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QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Question of the enlargement of the United Nations Council for Namibia

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 16 of resolution 2871 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, requested the Secretary-General:

"... bearing in mind the recommendation of the United Nations Council for Namibia concerning the enlargement of its membership with a view to ensuring broader representation on the Council, 1/ to hold consultations among the permanent members of the Security Council and other regional groups not represented on the United Nations Council for Namibia and to report thereon to the General Assembly".

2. In compliance with the above-mentioned resolution, consultations were held with the five permanent members of the Security Council.

3. The representative of China replied that the decision of the General Assembly to enlarge the Council was agreeable to his Government and that his Government would accept membership on an enlarged Council.

4. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also replied that his Government had decided to accept membership on an enlarged Council.

5. The representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America stated that, as their Governments had not voted for General Assembly resolution 2248 (S-V) of 19 May 1967, setting up the United Nations Council for Namibia, they could not, therefore, consider membership on the Council.

6. In the light of the reference to regional groups contained in paragraph 16 of resolution 2871 (XXVI), consultations were also held with the chairmen of all regional groups as they are known in the United Nations, with the following results:

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/8424), para. 197.

7. The chairman of the African group for the month of November informed the Secretary-General that the African group had endorsed the decision of the General Assembly to enlarge the Council, and wished to have another African State (Burundi) included in the membership of the Council. Subsequently, the chairman of the African group for the month of December, in a communication to the Secretary-General, expressed the wish that Liberia should also be included in the membership of the Council.

8. The chairman of the Asian and Latin American groups stated that their groups favoured enlargement of the Council, but felt that their representation on the Council was adequate.

9. The chairman of the Eastern European group for the month of November stated that the Eastern European group was in favour of enlargement of the Council and that Poland and Romania wished to become members.

10. The chairman of the Western European group for the month of October stated that, following consultations with members of the Western European group on the question of enlargement of the Council, it was his understanding that none of its members desired membership on the Council.

11. Further developments regarding the question of the enlargement of the United Nations Council for Namibia will immediately be brought to the attention of Member States.
