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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 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (CHAPTER XX)

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 14 (b) of resolution 2704 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 on the 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, requested the Secretary-General "to continue to assist the specialized agencies and the other organizations within the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session".
2. On 20 January 1971, the Secretary-General, in transmitting the resolution to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned, informed them that, having regard to the above-quoted provision, he stood ready to extend assistance, as might be required. At the same time, the Secretary-General invited the executive heads of these organizations, in accordance with paragraph 14 (a) of the resolution, to submit, for transmission to the different United Nations bodies concerned with related aspects of the item, the information called for concerning the activities hitherto undertaken by their organizations in implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.
3. The information received from the various organizations in response to this invitation was reviewed by the Secretary-General with the executive heads within the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) during April this year. It was subsequently embodied in a comprehensive report (A/8314 and Add.1-3) which was made available to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its tenth session, to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session and to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples at

its current session. The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with the information contained in that report, as well as in the reports of the above-mentioned bodies covering their consideration of the present item.

4. During the course of the year, the Secretary-General held further discussions with the executive heads of the agencies within ACC regarding various questions arising in connexion with the implementation of resolution 2704 (XXV) and other relevant General Assembly resolutions. Reference was also made in these discussions to General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 on the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration, resolution 2706 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa and resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970 on the proposed United Nations Fund for Namibia. A brief account of the results of these discussions and of the understandings reached is given in the following paragraphs.

5. It is to be noted that a growing amount of assistance is being extended to refugees from the colonial Territories in Africa, especially in the field of rural settlement. Co-operation has been increased among the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Governments of the countries of residence of the refugees concerned. This co-operation took the form of expertise and technical advice in respect of such fields as agriculture, health and education, the provision of food supplies and equipment, the inclusion of refugee needs in development projects through which their economic and social position can be consolidated, and the offering of facilities in respect of education and training. With reference to education and training, agreement has been reached on a division of functions whereby UNHCR would provide assistance to refugees eligible under the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa up to and including the first level of secondary education, with the Programme itself assisting eligible persons at the higher levels. Furthermore, while the introduction by a number of agencies of greater flexibility into their procedural arrangements for refugee assistance has proved useful, the flow of such assistance could be further expanded if Governments of the countries of residence were to assign a high priority to development projects carried out in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system which would be beneficial to the refugees. At the same time if assistance to these refugees, which should include provision for their education, training and employment, is to be fully effective, it is desirable for them to have an adequate legal status in their country of reception; in particular they should be able to obtain residence and work permits from the Government concerned, as well as travel documents with an appropriate return clause.

6. On the general question of assistance to colonial peoples in the field of education and training, there is considerable overlapping between the provisions of the resolutions mentioned in paragraph 4 above so far as concerns the territorial areas (namely Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and the Territories under Portuguese administration) and the categories of people to whose benefit they are directed. Consequently, there would be advantage in ensuring careful co-ordination of the activities undertaken by the agencies within their own programmes in this field, as well as of the efforts being made by them in implementation of the resolutions. In particular, steps should be taken: (a) to prevent duplication and overlapping of effort; (b) to identify more clearly the responsibilities of each of the various organizations concerned, taking into account their mandates and respective spheres of competence; (c) to co-ordinate all requests received or identified for assistance and to channel them to the appropriate organizations; and (d) to ensure a rapid and effective response to such requests.

7. The consultations which have accordingly been held to this end between the United Nations and the agencies concerned reveal that there is no problem of overlapping or duplication with regard to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. At the same time, the organizations concerned will continue to strengthen and to expand their programmes in this field, and to exchange information on a regular basis with a view to closer co-operation. Further interagency consultations aimed at these objectives are to be held and contacts in that regard are being maintained with the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In the same connexion, an undertaking has been given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that, subject to appropriate requests being submitted by Governments and to authorization by its Governing Council, UNDP would be ready to consider financing projects in this field from within the resources available for interregional projects. Furthermore, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, within its sphere of operations, would be prepared to recommend to the Advisory Committee for the Programme the granting of subventions, as appropriate, for the purpose of education and training assistance which would benefit the peoples of the Territories in the area. As regards the United Nations Fund for Namibia, the executive heads, bearing in mind the study which had been prepared with their assistance pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV) (A/8473), have assured the Secretary-General that they will co-operate as appropriate in the implementation of such programmes as may be established when the Fund comes into existence.

8. A number of the executive heads have discussed directly, or dispatched special missions to discuss, with OAU and in some cases with the host Governments concerned, the ways in which they could, within their respective mandates and spheres of competence, assist in extending further assistance to the peoples of the Territories. The Secretary-General for his part has held conversations with the Administrative Secretary-General of OAU and is considering steps, within the framework of the agreed arrangements for mutual co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, which would complement and facilitate action stemming from the discussions noted above between the agencies concerned and OAU. Furthermore, UNDP is considering, for submission to its Governing Council, proposals for an agreement for mutual co-operation with OAU which, in addition to providing for possible participation in the education and training programmes referred to in paragraph 7 above, might cover technical assistance to OAU, within agreed monetary limits, and larger projects involving intercountry, subregional or regional co-operation.

9. The Secretary-General is closely following these developments, which he considers to be of considerable significance. In this connexion, it is to be noted that the formulation of the desired programmes of assistance to the peoples covered by the resolutions requires the active collaboration of the Governments concerned. It also calls for the exercise of initiative by OAU which, as implicitly recognized in paragraph 5 of resolution 2704 (XXV), is in a unique position to ascertain the needs of the peoples concerned and to recommend to the Governments concerned suitable projects which might be sponsored and undertaken with the co-operation of members of the United Nations system. In the same connexion, attention may be drawn to the fact that full advantage has yet to be taken even of the limited possibilities of assistance available from the agencies in the area of technical and vocational training.

10. As regards those provisions of the resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV), which relate to the discontinuance of all

collaboration with and assistance to the authorities pursuing colonial and racist policies in southern Africa, there are a number of problems which the General Assembly may wish to consider. The question has arisen whether the discontinuance of collaboration with these authorities covers their exclusion from meetings in which participation is a right of membership. Furthermore, whereas the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia is excluded from direct participation in the activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system, the complete severance of links with the Governments of Portugal and South Africa can be effected in some cases only through a modification of their existing constitutional arrangements and, in others, only after the United Nations itself has first acted to suspend those Governments from the rights and privileges of membership. These problems, which have engaged the attention of most of the legislative organs of the agencies concerned, are elaborated in the relevant sections of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General.

11. Similarly, the provisions of resolutions 2691 (XXV) and 2704 (XXV) which concern the possible participation of representatives of liberation movements of the Territories in agency conferences, seminars and meetings raise certain legal and political problems which call for fuller exploration than they have so far received. The possibility has been examined of including such representatives in the delegations of Member States or of OAU to agency meetings, but this does not seem to offer a solution because they will not be able to participate in their own capacity, and because it does not appear to meet the wishes of the Governments directly interested, the liberation movements themselves, or OAU. There are no provisions in the existing rules of the agencies under which such representatives could participate directly in agency meetings. In view of the political nature of the issue and the far-reaching implications of such participation, it would be for the General Assembly to examine, in the first instance, to what extent it may be necessary and desirable to create a new category of participant. This would involve, inter alia, the question of the status of liberation movements in regard to representation, under international law, of the Territories concerned. Any decisions which the General Assembly may itself take in the matter would then provide guidelines for the agencies.

12. The executive heads of the various organizations will continue to present to their respective policy-making organs any formal recommendations addressed to them by the General Assembly on the matters examined in the present report, together with an analysis of the issues and problems raised by those recommendations and their implementation. In this context, the Secretary-General wishes to draw particular attention to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV), which "requests all Governments to intensify their actions in the specialized agencies and the other organizations within the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations/ resolutions".
