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Agenda item 26. Implementation of the
Declaration on the Granting of Independence
to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the
specialized agencies and the international
institutions associated with the United Nations

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION

1. At the sixty-third session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2101 (LXIII) of 3 August 1977, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". In paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue consultations on this matter with the Chairman 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 and to a report thereon to the Council.
2. At its 1090th meeting on 8 August 1977, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, by which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session. 1/
3. At its thirty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/36 of 28 November 1977, in paragraph 16 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. An account of the consultations held, in the light of the foregoing, between the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee is set out below.
5. The President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had continued to give close attention to the question during the past year and most recently during

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 12.

the past year and most recently during its session held in London in April this year (E/1978/43, para. 10). The President of the Council also informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, a further meeting of representatives of the agencies, the United Nations and the general secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was envisaged during the second regular session of the Council, 1978. The two presiding officers noted that the meetings in the past had indeed provided useful guidance to the agencies as to the priorities and procedures of OAU with regard to assistance to the national liberation movements and, in that connexion, had clarified a number of issues of mutual concern, thereby strengthening the co-operation between the agencies and OAU. Accordingly, they considered it extremely useful and desirable that such consultations be continued on a regular basis.

6. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that, in pursuance of paragraph 12 of Council resolution 2101 (LXIII), the Special Committee's attention had been drawn to that resolution as well as to the discussions leading thereto during the Council's sixty-third session (E/AC.24/SR.607-610 and 615-617; E/SR.2084). He also informed the President of the Council that the Committee, at the beginning of its current session, had requested its Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance to continue to follow the implementation by the specialized agencies and the institutions associated with the United Nations of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including in particular General Assembly resolution 32/36. Guided by the positive results of the contacts established in 1977 with representatives of a number of specialized agencies, the Special Committee, through the Sub-Committee, had continued similar consultations during its current session. During its examination of the question in August 1978, the Special Committee would take into account the results of those consultations, as well as the outcome of the Council consideration of the item at its second regular session, 1978.

7. The two presiding officers noted that, in response to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned, several agencies and organizations had expanded, in varying degrees, the volume and scope of their assistance to the peoples in the remaining colonial territories. Nevertheless, the two presiding officers considered that the assistance extended so far to the peoples concerned, particularly to those of Zimbabwe and Namibia, fell far short of their pressing needs and, accordingly, the international community should enlist whatever resources were available in providing to them the assistance awaited. In that context, they were convinced that every effort must be made to secure an increased flow of funds required in the preparation of extended programmes of assistance and that to that end the support of the major funding institutions within the United Nations system was essential. They believed that, given the necessary commitment and determination, ways would be found to remove any existing constraints or difficulties, procedural or otherwise, so as to ensure the availability of the added resources required. The role to be played by the executive heads of the institutions concerned in that connexion, the two presiding officers agreed, was of particular importance and it was hoped that, in keeping with paragraph 14 of resolution 32/36 of the General Assembly and paragraph 11 of resolution 2101 (LXIII) of the Economic and Social Council, specific proposals would be formulated by them without further delay for the

consideration by the respective governing and legislative organs. The two presiding officers also agreed that those agencies and organizations that had thus far depended mainly on extrabudgetary sources for the financing of assistance projects, should endeavour to find, in so far as possible, ways and means to include provision in their regular budgets for initiating and/or expanding projects supported by OAU and the national liberation movements. In the same context, they recalled the positive action taken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by which a total of 34 projects had been financed from within the resources made available from the Trust Fund for Assistance to Colonial Countries and Peoples and from the allocations made by the Governing Council under the Indicative Planning Figure for Assistance to the National Liberation Movements concerned, amounting respectively to \$4.2 million and \$6 million to date.

8. The two presiding officers noted with satisfaction the closer contacts and liaison established by the organizations within the United Nations system with the national liberation movements, OAU and the United Nations Council for Namibia. They welcomed the arrangements made by the agencies and organizations to ensure the active and direct participation in their meetings of representatives of the national liberation movements, thus contributing to the effective consideration by the organizations concerned of measures in support of the colonial peoples. They also noted that, in conformity with paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015 (LXI), several agencies defrayed the cost of travel and other related expenses of representatives of national liberation movements invited to attend such meetings. Further, they noted that the United Nations Council for Namibia had been represented at many agency conferences and meetings and had been admitted to membership in some agencies.

9. The two presiding officers expressed the confidence that these closer contacts and liaison would result in increasing the volume and scope of the assistance by the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system and would enhance the ability of agencies to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility to needs as they were identified. In that connexion, the two presiding officers hoped that the agencies and organizations would take full advantage of the existing measures of co-ordination, such as the arrangements recently effected by UNDP providing for regular meetings in the field of representatives of the agencies and the national liberation movements to exchange information on assistance projects, or the forum proposed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the effective interagency co-ordination of assistance for education and training to national liberation movements and refugees from the colonial territories. The two presiding officers emphasized that not only was such an exchange of information necessary concerning the various activities undertaken within the United Nations family of organizations but that it was also essential to ensure that the on-going or proposed assistance projects by various agencies were not left unrelated or unco-ordinated, as they believed that recourse should be had to such multidisciplinary approaches in order to achieve the maximum utilization of the limited resources available.

10. The two presiding officers noted that there had been a considerable influx of refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia, seeking asylum in neighbouring States, particularly Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. That had substantially increased the requirements for emergency and other forms of humanitarian assistance.

In that context they noted with satisfaction that there had been a considerable increase in international assistance extended through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in close co-operation with a number of organizations within the United Nations system and with OAU: as at the end of March 1978, the total number of refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia was estimated at over 112,000, for whom over \$4 million had been expended through UNHCR. The presiding officers also noted that the World Food Programme had committed in 1977/78 over \$4 million in food aid to the peoples concerned. They expressed the hope that the agencies and organizations within the United Nations system would continue to do everything possible to assist the Governments concerned in providing emergency and other aid to the growing number of refugees. In that connexion, they noted with satisfaction that an interagency meeting had been held at Geneva in December 1977, under the auspices of UNHCR, for co-ordination of, and exchange of data on, assistance to southern African refugees and that, during the meeting, it had been decided that such meetings should be convened periodically by UNHCR.

11. The two presiding officers noted that measures adopted by a number of agencies to withhold all assistance from the Government of South Africa and the illegal régime in southern Rhodesia continued to be in force. They agreed that the United Nations system of organizations should strengthen such measures so as to bring about the maximum isolation of those régimes, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned.

12. Bearing in mind that the matters raised in the present report would require continuous review by the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee, the two presiding officers agreed that, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its thirty-third session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the Special Committee, they should maintain close contact with each other on the question.