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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 the fifty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1978 (LIX) of 31 July 1975, 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". By paragraph 11 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.
2. At its 1020th meeting, on 21 August 1975, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, by paragraph 12 of which it similarly requested its Chairman to continue his consultations on the subject with the President of the Council. 1/
3. At its thirtieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3421 (XXX) of 8 December 1975, by paragraph 13 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.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1), chap. VII, para. 13.

5. The President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had during the past year continued to give close attention to the question. 2/ The two presiding officers reviewed the results of the meeting held at Geneva on 5 April 1976, between representatives of the agencies, the United Nations and the general secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974. They noted that the meeting had provided useful guidance to the agencies as to the priorities and procedures of OAU in regard to assistance to the national liberation movements in Africa, and had clarified a number of issues arising in that connexion. They considered it important and desirable that such consultations should be continued on a regular basis with a view to facilitating the full and speedy implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned.

6. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that, in pursuance of paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1978 (LIX), the Special Committee's attention had been drawn to that resolution as well as to the discussions leading thereto during the Council's fifty-ninth session. 3/ 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 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 3421 (XXX). Bearing in mind the positive results of the contacts established in 1974/75 with representatives of a number of agencies, the Special Committee, through the Sub-Committee, had continued similar consultations during its current session.

7. The Chairman of the Special Committee also informed the President of the Council that the Special Committee had dispatched in April/May 1976 a high-level ad hoc group of six of its members to Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, to hold consultations with the Heads of State of those countries and officials of their Governments, the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of its Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa, as well as members of the African National Council of Zimbabwe (ANC (Zimbabwe)) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). As reflected in the report of the Ad Hoc Group (A/AC.109/L.1080), which was adopted by the Special Committee on 17 June 1976, a number of extremely important points having direct relevance to the work of the specialized agencies and the other organizations within the United Nations system had emerged during those consultations, as follows:

(a) As a consequence of the recent further intensification of repressive measures against the peoples of Zimbabwe and Namibia by the minority régimes in Salisbury and Pretoria, the need of the peoples of the two Territories for external

2/ E/5803, paras. 61-63.

3/ E/AC.24/SR.579 and 581.

aid, both bilateral and on a multilateral basis, was all the more acute and critical. The international community, by virtue of its recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle of these peoples for freedom and independence, was indeed duty-bound to extend all possible assistance to them in their fight against hunger, disease and other forms of deprivation - the unfortunate, but inevitable, concomitants of the liberation struggle;

(b) While a limited, but encouraging, beginning had been made in that direction during the recent past by some of the organizations concerned, the assistance extended so far was far from adequate in terms of the actual need of the peoples concerned. Furthermore, some of the programmes, which had been prepared with due care and diligence and with high hope and expectation, faced either outright cancellation or a long delay in their execution, due primarily to budgetary stringency or lack of funds. It was imperative that the executive heads of the agencies and organizations concerned should take urgent steps, as appropriate, with a view to making the necessary arrangements for reinstating, or expediting the execution of, such programmes;

(c) Despite the considerable relaxation of the requirements effected in the past in response to the repeated appeals addressed by the United Nations bodies concerned to the specialized agencies and other organizations in that regard, the procedures required by those organizations with respect to the formulation and the preparation of assistance projects were extremely complicated, time-consuming and cumbersome, in many cases taking a few years to finalize plans and to move on to their implementation. The organizations concerned were strongly urged to review their respective related procedures and to introduce a greater flexibility into the preparation and processing of assistance programmes beneficial to the colonial peoples and their national liberation movements;

(d) To ensure the full utilization of the limited funds available, the specialized agencies and the other organizations within the United Nations system were reminded to keep in close touch with and to seek the advice and co-operation of OAU in connexion with the preparation, execution and administration of their projects in support of the Zimbabweans and Namibians, as well as their national liberation movements. In particular, they were invited to observe the suggestion made by OAU that assistance to the Zimbabwean people should be channelled through its Co-ordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa;

(e) The specialized agencies and other organizations that had not as yet done so, should be invited to secure additional financing from extrabudgetary sources by establishing a system of funds-in-trust to assist the colonial peoples. The Trust Fund for Assistance to Colonial Countries and Peoples established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which amounted to some \$2.8 million by 1975 - an amount grossly inadequate in terms of the requirements, but significant as an initial attempt - was a case in point. In earmarking such funds for any specific objectives, the donor Governments were invited to consult OAU whenever possible, as appropriate;

(f) Of no less importance was the urgent and acute need to extend economic assistance to Mozambique to meet the serious consequences of its decision to sever

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all trade and communication links with Southern Rhodesia in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Security Council. All specialized agencies and the organizations concerned were urged to apply every effort to extend to Mozambique all the necessary assistance, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Security Council resolution 386 (1976);

(g) The grave problems confronting Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia in accommodating the increasing flow of refugees from the Territories concerned should not be overlooked. Despite the ongoing projects by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in assisting those refugees, the requirements of these Governments far exceeded their available resources. Accordingly, the agencies concerned were requested to take all possible steps to co-operate with the Governments concerned in support of the projects initiated by UNHCR;

(h) The Institute for Namibia, which would enter into its operational phase in August 1976, required massive assistance from the international community and every effort thus should be made to support the programmes established under the auspices of the Institute.

8. The President of the Council expressed deep appreciation of the valuable contribution made by the Special Committee through the dispatch of the Ad Hoc Group to Africa in support of the continuing endeavours of the people of Zimbabwe and Namibia. He also expressed the confidence that the points outlined by the Chairman of the Special Committee would receive the due attention of the specialized agencies and the organizations within the United Nations system, which they deserved. The President of the Council informed the Chairman that with respect to the all-out international efforts to assist Mozambique, the Council at its sixtieth session adopted a series of measures, in resolution 1987 (LX) of 11 May 1976, in response to the request addressed to it by the Security Council in paragraph 5 of the latter's resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976. As regards the provision of assistance to the Institute for Namibia, the President of the Council noted that, during its sixty-seventh session held in April 1976 at Geneva, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had expressed the hope that the Director of the Institute would consult the agencies in drawing up the Institute's programme of work and that it had been suggested that the Director might consult with the concerned agencies during the October session of the Preparatory Committee of the Advisory Committee on Co-ordination and in the meantime might visit the headquarters or regional offices of the agencies concerned in order to work out measures for collaboration. The two presiding officers were in full accord that the international community should continue to intensify its support for the peoples in the remaining colonial Territories, especially Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, and in that context, the two officers considered the support of the major funding institutions within the United Nations system, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and UNDP, essential in securing the flow of funds required for the preparation of extended programmes of assistance.

9. 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 and OAU. They agreed that the practice of dispatching

multidisciplinary missions, in consultation with OAU, should be continued in order that the needs of the peoples concerned in terms of specific assistance programmes could be identified and receive appropriate priority. At the same time, the two presiding officers noted that the arrangements made by several agencies and organizations had resulted in the active and direct participation in their relevant meetings of representatives of the national liberation movements, thus contributing towards the effective consideration by the organizations concerned of the measures in support of the colonial peoples. They also noted with satisfaction that, in conformity with paragraph 7 of Council resolution 1978 (LIX), many agencies had adopted measures with a view to defraying all travel and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements invited to attend such proceedings. The two presiding officers expected that the agencies and other organizations would intensify measures, in compliance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 3421 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1978 (LIX), and in consultation with OAU, would enable the national liberation movements to participate in proceedings of conferences, meetings or seminars held under their auspices. In the same connexion, they welcomed the fact that the Council for Namibia had been represented at a number of agency conferences and meetings and had become an associate member of some agencies.

10. 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 and that further decisions, such as the one adopted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at its Seventh Congress, had been taken by some agencies to discontinue formal collaboration with those régimes. The two officers agreed that the United Nations system of organizations should strengthen such measures so as to bring about the maximum isolation of those régimes until they renounced their policies of colonial and racial domination. The Chairman of the Special Committee, in noting with deep regret the extension by IMF to South Africa in January 1976 of a standby arrangement of SDR 80 million, expressed the hope that IMF would reconsider the decision, in keeping with the provisions of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3421 (XXX).

11. Bearing in mind that the matters raised in this 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 which the General Assembly might give at its thirty-first 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.
