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Agenda item 63

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED  
UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fourth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Edda WEISS (Austria)

1. At its 2037th plenary meeting, on 23 September 1972, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee (A/8800/Rev.1), decided to include in the agenda of its twenty-seventh session and to allocate to the Fourth Committee for consideration and report an item entitled:

"Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General;
- (b) Report 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."

2. At its 1988th meeting, on 25 October, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda item 63 together with items 13, 22, 67, 68 and 12, 69 and 70. In taking this decision, it was the understanding of the Committee that individual draft resolutions on matters covered by those items would be considered separately following the conclusion of the general debate.

3. The Fourth Committee considered item 63 at its 2001st to 2008th, 2016th and 2017th meetings, between 13 November and 8 December.

4. At the 2001st meeting, on 13 November, the Rapporteur 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 introduced chapter XXVII of the report of that Committee, relating to the item (A/8723/Add.7).
5. The Fourth Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General relating to this item (A/8821 and Add.1-3). In addition, the Fourth Committee had before it a note verbale dated 18 September 1972 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/8827).
6. The general debate covering item 63, together with the other items referred to in paragraph 2 above, took place at the 2002nd to 2008th meetings, between 20 and 29 November.
7. At the 2016th meeting, on 7 December, the representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution (A/C.4/L.1023), which was sponsored by the following Member States: Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Guyana, India, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia. Subsequently, Madagascar and Mali became sponsors of the draft resolution.
8. At its 2017th meeting, on 8 December, the Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/L.1023 by a recorded vote of 68 to 2, with 7 abstentions (see para. 9 below). The voting was as follows:  
In favour: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against: Portugal, South Africa.

Abstaining: Belgium, Brazil, El Salvador, France, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

9. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories  
transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter  
of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration,

Recalling also its resolution 2870 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with the procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 2109 (XX) of 21 December 1965,

Recalling further the provisions of paragraph 5 of its resolution 2870 (XXVI), in which it requested the administering Powers concerned to transmit, or continue to transmit, to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee dealing with the transmittal of information under Article 73 e of the Charter and the action taken by it in respect of that information, 1/

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 2/

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1/ A/8723/Add.7, chap. XXVII.

2/ A/8821 and Add.1-3.

Noting the communication dated 18 September 1972 from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the Territory of Brunei, 3/

1. Approves the chapter of the report 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 relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter;

2. Deeply deplores that, despite the repeated recommendations of the General Assembly and the Special Committee, some Member States having responsibilities for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories have ceased to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter, have transmitted insufficient information or have transmitted information too late;

3. Strongly condemns the Government of Portugal for its continued refusal to recognize the colonial status of the Territories under its domination and to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter on those Territories, in complete disregard of the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee;

4. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

5. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or to continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned;

6. Reiterates its request that the administering Powers concerned transmit such information as early as possible and, at the latest, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned;

7. Requests the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and, as regards Brunei, to submit appropriate recommendations for a decision by the General Assembly under the terms of paragraph 4 above and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

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