

with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*77th plenary meeting
23 November 1982*

37/26. Question of the United States Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the United States Virgin Islands,

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,¹⁶

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 United States Virgin Islands,

Noting with appreciation the continued active participation of the administering Power in the work of the Special Committee in regard to the United States Virgin Islands, thereby enabling it to conduct a more informed and meaningful examination of the situation in the Territory and expressing its satisfaction at the willingness of the administering Power to receive visiting missions in the Territories under its administration,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the administering Power,¹⁷

Taking note of the fact that the proposed constitution submitted to a referendum on 3 November 1981 after an extensive debate was not accepted by the people of the Territory,

Bearing in mind that the territorial Government has taken positive steps by adopting legislation designed to solve the problem of aliens in the Territory,

Noting that the territorial Government has pursued its efforts to diversify the economy and noting also the progress achieved in the fields of construction and manufacturing, including developments in oil refining and the production of alumina and rum,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts to revitalize health care programmes and to discourage juvenile delinquency, the measures to improve crime prevention and the action taken to expand and upgrade school facilities,

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 United States Virgin Islands;¹⁸

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of the United States Virgin Islands to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

3. *Reiterates* the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which fully applies to the United States Virgin Islands;

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, chaps. III, IV and XXIV.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-seventh Session, Fourth Committee, 20th meeting, paras. 13-18.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. XXIV.

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power, taking into account the freely expressed wishes of the people of the United States Virgin Islands, to take all necessary steps to expedite the process of decolonization in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration, as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is the obligation of the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to inform the local people of the possibilities open to them, so as to enable them to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and, in this respect, calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the work of the recently established Status Commission and to ensure that the people are fully informed of the discussions concerning the future political status of the Territory;

6. *Urges* the administering Power to expedite the passage of legislation currently before the Congress of the United States of America concerning the problem of aliens in the Territory;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter for the economic and social development of the Territory;

8. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy of the Territory by taking additional measures of diversification in all fields and developing an adequate infrastructure;

9. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures which guarantee the right of the people to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development;

10. *Urges* the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue to improve social conditions and to pay particular attention to overcoming problems of unemployment, public housing, health care, education and crime;

11. *Considers* that the possibility of sending a further visiting mission to the United States Virgin Islands at an appropriate time should be kept under review;

12. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to the United States Virgin Islands at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

*77th plenary meeting
23 November 1982*

37/27. Question of Montserrat

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Montserrat,

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,¹⁹

Having also examined the report of the United Nations visiting mission²⁰ dispatched to the Territory in August 1982,

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, chaps. III and XXVIII

²⁰ A/AC.109/722.

at the invitation of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as the administering Power,

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

Recalling also its resolution 36/62 of 25 November 1981 on the question of five Territories, including Montserrat,

Having heard the statement of the representative of the administering Power,²¹

Mindful of the responsibility of the United Nations to help the people of Montserrat realize their aspirations in accordance with the objectives set forth in the Declaration,

Recalling that the administering Power has the responsibility to ensure that the people of Montserrat are kept fully informed of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with the Declaration,

Aware of the special problems facing the Territory by virtue of its isolation, small size, limited resources and lack of infrastructure,

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 Montserrat;²²

2. *Approves also* the report of the United Nations visiting mission to Montserrat in 1982;²⁰

3. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Montserrat to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

4. *Reiterates* the view that such factors as size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the process of self-determination in accordance with the Declaration, which fully applies to Montserrat;

5. *Commends*, for appropriate action, the conclusions and recommendations of the visiting mission²³ to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, and to the Government of Montserrat;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the visiting mission for the constructive work accomplished and to the administering Power, the territorial Government, the Legislative Council and the people of the Territory for the close co-operation and assistance extended to the mission;

7. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic and social development of Montserrat;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power, in co-operation with the Government of Montserrat, to launch programmes of political education so that the people of the Territory may be fully informed of the options available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence;

9. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to intensify and expand its programme of aid in order to accelerate the development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Territory;

10. *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 of the United Nations system, as well as other regional and international bodies, in the strengthening, development and diversification of the economy of the Territory;

11. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session, including the possible dispatch of a further visiting mission to Montserrat at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

77th plenary meeting
23 November 1982

37/28. Question of Western Sahara²⁴

The General Assembly,

Having considered in depth the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling the inalienable right of all peoples to self-determination and independence in accordance with the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolutions 35/19 of 11 November 1980 and 36/46 of 24 November 1981 on the question of Western Sahara,

Having considered 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,²⁵

Having heard the statements made on the question of Western Sahara, in particular the statement of the representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro,²⁶

Recalling its resolution 36/80 of 9 December 1981 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Recalling all the decisions of the Organization of African Unity on the question of Western Sahara,

Recalling also the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its eighteenth ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 24 to 27 June 1981, to organize throughout the Territory of Western Sahara a general and free referendum on self-determination,²⁷

Taking note of the various decisions adopted by the Implementation Committee on Western Sahara of the Organization of African Unity concerning the establishment of appropriate machinery to enable the people of Western Sahara to express themselves freely and democratically on their future,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of African Unity and the objectives of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), as well as with the relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Organization of African Unity;

²¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Fourth Committee, 17th meeting, paras. 64-66.*

²² *Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. XXVIII.*

²³ A/AC.109/722, sect. IV.

²⁴ See also sect. I, footnote 7, and sect. X.B.6, decision 37/411.

²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. IX.*

²⁶ *Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Fourth Committee, 20th meeting, paras. 2-8.*

²⁷ See A/36/534, annex II, resolution AHG/Res.103 (XVIII).