 23 June 1973 to 23 October 1974,²

1. *Resolves*, in agreement with the administering Power, that on the date on which Papua New Guinea shall become independent the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of New Guinea, approved by the General Assembly on 13 December 1946, shall cease to be in force;

2. *Requests* the administering Power to notify the Secretary-General of the date on which Papua New Guinea will accede to independence and on which the Trusteeship Agreement shall cease to be in force.

2318th plenary meeting
13 December 1974

3285 (XXIX). Question of Niue

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Niue,

Having examined the relevant 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,³

Having heard the statement of the representative of the Government of Niue,⁴

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence Colonial Countries and Peoples,

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/9604).

³ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), chap. XXII.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Twenty-ninth Session, Fourth Committee, 2119th meeting.

Recalling also its resolution 3155 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, by which it, *inter alia*, noted with approval that the Government and people of Niue were resolved to achieve self-government in 1974, welcomed the invitation extended to the United Nations by the Government of New Zealand to observe the act of self-determination in Niue and requested the Special Committee, in consultation with the administering Power and the Government of Niue, to appoint a special mission to Niue in 1974 for the purpose of observing the proceedings relating to the act of self-determination by the people of Niue,

Having considered the report of the United Nations special mission dispatched to Niue in August 1974 pursuant to resolution 3155 (XXVIII),⁵ and having heard the statement of the Chairman of the Special Mission,⁴

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 Niue;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the findings and conclusions of the special mission,⁶ in particular its conclusion that the arrangements for the conduct of the referendum in Niue were such as to ensure that the people exercised their right to self-determination freely, in circumstances which guaranteed the secrecy of the ballot, and with full information regarding the issues involved;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of New Zealand, as the administering Power, and the Government of Niue for the co-operation and assistance extended to the special mission;

4. *Takes note* that the people of Niue voted, by a substantial majority, for self-government in free association with New Zealand on the basis of the Constitution and the Niue Constitution Act, 1974;

5. *Considers* that, in so doing, the people of Niue have freely expressed their wishes and have exercised their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

6. *Further considers* that, in view of the entry into force of the Niue Constitution Act, 1974, and the attainment by the Territory of self-government in free association with New Zealand, the transmission of information in respect of Niue under Article 73 *e* of the Charter is no longer necessary;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the commitment entered into by the Government of New Zealand to continue to furnish economic and administrative assistance to Niue after the attainment of self-government;

8. *Expresses the hope* that the United Nations Development Programme and the specialized agencies and other institutions associated with the United Nations will likewise endeavour to contribute in every way possible to the development and strengthening of the economy of Niue.

2318th plenary meeting
13 December 1974

⁵ *Ibid.*, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), chap. XXII, annex I.

⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. XXII, annex I, paras. 142-147.