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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 Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 8(a) of resolution 2426 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968 entitled "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", invited the Secretary-General "to continue to assist the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session".
2. On 5 March 1969, the Secretary-General brought this paragraph to the attention of the Executive Heads of the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned, informing them that 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 operative paragraph 8(b) of the resolution, to submit "concrete suggestions ... regarding the best ways and means of achieving the full and speedy implementation of the relevant resolutions". Subsequently the Secretary-General transmitted the responses received from the Executive Heads 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, together with a brief account of related

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activities of those organizations (A/AC.109/333 and Add.1 and 2). The information thus made available to the Special Committee was also taken into account by the Economic and Social Council in its consideration of the relevant item at its forty-seventh session and during the discussions held by the Secretary-General with the Executive Heads, the results of which are described below.

3. At the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) and its Preparatory Committee, which were held during April and October this year, the Secretary-General took the opportunity, as he did during 1968, to initiate an exchange of views and information with the Executive Heads of the agencies and international institutions concerned regarding the implementation of the requests and recommendations addressed to the specialized agencies and the international institutions, as well as those addressed to the Secretary-General himself in the above-mentioned resolution and in General Assembly resolution 2403 (XXIII) on the question of Namibia, 2395 (XXIII) on the question of Territories under Portuguese administration, 2431 (XXIII) on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for southern Africa, 2396 (XXIII) on the policies of apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa, 2439 (XXIII) on measures for effectively combating racial discrimination and the policies of apartheid and segregation in southern Africa, 2446 (XXIII) on measures to achieve the rapid and total elimination of all forms of racial discrimination in general and of the policy of apartheid in particular, and 2465 (XXIII) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination considered the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the ad hoc inter-agency meeting convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, following an earlier decision of ACC, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session on the present item.^{1/} It was agreed that the application of the various procedures embodied in those conclusions and recommendations would considerably facilitate the formulation of complementary or joint projects beneficial to refugees in Africa and further strengthen the arrangements for inter-agency co-operation in the field of assistance to those refugees.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 69, document A/7301.

5. At the same time, it was noted that the offers of increased support for the work being done on behalf of refugees made by most members of the United Nations system had already been translated into positive results. It was also noted that considerable progress had been made in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in working out measures to increase the scope of assistance which could be provided by the agencies to refugees from the Territories concerned in Africa. In addition, steps have been taken by a number of agencies to establish agreements and other special arrangements with the Organization of African Unity with a view to facilitating action on such requests for assistance and co-operation as may be received from that organization. Details of these and a number of other relevant measures taken or envisaged by the agencies, including, in certain cases, consultations with the Organization of African Unity, are included in the report of the Secretary-General to which reference is made in paragraph 2 above, as well as in the note submitted by the Secretariat to the Special Committee on assistance to refugees from Territories under Portuguese administration,^{2/} and in statements made by representatives of the Executive Heads during consideration of the present item by the Economic and Social Council^{3/} and by the Special Committee.^{4/}

6. During the Secretary-General's consultations with the Executive Heads, it was also recalled that the legal, practical and other difficulties experienced by some of the agencies in their efforts to give effect to the relevant General Assembly resolutions had previously been brought to the attention of the Special Committee, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during their consideration of the relevant items.

7. In that regard, the Secretary-General wishes to invite attention to the relevant deliberations of the Economic and Social Council and of the Special Committee, which are summarized in the reports of those bodies to the General

^{2/} A/7623/Add.3, annex VIII.

^{3/} E/SR.1627 and 1635.

^{4/} A/AC.109/PV.712.

Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.^{5/} In particular, he wishes to note, as a development relevant to the considerations referred to in paragraph 6 above, that, in resolution 1450 (XLVII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 August 1969 and in the resolution adopted by the Special Committee on 2 October 1969 (A/AC.109/345), the recommendation has been made that, in order to facilitate the efforts of Member States to comply fully with operative paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII), the governing bodies or deliberative organs of the various organizations should consider, on the basis of reports to be submitted by their respective Executive Heads, any specific problems they might be encountering in their implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

8. Finally, the Secretary-General notes that the governing bodies of certain of the agencies, to which the resolutions mentioned in paragraph 7 above have been transmitted, will be giving further consideration to the present item prior to the resumed forty-seventh session of the Council, to which the results of those deliberations will be transmitted.

^{5/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/7603), and A/7623, part two, chapter III.