

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories, and expressing its satisfaction at the willingness of the administering Power to receive visiting missions in the Territories under its administration,

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 Anguilla;²³

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Anguilla 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 exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to Anguilla;

4. *Reiterates* that it is the responsibility of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to create such conditions in Anguilla as will enable its people to exercise freely and without interference, from a well-informed standpoint as to the available options, their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV), as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of Anguilla themselves to determine their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration, and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of the Territory of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence;

6. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy of Anguilla and to increase its assistance to programmes of diversification;

7. *Notes* that, although the Territory was no longer in need of a grant from the administering Power to balance its recurrent budget for 1984, the Government of the United Kingdom agreed to provide a special grant to clear the deficit accumulated between 1977 and 1983;

8. *Urges* the administering Power to take effective measures, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to safeguard, guarantee and ensure the rights of the people of Anguilla to own and dispose of their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over their future development;

9. *Urges* the administering Power to continue, in co-operation with the territorial Government, the assistance necessary for the increased employment of the local population in the civil service, particularly at senior levels;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the administering Power, in the light of the observations, conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Anguilla, 1984,²⁴ 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 development and strengthening of the economy of Anguilla;

11. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to facilitate the participation of Anguilla in the Economic

Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary body, the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, and in other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development;

12. *Considers* that the possibility of sending a further visiting mission to Anguilla at an appropriate time should be kept under review;

13. *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 Anguilla at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

99th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

40/49. 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,²⁵

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, including in particular its resolution 39/38 of 5 December 1984,

Noting with appreciation the continued active participation of the administering Power and the representative of the territorial Government 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 with a view to accelerating the process of decolonization for the purpose of the full implementation of the Declaration,

Taking into account the statement of the representative of the administering Power that the Territory of the United States Virgin Islands enjoys a large measure of self-government through its elected representatives, namely, the Governor, members of the Legislature and the Territory's non-voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives, and noting the recent general elections in the Territory,

Noting with concern that the economy of the Territory was, as described by the Governor, "temporarily depressed", particularly in the tourist, construction and industrial sectors, as well as in the delivery of government services, and noting that the Territory's industrial development programme would suffer a setback as a result of the announced plan of Martin Marietta Alumina, Inc. for the closure of its aluminium plant in the Territory in 1985,

Welcoming the continued participation of the United States Virgin Islands, as an associate member, in the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary bodies, including the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee, and noting the participation of a representative of the Territory as a member of the delegation of the administering Power at annual meetings of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development since 1982,

²³ *Ibid.*, chap. XXIV.

²⁴ A/AC.109/799, sect. IV.

²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/40/23)*, chaps. II, IV-VI and XXV.

Noting with satisfaction the statement of the administering Power that it endorsed the policy that representatives of the Territory should participate in forums in which the Territory was the subject of discussion,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of the United States Virgin Islands, and bearing in mind the necessity of diversifying and strengthening further its economy as a matter of priority in order to promote economic stability,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories, and expressing its satisfaction at the willingness of the administering Power to receive visiting missions in the Territories under its administration,

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;²⁶

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 exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration, which fully applies to the United States Virgin Islands;

4. *Reiterates* that it is the responsibility of the administering Power to create such conditions in the United States Virgin Islands as will enable the people of the Territory to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV), as well as all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is ultimately for the people of the United States Virgin Islands themselves to determine their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration, and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of fostering an awareness among the people of the Territory of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination;

6. *Notes* that the Select Committee, established by the Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands in 1983 to ascertain the views of the people of the Territory on their future status and to make recommendations in that regard, conducted public hearings from March to August 1984 and submitted its report to the Sixteenth Legislature in January 1985;²⁷

7. *Also notes* that the Legislature endorsed the report, which included, *inter alia*, a recommendation that a referendum on the status issue should be held on 4 November 1986, in conjunction with the next general election, for people of the United States Virgin Islands to choose between a variety of status options including independence, statehood, free association, incorporated territory, *status quo* or a compact of federal relations;²⁷

8. *Further notes* that the Legislature decided to appoint a new committee to continue the process of public hear-

ings in order to ensure that the people of the United States Virgin Islands were fully aware of the implications of the various status options by the time of the referendum;²⁷

9. *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 with a view to reducing the economic dependence of the Territory on the administering Power;

10. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power under the Charter to promote the economic and social development of the United States Virgin Islands;

11. *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 to guarantee their right to own and dispose of those resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development;

12. *Urges* the administering Power to seek in the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development a status for the territorial Government similar to that of other dependent Territories within the Group;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Power to facilitate further the participation of the United States Virgin Islands in various regional intergovernmental bodies and organizations, particularly in their central organs, and in other organizations of the United Nations system;

14. *Urges* the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures to comply fully with the purposes and principles of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration;

15. *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;

16. *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 forty-first session.

99th plenary meeting
2 December 1985

40/50. Question of Western Sahara

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 resolution 39/40 of 5 December 1984 on the question of Western Sahara,

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,²⁸

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara,²⁹

²⁶ *Ibid.*, chap. XXV.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 10.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 23 (A/40/23), chap. X.

²⁹ A/40/692 and Corr 1