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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

Addendum

REPLIES FROM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

Original: English/French  
30 June 1971

In accordance with article IV of the Agreement between the United Nations and UPU, I submitted to the Executive Council of UPU, at its May-June 1971 session, the following General Assembly resolutions directed at the specialized agencies for implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: 2621 (XXV), 2652 (XXV), 2671 (XXV), 2678 (XXV), 2679 (XXV), 2702 (XXV), 2707 (XXV), 2704 (XXV) and 2708 (XXV).

These resolutions, together with a report of the Secretary-General of the Council, formed the subject of documents CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.1 and the supplement thereto (see enclosures 1 and 2). I also enclose with this letter copies of documents CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5 and the supplement thereto (see enclosures 3 and 4) which relate to co-operation, in the field in question, between UPU and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Executive Council gave careful consideration to the documents in question and took the following decisions:

1. The Council took due note of the General Assembly resolutions referred to in document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.1 (see enclosure 1). It approved that document and confirmed its agreement to maintain the practice followed hitherto by the

International Bureau of UPU with regard to Southern Rhodesia, South Africa and Portugal, namely that the International Bureau entertains no direct relations with the Southern Rhodesian postal administration and that relations between UPU, on the one hand, and South Africa and Portugal, on the other, are limited to the provision, in accordance with the regulations of the Union's publications and to the distribution of postal information communicated by the two countries to the International Bureau.

2. With regard to paragraph 10 of resolution 2704 (XXV), in particular, the Executive Council considered that the question of the participation of the leaders of the liberation movements in the colonial Territories of Africa concerned only regional meetings. It decided that collaboration would have to be established in this field between UPU, the Restricted Postal Unions of the region in question and other organizations concerned, on whatever basis was deemed appropriate.

3. The Council approved the conclusions of the report of the Secretary-General of the Council relating to co-operation between UPU and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (see enclosure 3).

4. With regard to the suggestion made by one Restricted Postal Union that consideration should be given to the possibility of extending to refugees the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention concerning exemption from postal charges for items relating to prisoners of war, civilian internees and similar persons (see enclosure 4), the Executive Council instructed its competent Committee to consider how far exemption from postal charges could be applied to refugees.

5. Finally, the Council adopted a resolution which authorizes the Director-General of the International Bureau of UPU to co-operate - in concert with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned - with the Organization of African Unity in considering practical means of assisting refugees from the colonial Territories of Africa (see enclosure 5).

#### Enclosure 1

Document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.1

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations recommendations on the implementation by the specialized agencies of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Universal Postal Union is obliged, under article IV of the Agreement concluded with the United Nations in July 1969, to take all measures to submit to its congresses, administrative conferences and committees or to its members any official recommendation that the United Nations may send to it. Over the past few

years, therefore, the International Bureau has published for the Executive Council - the only body, apart from Congress, empowered to decide what action to take in this field - a number of resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly directed at the specialized agencies for implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. After considering the relevant document (CE 1970 - Doc 5/Add.3 and complement) at its 1970 session, the Executive Council noted the resolutions submitted to it and, inter alia, adopted a resolution (CE 2/1970) 1/ concerning co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The measures already taken or planned by UPU for implementing an aid programme for refugees are examined in greater detail in CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5 (see enclosure 3 below).

3. Since the beginning of this year, the International Bureau has received from the United Nations a number of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session, containing appeals or recommendations to the specialized agencies for co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the resolutions in question. I am submitting these resolutions to the Executive Council for any action it thinks fit and for instructions, if any. 2/

Here is a list of the resolutions in chronological order of their adoption by the General Assembly:

Resolution	Title	Paragraphs concerning the specialized agencies
2621 (XXV)	Programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	3 (6) (b) and (c)
2652 (XXV)	Question of Southern Rhodesia	10
2671 (XXV)	The policies of <u>apartheid</u> of the Government of South Africa	Part C, para. 3 Part D, para. 2 (b)
2678 (XXV)	Question of Namibia	9
2679 (XXV)	United Nations Fund for Namibia	4
2702 (XXV)	Question of Oman	4
2704 (XXV)	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	14 (a) and (b)
2707 (XXV)	Question of Territories under Portuguese administration	11
2708 (XXV)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	6 and 7

1/ See A/8314, p. 74.

2/ Copies of these resolutions were submitted to the Executive Council in the form of annexes to the original report.

4. The texts of the resolutions submitted to the Executive Council with the present document are sufficiently explicit and do not call for lengthy comment, especially as the paragraphs concerning the specialized agencies are identified for each resolution in the table above. I shall therefore confine myself to the few remarks that follow.

4.1. Seven of the nine resolutions in question<sup>3/</sup> mention, among other references, resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 which is in fact the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In this connexion I would recall that UPU, within the framework of its information activities, devoted a special issue of its journal Union Postale (No. 10/1970) to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and, in particular, to the tenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. This issue was distributed not only to the postal administrations of UPU member countries and to the usual private subscribers, but also to many postal vocational training centres, in order to awaken the interest of the administrators and students of these centres in the historical importance of the Declaration.

4.2. Resolution 2671 (XXV) invites the specialized agencies "to help the United Nations information campaign against apartheid". In this connexion, the International Bureau sent all postal administrations a circular (No. 117 of 29 June 1970) bringing to their attention resolution 2544 (XXIV) by which the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1971 as International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and informing them that, in accordance with the programme drawn up for observance of that year, Governments were invited to adopt various measures, including the issue of special postage stamps. In addition, issue No. 1/1971 of Union Postale contained a message on this theme from the Director-General of the International Bureau and reproduced the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

4.3. Resolution 2704 (XXV) requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations "to prepare [...] with the assistance of the specialized agencies [...] a comprehensive report describing the activities hitherto undertaken by the specialized agencies [...] in regard to the implementation of the various resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the present item", i.e., 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. The report furnished by the UPU to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at his request, gives, inter alia, information on the aid envisaged for refugees from the dependent Territories of Africa (see enclosure 3 below), and on the position, from the UPU point of view, of the questions relating to Portugal, Southern Rhodesia and South Africa (see paragraph 4.4 below).

It should be noted that resolution 2704 (XXV) by and large repeats, although in more urgent terms, the requests and recommendations already formulated in resolution 2555 (XXIV), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1969 and submitted to the UPU Executive Council at its 1970 session (CE 1970 - Doc. 5/Add.3/Annex 1).

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<sup>3/</sup> Excepting resolutions 2671 (XXV) and 2679 (XXV).

4.4. Resolution 2700 (XV) requests "all States, as well as the specialized agencies and international institutions, to withhold assistance of any kind from the Governments of Portugal and South Africa and from the illegal racist minority régime in Southern Rhodesia until they renounce their policy of colonial domination and racial discrimination". In this connexion I reproduce below for the Council's information an extract of the report mentioned in paragraph 4.3 above, which was sent by UPU to the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

"Neither South Africa nor Portugal are members of any of the bodies set up by Congress. They do not, in short, receive any technical assistance and, as things stand at present, relations between UPU and these two countries are limited to the provision, in accordance with the regulations, of the Union's publications, in particular those dealing with international postal operations, and to the distribution of postal information communicated by these countries to the International Bureau on the same basis as that communicated by all other member countries of the Union.

"From the postal point of view Rhodesia forms part of the 'Overseas Territories for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is responsible'.

"In 1970 the British Postal Administration asked the International Bureau of UPU to publish a circular (No. 60/1970) addressed to all the postal administrations of member countries of the Union. This circular, inter alia, affirmed that 'Her Majesty's Government, acting where appropriate through the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and/or Post Office, remain responsible for the international relations, including postal relations, of Southern Rhodesia'. The British administration accordingly invited the International Bureau, should the occasion arise, to continue to refuse to accept or act on any communication from the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia.

"The International Bureau of UPU is conforming strictly to these instructions and entertains no direct relations with the Rhodesian postal administration. No representative of Southern Rhodesia attends meetings of Union bodies, and no technical or other aid is granted to this postal administration by the UPU International Bureau.

"Over the last five years, thirteen countries informed the UPU International Bureau that they had suspended postal relations with Southern Rhodesia, and asked for their communication to be brought to the attention of all postal administrations of member countries.

"I would further point out that on 27 March 1968 the Rhodesian Minister for Foreign Affairs formulated a declaration of continuity with a view to Rhodesia becoming a separate member country of UPU. This declaration did not take effect because the necessary legal conditions were not fulfilled. In addition, it was considered that the submission of an application for admission to the member countries for approval, in accordance with article 11, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the UPU Constitution, was impossible since it had not been accepted that Rhodesia was a 'sovereign country'."

Berne, 14 April 1971

(Signed) M. RAHI  
Secretary-General

Enclosure 2

Document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.1/Complément

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations recommendations on the implementation by the specialized agencies of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General

1. ...As a result of the contribution furnished by UPU to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at his request and for his report to the General Assembly (see enclosure 1 above, paragraph 4.3), the United Nations Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories asked UPU to provide some more detailed information, in particular on the following two points:

(i) Relations between UPU on the one hand and Portugal and South Africa on the other are limited to the provision, in accordance with the regulations, of the Union's publications, in particular those dealing with international postal operations, and to the distribution of postal information communicated by these two countries to the International Bureau on the same basis as that communicated by all other member countries of the Union. The above-mentioned Department would appreciate receiving information as to the possible consideration, by the executive or deliberative body, of the question of maintaining or modifying the above-mentioned practice in regard to the two countries concerned.

(ii) Paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV):

"Invites the specialized agencies to examine, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the possibility of providing for participation, where necessary and appropriate, in conferences, seminars and other regional meetings convened by them, of the leaders of the liberation movements in the colonial Territories in Africa, in an appropriate capacity."

2. The United Nations asked UPU whether this question would be brought to the attention of the UPU Executive Council at its May/June 1971 session.

3. I accordingly submit the questions referred to in (i) and (ii) above to the Council for consideration, and request it to inform me of any directives it may wish to give on this matter.

Berne, 23 April 1971

(Signed) M. RAHI  
Secretary-General

## Enclosure 3

Document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

#### Report of the Secretary-General

##### I. Introduction

On the basis of resolution C 26 4/ of the 16th Universal Postal Congress, the Executive Council adopted resolution CE 2/1970 5/ authorizing the Director-General to take steps with a view to obtaining fellowships for refugees, particularly with the aid of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In addition, the International Bureau was authorized to form for this purpose an annual allotment in the UPU Special Fund.

The Council also instructed the Director-General to seek the co-operation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the support of UPU member countries in aiding refugees who had received postal vocational training to find work either in the country of refuge or in another country wishing to take part in the humanitarian work of helping refugees.

Lastly, the Director-General was invited to maintain contact with the Restricted Postal Unions and to report to the Executive Council on the results of the steps he had taken in the direction of the above-mentioned resolution CE 2.

This report gives new or noteworthy data concerning the various measures contemplated for the implementation of an aid programme for refugees.

##### II. Results of the steps taken

###### (a) Action on International Bureau requests

The results of the approaches made to Union member countries, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the secretariats of the Restricted Postal Unions are given in the 1970 Report on the work of the Union (cf. section B, chapter I, paragraph 5).

It should be pointed out, however, that, with one exception, the countries of residence of refugees mentioned in United Nations General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV) have not yet acted on the Director-General's request. In addition, almost all the countries agreeing to take refugees in centres stated that they could not grant them fellowships nor guarantee them work at the end of their vocational training.

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4/ See A/8314, p. 71.

5/ Ibid., p. 74.

(b) Aid possibilities for refugees

Five UPU member countries, most of them non-African, agree to take refugees in their vocational training centres.

Thus, in the light of the replies received and provision under the UPU Special Fund, about ten fellowships are available to possible applicants.

In addition, within the framework of multinational projects, UNDP is willing to give favourable consideration to requests for fellowships submitted by UPU on behalf of refugees.

(c) Problem of recruiting candidates

The Bureau has informed the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the possibility of offering some vocational training fellowships. But it appears that, at the moment, that body does not have appropriate facilities in the countries of residence to enable it to recruit candidates meeting requirements.

Nevertheless, this situation can be regarded as provisional since the High Commissioner intends, with the help of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to make systematic investigations with a view to finding candidates for postal training centres.

### III. Conclusion

As shown above, despite the modesty of the available resources, the Universal Postal Union is in a position to implement an aid programme for vocational training of refugees.

The main thing is for the High Commissioner to select candidates.

For the moment, the Bureau seeks the approval of the Council for the various suggestions given below:

1. The Bureau would maintain active co-operation with the High Commissioner with a view to joint action in the social promotion of refugees.
2. Until the High Commissioner submits candidates, the Bureau would keep the allotment in the UPU Special Fund at its present level.
3. The Bureau would send a circular as a reminder to the African countries which have not yet replied to the Director-General's request, particularly the countries of residence of refugees with a vocational training centre, to inform them of the present possibilities with regard to study fellowships.



4. On the basis of resolution CE 2/1970 6/ of the Council, the Bureau would continue to maintain permanent contacts with the Restricted Unions in this field and would ask those which have not yet done so to back the UPU request by recommending to their members concrete measures on behalf of refugees.

Berne, 26 March 1971

(Signed) M. RAHI  
Secretary-General

Enclosure 4

Document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5/Complément

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Supplementary Report of the Secretary-General

1. Since preparing document CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5 (see enclosure 3 above), I have received a reply from the Director-General of the African and Malagasy Postal and Telecommunication Union (AMPTU) with regard to the assistance to refugees referred to in Executive Council resolution CE 2/1970. 7/
2. AMPTU reports that it has asked its member countries, particularly those providing asylum to refugees, to examine the problems of refugees with a view to giving them the necessary assistance in the matter of vocational training.
3. This Restricted Union is, moreover, willing to take part in the humanitarian work of helping refugees by agreeing to accept them in its regional postal and telecommunications training centres.
4. In the same connexion, the Director-General of AMPTU suggests that the International Bureau consider how far the provisions of the Tokyo Convention, article 14, paragraph 1, concerning exemption from postal charges for items relating to prisoners of war, civilian internees and similar persons could be extended to cover refugees.

As the latter proposal falls outside the purview of the International Bureau, the Executive Council could take it up and entrust one of its committees with studying whether exemption from postal charges could be applied to refugees.

Berne, 6 April 1971

(Signed) M. RAHI  
Secretary-General

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6/ Ibid.

7/ See A/8314, p. 74.

Enclosure 5

Resolution

UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Relations between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU)

The Executive Council,

In view of article IV of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Universal Postal Union,

Recalling

resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and the other pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

resolution C 26 8/ of the 1969 Tokyo Congress;

resolution CE 2/1970 9/ of the Executive Council concerning co-operation between the Universal Postal Union and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Having examined

(a) CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.1, the supplement thereto, 10/ and the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly contained in annexes 2, 7, 8 and 9 to the afore-mentioned document, and in particular paragraphs 5 and 10 of the operative part of resolution 2704 (XXV) of 14 December 1970;

(b) CE 1971 - Doc 4/Add.5 and the supplement thereto, 11/

Authorizes the Director-General of the International Bureau

to co-operate - in concert with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the other organizations of the United Nations system concerned - with the Organization of African Unity in considering practical means of assisting refugees from the colonial Territories of Africa, in particular:

by drawing up and executing specific technical assistance programmes in the field of postal training;

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8/ Ibid., p. 71.

9/ Ibid., p. 74.

10/ See enclosures 1 and 2 above.

11/ See enclosures 3 and 4 above.

by collaborating with the Organization of African Unity in the application of all measures decreed by the United Nations in connexion with the problem of decolonization in the Territories of Africa,

Invites the Director-General of the International Bureau

1. To send the text of this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity;

2. To report to the Executive Council at its 1972 session on the results of the steps he has taken in the direction indicated above.

Berne, 3 June 1971

For the Executive Council:

(Signed) Chairman: K. SOYAMA