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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

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 11 (a)¹ of resolution 2555 (XXIV) of 12 December 1969 on the 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, invited the Secretary-General "to continue to assist the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned in working out appropriate measures for implementing the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session".
2. On 26 December 1969, the Secretary-General, in transmitting the resolution to the executive heads of the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned, informed them that, having regard to the above-quoted provision, he stood ready to extend assistance, as might be required. At the same time, the Secretary-General invited the executive heads of these organizations, in accordance with paragraph 11 (b) of the resolution, to submit information on the action taken or envisaged in accordance with the provisions of that resolution for transmission to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
3. Subsequently, the Secretary-General transmitted the responses received from the executive heads to the Special Committee.^{1/} At the same time, the Secretary-

^{1/} A/8023 (part IV), chapter IV, annex I.

General drew the attention of the Special Committee to a number of developments relevant to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV) and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1450 (XLVII) of 7 August 1969 concerning the item. The information thus made available to the Special Committee was also taken into account by the Economic and Social Council in its consideration of the relevant item at its forty-ninth session and during the discussions held by the Secretary-General with the executive heads, the results of which are described below. The present report should therefore be read in conjunction with that information, which has been incorporated in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.^{2/}

4. At the meetings of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination which were held during April and October this year, the Secretary-General discussed with the executive heads of the agencies questions relating to the implementation of resolution 2555 (XXIV) by individual agencies and institutions and provided background information and clarification of certain aspects of that resolution. There was also discussion of matters connected with other relevant resolutions. During these consultations it was noted that there were three main types of action called for under resolution 2555 (XXIV), namely assistance to refugees from the colonial Territories in Africa, assistance through the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to national liberation movements in those Territories and the discontinuance of collaboration with the authorities pursuing colonialist and racist policies in southern Africa.

5. As regards assistance to refugees, it was noted that continued efforts had been made to implement the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council. Interagency co-operation in the field of assistance to refugees carried out in accordance with arrangements agreed upon in 1969^{3/} had grown in scope, particularly with regard to their rural settlement. Progress had been made in enlarging the participation of a number of the organizations of the United Nations system in refugee assistance projects under the aegis of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and as regards the inclusion of refugees in some of the agencies' own projects. With

^{2/} Ibid.

^{3/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fourth Session, Annexes agenda items 69 and 12, document A/7725, para. 4.

regard to the inclusion of refugees in educational and training projects of other members of the United Nations system, further efforts were being made to apply greater flexibility, as envisaged in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 2555 (XXIV) and in paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1450 (XLVII).

6. In the same connexion, it was suggested that another positive measure would be the implementation of the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to the effect that the Governments of countries of residence of refugees should give priority to projects of members of the United Nations system which were carried out in areas where refugees were located, or might in any other way be of benefit to refugees. It was observed that a specific problem had arisen in respect of the sizable expenditure for infrastructure equipment required for the rural settlement of refugees in certain areas, which constituted a considerable proportion of UNHCR's limited voluntary funds budget. It was agreed that solutions to that problem would continue to be explored in consultation with interested agencies of the United Nations system, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Development Programme.

7. Reference was also made to the situation of refugees from Southern Rhodesia, who, for legal reasons, fell outside the scope of the mandate of UNHCR. In that regard, satisfaction was expressed that UNHCR had reached an agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland whereby UNHCR would, in consultation with the United Kingdom authorities, help Southern Rhodesians under its good offices function by providing them with emergency assistance, when this was urgently needed, from funds outside the regular UNHCR assistance programme. Furthermore, UNHCR would help by counselling and advising with a view to assisting them to obtain work permits and employment, or by arranging their travel to other countries when desired. In addition, it was noted that an agreement had been reached between the Secretary-General and UNHCR on a definition of their respective responsibilities in the fields covered by the United Nations Educational and Training Programme and by the mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees. The details of this agreement will be included in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session on the above-mentioned Programme.

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8. With regard to the other two types of action called for in resolution 2555 (XXIV), it was noted that, in addition to the difficulty posed by budgetary and constitutional limitations, the executive heads of the agencies faced certain legal and practical problems, the solution of which by and large lay beyond their authority. First, with respect to the question of assistance to national liberation movements through OAU, there was the consideration that action by the executive heads depended on policy decisions and specific authorization by member States acting through the governing bodies or deliberative organs concerned. In several cases, those bodies had not yet taken the necessary decisions. Furthermore, the formulation of the desired programmes of assistance required a considerable period of time, as it called for consultations with OAU, which in turn was under an obligation to seek the views of the liberation movements. The second category of problems related to the discontinuance of all collaboration with the authorities pursuing colonial and racist policies in southern Africa. Although the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia had been excluded from participation in the activities of the agencies, the complete severance of links with the Portuguese and South African Governments could be effected, in some cases, only through a modification of existing agency constitutional arrangements by the deliberative organs concerned and subsequent action by member Governments, and in others, only if the United Nations itself first acted to suspend those Governments from the rights and privileges of membership. These and other related issues are due for consideration in the near future by governing bodies or deliberative organs of some of the agencies, and the results will be reflected in any further report that may be requested of the Secretary-General concerning the activities carried out by the agencies in implementation of the Declaration.

9. In that connexion, the Secretary-General invites attention to a consideration to which reference was made during the discussions that took place between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee within the context of paragraph 10 of resolution 2555 (XXIV),^{4/} and in the course of the ensuing discussions in the Economic and

^{4/} A/8023 (part IV), chapter IV, annex II.

Social Council as well as in the Special Committee. It was noted during these discussions that the efforts of the agencies to meet the intent of the General Assembly would be greatly facilitated if States Members, bearing in mind the need to co-ordinate and ensure consistency in the positions of their respective delegations to different bodies concerned with related matters, took effective action, within the governing bodies or deliberative organs of the agencies, along the lines indicated in paragraph 8 of resolution 2555 (XXIV). Of considerable interest, therefore, will be the outcome of the forthcoming deliberations of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and of such discussions as might be held in the corresponding organs of other agencies on the questions referred to above.

10. The General Assembly may also wish to take into account the views expressed during the consultations that took place between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee^{5/} and the information furnished by the agencies in the course of the recent Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination^{6/} concerning such other matters as, for instance, the possibility of greater resort to assistance available from the agencies in such fields as technical and vocational training for the persons referred to in resolution 2555 (XXIV) and other relevant resolutions, and the role that might be played by OAU in that connexion.

^{5/} Ibid.

^{6/} E/4886 and Corr.1 and 2.