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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

THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Chairman: Mr. Mahmoud MESTIRI (Tunisia)

1. The Working Group held its 55th, 56th and 57th meetings on 21 February and 8 and 26 March 1968.
2. At these meetings the Working Group, in accordance with the decision taken by the Special Committee at its 578th meeting on 19 February 1968, considered the recommendations to be made regarding the Committee's programme of work for 1968, including the order of priorities for the consideration of items. In doing so, the Working Group took account of the various tasks assigned to the Committee in the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second session as well as the tasks envisaged by the Committee itself, an outline of which is contained in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/282). Further, the Working Group took into consideration the views expressed during the recent debate in the Special Committee on the organization of its work (A/AC.109/SR.574-578).

Meetings of the Special Committee in 1968

3. The Working Group recalled that the Special Committee at its 564th meeting on 27 September 1967, decided, subject to any decision the General Assembly might take at its twenty-second session, to hold two sessions in 1968: the first ending on 30 June, and the second from 1 to 30 August 1968.^{1/} Further, the

^{1/} A/6700 (part I), para. 293.

Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, in operative paragraph 4 of resolution 2326 (XXII), approved the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee during 1968. The Working Group also took into account the likelihood that the resumed twenty-second session of the General Assembly might be held from late April for a period of at least three weeks, and that the Committee would wish to send a delegation to the International Conference on Human Rights to take place at Teheran from 22 April to 10 May.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the Working Group, after discussion, agreed to recommend that the programme of meetings previously decided upon by the Special Committee be modified to provide for a recess during the first two weeks of May.

Allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration

5. The Working Group had before it a note by the Chairman containing a list of matters pending for consideration by the Special Committee during 1968, together with his suggestions regarding their allocation and the procedure for their consideration (see annex). After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend that the Special Committee should approve the list submitted by the Chairman and, subject to the recommendation contained in paragraph 10 below being acceptable to the Committee, adopt the suggestions set forth in that list with respect to the allocation of items and to the procedure for their consideration.^{2/}

6. In addition, the Working Group decided to recommend that in order to facilitate the consideration of the following items at a later stage, the Special Committee should invite the Secretary-General to request the States and/or international organizations concerned to furnish not later than June 1968 information concerning the steps taken and/or envisaged by them in implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

^{2/} The representative of Bulgaria stated in this connexion that since the question of Hong Kong was directly related to the People's Republic of China, the United Nations and its organs, including the Special Committee, could not consider this matter until the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China were restored in the United Nations.

- (a) Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, particularly those relating to Territories under Portuguese administration, Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa (para. 16 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII));
- (b) Implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII));
- (c) Question of sending visiting groups to Territories (para. 18 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII)).

Order of priorities for the consideration of items in plenary meetings

7. The Working Group recalled that the Special Committee had given preliminary consideration to the question of South West Africa at its 576th and 577th meetings on 14 and 15 February 1968 and to the question of Southern Rhodesia at its 580th to 582nd and 585th to 589th meetings between 6 and 18 March 1968. The Working Group also noted that the Special Committee had decided at its 579th meeting on 1 March 1968 to take up the questions of Equatorial Guinea and Oman in that order pending the submission of recommendations by the Working Group concerning the order of priorities for the consideration of items in plenary meetings. In addition, the Working Group noted that the Committee had disposed of the question of Mauritius at its 584th meeting on 11 March 1968.

8. After discussion, the Working Group decided to recommend that following its consideration of Equatorial Guinea and Oman, the Special Committee should take up the remaining items in the following order:

- Question of Swaziland
- Question of South West Africa
- Question of Ifni and Spanish Sahara
- Question of Territories under Portuguese administration
- Question of French Somaliland
- Question of British Honduras
- Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
- Question of Fiji

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Work of Sub-Committees I, II and III

9. The Working Group recalled that, at the 574th meeting of the Special Committee, on 8 February 1968, the Chairman had suggested that the existing Sub-Committees I, II and III be replaced by two sub-committees, the first to undertake special studies and the second to consider the small Territories. Moreover, the Working Group noted that the Chairman's suggestion had received a wide measure of support during the Special Committee's debate on the organization of its work. At the same time, the Working Group was informed by the Chairman that his consultations with members had revealed a number of practical difficulties which would be involved in giving effect to the suggestion.

10. Having regard to these difficulties, the Working Group agreed after discussion to recommend that, subject to any modifications in their membership that the Special Committee may consider appropriate, the Committee should maintain Sub-Committees I, II and III with the terms of reference indicated in the list mentioned in paragraph 5 above (see annex).

11. The Working Group also decided to recommend that the Special Committee should request these Sub-Committees (a) to begin their work without delay, with a view to submitting their reports if possible by the end of June 1968 and (b) in addition to their terms of reference, to carry out the specific tasks assigned by the General Assembly concerning the items referred to them.

International Conference on Human Rights

12. After discussion the Working Group, having regard to operative paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII), agreed to recommend that the Special Committee should be represented at the International Conference on Human Rights, to which reference is made in paragraph 3 above, by the Chairman of the Committee and one or two representatives to be nominated by him.

Meetings of the Special Committee away from Headquarters

13. The Working Group considered the question of the Special Committee holding meetings away from Headquarters this year, in pursuance of the report submitted in that connexion by the Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-second session.^{3/} The Working Group recalled that by operative paragraph 6 of

^{3/} A/6700 (part I), para. 329.

General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI), the Committee was authorized to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. However, the Working Group agreed, after discussion, to report to the Committee that in the absence of the elements required for a decision, it was not in a position at the present stage to submit recommendations on the question.

Other matters

14. The Working Group discussed the question of publications and documentation for the Special Committee in the light of operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII) and agreed that at a later date it would consider and submit recommendations on this and other aspects of the organization of the Special Committee's work for 1968.

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ANNEX

8 March 1968

NOTE BY THE CHAIRMAN

MATTERS PENDING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
DURING 1968

In order to assist the Working Group in giving further consideration to the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1968, a list is furnished below of matters pending for consideration by the Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure which the Working Group may wish to recommend for their consideration. An indication is also given of the allocation which the Working Group may wish to recommend to the Special Committee with regard to each item.

Questions previously considered by the Special Committee

<u>Question</u>	<u>Procedure for consideration</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Mauritius	As separate item	Plenary ^{a/}
Equatorial Guinea	"	"
Oman	"	"
Southern Rhodesia	"	"
Swaziland	"	"
South West Africa	"	"
Ifni and Spanish Sahara	"	"
Territories under Portuguese administration	"	"
French Somaliland	"	"
British Honduras	"	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	"	"
Fiji	"	"
Gibraltar	"	"

^{a/} Already dealt with by the Special Committee.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Procedure for consideration</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Information on Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter and related questions	As separate item	Plenary
Activities of Foreign Economic and Other Interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, South West Africa and Territories under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in Southern Africa	"	Sub-Committee I
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	"	"
Seychelles and St. Helena	"	"
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"	Sub-Committee II
Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands	"	"
New Hebrides	"	"
American Samoa and Guam	"	"
Niue and the Tokelau Islands	"	"
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	"	"
Papua and the Trust Territory of New Guinea and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	"	"
Brunei	"	"
Hong Kong	"	"
United States Virgin Islands	"	Sub-Committee III

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Procedure for consideration</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
British Virgin Islands	As separate item	Sub-Committee III
Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent	"	"
Bermuda, Bahamas, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos and Cayman Islands	"	"
Question of the List of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	"	Working Group

Other matters pending for consideration in pursuance of General Assembly
resolutions or previous Special Committee decisions

<u>Question</u>	<u>Procedure for consideration</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Deadline for the accession of Territories to independence (para. 14 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	To be taken into consideration by bodies concerned in their examination of specific Territories	
Participation in International Conference on Human Rights (para. 15 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	As separate item	Working Group ^{b/}
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, particularly those relating to Territories under Portuguese administration, Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa (para. 16 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	"	Plenary
Implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2311 (XXII))	"	"
Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 17 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	To be taken into consideration by bodies concerned in their examination of specific Territories	

b/ Already dealt with by the Working Group.

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Procedure for consideration</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Question of sending visiting groups to Territories (para. 18 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	As separate item	Plenary and sub-committees as appropriate
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	"	Working Group
Special Conference of Representatives of Colonial Peoples (para. 19 of General Assembly resolution 2326 (XXII))	"	"
Publicity for the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization (para. 20 of resolution 2326 (XXII); para. 19 of resolution 2262 (XXII); para. 15 of resolution 2270 (XXII))	"	Bureau
Pattern of Conferences (General Assembly resolution 2361 (XXII))	"	Working Group
Publications and documentation of the United Nations (paras. 1 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 2292 (XXII))	"	"
