



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/9048  
28 February 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-eighth session  
Item 23 of the preliminary list\*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE  
TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 15 February 1973 from the Permanent Representative of  
Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to note FO 230 SOAF (6) of 22 December 1972 1/  
and, under instructions from my Government, to communicate the following.

Inasmuch as the delegation of Portugal voted against General Assembly  
resolution 2910 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972, the Government of Portugal naturally  
does not consider itself bound by its provisions. Notwithstanding this,  
the Portuguese Government would like to place on record that:

1. The Portuguese nation constitutes an unitary State made up of  
territories which, although geographically separated from one another,  
enjoy full juridical equality in terms of the Portuguese Political  
Constitution. This Constitution was in force at the time when Portugal was  
admitted to the United Nations Organization, and formed the basis of its  
admission to membership.

2. The Portuguese reality is sufficiently well known to all today.  
The Portuguese Government has, in the course of these many years, amply  
clarified, both within the United Nations Organization and outside, its  
position in the face of the Charter of the United Nations, and demonstrated,  
without there being any valid refutation to this day, that Chapter XI of  
the Charter does not apply to the Portuguese Overseas Provinces. It does  
not seem necessary to repeat here the legal principles on which this stand  
is based.

---

\* A/9000.

1/ Letter addressed by the Secretariat to the Permanent Representatives  
of all Member States concerning the implementation of General Assembly  
resolution 2910 (XXVII).

3. Portugal has no colonies, and therefore does not practise any form of colonialism. But on the other hand, Portugal has been a victim of constant acts of terrorism perpetrated by minority groups, which, trained and aided from abroad and in the service of interests that are totally alien to Africa, have victimized the peaceful populations of its overseas provinces, causing death and the destruction of the property of Portuguese citizens of various ethnic groups.

4. It is precisely these groups who, without having any lawful right, are seeking, through the use of violence, to impose political formulae that do not correspond to the wishes and the true interests of those populations, which have, moreover, repudiated them unequivocally, as is proved by the way in which they defend their determination to remain Portuguese.

5. It is against this manifestation of a veritable neo-colonialism, directed from abroad, that the Portuguese Government, supported by the national will of the people, has been fighting, seeking, as it is in duty bound, to maintain peace and order in its territories. Likewise, the Portuguese authorities have extended the necessary assistance to the victims. This neo-colonialism also victimizes the populations of the frontier regions of the countries bordering on the Portuguese Overseas Provinces, who have, at times, to seek the protection of Portuguese authorities, and out of a spirit of human solidarity the Portuguese authorities make available to them the necessary assistance in food and medical aid.

6. Thus, as instances of more recent expenses incurred within a programme of vast assistance to the victims of this neo-colonialism, it may be pointed out that:

(a) In the province of Guinea, the provincial Government has spent till the end of the year 1972: on construction programmes for housing for displaced populations and refugees resulting from the neo-colonialism terrorism Esc. 70,000,000; on food and lodging to the displaced population and refugees Esc. 20,000,000; on sanitary assistance, including sanitary assistance given to the populations of the neighbouring regions of Senegal and the Republic of Guinea, at Portuguese frontier posts Esc. 60,000,000. In addition, there are being implemented in the province of Guinea programmes of construction to provide housing settlements and the extension of existing ones, in order to replace those destroyed as a result of foreign terrorist action, in the value of Esc. 23,000,000.

(b) In the State of Angola, the State Government has spent since 1961: on housing programmes for displaced populations and for refugees, as well as aid for them, Esc. 230,000,000; in annual sanitary assistance to the populations of neighbouring territories, around Esc. 2,000,000; in medical aid and on consultations, Esc. 30,000,000; on aid to refugees or persons expelled from bordering countries from which terrorist actions are launched, around Esc. 5,000,000.

/...

(c) In the State of Mozambique, the State Government has spent up to the end of 1972 on housing for displaced populations and for refugees, as well as for their sustenance, around Esc. 100,000,000; on aid to refugees, around Esc. 20,000,000 and on the displaced populations, around Esc. 15,000,000.

7. The Portuguese nation is a multiracial society based on the equality of all its citizens before the law, without distinction as to colour, religion or sex, and hence the existence of any discriminatory practices such as that of "apartheid" are alien to it, by tradition and constitutional imperative. Thus, there being no victims of such a practice in its territory, there is no call for any assistance to be furnished on this score.

I shall appreciate it very much if this letter is published as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) António PATRICIO  
Permanent Representative of Portugal  
to the United Nations

-----