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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

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, at its 2353rd plenary meeting on 19 September 1975, allocated to the Third Committee agenda item 77, entitled "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: report of the Secretary-General".
2. The Committee considered the item at its 2124th to 2132nd meetings, from 8 to 16 October. The summary records of these meetings (A/C.3/SR.2124-2132) contain the views of representatives of Member States.
3. The Committee had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/10156 and Add.1), prepared in accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 3246 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 which contained information received up to date from Governments of States Members of the United Nations, regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the action taken in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution. Information on action taken by the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system was contained in document A/10080 and Add.1-4, prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3300 (XXIX).
4. At the 2124th meeting, on 8 October, the Director of the Division of Human Rights made an introductory statement on the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/L.2158

5. At the 2131st meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.2158) sponsored by Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, the Libyan Arab Republic, Nigeria, the Upper Volta and Yugoslavia, later joined by the Congo, Iraq, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Cameroon and the United Republic of Tanzania. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2955 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3070 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 and 3246 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974,

"Reaffirming the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, to national sovereignty and territorial integrity and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as imperatives for the enjoyment of human rights,

"Welcoming whole-heartedly the independence of Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea,

"Concerned at the current conflict in Angola which seems to threaten the speedy independence of that Territory,

"Confident in the hope that the nationalist movements will co-operate with the Organization of African Unity Conciliation Commission,

"Indignant at the continued violations of the human rights of the peoples still under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, the continuation of the illegal occupation of Namibia and the persistence of the racist minority régimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa,

"1. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the peoples' struggle for independence, territorial integrity and for liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means including armed struggle;

"2. Welcomes the efforts by the OAU Conciliation Commission to resolve amicably the current conflict in Angola;

"3. Rejects any foreign interference in the internal affairs of Angola;

"4. Condemns the policies of those members of NATO and those countries whose military, economic, sporting or political relations with the racist régimes of southern Africa and elsewhere encourage these régimes to persist in their suppression of the aspirations of peoples for self-determination and independence;

"5. Strongly condemns all Governments which do not recognize the right to self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably the peoples of Africa and the Palestinian people;

"6. Demands full respect for the basic human rights of all individuals detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence and strict respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under which no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and their immediate release;

"7. Keenly awaits the conclusion of the following studies by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: (a) the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa; (b) the historical and current development of the right to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and (c) implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination;

"8. Notes with appreciation the material and other forms of assistance

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that peoples under colonial and alien régimes continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and calls for a maximization of this assistance;

"9. Decides to remain seized of this item at the thirty-first session of the General Assembly on the basis of reports that Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are requested to submit on the strengthening of assistance for colonial Territories and peoples under alien domination and foreign subjugation."

6. At the same meeting, in the light of oral amendments put forward by Guinea and Sierra Leone, the sponsors revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The words "which seems to threaten the speedy independence of that Territory" in the fourth preambular paragraph were deleted;

(b) A fifth preambular paragraph was inserted, which read as follows:

"Equally concerned with the maintenance of the independence and territorial integrity of the Cormoros";

(c) The words "and the Cormoros" were added to the end of operative paragraph 3.

Guinea joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

7. Also at the same meeting, the revised draft resolution was put to a vote. At the request of the representatives of the United States of America and of Cuba, respectively, the Committee voted separately on operative paragraphs 4 and 5. The results of the votes were as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 86 to 14, with 24 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

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Against: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Iceland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay.

(b) Operative paragraph 5 was adopted by a roll-call vote of 95 to 2, with 29 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic Yemen, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Against: Israel, Nicaragua.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

(c) The revised draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 106 votes to 1, with 19 abstentions (see para. 8 below).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

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 General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2955 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3070 (XXVIII) of 30 November 1973 and 3246 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974,

Reaffirming the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, to national sovereignty and territorial integrity and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples as imperatives for the enjoyment of human rights,

Welcoming whole-heartedly the independence of Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea,

Concerned at the current conflict in Angola,

Equally concerned about the maintenance of the independence and the territorial integrity of the Comoros,

Confident in the hope that the nationalist movements will co-operate with the Conciliation Commission of the Organization of African Unity,

Indignant at the continued violations of the human rights of the peoples still under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, the continuation of the illegal occupation of Namibia and the persistence of the racist minority régimes in Zimbabwe and South Africa,

1. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the peoples' struggle for independence, territorial integrity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation by all available means, including armed struggle;

2. Welcomes the efforts by the Conciliation Commission of the Organization of African Unity to resolve amicably the current conflict in Angola;

3. Rejects any foreign interference in the internal affairs of Angola and of the Comoros;

4. Condemns the policies of those members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and those countries whose military, economic, sporting or political relations with the racist régimes of southern Africa and elsewhere encourage these régimes to persist in their suppression of the aspirations of peoples for self-determination and independence;

/...

5. Strongly condemns all Governments which do not recognize the right to self-determination and independence of peoples under colonial and foreign domination and alien subjugation, notably the peoples of Africa and the Palestinian people;

6. Demands full respect for the basic human rights of all individuals detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence and strict respect for article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights under which no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and their immediate release;

7. Keenly awaits the conclusion of the following studies by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

(a) Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to colonial and racist régimes in southern Africa;

(b) Historical and current development of the right to self-determination on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments adopted by United Nations organs, with particular reference to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(c) Implementation of United Nations resolutions relating to the right of peoples under colonial and alien domination to self-determination; .

8. Notes with appreciation the material and other forms of assistance that peoples under colonial and alien régimes continue to receive from Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and calls for a maximization of this assistance;

9. Decides to remain seized of this item at its thirty-first session on the basis of reports that Governments, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are requested to submit concerning the strengthening of assistance for colonial Territories and peoples under alien domination and foreign subjugation.
