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ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF
RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Ruth DOBSON (Australia)

1. In a letter dated 14 July 1977 (A/32/142), the Prime Minister of Grenada requested the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-second session of an item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena".
2. With his letter the Prime Minister of Grenada transmitted an explanatory memorandum (annex I), a draft resolution (annex II) and an appendix containing a resolution adopted by the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in solving international problems,

"Aware of the renewed interest taken by peoples of the world in unidentified flying objects and related phenomena which continue to baffle mankind,

"Noting the statements made by the Prime Minister of Grenada at the thirtieth 1/ and thirty-first 2/ sessions of the General Assembly, regarding these baffling phenomena,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirtieth Session, Plenary Meetings, 2378th meeting.

2/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 22nd meeting.

"Noting further the appeal made by the Prime Minister of Grenada at the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the General Assembly to have the United Nations establish an agency or department to conduct and co-ordinate research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena and to disseminate more widely among the nations of the world information and other data accumulated on unidentified flying objects,

"Recognizing the interest and commitment to research into unidentified flying objects demonstrated by the scientists and other persons participating in the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon, held at Acapulco, Mexico, from 18 to 24 April 1977, and the strong support given by all of them to the initiatives already taken by the Prime Minister and people of Grenada,

"1. Considers it desirable to establish, as a matter of priority, an agency or department to conduct and co-ordinate research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to examine this matter with a view to recommending to the General Assembly at its present session an organizational structure within the United Nations through which the objectives set out above could be most effectively achieved;

"3. Declares 1978 International Year of Unidentified Flying Objects, during which the following action would be undertaken:

"(a) Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations to conduct and co-ordinate research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena;

"(b) Holding of the Second International Congress on the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects in Grenada, which was unanimously approved by the First International Congress, held at Acapulco;

"(c) Issue of a special commemorative stamp series by Grenada and the United Nations - to coincide with the holding of the Second International Congress on unidentified flying objects and related phenomena - illustrating, in their values, the milestone events of international research into unidentified flying objects."

3. By a letter dated 25 August (A/32/142/Add.1), the representative of Grenada transmitted the text of an address delivered by the Prime Minister of Grenada at the First International Congress on the UFO Phenomenon.

4. At its 5th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

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5. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 35th, 37th and 40th meetings, on 28 and 30 November and 6 December.

6. At the 35th meeting, on 28 November, the Special Political Committee heard an introductory statement by Sir Eric M. Gairy, Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs of Grenada.

7. At the 37th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of Grenada introduced a draft resolution on the subject (A/SPC/32/L.20) and announced that the previous draft resolution (A/32/142, annex II), had been withdrawn. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the item entitled "Establishment of an agency or department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and related phenomena,

"Desiring to foster greater international co-operation in the co-ordination, evaluation and dissemination of data on all aspects of the UFO phenomenon for the benefit of all mankind,

"Noting that the UFO phenomenon is not related just to one country or one part of the earth, but is a world-wide phenomenon with significant interest for all mankind,

"Mindful that there is a growing awareness of the UFO phenomenon by peoples throughout the world,

"Recognizing that individual countries are undertaking on their own or are taking individual interest in research into the UFO phenomenon and its implications for mankind,

"Conscious that the efforts to investigate and understand the UFO phenomenon could have a profound effect on man,

"Taking note of the statement on this item made by the representative of Grenada at the 35th meeting of the Special Political Committee of the thirty-second session of the Assembly on 28 November 1977,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to consider the scope and various aspects of this item and to undertake, for consideration by the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, a survey of the UFO phenomenon which should include:

"(a) the recent history and current status of the UFO phenomenon;

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"(b) the results of studies and such documentation and other data pertinent to this item as may be provided from records of Member Governments, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Committee on Science and Technology and other intergovernmental bodies;

"(c) past and current activities of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental bodies with regard to this item, and of existing international agreements concerning possible contact and communication with extraterrestrial beings;

"(d) an account of the scientific, technological, economic, legal, political and other aspects of this item;

"(e) an analysis of the benefits, problems and dangers which might be faced by mankind should contact in any form be made with extraterrestrial life;

"(f) an indication regarding practical means of promoting international co-operation in the furtherance of research into UFOs and possible contact with alien intelligent life as contemplated in the title of the item;

"2. Further requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to the Governments of all Member States;

"3. Decides to include in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly the item entitled: 'Report of the Secretary-General on the current status of Research into Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Phenomena.'"

8. At the 40th meeting, on 6 December, the Chairman announced that, as a result of consultations with representatives of the various regional groups, it appeared that agreement might be reached on the terms of the draft recommendation to the General Assembly, which had been circulated to the members of the Committee in the form of a working paper. He stated that, with the concurrence of the Committee, he would consider the draft recommendation contained in the working paper as adopted by consensus.

9. The draft recommendation was then adopted by consensus (see para. 11 below).

10. At the same meeting, the representative of Grenada made a statement and indicated that draft resolution A/SPC/32/L.20 would not be pressed to the vote.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly adoption of the following draft consensus:

1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made in the Special Political Committee by the Prime Minister of Grenada on 28 November 1977 1/, and by the Minister of Education of Grenada on 28 and 30 November and 6 December 1977. 2/

2. The General Assembly has also studied the text of the draft resolution submitted by Grenada. 3/

3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the draft resolution, together with the above-mentioned statements, to States Members of the United Nations and to interested specialized agencies, so that they may communicate their views to the Secretary-General.

4. The General Assembly also requests the Secretary-General to bring their replies to the attention of all Member States and interested specialized agencies.

1/ A/SPC/32/PV.35.

2/ A/SPC/32/SR.37 and SR.40.

3/ A/SPC/32/L.20.