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## IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

### Report of the Secretary-General

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2955 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 on an item entitled "Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights". In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to submit a report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session, indicating the present scope and nature of assistance being provided to colonial countries and peoples, as well as those in the liberated areas, from relevant existing voluntary funds and other forms of assistance by relevant organs of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, regional intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations after consultation with the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in order to assist in the examination of areas and of ways and means of further promoting humanitarian and material assistance, account being taken of the need for co-ordination".

2. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in conformity with the above request. In preparing this report, the Secretary-General was guided by the discussions held in the Third Committee and in particular the following statement contained in the report of the Committee: 1/

"In this connexion it was indicated that, since most of the pertinent material was already available, the Secretary-General would be required only to identify existing reports or studies, indicate their scope and nature, and relate them to areas of interest to the General Assembly."

3. In the light of the foregoing and with a view to facilitating consideration of the question, the information requested has been arranged under headings corresponding to the related items on the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

## II. REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL (item 13)

### (a) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories

4. The United Nations programme for scholarships for inhabitants of Trust Territories was initiated by General Assembly resolution 557 (VI) of 18 January 1952. Under the procedure approved by the Trusteeship Council for the administration of this programme, the Secretary-General was invited to submit to the Trusteeship Council at least once a year a report containing all appropriate details of the programme.

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Annexes, agenda item 51, document A/8936, para. 11.

5. According to the annual report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Trusteeship Council at its fortieth session (T/1746) in conformity with the above request, during 1972/1973, scholarships and training facilities for inhabitants of the two remaining Trust Territories were offered by the following 11 Member States: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Yugoslavia. A description of these offers is contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Trusteeship Council at its thirty-sixth session (T/1696).

(b) Assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations

6. Having regard to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with the related United Nations decisions, the specialized agencies and other organizations, including in particular the World Health Organization, the South Pacific Commission and the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii, extend assistance to inhabitants of the Trust Territories in the field of education, training, public health and nutrition. The latest information on these activities is included in the reports of the Administering Authorities to the Trusteeship Council at its fortieth session (T/1742, T/1743), and an account of the consideration by the Trusteeship Council of these matters, in the latter's report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session 2/ and to the Security Council in its twenty-eighth year. 3/

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF  
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (item 23)

(a) Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard  
to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of  
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

7. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly once again requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the full implementation of Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970 in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

8. In the discharge of the above mandate, the Special Committee was also guided by a number of other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning specific

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2/ Ibid., Supplement No. 4 (A/9004).

3/ Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-eighth Year, Special Supplement No. 1 (S/10976).

Territories and other related items. In particular, the Committee took into account the affirmation by the General Assembly that racial discrimination in colonial Territories could be eradicated fully and with the greatest speed by the faithful and complete implementation of the Declaration and the Committee's own belief that the basic human rights of the colonial peoples in these Territories could most effectively be guaranteed when they freely exercised their inalienable right to self-determination and achieved freedom and independence. On the basis of its examination of the situation obtaining in these Territories, the Committee submitted a series of recommendations to the General Assembly, including in particular specific measures to assist the peoples concerned in the attainment of the objectives of the Declaration. These recommendations are set out in the various chapters of the Committee's report to the Assembly (A/9023 and Addenda).

9. As reflected in the report, in connexion with its consideration of the Territories in Africa, the Special Committee, in accordance with the related decision of the General Assembly and in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, invited representatives of national liberation movements to participate as observers in the Committee's proceedings relating to their countries. The participation of these representatives thus afforded the Committee the opportunity to receive a detailed account of their efforts to reconstruct and rehabilitate the liberated areas as well as the existing scope of international assistance and their needs for further assistance in that regard. A description of the Committee's efforts to increase the assistance extended to the peoples concerned is given in paragraphs 18 to 26 below.

(b) Report of the Secretary-General

10. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with OAU, to organize at Oslo in 1973 an International Conference of Experts for the Support of Victims of Colonialism and Apartheid in Southern Africa and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

11. This request represented a further effort to help accelerate the solution of the grave problems of southern Africa by an assessment of the situation in the Territories concerned, and formulation of proposals for diplomatic, political, economic and other action, as well as moral and material assistance to the peoples of southern Africa in their legitimate struggle for freedom and independence.

12. The background papers prepared for the Conference contain information on assistance provided by United Nations Funds, specialized agencies, regional organizations, States and non-governmental organizations to the victims of colonialism and apartheid in southern Africa and their liberation movements.

13. An account of the proceedings of the Conference, together with the text of proposals highlighted by it as an international programme of action, is set out in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly (A/9061).

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IV. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (item 26)

14. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2980 (XXVII) of 14 December 1972 and other relevant resolutions, the organizations of the United Nations system have been co-operating with OAU, particularly with regard to the provision of assistance to refugees from colonial Territories and the working out of concrete programmes of assistance to the peoples of these Territories, especially the populations of the liberated areas of the Territories and their national liberation movements. Informal consultations in that connexion have been held on a bilateral and multilateral basis between OAU and the organizations concerned. These consultations have resulted in the formulation and execution of concrete programmes of assistance, to which reference is made in paragraphs 18 to 26 below.

15. The Secretary-General will submit a report on the item to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

V. QUESTION OF NAMIBIA (item 70)

(a) Report of the Special Committee and the  
United Nations Council for Namibia

16. The report of the Special Committee (see paragraph 8 above) and the report of the United Nations Council for Namibia to the General Assembly <sup>4/</sup> contain an account of the activities in 1973 of the respective bodies in support of the people of Namibia. The report of the United Nations Council for Namibia contains an account of assistance rendered to Namibians and of the activities of the Council which in 1973 included the dispatch of a visiting group to the headquarters of specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations to hold consultations with their executive heads.

(b) United Nations Fund for Namibia

17. The United Nations Fund for Namibia was established under General Assembly resolution 2679 (XXV) of 9 December 1970 with an initial allocation of \$50,000 from the regular budget of the United Nations, for the purpose of extending comprehensive assistance to Namibians in various fields. After its consideration of the related reports of the Secretary-General, the Assembly made further allocations of \$50,000 at its twenty-sixth session and \$100,000 at its twenty-seventh session (A/8473, A/8841 and Corr.1). The Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to appeal to Governments for voluntary contributions to the Fund. During 1973, the Fund received contributions from 18 Governments amounting to nearly \$81,000 in cash, in addition to scholarships. An account of the operation of the Fund will be given in a report of the Secretary-General on the item.

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<sup>4/</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 24 (A/9024).

VI. 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 (item 74)

18. In various resolutions on this subject, including resolution 2980 (XXVII), the Assembly has recommended, inter alia, that the agencies and institutions concerned should: (a) provide all possible assistance, with the active co-operation of the OAU and, through it, of the national liberation movements, to the peoples of Angola, Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde, Mozambique, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia, including in particular the peoples in the liberated areas of those Territories and their national liberation movements; (b) provide increased assistance to refugees from the colonial Territories, including assistance to the Governments concerned, in the preparation and execution of projects beneficial to these refugees, and introduce the greatest possible measures of flexibility in the relevant procedures; (c) discontinue all collaboration with, and withhold financial, economic, technical and other assistance from, the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia and the Governments of Portugal and South Africa; and (d) ensure, in consultation with OAU, the representation of the colonial Territories in Africa by the national liberation movements concerned, in an appropriate capacity, when dealing with matters pertaining to those Territories.

(a) United Nations system of organizations

19. The action taken by the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in compliance with the above recommendations is contained in a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the item submitted to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session and supplementary reports to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions (A/8314 and Add.1-6, A/8647 and Add.1-2, A/9051 and Add.1-4). The action taken by the agencies is periodically reviewed by ACC and a summary of the last two such reviews is contained in the annual reports of ACC for 1971-1972 and 1972-1973 (E/5289 (part I) and E/5133). Other organizations within the United Nations system have extended assistance, in varying degrees, to the peoples concerned and further consultations are in progress between them and OAU with a view to increasing international assistance to these peoples.

20. In order to facilitate the discharge of the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly in this regard, the Special Committee established in 1973 a Working Group on the Implementation by the Specialized Agencies and the International Institutions Associated with the United Nations of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other Relevant Resolutions of the United Nations, and dispatched a Special Mission to the organizations concerned at their respective headquarters to hold consultations with their Executive Heads. A detailed account of the Committee's consideration

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of these matters is contained in its report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session. 5/ An account of the consideration of the related item by the Economic and Social Council is contained in its report to the General Assembly at the same session. 6/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General

21. In accordance with the request addressed to him in the relevant resolutions, the Secretary-General continues to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing these resolutions. The Secretary-General submitted a report on the matter to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session (A/8862) and will similarly submit a further report at the twenty-eighth session.

(c) Non-governmental organizations

22. At its fifty-first session, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1651 (LI) of 29 October 1971 instructed its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to study how non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council could assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. On the basis of the report of the Council Committee (E/5257), the Economic and Social Council adopted, at its fifty-fourth session, resolution 1740 (LIV), in which it, inter alia, requested the Council Committee to remain seized of the question and to continue to explore ways of engaging non-governmental organizations actively in the implementation of the Declaration.

23. In the same context, the Special Committee continued its efforts to enlist the assistance and support of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions in the field of decolonization. As reflected in the relevant chapter of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session 7/ an increasing number of non-governmental organizations have been co-operating with the United Nations in disseminating the relevant information as well as extending assistance to the peoples of the colonial Territories.

(d) Organization of African Unity

24. At its first session held in May 1963, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity established a Special Fund to supply the necessary practical and financial aid to the various African national

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5/ Ibid., Supplement No. 23 (A/9023), part V.

6/ Ibid., Supplement No. 3 (A/9003).

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 23 (A/9023), part II.

liberation movements. In doing so, it decided to receive in the territories of independent African States, nationalists from liberation movements in order to give them training in all sectors and afford young people all the assistance they need for their education and vocational training. It also decided to promote in each State the transit of all material aid and the establishment of a body of volunteers in various fields, with a view to providing the various African national liberation movements with the assistance they need in the various sectors. The operation of the Fund is annually reviewed by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

25. The OAU Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees was established in 1968 for the purpose of assisting all African refugees, including the victims of colonialism and apartheid. The Bureau extends its co-operation to the specialized agencies and the organizations of the United Nations system in the latter's programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned. The budget of the Bureau for the period 1 June 1972 to 31 May 1973 amounted to some \$125,000.

26. In addition, in January 1971 OAU established an Assistance Fund for the Struggle Against Colonialism and Apartheid. This Fund is being utilized for: (a) supply of food, education materials, medicines, clothes, farm implements and other essential needs to the areas liberated from colonial rule; (b) assistance to the victims of oppression and apartheid in South Africa; (c) informing the peoples of the world on the situation in the colonial Territories and South Africa; and (d) other appropriate economic, social and humanitarian assistance to the movements struggling against colonialism and apartheid. The General Assembly, at its twenty-seventh session, recommended that, on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples in Southern Africa and Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Equal Rights, steps should be taken to obtain contributions to the Assistance Fund.

#### VII. UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (item 75)

27. At its twenty-second session, in 1967, the General Assembly decided to integrate the special education and training programme for Namibia, the special training programme for Territories under Portuguese administration established by the Assembly in 1961 and 1962 respectively, and the educational and training programme for South Africans, initiated by the Security Council in 1964. At the same time, the Assembly decided to include assistance under the integrated programme to persons from Southern Rhodesia. The new programme, to be known as the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, was to be financed from a trust fund made up of voluntary contributions. To that end the Secretary-General was authorized to appeal for funds to achieve a target of \$US 3 million in the three-year period from 1968 to 1970.

28. According to the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the operation of the programme (A/8850 and Add.1), total voluntary contributions from the beginning of 1968 to 12 November 1972 had amounted to \$2,708,309, of which \$725,357 had been contributed for the year 1972 by 21 States; in 1971, \$645,879 had

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been contributed. After the submission of the Secretary-General's report, a further cash contribution amounting to \$85,811 was received for 1972, bringing the total cash contributions for that year to \$811,168. For 1973, four countries had contributed \$79,727 as at 27 March, while 16 other countries had pledged \$713,396, bringing the total pledges and contributions for 1973 to \$793,123. It was also stated in the report that during 1972, 15 States had made scholarships available under the Programme for study in their own countries. During that period 1971-1972, 744 scholarship-holders were studying under the Programme in 36 countries; of this total, 78 were from Namibia, 268 from South Africa, 148 from Southern Rhodesia and 250 from Territories under Portuguese administration.

29. The Secretary-General will submit a further report on the operation of the Programme to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.

#### VIII. UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA (item 42 (b))

30. By resolution 2671 E (XXV) of 8 December 1970, the terms of reference of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa were extended to include grants to voluntary organizations engaged in providing relief and assistance to persons persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia and to their families, to the extent that additional voluntary contributions are received for this purpose. Accordingly, some grants have been made from the Trust Fund, on the decision of its Committee of Trustees, for assistance to the peoples of Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. An account of the operation of the Trust Fund will be given in the report of the Secretary-General to the twenty-eighth session.

#### Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

31. At its ninth session, the General Assembly invited Member States to offer facilities to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories not only for study and training of university standard but, in the first place, for study at the post-primary level as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value. It also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the information of the General Assembly giving details of the offers made and the extent to which they had been utilized.

32. At its twenty-seventh session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/8855) in which the Assembly was informed that, up to 20 October 1972, 27 Member States had made scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the Assembly resolutions. The number of students requesting and receiving information and application forms from the Secretariat was 1,186.

33. At the twenty-eighth session, the General Assembly will have before it a further report of the Secretary-General on the item.