



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/35/467
10 October 1980
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Thirty-fifth session
Agenda item 25

QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2
II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS	3
III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION OF THE COMOROS	4
IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY	5
V. CONCLUDING REMARKS	6 - 7

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 December 1979, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/69 on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. The operative paragraphs of the resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte;

"2. Appeals to the Government of France to begin negotiations with the Government of the Comoros as soon as possible with a view to implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on the Comorian island of Mayotte;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in liaison with the Administrative Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to provide the two parties with all necessary assistance and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on developments relating to this question;

"4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session the item entitled 'Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte'."

2. On 1 May 1980, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Comoros and to the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, drawing their attention to the decision of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General invited them to provide him with any additional information pertaining to negotiations for a settlement of this question for inclusion in his report to the General Assembly.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

3. On 23 June 1980, at a meeting with a representative of the Secretary-General the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations handed him an aide-mémoire which read as follows:

"Since 6 December 1979, when resolution 34/69 was adopted by the General Assembly, a number of developments have taken place in Franco-Comorian relations. They include:

"(a) A series of talks at the ministerial level held in Paris from 11 to 13 December 1979, for the purpose of examining the status of the problems existing between the two countries (see text of the final communiqué, annex No. 1).

/...

"(b) The promulgation on 22 December 1979, by the President of the French Republic, of an act establishing a five-year deadline for consulting the population of Mayotte on the status to be applied to the territory (see text of Act No. 79-1113, appearing in issue No. 298 of the Journal Officiel de la République française, dated 23 December 1979).

"(c) A second series of ministerial-level talks, held at Moroni from 9 to 11 April 1980, to continue the consideration of the problems discussed at the previous talks in Paris (see text of the final communiqué, annex No. 2).

"Among the steps which have already been put into effect following these talks, it should be noted that, since the beginning of June 1980, Comorians no longer have to obtain a visa from the French authorities in order to travel to Mayotte.

"In the light of these developments, the French Government can only reaffirm its position on the question of Mayotte as set forth during the discussions at the last session of the General Assembly, particularly with regard to the consideration of this item at the thirty-fifth session.

"ANNEX No. 1

FRANCO-COMORIAN TALKS IN PARIS: COMMUNIQUE

(19 December 1979)

"The first series of talks between France and the Comoros to examine the status of the unresolved problems between the two countries was held in Paris from 11 to 13 December.

"The delegation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros was headed by Mr. Ali Mroudjae, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, and the French delegation by Mr. Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

"These talks, which took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an atmosphere of friendship and trust, made it possible to define the sectors, such as those of infrastructures and communications, in which joint action could be contemplated so as to take account of the natural complementarity of the islands in the Comoros archipelago. These various projects will be considered in detail in the next few weeks by the competent authorities of the two countries.

"It has been decided that a second series of ministerial talks will be held at Moroni at the end of the first quarter of 1980.

"Mr. Ali Mroudjae was received by Mr. Jean François-Poncet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom he reviewed the problems facing Africa.

/...

"ANNEX No. 2

FRANCO-COMORIAN TALKS AT MORONI: COMMUNIQUÉ

(11 April 1980)

"Pursuant to the communiqué issued after the Franco-Comorian talks held in Paris from 11 to 13 December 1979, a further series of talks took place at Moroni from 9 to 11 April 1980.

"The French delegation was headed by Mr. Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the delegation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros by Mr. Ali Mroudjae, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation.

"During the talks, there was an in-depth discussion of the areas in which joint activities will be pursued for the purpose of promoting freedom of movement for individuals and free trade among the four islands of the Comoros archipelago. Several projects for promoting their natural complementarity were given detailed consideration.

"It was found that some projects already considered at the previous talks which related to infrastructures, e.g. those of airports and ports, telecommunications and radio broadcasting, could be quickly implemented. The two sides agreed to make the necessary arrangements and contacts for this purpose.

"Mr. Olivier Stirn and Mr. Ali Mroudjae also conducted an exchange of views on the international situation and the entire range of problems currently facing the countries of the African continent and of the Indian Ocean region.

"The French Secretary of State and the Comorian Minister were gratified to note the frank and friendly atmosphere that prevailed during their talks and decided to meet again in Paris before the end of the year.

"Mr. Olivier Stirn was received during his visit to Moroni by the President of the Republic, Mr. Ahmed Abdallah, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Salim Ben Ali."

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION OF
THE COMOROS

4. On 24 April 1980, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Comoros addressed a note verbale to the Secretariat of the United Nations on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. The full text of the note read as follows:

/...

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to report to it developments concerning the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte which have occurred since December 1979 and to request the Secretariat to communicate them to all States Members of the United Nations.

"As recommended by a number of resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, notably those adopted on the subject by the United Nations General Assembly at its thirty-second and thirty-fourth sessions, the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and France have been in contact with a view to seeking a solution to this question jointly.

"Thus, Presidents Ahmed Abdallah and Giscard d'Estaing had a meeting in Paris.

"During their talks the two Heads of State decided to express in deeds their joint willingness to consider the question thoroughly with a view to finding a solution through dialogue.

"From 11 to 13 December 1979, therefore, a Comorian delegation, led by His Excellency Mr. Ali Mroudjae, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, had a meeting in Paris with a French delegation, led by His Excellency Mr. Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the request of their Heads of State.

"At this preliminary meeting the two parties agreed to identify concrete measures which could really lead to the gradual integration of Mayotte within the Comorian body politic.

"Economic, social and political measures were agreed upon which the competent technicians of each party would later study in detail with a view to implementing them immediately.

"It was also agreed in principle to organize further joint meetings, alternately at Moroni and Paris, in order to assess the status of the projects agreed upon.

"Accordingly, a French delegation subsequently visited Moroni from 9 to 11 April 1980, headed by His Excellency Mr. Olivier Stirn, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; its purpose was to review with the Comorian party all the points covered by the initial talks in Paris.

"During their deliberations, at which His Excellency Mr. Ali Mroudjae, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, led the Comorian delegation, concrete measures were decided on and were to be implemented immediately.

"The aim of these measures is to develop infrastructures, especially airport and port infrastructures, and shipping links between the four islands of the Comoros Archipelago, to harmonize customs tariffs with a view to

promoting free trade in goods, and to develop communications and telecommunications with a view to giving practical effect to the natural complementarity of those four islands.

"During these talks at Moroni the French party also undertook to facilitate and gradually put into effect the free movement of persons between Mayotte and the other islands of the Comoros Archipelago.

"The two parties agreed to meet again before the end of the year in Paris in order to carry out a general review of the situation.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros requests the Secretariat to include this information in the Secretary-General's report on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte and takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration."

IV. COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

5. In the context of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 34/69, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity transmitted a copy of resolution CM/RES.780 (XXXV) on the question of Mayotte adopted by the Council of Ministers of OAU at its thirty-fifth ordinary session held at Freetown in June 1980. The text of the resolution is as follows:

"...

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte in document CM/1040 (XXXV), part II,

"Taking note of the discussions held between the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros and the Government of the Republic of France,

"Recalling the resolutions adopted on the question at its previous ordinary sessions, namely, the twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh, twenty-ninth, thirty-first and thirty-third:

"1. Reaffirms the sovereignty of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte;

"2. Calls upon the French Government, following the discussions held with the Comorian party, to take all necessary measures to accelerate the return of Mayotte to the Comoros;

"3. Requests the Committee of Seven of the OAU to meet in Moroni before the thirty-seventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers so as to take stock of the situation and recommend, in collaboration with the Government of the Comoros, measures likely to speed up the peaceful settlement of this question;

/...

"4. Finally requests the Secretary-General of the OAU to submit a report on the development of the question to the thirty-seventh Council of Ministers."

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

6. The Secretary-General has taken note of the information provided by the Governments of the Comoros and France, particularly with regard to their positions on the question of Mayotte and on the improved state of relations between their two countries. The information provided by the Secretary-General of the OAU has also been noted.

7. The Secretary-General has informed the parties concerned of his readiness to continue his efforts in favour of a settlement of this question.
