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## 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 Economic and Social Council

1. At its forty-seventh session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1450 (XLVII) of 7 August 1969 on the above quoted item. Operative paragraphs 8 and 9 of that resolution read as follows:

"8. Decides to maintain the item on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council and requests the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Joint meeting of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to give separate and continuing consideration to this item;

"9. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to maintain contact 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."

2. On 2 October 1969, the Special Committee, following its consideration of the item adopted a resolution, by operative paragraph 10 of which it decided to give further consideration to the item during 1970 and accordingly requested its Chairman to continue his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council.<sup>1/</sup>

3. At its twenty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2555 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969 concerning the item, in operative paragraph 10 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 in implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions. Further,

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, twenty-fourth session, Supplement No. 23 (A/7623), part III, chapter V.

in operative paragraph 12, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the President of the Council held consultations on the question with the Chairman of the Special Committee on 14 July 1970 in Geneva.

5. The Chairman recalled that, on 30 June 1970, the Secretary-General had submitted to the Special Committee the report (A/AC.109/353) called for in operative paragraph 11 (b) of resolution 2555 (XXIV) by which the General Assembly invited him "to obtain and transmit to the Special Committee for its consideration information on the action taken by the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution". The Chairman explained that for reasons beyond its control the Committee had not yet had an opportunity to give consideration to the item, in the light of that report. However, in anticipation of the consultations scheduled to take place between him and the President, informal discussions had been held with several members of the Committee on the matters referred to in operative paragraph 10 of the General Assembly resolution.

6. The Chairman observed that in the opinion of those members of the Special Committee the reports recently submitted on the item by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its sixth session (E/4877), and by the Joint Meetings of the CPC and the ACC (E/4886), the proceedings of which they had followed with keen interest, contained a number of constructive suggestions which are deserving of careful consideration by the Special Committee when it takes up the item.

7. The Chairman also stated that the majority of members of the Special Committee had noted with satisfaction the substantial similarity between their own views and those expressed by most members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. In particular they shared the appreciation registered in the latter body of the continued efforts made by many of the organizations of the United Nations system in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to increase the scope of their assistance to refugees from the dependent Territories in Africa and to strengthen the arrangements for inter-agency co-operation in that field. The President agreed that those organizations were to be commended for their positive response to the relevant recommendations of the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

8. The Chairman observed that several members had, however, noted with regret that, according to the information available, no significant progress had been achieved in

introducing greater flexibility into the procedures followed by most of the agencies in the field of assistance to refugees. They referred for instance to the problems of timing arising from the difference in the programming cycles of the organizations of the United Nations system. They also had in mind the problems arising from the requirement that separate governmental requests be submitted to each agency involved in the formulation of particular projects beneficial to refugees. In their view the translation into concrete results of the offers of assistance made by the agencies would greatly benefit from the establishment of arrangements such as those approved by the governing body of the ILO at its 173rd session; under those arrangements assistance to refugees sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees could under certain conditions be given by ILO upon the request of the UNHCR without the need for a separate governmental request. The President, referring to operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV) and operative paragraph 6 of ECOSOC resolution 1450 (XLVII), concurred in the desirability of introducing the greatest possible measure of flexibility in the procedures for providing refugee assistance. At the same time, he remarked that some of the organizations concerned such as WHO for instance had adopted arrangements comparable in effect to, although considerably less formalized than, those approved by the ILO to which the Chairman had alluded.

9. The Chairman further stated that in the opinion of many members of the Special Committee such organizations as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development had played only a limited role in the work being carried out on behalf of refugees from the colonial Territories in Africa. The President noted that there would indeed appear to be considerable scope for larger participation by those organizations within their different spheres of competence in the formulation and execution of projects beneficial to refugees, including where appropriate the extension of advice and assistance to the Governments of the countries of asylum in the preparation of the necessary requests.

10. Turning to another aspect of the same matter, the Chairman expressed the concern of some members of the Special Committee at the plight of refugees from Southern Rhodesia who, as a result of legal difficulties reportedly raised by the United Kingdom Government, were doomed to be ineligible to receive assistance from the UNHCR. It was the desire of those members that urgent steps be taken to remedy that situation. The President observed in reply that according to his information the legal issues

involved were somewhat complex, but he nevertheless associated himself with the desire for an early solution. He added that during ECOSOC's consideration of the item at its current session the UNHCR would probably wish, in the light of the concern expressed, to make a statement clarifying the issues involved and giving such information as might be at his disposal concerning the situation of those refugees.

11. Referring to the question of moral and material assistance, through the OAU, to the national liberation movements in the colonial Territories in Africa, the Chairman stated that many members of the Special Committee regretted the inadequacy of the information provided by the agencies and international institutions concerned, which was incorporated in the report of the Secretary-General, regarding the implementation by them of paragraphs 4 to 7 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV). Those members were gratified that many of the agencies had established relationship agreements or other special arrangements with the OAU in accordance with operative paragraph 5 of that resolution. The same members had stressed, however, that those arrangements were not an end in themselves; they were a means for the implementation of paragraph 4 of the General Assembly resolution. They had pointed out in that connexion that the Special Committee's recent contacts with the national liberation movements in the above-mentioned territories had underlined the need for the organizations of the United Nations system to take the initiative, in consultation with the OAU, in establishing concrete programmes of assistance which would benefit those movements, especially in the fields of education, training, health and nutrition. The President expressed agreement with the views put forward by the Chairman which, he noted, were also in line with the objectives of the ECOSOC resolution 1450 (XLVII).

13. At the same time, the President emphasized that the efforts of the agencies to meet the intent of the General Assembly and ECOSOC in that regard would be greatly facilitated if States Members of the governing bodies and deliberative organs of the organizations of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the need to co-ordinate and ensure consistency in the positions of their respective delegations to different bodies concerned with related matters, took effective action along the lines indicated in operative paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV). He added that the significance of the consideration to which he had referred had been illustrated by some of the statements made by agency representatives at the Joint CPC/ACC meetings. It was incidentally an aspect of the problem of co-ordination at the national level with which ECOSOC had been preoccupied since its early years. In addition, while

sympathizing with the Chairman's emphasis on the need for initiative on the part of the organizations of the United Nations system as regards assistance to national liberation movements, the President expressed the belief that the success of such an initiative by those organizations depended on the active co-operation of OAU. The Chairman indicated his concurrence in the views expressed by the President.

14. Continuing, the Chairman stated that several members of the Special Committee had expressed serious disappointment at the failure of some of the agencies to discontinue, as requested in the relevant General Assembly resolution, all collaboration with the Governments of Portugal and South Africa as well as with the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia. It was imperative, in their opinion, that such collaboration should be completely withheld until those authorities had renounced their colonial and racist policies. In that connexion, the President referred to, and the Chairman noted, the constitutional and other difficulties encountered by the agencies, which had been brought to the attention of the CPC at its sixth session and at the most recent Joint CPC/ACC meetings. They agreed, however, that these difficulties are not incapable of solution, given the political will, as well as a sense of commitment to the objective of the relevant resolutions, on the part of States Members of the organizations of the United Nations system.

15. Stressing the importance of keeping the matters raised above under review, bearing in mind the usefulness of the discussions which had taken place on the item this year in the ACC and the CPC as well as at the Joint CPC/ACC meetings, the Chairman suggested and the President agreed that it was desirable for the Council to request these bodies to continue to give consideration thereto at their sessions next year. In the same connexion the President drew attention to the suggestion which had been advanced at the sixth session of the CPC (E/4877, para. 32) to the effect that future consideration of the item would be facilitated by the preparation of a clear and comprehensive report which would describe the activities carried out hitherto by the organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration and which would consolidate and replace the information contained in the various separate reports previously submitted to the different United Nations bodies concerned with related aspects of the question. The Chairman, in endorsing the proposal, assured the President

that the Special Committee, for its part, would consider recommending the General Assembly to request the preparation of such a report which would be made available to the bodies concerned.

16. In conclusion the President and the Chairman joined in expressing the hope that their consultations would be helpful to the deliberations of the Council and of the Special Committee, and agreed that guided by such decisions as might be taken by those bodies, as well as by the General Assembly, they should maintain contact with each other on the question.