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

THE POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

QUESTION OF NAMIBIA

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By paragraph 11 of resolution 2671 F (XXV) of 8 December 1970, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General:
".... to convene, early in 1971, a joint meeting of the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia, in order to consider the interrelationships of the problems of southern Africa and to propose measures for greater co-ordination and more effective action, so that the three organs can take the results of the meeting into account in their programmes of work".
2. In compliance with the above request, the Secretary-General convened the first joint meeting of the three organs at Headquarters on 3 May 1971. Having held four meetings, between 3 and 5 May, in the course of which a number of suggestions and proposals were put forward by the participants, the Joint Meeting agreed, inter alia, to meet again at a later date with a view to considering the various proposals and suggestions.
3. The second session of the Joint Meeting, consisting of five meetings, was held between 23 August and 13 September 1971. At the 9th meeting, on 13 September, the Joint Meeting adopted a consensus, the text of which was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Chairman of the meeting.

4. In compliance with the request contained in paragraph 10 of the consensus, the attached text of the consensus as well as the Chairman's letter of transmittal is hereby being distributed for the information of the members of the General Assembly.

Letter of Transmittal

15 September 1971

Sir,

..... I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a consensus by the Joint Meeting of the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia, adopted at the 9th meeting on 13 September 1971.

I should like to draw your attention in particular to paragraph 10 of the text whereby "The Joint Meeting requests the Secretary-General to convey this consensus to the General Assembly, at its twenty-sixth session, and to other United Nations organs and the specialized agencies".

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) E.O. OGBU
Chairman of the ninth meeting
of the Joint Meeting

His Excellency
U Thant
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

/...

Consensus adopted by the Joint Meeting of the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia at the 9th meeting on 13 September 1971 ^{1/}

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 2671 F (XXV), the Special Committee on Apartheid, the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations Council for Namibia held two sessions of the Joint Meeting, from 3 to 5 May 1971, and from 23 August to 13 September 1971, at which they considered the interrelationships of the problems of southern Africa and measures for greater co-ordination and more effective action. After extensive and fruitful discussions, the Joint Meeting arrived at the following consensus:

1. The Joint Meeting acknowledges the importance of periodic consultations among the three bodies and recommends that joint meetings should be held from time to time, as desirable, in order to continue consideration of the interrelationships of the problems of southern Africa with a view to achieving greater co-ordination and more effective action.
2. The Joint Meeting considers that appropriate procedural arrangements should be instituted to ensure that during the General Assembly sessions southern African problems are studied and debated in their full perspective and not split and distributed among various committees of the Assembly. To this end, the Joint Meeting recommends that the General Assembly either direct all matters relating to the racial and colonial problems of southern Africa to the Special Political Committee, the Fourth Committee and the

^{1/} The representative of Venezuela stated for the record that his delegation was unable to agree to the adoption of the consensus since most of its provisions went beyond the Joint Meeting's terms of reference, as provided in General Assembly resolution 2671 F (XXV). Further details of the statement by the representative of Venezuela may be found in the summary record of the 9th meeting (A/AC.151/SR.9). The representative of the Ivory Coast wished to have the reservations of his delegation recorded in regard to certain parts of the consensus which, it maintained, went beyond the Joint Meeting's terms of reference. The representative of Madagascar also expressed reservations.

Third Committee, as the case may be, or hold joint meetings of these Committees on matters of common concern.

3. The Joint Meeting acknowledges the desirability of co-ordinated action by the three bodies, as appropriate, in fact-finding missions, hearings of petitioners and conduct of special studies with a view to rationalizing their efforts and obtaining maximum results.

4. The Joint Meeting proposes that the presiding officers of the three bodies, or their representatives, should conduct periodic consultations in order to:

(a) Ensure that each of the three bodies is kept constantly informed of the activities of the others in areas which are relevant to its mandate;

(b) Co-ordinate the activities of the three bodies in establishing fact-finding missions, arranging hearings of petitioners and conducting studies on the proposal of any of three bodies on subjects of common interest;

(c) Consider and recommend for the consideration of the three bodies other appropriate measures for co-ordination and submission of joint or parallel recommendations to the General Assembly and the Security Council on matters of common interest; and

(d) Convene joint meetings of the three bodies from time to time as referred to in paragraph 1.

5. The Joint Meeting recognizes the desirability of having competent subsidiary organs of the United Nations adopt a consistent policy on matters relating to southern Africa and recommends that such organs be requested to consider inviting representatives of the three bodies, as appropriate, to participate in their deliberations.

6. The Joint Meeting considers further that the widest dissemination of information on the evils and dangers of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa, and of the activities of the three bodies, is of utmost importance in ensuring the effectiveness of the United Nations efforts to resolve the situation in the area. It considers it essential that the Organization of African Unity, the liberation movements and non-governmental organizations concerned should be kept adequately informed of the activities of the three bodies and that efforts should be intensified,

by all appropriate means, to promote an international campaign against colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa with the co-operation of Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

7. The Joint Meeting will continue the examination of substantive problems of southern Africa at subsequent sessions. However, the question of Namibia was raised in view of the impending Security Council debate on that question. In view of the urgency of the matter, the Joint Meeting recommends that the Security Council should take effective and positive measures in furtherance of General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) and 2248 (S-V) and the decisions of the Security Council itself, and in the light of the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice which confirmed the illegality of South Africa's occupation of Namibia.

8. The Joint Meeting suggests that the Secretary-General consider appropriate arrangements for intensifying and co-ordinating research, information and publicity on southern Africa, taking into account the suggestions made during the Joint Meeting.

9. The Joint Meeting recommends that the presiding officers of the three bodies or their representatives advise the Secretary-General from time to time on the promotion of publicity pertaining to problems of southern Africa and on the efforts of the United Nations to deal with them.

10. The Joint Meeting requests the Secretary-General to convey this consensus to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session and to other United Nations organs and the specialized agencies.
