



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/7998
25 August 1970

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-fifth session
Item 62 of the provisional agenda

THE 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

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its twenty-fourth session, the General Assembly after considering agenda items 59 and 60, entitled, respectively, "International Year for Human Rights" and "Implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights", adopted, on 15 December 1969, resolutions 2588 A (XXIV) and 2588 B (XXIV), entitled "Implementation of the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights".

2. The operative part of resolution 2588 A (XXIV) reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Expresses its appreciation to Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations genuinely concerned with human rights which have contributed to the observance of the International Year for Human Rights;

"2. Further expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his effective co-ordination of the measures and activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year for Human Rights and for the informative reports which he has submitted thereon to the General Assembly;

"3. Expresses the hope that the measures and activities undertaken on the occasion of the International Year for Human Rights by Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations

and non-governmental organizations genuinely concerned with human rights will be continued, developed and enlarged, and that the initiatives which have emerged from the observance of the International Year for Human Rights will serve as guidelines for action-oriented programmes designed to ensure that the work accomplished in 1968 shall be pursued;

"4. Invites Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations concerned to continue to give effect, as appropriate, to the recommendations of the International Conference on Human Rights, bearing in mind the importance of achieving full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

3. In resolution 2588 B (XXIV), the General Assembly, inter alia, recalled resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights of 11 May 1968 entitled "The importance of the universal realization of the rights 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".

4. The operative part of resolution 2588 B (XXIV) reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"1. Reaffirms the right of all peoples under colonial and foreign rule to liberation and self-determination;

"2. Confirms the principles contained in resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights, which supports the liberation movements in southern Africa and elsewhere in their legitimate struggle for freedom and independence;

"3. Calls upon all Governments concerned to abide by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations relating to decolonization, territorial integrity and the right to self-determination;

"4. Notes the efforts of the Security Council to implement these resolutions;

"5. Notes with appreciation the efforts 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, the United Nations Council for Namibia, the Special Committee on the Policies of Apartheid of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and other organs of the United Nations to secure the implementation of these resolutions;

/...

"6. Appeals to all States and organizations to provide appropriate assistance to peoples struggling for their freedom and independence;

"7. Decides to review at its twenty-fifth session the progress in the implementation of resolution VIII of the International Conference on Human Rights and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject."

5. The Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 14 April 1970, drew the attention of Member States to these two resolutions, particularly to paragraphs 1 and 4 of resolution A and paragraphs 3 and 6 of resolution B. The resolutions were also brought to the attention of the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

6. The text of resolution VIII adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights on 11 May 1968 is annexed to the present note.

ANNEX

Resolution VIII, adopted by the International Conference on Human Rights

(Teheran, 22 April to 13 May 1968)

The 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

The International Conference on Human Rights,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 on the granting of independence to colonial peoples and territories as well as all the other United Nations resolutions on the question of colonialism,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1654 (XVI), 1810 (XVII), 2145 (XXI) and 2248 (S-V),

Recalling further that among the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter are respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and particularly the right to self-determination,

Considering that the subjugation and oppression of a people by another is a serious violation of the main objectives of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering the legitimate armed struggle being waged by the populations under Portuguese domination and the barbarous and inhuman repression to which they are subjected by Portugal,

Concerned about the continued violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent neighbouring countries by the colonial régime of Portugal and the minority racist régime of Rhodesia which constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security,

Aware of the increasing conflicts resulting from the continued refusal by the colonial régimes to comply with United Nations resolutions with regard to the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples,

1. Notes with satisfaction the work accomplished by the United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee for its efforts to secure the complete and effective implementation of the said Declaration;

/...

2. Condemns all colonial régimes, particularly that of Portugal, for their continued refusal to implement resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;
3. Supports the firm determination of the liberation movements and the peoples in their struggle for liberty and independence;
4. Recognizes the right of freedom-fighters in colonial territories when captured, to be treated as prisoners of war under the Red Cross Geneva Conventions of 1949;
5. Appeals to all States and organizations dedicated to the ideals of freedom, independence and peace for their political moral and material assistance to peoples struggling for their freedom and independence;
6. Calls upon the General Assembly to draw up a specific programme for the granting of independence to territories under colonial rule;
7. Calls upon the Security Council to resume consideration of the question of decolonization and expedite the granting of independence and self-determination to colonial countries and peoples;
8. Condemns South Africa and Portugal for their open assistance to and collaboration with the rebel minority régime of Rhodesia in defiance of the resolution of the United Nations;
9. Condemns South Africa for its refusal to comply with General Assembly resolutions 2145 (XXI) and 2248 (S-V) with regard to the international territory of South West Africa;
10. Calls upon the Security Council to enforce its earlier decision with regard to the international territory of South West Africa;
11. Condemns the Governments of those countries particularly members of NATO for their continued supply of arms and ammunition to Portugal which are used to suppress the indigenous people under Portuguese domination and calls upon these States to stop forthwith their supply of arms;
12. Urges the African countries no longer to permit the installation and maintenance of military bases belonging to NATO Powers on the national territory of their States so long as those Powers persist in aiding and abetting Portugal or the rebel régime of Rhodesia in their unjust and inhuman policies;

/...

13. Urges the Government of the United Kingdom to take immediately all the necessary measures including the use of force to put an end to the illegal minority racist régime of Rhodesia as well as to grant independence to the people of Rhodesia based on the principle of majority rule;

14. Condemns the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of neighbouring independent States by racist and colonial régimes;

15. Calls upon the United Nations to take appropriate measures to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these States.
