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Items 13 and 23 of the preliminary list\*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

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

Letter dated 19 June 1975 from the Permanent Representative of Australia  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that Papua New Guinea will accede to independence on 16 September 1975 and that consequently, in accordance with paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 3284 (XXIX), the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of New Guinea will cease to be in force on that date.

The following is the text of the message from the Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea to the Prime Minister of Australia concerning the date of independence:

My dear Prime Minister,

On 18 June 1975 the House of Assembly passed the following motions:

"That the following resolution passed by the House of Assembly on 9 July 1974 be rescinded - 'that this House resolve that Papua New Guinea do move to independent nation status as soon as practicable after a constitution has been enacted by this House and that any proposed date for independence is to be endorsed by this House'", and

"That this House now nominates the 16th day of September 1975 as the date upon which Papua New Guinea is to achieve independence".

I gather steps will be taken to pass the Independence Act in the Australian Parliament citing the above date.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. T. SOMARE  
(Chief Minister)  
19 June 1975

\* A/10000.

The following is the text of the reply by the Prime Minister of Australia to the Chief Minister of Papua New Guinea:

My dear Chief Minister,

Thank you for your message of 19 June 1975 informing me that on 18 June 1975 the House of Assembly nominated 16 September 1975 as the date upon which Papua New Guinea is to achieve independence.

The date nominated by the House of Assembly is acceptable to the Australian Government. I confirm that steps will be taken to pass the Independence Act in the Australian Parliament citing the date of 16 September.

May I offer my congratulations on the historic decision which the House of Assembly has taken and express to you my profound admiration for your success in steering Papua New Guinea to full nationhood. I look forward to continuing close co-operation between our two Governments and our two nations.

I take this opportunity to reaffirm to you that the Australian Government's policy is that Papua New Guinea should come to independence on 16 September as one country, in accordance with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Papua New Guinea's elected representatives. The Australian Government will give no sympathy, aid or support in any form to any group in Papua New Guinea working to undermine their country's unity. In accordance with our obligations to the United Nations, the Australian Government has a responsibility to the people of Papua New Guinea to help them ensure that on Independence Day they are citizens of a strong and united country.

I am arranging for the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Trusteeship Council to be advised of your decision and the Australian Government's agreement that Papua New Guinea is to achieve independence on 16 September 1975.

Yours sincerely,

(E. G. WHITLAM) 19 June 1975

I should be grateful if you would circulate this note to all Member States as a document of the General Assembly under items 13 and 23.

(Signed) R. L. HARRY  
Permanent Representative

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