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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH  
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES  
AND PEOPLES

## REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES

Rapporteur: Mr. Ron S. MORRIS (Australia)

## COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

A. Consideration by the Sub-Committee

1. The Sub-Committee considered the Territory of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands at its 362nd to 364th meetings, between 18 and 21 June 1979.
2. The Sub-Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/L.1305).
3. It will be recalled that Australia, the administering Power concerned, is a member of the Sub-Committee and has participated as such in the Sub-Committee's work on the item.

B. Adoption of the report

4. Having considered the situation in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and having heard statements by the representative of the administering Power, the Sub-Committee adopted a consensus on the Territory at its 364th meeting, on 21 June 1979.
5. The Sub-Committee adopted the present report at the same meeting.

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C. Consensus

6. The Sub-Committee submits the following consensus for adoption by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee, having heard the statements of the representative of Australia with regard to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, notes with appreciation the continuing co-operation of the Government of Australia, as the administering Power, in reporting on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Committee particularly welcomes the invitation of the Government of Australia to send a visiting mission to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the second half of 1980, which will enable the Committee to obtain first-hand information on the progress being made in the Territory. The Committee notes with satisfaction the statement of the administering Power that it remains committed to the political, social, economic and educational advancement of the people of the Territory and that its overriding objective is to bring about as speedily as possible conditions which will enable the people of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to exercise freely their right to self-determination. In this regard, the Committee endorses the approach that it must be for the people of the Territory to determine freely their own future political status in conformity with resolution 1514 (XV). The Committee notes that during the period under review, significant developments have occurred in the Territory, and notes in particular the measures taken to establish the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council and the Cocos Islands Co-operative Society. The Committee considers that these developments are positive steps towards the implementation of the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV). The Committee notes with interest measures being taken by the administering Power to improve the quality of life for the people of the Territory, in particular projects to improve the electric power and water supply and the provision of sewerage facilities on Home Island.

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