

**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**

Volume IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY - THIRD SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 23 (A/33/23/Rev.1)



UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1980

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

The report of the Special Committee is divided into four volumes. The present volume contains chapters XXVII to XXXIII;* volume I, chapters I-VI; volume II, chapters VII-XI; and volume III, chapters XII-XXVI.

* The present version of chapters XXVII to XXXIII is a consolidation of the following documents as they appeared in provisional form: A/33/23/Add.6 of 25 October 1970, A/33/23/Add.7 of 22 October 1970, A/33/23/Add.8 of 24 October 1970 and A/33/23/Add.9 of 15 October 1970.

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* Dominica acceded to independence on 3 November 1976.

** Solomon Islands acceded to independence on 7 July 1978.

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** Tuvalu acceded to independence on 1 October 1978.

CHAPTER XXVII*

GUAM

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1102nd meeting, on 1 February 1978, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1205), the Special Committee decided to refer Guam to the Sub-Committee on Small Territories for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1109th, 1110th, 1115th, and 1133rd meetings between 29 June and 12 September.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 32/42 of 7 December 1977 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular: ... to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session". The Special Committee also took into account General Assembly resolution 32/28 of 28 November 1977, by paragraph 10 of which the Assembly requested the Committee "to continue to seek the best ways and means for the implementation of the Declaration with respect to Guam, including the possible dispatch of a visiting mission in consultation with the administering Power ...".
4. During its consideration of the Territory, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory. The Committee also had before it a letter dated 24 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (see annex II to the present chapter), containing an invitation to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to Guam in November 1978.
5. The representative of the United States, as the administering Power concerned, participated in the work of the Committee during its consideration of the item.
6. At the 1109th meeting, on 29 June, the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1109), introduced the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.109/L.1254), containing an account of its consideration of the Territory. The representative of China also made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1109).
7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided, without objection, to accept the invitation extended to the Committee by the United States Government

* Previously issued under the symbol A/33/23/Add.6.

referred to in paragraph 4 above. The Committee also decided that the mission should consist of three members, to be appointed subsequently on the basis of the consultations to be held by the Chairman.

8. At the 1110th meeting, on 30 June, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Ivory Coast, Sweden, Australia, Czechoslovakia and Cuba as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1110).

9. At the 1115th meeting, on 10 August, the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee submitted, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, an oral revision to the conclusion and recommendations contained in the report (A/AC.109/L.1254), by which the fifth paragraph which read:

"(5) The Special Committee, recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning military bases, as well as resolution 32/28 of 28 November 1977, recognizes that the presence of military bases could constitute a factor in impeding the implementation of the Declaration and reaffirms its conviction that the presence of military bases on Guam should not prevent the people of the Territory from exercising their right to self-determination in accordance with the Declaration and the purposes and principles of the Charter "

was replaced by

"(5) The Special Committee, recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning military bases in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, recognizes that the presence of military bases could constitute a factor impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and reaffirms its strong conviction that the presence of military bases in Guam should not prevent the people of the Territory from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

10. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Iraq, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Congo, the Ivory Coast, Bulgaria and Ethiopia (A/AC.109/PV.1115) the Committee adopted the report of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, as orally revised, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see para. 14 below).

11. At the same meeting, further statements were made by the representative of China and by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1115).

12. On 11 August, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

13. At its 1133rd meeting, on 12 September, the Special Committee decided, without objection: (a) to request the Chairman to take action, as necessary, on the basis of consultations regarding the composition of the United Nations visiting mission to Guam; and (b) to take up the report of the mission when it became available (A/AC.109/PV.1133).

B. Decision of the Special Committee

14. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 1115th meeting on 10 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 10 above, is reproduced below:

(1) The Special Committee reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Guam to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) Fully aware of the special circumstances of Guam, owing to such factors as its size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources, the Special Committee reiterates the view that these circumstances should in no way delay the speedy implementation of the process of self-determination in conformity with the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV), which fully applies to the Territory.

(3) The Special Committee expresses its appreciation for the co-operation given by the administering Power, which has enabled the Committee to conduct a more informed and meaningful examination of Guam, with a view to continuing the process of decolonization towards the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration. In this regard, the Committee particularly welcomes the invitation extended by the United States Government to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to observe the constitutional referendum on the draft constitution 1/ to be held on 7 November 1978 and, as well, to observe conditions in Guam. 2/ However, the Committee considers that the main purpose of the mission will be to acquire first-hand information on the situation in the Territory and to ascertain the views of the people of Guam concerning their future political status.

(4) The Special Committee notes that the preamble to the draft constitution provides for the people of the Territory to assume "the responsibilities of self-government within political union with the United States of America". In this connexion, the Committee, mindful of the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration set forth in resolution 1514 (XV) relating to the exercise of the right to self-determination, recalls that the administering Power has the duty to ensure that the people of the Territory are kept fully informed of all options in conformity with the Declaration. Consequently, the Committee requests the administering Power to provide it with details on the process envisaged so as to enable it to ascertain that all options have been offered to the people of Guam.

(5) The Special Committee, recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly concerning military bases in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, recognizes that the presence of military bases

1/ Adopted by the Guam Constitutional Convention on 15 December 1977.

2/ See annex II to the present chapter.

could constitute a factor impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and reaffirms its strong conviction that the presence of military bases in Guam should not prevent the people of the Territory from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

(6) The Special Committee, noting that the military establishment constitutes the largest source of employment in Guam, reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power for the economic and social development of the Territory. In this connexion, the Committee calls upon the administering Power to take all possible steps to strengthen and diversify the economy of the Territory in order to reduce its dependence on limited economic activities.

(7) The Special Committee urges the administering Power, in co-operation with the territorial Government, to continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the rights of the people of Guam to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development. Regarding foreign influence in the Territory, the Committee requests the administering Power to provide it with further information concerning the protection of property rights of the people of the Territory.

(8) Bearing in mind recent reports of abuse and intimidation of immigrant labour, in particular labour from Asia, the Special Committee stresses the importance of applying principles applicable to work conditions equally to all those who live and work in the Territory and not only to certain groups in the Guamanian society. The Committee would welcome any further information which the administering Power may be able to provide in this field.

ANNEX I*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1230.

GUAM a/

1. GENERAL

1. Basic information on Guam is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. b/ Supplementary information is set out below.
2. In October 1975, census figures from the individual municipal commissioners indicated a population of 102,057, compared with 88,331 reported in 1973 by the Guam Research Bureau. Both totals include approximately 20,000 aliens residing in the Territory. In 1977, there were also about 9,600 United States military personnel in Guam with their dependants.
3. On 27 January 1978, an earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale shook Guam, causing widespread minor damage evaluated at \$US 300,000. c/ It was the strongest earthquake to strike the Territory since the one of 1 November 1975, which measured 6.25 on the Richter scale and caused about \$US 1.6 million in damage to military and civilian property.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. General

4. The Territory is administered under the Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended, and is under the general supervision of the United States Department of the Interior. It is administered by a Governor and a Lieutenant-Governor and has a unicameral Legislature consisting of 21 representatives. All government officials are elected under a system of universal adult suffrage, applicable to persons 18 years of age and older. Although Guamanians are United States citizens, they are not eligible while resident in Guam to vote in national elections. Messrs. Ricardo J. Bordallo and Rudolph G. Sablan, both Democrats, elected in 1974 for a four-year term, remain as Governor and Lieutenant-Governor.
5. In November 1977, the Guam Legislature voted unanimously to recruit an ombudsman, who would be required to investigate any citizen's allegation that an agency had violated a law or a departmental regulation, unfairly rendered a decision

a/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United States of America under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 7 March 1978 for the year ended 30 June 1977.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XXIII, annex.

c/ The local currency is the United States dollar (\$US).

based on factual error, failed to explain adequately an action or performed in an unreasonable manner. After an investigation, the ombudsman could either recommend prosecution if he found evidence of a crime or recommend corrective or disciplinary action. The Legislature agreed to engage an ombudsman for a six-year term. He would be prohibited from participation in political activities, and his removal could be initiated by voter petition and carried out following a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

B. Legislature

6. The Fourteenth Guam Legislature, which opened in January 1977, is composed of 13 Republicans and 8 Democrats. The Legislature is re-elected every two years. The Territory has a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives of the United States Congress.

C. Political parties

7. In addition to the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, a branch of the Libertarian Party was established in Guam in 1976. All three parties are affiliated with their United States counterparts. The Libertarian Party, which has 35 members, is reported to endorse territorial independence for all United States colonial dependencies, including Guam, to free them from "United States dominance, and to free the United States from massive subsidization of them at the taxpayers' expense". In Guam, the Libertarian Party is seeking to convert such local utilities as the Guam Telephone Authority (GTA), the Guam Power Authority (GPA) and the Public Utility Agency of Guam (PUAG) to publicly owned services.

D. Judiciary

8. The District Court of Guam is presided over by a judge appointed by the President of the United States for an eight-year term. It serves as the federal court of Guam. As with other federal district courts, it has jurisdiction over all cases arising under the United States Constitution, as well as United States treaties and laws. The Superior Court of Guam handles all other cases arising under the laws of Guam. Judge Cristobal Duenas, a Guamanian, sat as judge of the District Court during the period under review.

9. The Supreme Court of Guam was established in January 1976, with appellate jurisdiction over local, non-federal issues. In May 1977, this newly created court was denied recognition by the United States Supreme Court on the ground that only the United States Congress could remove the right of the District Court of Guam to hear all appeals. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the Organic Act of Guam, 1950, as amended, did not permit the Guam Legislature to divest the District Court of its jurisdiction over superior court appeals. A minority of the justices of the United States Supreme Court (four of the nine) expressed the opinion that the decision was perhaps unprecedented, since by its action the Court had abolished the Supreme Court of Guam, "a significant part of the system of self-government established by some 85,000 American citizens through their freely elected legislature".

10. On 2 August 1977, the Guam Constitutional Convention voted to resurrect the Guam Supreme Court, and included in the draft constitution an article providing for a judicial system in the Territory (see also para. 18 below).

11. Subsequently, late in 1977, the United States Supreme Court was asked to decide whether the District Court of Guam or the Superior Court of Guam had jurisdiction in cases involving residents of the 50 states of the United States. The question had arisen because the Organic Act and its 1958 amendment, in transferring jurisdiction over local cases from federal courts to Guamanian courts, had not specified the jurisdiction in diversity cases (a resident of Guam suing a resident of one of the 50 states or vice versa). The United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decided that the United States Congress had intended that the District Court of Guam should have diversity jurisdiction comparable to that of a federal court of the United States.

12. The United States Supreme Court declared unanimously, however, that the District Court of Guam lacked the power to hear lawsuits by residents of the 50 states against Guam residents or vice versa. The justices, who decided the case without hearing arguments, said they would not rule in favour of the Court "because Congress has neither explicitly nor implicitly granted diversity jurisdiction to the District Court". The action therefore denied the claim of the District Court, and reversed the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

E. Future status of the Territory

13. On 10 December 1976, the Governor of Guam signed into law a bill calling for the convening of a constitutional convention in 1977. Under the terms of the law, the convention was to provide Guam with its own constitution (to replace the Organic Act of 1950, as amended), which would recognize the sovereignty of the United States over Guam and provide for a three-branch territorial Government. The constitution was to be drafted between 1 July and 31 October 1977 by 40 delegates who were elected on 16 April 1977, and was to be presented for approval to the President and Congress of the United States as well as to the Guam electorate.

14. The President of the Constitutional Convention, the Chairman of the Political Status Commission and the Committee on Federal Territorial Affairs requested the administering Power to send a United States official to Guam to help draft the constitution.

15. At a news conference held early in July 1977, Mr. Antonio B. Won Pat, the representative of Guam to the United States Congress, warned the convention delegates that if they proposed to redefine Guam's relationship with the United States, they might have difficulty in obtaining the approval of the United States Congress. In his opinion, the Convention had no legal authority to make such a proposal, which would not be considered by Congress. In a statement before the Convention, Mr. Won Pat declared that, although the Federal Government had authorized Guam to write its own constitution, it was questionable whether that authority included local determination of United States laws applicable to Guam. He stated that his earlier remark had been an attempt to discourage delegates from proposing a constitution for the Territory.

16. Among the proposals made by the delegates to the Convention were the following: (a) United States citizens should neither own nor lease land, nor operate a business in the Territory unless they had lived there for five years; (b) Guam's relationship with the United States should be re-examined with a view to repealing the application of certain United States laws thought to be harmful to the economy; and (c) only native-born Guamanians or their direct descendants should be eligible to hold the office of Governor or Lieutenant-Governor.

17. Following rejection by most delegates of a provision to create a two-house legislative body, the Convention voted to retain the existing unicameral system. Most proposals calling for a two-tiered legislative branch were aimed at setting up a lower house, made up of village commissioners, so that political power could be shared by local authorities. Other delegates had suggested the strengthening of village governments by creating village mayors and councils. The village commissioners preferred, however, to be given increased administrative powers in their respective villages.

18. On 25 August, the judges of Guam met with Convention delegates to consider the proposed judicial article (see also paras. 8-12 above). They were unanimously opposed to changing the name of the Superior Court to "Island Court", as the article proposed, because, in their view, the public might think of it as a rural or municipal court, rather than a court of general jurisdiction. One of the recommendations offered by the judges would allow them to sit for longer than two years after their appointment and prior to their being nominated for retention of their seats on the election ballot. They considered that the impeachment and removal clause for judges was too strict and questioned the six-year residency requirement for judges. Although the judges agreed that the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals should hear cases on appeal from the newly created Guam Supreme Court, they failed to agree on the types of cases to be appealed.

19. In September, a draft constitution was circulated to all 19 villages for consideration at local meetings.

20. On 28 October, the Constitutional Convention adopted a proposal for a 22-member legislature to be elected from 10 electoral districts based on the number of registered votes rather than the number of residents, thus guaranteeing representation for the smaller southern villages. The Convention also approved a proposal giving the Supreme Court of Guam responsibility for redistricting and reapportioning in the Territory. Although no details are available, the delegates reportedly approved most of the remainder of the proposals for the Legislature.

21. On 29 October, the village hearings by the Convention were completed. The last of the villagers consulted, those of Inarajan, were strongly in favour of adding a "native-born" restriction to the qualifications of candidates for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, a point repeatedly raised at the hearings since mid-October. The indigenous Chamorro residents wanted more control over the direction of development in the Territory.

22. Although the subject was not included in their mandate, Convention delegates made proposals on how to improve ties between Guam and the United States (see also

paras. 15-18 and 20 above). One of the Convention's major concerns was immigration. Throughout the sessions and public hearings, criticism of the large numbers of aliens, especially Filipinos, was closely tied to issues concerning the Chamorro culture. Delegates approved proposals calling for local authority "to restrict entry into the island pursuant to the actions of the Government of Guam", and "to protect the lands, customs and culture ... and to expand economic opportunities in Guam". There were also proposals for more local administrative autonomy.

F. Public service

23. In his message of 6 February 1978 on the state of the Territory, Governor Bordallo stated that his administration had reduced government employment from 11,238 in October 1974 to 8,241 in January 1978. During the year under review, government employees had received a salary increase of \$US 1,400 per year which accounted for a \$1.5 million increase in the record budget proposed for 1978/79 (see also para. 28 below).

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

24. In his message of 6 February, Governor Bordallo stated that 1977 had been the first good year for the economy that had begun since the precipitous slide of the Territory in 1974. As signs of that improvement, the Governor reported that, from 1976 to 1977, gross business receipts had increased from \$US 602 million to \$US 650 million; gross tax receipts from \$US 19 million to \$US 24 million; and the hotel occupancy tax from \$US 767,000 to \$US 849,000. The Governor also mentioned that the increase in business licences in 1977 was a sign of improving times and confidence in the economy, thus reflecting Guam's success in encouraging the establishment of local manufacturing firms and attracting off-island firms. The new firms, representing a variety of products, employed about 300 workers during 1977 and were expected to employ an additional 900 workers in the near future.

25. The Governor attributed the improvement in the economy to increases in federal expenditure, construction and the number of tourists and to the "Green Revolution". d/ In 1977, the Federal Government expended \$US 450 million, including military expenditure, in the Territory, an increase of \$US 85 million over 1976. According to Governor Bordallo, progress in capital improvements during 1977 was the greatest in the history of the Territory. Projects undertaken totalled 336, valued at \$US 89 million.

26. The destruction caused by typhoon Pamela in May 1976 resulted in a small construction boom in both the public and private sectors. During the 18 months following the devastating storm, loans for residential construction were provided

d/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XXII, annex, para. 24.

by the Territory's lending institutions (\$US 187 million) and by the United States Federal Housing Authority (FHA) (\$US 80 million). In addition, \$US 75 million was made available from payments on insurance policies, the American Red Cross and other sources to replace personal property losses sustained during the typhoon. Some \$US 14 million was also issued in tax refunds in 1977 (see para. 30 (c) below).

27. According to the Governor, the "Green Revolution" campaign provided direct benefits to agricultural producers and their families. In particular, he cited the opening of a public market at the Paseo de Susana in December 1977 and the creation of an important sales outlet for local products and produce.

B. Public finance

28. The budget for the fiscal year 1977/78 amounted to \$US 109 million. For 1978/79, the Governor requested \$US 123 million, the highest ever proposed in the Territory. The Governor's office linked the increase to inflation and to the expansion of public safety, health, education and economic development programmes.

29. In October 1977, the United States Congress passed the Omnibus Territories Bill, which included a \$US 25 million grant to the Government of Guam for the purchase of the Medical Center of the Marianas. It also authorized appropriations of up to \$US 60 million for other projects in Guam. One provision of the bill authorizes persons whose land had been expropriated by military forces after the Second World War to sue in federal court for additional compensation. Mr. Won Pat called the measure "one of the most important and far-reaching bills for Guam ever considered by the United States Congress".

30. Other key provisions in the bill included the following:

(a) \$US 15 million for typhoon reconstruction, with the funds destined for construction of public facilities and maintenance of essential services;

(b) \$US 5 million over the next five years for the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA);

(c) \$US 14 million in tax rebates to the Government of Guam;

(d) Transfer of the federal Comptroller's Office from the Government of Guam to the United States Department of the Interior, at an estimated savings of \$US 600,000 a year for the Territory;

(e) Authorization for federal agencies to consolidate grant funds for Guam;

(f) Permission for the Guam Legislature to introduce a separate local tax of up to 10 per cent of the total tax liability of each Guam taxpayer.

C. Trade

31. According to statistics published by the United States Department of Commerce for 1975/76, Guam imported more than \$US 3,000 and exported \$US 300 worth of goods for every civilian inhabitant. Between 1967 and 1976, imports more than quadrupled, from \$US 63 million to \$US 267 million. Exports during the same period increased from \$US 7 million to \$US 25 million and Guam's trade deficit increased from \$US 50 million to \$US 240 million, the highest in the history of the Territory. Guam imports nearly all goods consumed locally, while tourism and federal government expenditures account for most of the exports.

32. The statistics also showed that some 9 per cent of Guam's imports - valued at \$US 23 million - were flown in during 1976, compared with \$US 27 million in 1975. The percentage of goods brought in by sea increased by 2.5 per cent, from \$US 238 million in 1975 to \$US 244 million in 1976.

D. Agriculture

33. In his message of 6 February, Governor Bordallo pointed to the success of his "Green Revolution" programme. Since the end of the Second World War, Guam had imported most of its food. The new programme, however, was aimed at increasing to the maximum local production of consumer items and agricultural products. As a consequence, many families had returned to tilling their land and were earning profits selling produce to resort hotels and to the military.

34. Food production is encouraged by the local Department of Agriculture in co-operation with GEDA. Commercial vegetable production has increased since 1974, when several hydroponic farms began operations. Among these are Pacific Produce, which raises tomatoes, bell peppers and cucumbers at Mangilao.

35. During the year under review, GEDA approved a \$US 150,000 loan to help a company jointly owned by the Government of Guam and Japanese interests to finance the development of a large hydroponic farm. The money was to be used to construct three large greenhouses on a 3,700-square-metre plot of land at Yigo. According to the director of the company, tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and a special type of melon would be grown. The company would also help to train local farmers to operate their own hydroponic farms. GEDA has a 9.6 per cent interest in the venture, which also hopes to sell more than 200 hydroponic units, each of which would cost about \$US 50,000, within five years.

36. The produce from hydroponic farms is competitively priced and reportedly well received locally. Through hydroponics it is hoped that Guam may become self-sufficient in fresh vegetables. Further agricultural expansion would require improved irrigation among other things.

37. The United States Navy announced plans to increase its purchase of local fruits and vegetables (from \$US 50,000 to \$US 200,000 a year).

E. Fisheries

38. The Government's fresh-water experimental fish farm located at Talofofu, consists of two ponds, one of which is devoted to raising shrimp brought in from Hawaii, and the other to eels, milk fish and talpin, a local fresh-water fish.

39. In 1977, GEDA approved a \$US 10,000 grant to the University of Guam to conduct a 12-month feasibility study of fish productivity in the waters around the island. The study was to evaluate the effectiveness and potential yield of a fish weir placed on the terrace of the Guam reef front, and to assess its impact on the catches of fishermen using other fishing methods. The University of Guam pledged \$US 16,000 in services towards the study.

F. Power

40. In October 1977, GPA announced its decision to assume control of the United States Navy's share of the Territory's power system by 1979. The Board of Directors took the decision because the Navy, which operates the power system jointly with GPA, had not been paying its share of power costs. In the last three years, the Navy is reported to have paid a total of \$US 15.6 million less than civilian customers. Annual power revenue from non-military use totals about \$US 20 million.

G. Tourism

41. Since 1967, a substantial number of hotels have been constructed to keep pace with the rapid growth in the tourist industry. Tourism is viewed as offering the greatest immediate potential for economic development.

42. In 1976, approximately 223,000 tourists visited Guam, the largest number coming from Japan (69 per cent) and North America (3 per cent). In 1977, the number of tourists increased by 10 per cent to 245,000. Statistics indicate that the number of visitors from areas other than Japan and North America increased steadily throughout 1977. The Guam Visitors Bureau estimated that tourism generated well over \$US 110 million worth of business activities during 1977 and was directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of 3,500 workers. The improvement in tourism in 1977 was credited largely to the Bureau whose expanded activities had been made possible by a substantial increase in its operating budget, from \$US 225,000 in the previous year to \$US 600,000.

H. Transport and communications

43. Guam has paved roads crossing the Territory, as well as a 90-kilometre highway encircling the island, all of which are in good condition. There is no mass public transport system, but taxis and rental cars are plentiful.

44. The Territory is served by Japan Air Lines, Pan American World Airways (Pan Am), Trans World Airlines, Inc. (TWA), Continental Airlines, Air Micronesia and Air Pacific International. Air Micronesia connects Guam with Hawaii and with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Air Pacific International operates daily scheduled passenger services between Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Guam. Singapore Airlines was scheduled to start bi-weekly cargo flights from Singapore, Hong Kong, Hawaii and the west coast of the United States to Guam on 1 April 1978. The airline, which will use Boeing 707 aircraft, has no immediate plans for passenger service to Guam. Charter flights are available through Guam Helicopters, Inc. and Island Aviation, Inc. from Guam to the Northern Mariana Islands.

45. The Guam International Airport has a modern civilian air terminal which was opened in 1967. The airport, which is capable of taking the largest commercial jet planes, is owned by the United States Navy.

46. The Director of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the Pacific/Asia region announced in 1977 that \$US 3.5 million had been allocated to Guam for improvements to the International Airport, including site preparation and drainage of the parking apron.

47. Apra Harbor, the port of entry to the Territory, situated just south of Agaña, is controlled by the United States Navy. The harbour is partly man-made, with a protective curve extending five kilometres from Cabras Island. Nearby Commercial Port, which was opened in 1969, has completely modern facilities for handling either container or conventional cargo.

48. Cargo is carried from Japan and other points in the Far East by the Daiwa Line and Kyowa Shipping Lines. Nauru Pacific Lines operates from Australia via Papua New Guinea to Guam and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

49. The Guam work force is currently estimated at about 35,000 persons. During the economic slump between 1974 and 1976, approximately 8,800 jobs were lost; employment fell from a record 39,900 in 1973 to 31,100 in 1976; the unemployment rate reached 13.3 per cent in May 1976. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2,600 jobs were added to the economy in 1977. In addition, the Guam Employment Services placed 2,513 workers in the private sector. Consequently, the number of unemployed decreased from 3,630 in May 1976 to 1,910 in March 1977.

50. At the end of 1976, there were 4,767 aliens in the Territory holding temporary visas. In June 1977, a United States Government report charged that the alien labour situation in Guam was considered "not to be in the public interests ... Foreign workers admitted to Guam depress the wages and working conditions of domestic workers; firms that employ foreign workers (the firms themselves are often foreign-based) have an unfair competitive advantage over United States firms". New federal guidelines designed to stem the flow of temporary alien workers were

implemented in July. Under the new regulations, an employer may not request employment of an alien worker until he has certified that a skilled worker is unavailable either on Guam, Hawaii or the west coast of the United States. The United States Department of Labor, which is responsible for the final approval of alien permits, is to assign an officer to Guam for that purpose.

51. After the military establishment and the territorial Government, the construction industry is the next largest employer in Guam. In January 1978, the territorial Labor Department and the Guam Contractors Association signed a memorandum of understanding to expedite the processing of applications for alien construction workers. The memorandum was prompted by a backlog of contractor applications to bring some 2,500 construction workers to Guam. The Labor Department planned to appoint an emigration certifying officer to work permanently on Guam to replace labour officials based on the west coast of the United States.

B. Public health

52. The Guam Memorial Hospital, which was built after the Second World War and dedicated in 1957, has 240 beds, including those in the tuberculosis and maternity wards. Health care is also provided by the Catholic Medical Center, the Medical Group, the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic and the Medical Center of the Marianas (see para. 29 above). There is also a naval hospital on the island.

53. During the period under review, the Guam Memorial Hospital provided 70 per cent of the total acute care needs of the Territory. Operating costs for 1977 decreased by 7.6 per cent to \$US 760,000, compared with 1976.

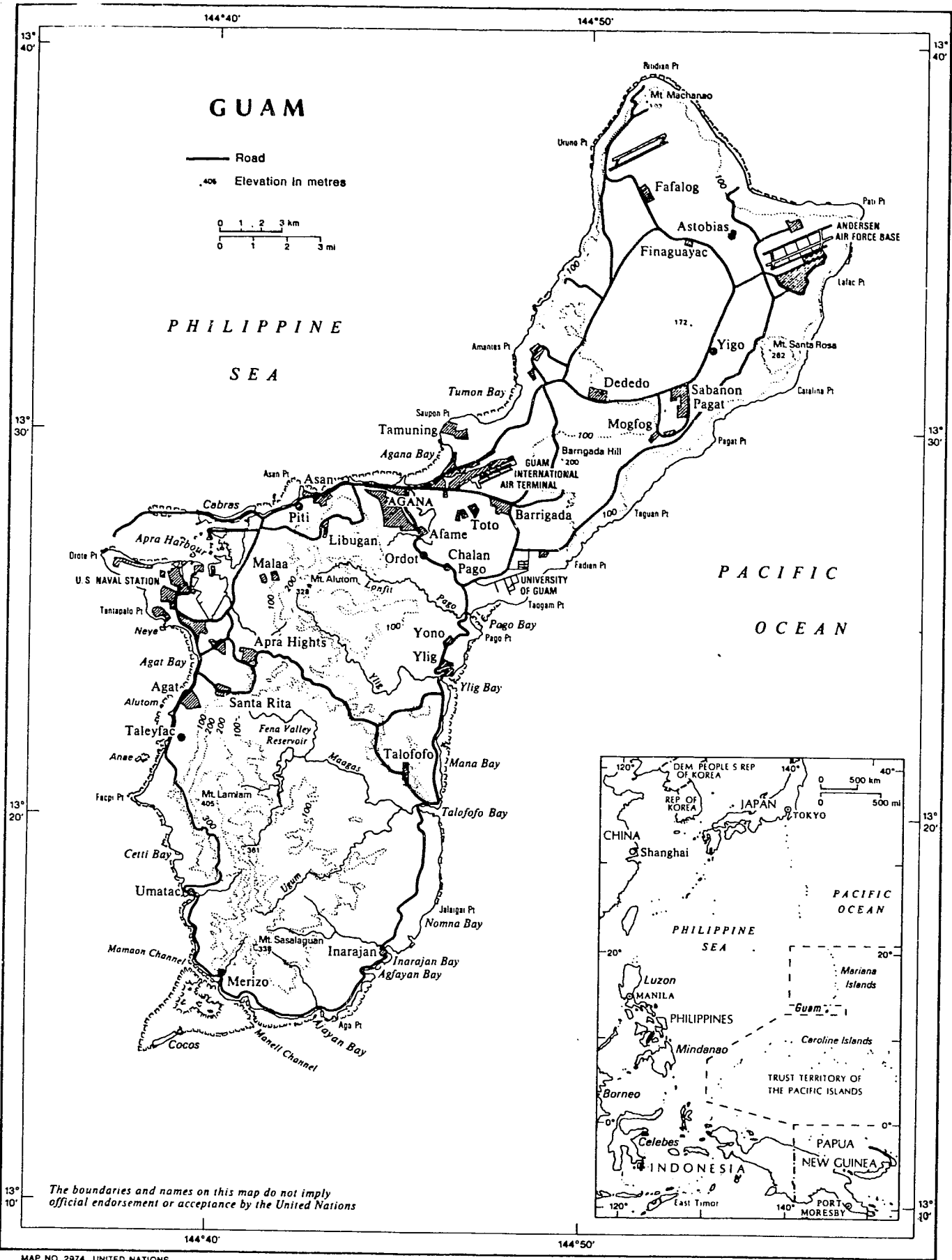
54. In his message of 6 February, Governor Bordallo stated that his administration had made a significant break-through in Guam's lengthy pursuit of a new and modern hospital facility. He stated that he expected the Congress and President of the United States to approve a \$US 25 million grant authorizing the purchase of the Medical Center of the Marianas by either March or April 1978. Pending final appropriation of the funds by Congress, the Guam Memorial Hospital had moved its acute care service into the Medical Center facilities under a lease agreement.

55. Government expenditure on health in 1977 amounted to \$US 7.3 million.

5. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

56. Education is compulsory for children between 6 and 16 years of age. There are 37 public schools, including 28 elementary schools, a trade and technical school and a school for the handicapped. Other schools are operated by religious missions.

57. School enrolment for 1976/77 totalled 27,272 (28,206 in 1975/76): 15,888 in the elementary grades (16,581 in 1975/76); 6,142 in the junior high schools (6,494 in 1975/76); and 5,242 in the senior high schools (5,131 in 1975/76). Some 10,285 students were enrolled at the University of Guam in 1975/76. The Department of Education employed 1,051 teachers in 1976 (1,324 in 1975).



The boundaries and names on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

ANNEX II*

Letter dated 24 May 1978 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee

In my letter of 13 February 1978, I expressed the hope that I would be able to inform you at an early juncture of my Government's decision regarding inviting a mission to visit a Territory administered by the United States during 1978. I am very pleased to inform you that the United States Government wishes to extend an invitation to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to observe the upcoming constitutional referendum in Guam and to observe conditions in the Territory.

Because the referendum is scheduled to take place on 7 November, during the height of the General Assembly, and in light of the inconvenience a prolonged absence from New York at that time may cause members of the Special Committee, the mission is invited to arrive in Guam on 6 November. Following detailed briefings and observation of the voting, counting of the votes and announcement of the results of the referendum, the mission could remain for some additional days to observe conditions in Guam.

In closing, let me assure you of the continued co-operation of the United States in the important work of the Special Committee and of the continuing dedication of my Government to the principles concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations.

(Signed) Andrew YOUNG

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/561.

CHAPTER XXVIII*

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 1129th meeting, on 1 September 1978.
2. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 32/42 of 7 December 1977 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, *inter alia*, "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular: ... to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session". The Special Committee also took into account General Assembly decision 32/412 of 28 November 1977 concerning the Territory.
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex I to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory. The Committee also had before it a note verbale dated 31 August 1978 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex II to the present report).

B. Decision of the Special Committee

4. At its 1129th meeting, on 1 September, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1129), the Special Committee decided, without objection, to give consideration to the item at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion at its thirty-third session, and, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Assembly, to authorize its Rapporteur to transmit to the Assembly all available information on the question.

* Previously issued as part of A/33/23/Add.7.

ANNEX I*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1258.

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) a/

1. GENERAL

1. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas) lie in the South Atlantic, some 772 kilometres north-east of Cape Horn. They comprise 200 islands and cover a total land area of 11,961 square kilometres. There are two large islands, East Falkland and West Falkland. Apart from a number of small islands, the Dependencies consist of South Georgia, 1,287 kilometres east-south-east of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and the uninhabited South Sandwich Islands, some 756 kilometres south-east of South Georgia.

2. At the last census, held in 1972, the population of the Territory, excluding the Dependencies, numbered 1,957, almost all of whom were of European descent, mainly of British origin. Of this total, 1,079 lived in Stanley, the capital. The estimated population in mid-1976 was 2,000.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

3. An outline of the constitutional arrangements for the Territory, introduced in 1949, and amended in 1955 and 1964, appears in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth session. b/ Those arrangements were modified by the Falkland Islands (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order 1977 (see paras. 4-7 below). Briefly, the governmental structure under the 1977 Order consists of: (a) the Governor appointed by the Queen (currently Mr. J. R. W. Parker); (b) an Executive Council consisting of two ex officio members (the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary), two unofficial members appointed by the Governor, and two elected members of the Legislative Council, elected by the members of that Council; (c) a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, who presides, two ex officio members (the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary), and six members elected on the basis of universal adult suffrage; and (d) a Court of Appeals set up in July 1965 to hear and determine appeals from the courts of the Territory.

A. Constitutional reform

4. As previously reported, c/ a Select Committee of the Legislative Council was appointed by the Governor in January 1974, "to ascertain the views of the electorate on constitutional changes and to make appropriate recommendations". The Committee held a series of public meetings in the Territory during 1974 and in early 1975 it submitted its report to the Legislative Council.

a/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 23 November 1976 for the year ending 31 December 1975.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8023/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XIX, annex, paras. 4-7.

c/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVIII, paras. 5-6.

5. After its consideration of the report of the Select Committee, the Legislative Council forwarded to the United Kingdom Government a number of proposals for constitutional reform, which included: (a) an increase in the number of elected members from four to six, giving the Legislative Council an elected majority; (b) retention of the two ex officio members and the Governor in the Legislative Council; and (c) the lowering of the voting age to 18 years.

6. In March 1976, it was reported that the United Kingdom Government had agreed to the proposals and would implement them as soon as possible, following discussion and confirmation by the electorate. Elections were held in the Territory in May 1976, and the Falkland Islands (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Order 1977 (see para. 3 above), was approved by the United Kingdom Privy Council on 9 March 1977.

7. In order to provide for the six elected members of the Legislative Council, the constituencies had to be reorganized. Previously, seats were distributed as follows: one each for East and West Falkland and two for Stanley. The new distribution is: (a) four electoral areas, East Stanley, West Stanley, East Falkland and West Falkland; and (b) two electoral divisions, Stanley and the "camp". d/ A change was made in residence qualifications for candidates, who are now required to have been ordinarily resident in the Territory for at least three years (previously one year). Provision for voting by mail was also made for those voters unable to attend the polls.

B. General elections

8. Elections in the Territory under the new constitutional arrangements were held in two stages: (a) for the seats for East and West Falkland and East and West Stanley, between 4 and 6 October 1977; and (b) for the other two seats between 24 and 26 October. In the first phase of the elections, the results were as follows:

- East Falkland: Mr. Adrian Monk, the only candidate nominated, was returned unopposed;
- West Falkland: Mr. Derek Evans, with 99 votes, defeated two other candidates (42 and 38 votes);
- East Stanley: No nominations were made for this seat;
- West Stanley: Mr. Stuart Wallace, with 89 votes, defeated two other candidates (60 and 49 votes).

9. In the second phase, the Stanley seat was won by Mr. William E. Bowles, with 156 votes, who defeated three candidates (109, 102 and 51 votes) in his third consecutive election to the Legislative Council. The camp seat was taken by Mr. Tim Miller, with 163 votes in a narrow win over two other candidates (159 and 60 votes).

d/ The term "camp" is used locally to describe all those areas of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) outside Stanley, including the settlements.

10. The new Legislative Council still includes one nominated member to fill the uncontested seat for East Stanley. On 1 November, the Governor announced in a radio broadcast that Mr. W. H. Goss had accepted the nomination to that seat. In the same broadcast, the Governor stated that Mr. Bill Luxton had accepted the nomination to the Executive Council in Mr. Goss' place. At the first meeting of the new Legislative Council, on 21 November 1977, Mr. John Massingham, the new Chief Secretary, and one nominated and five elected members were sworn in.

11. In his opening address to the Council, the Governor stated that inclement weather and new voting procedures had made the recent electoral campaign a difficult one. He added that there was now ample time to decide whether it would be necessary to revise and simplify current constitutional and legislative arrangements before the next election.

C. Relations between the Governments of
Argentina and the United Kingdom

12. Information concerning the relations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) prior to and including 15 July 1977, is contained in previous reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly. e/

13. By its decision 32/412 of 28 November 1977, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fourth Committee, decided to defer until its thirty-third session consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and requested the Special Committee to keep the situation in the Territory under review.

14. In identical letters dated 16 August 1977, the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that representatives of their Governments had met in Rome from 13 to 15 July 1977 and had decided to meet again in November (A/32/168 and A/32/169). This meeting was subsequently held in New York from 13 to 15 December, at the conclusion of which a joint communiqué was issued (A/33/57, annex, and A/33/58, annex), the last two paragraphs of which read as follows:

"The two sides recognized that there was a wide range of issues involved which would require detailed study. They accordingly agreed to establish at official level two parallel working groups on political relations, including sovereignty, and on economic co-operation, to pursue these studies in depth and to report back to the heads of delegations. The venue, composition and timing of the meetings of the working groups will be settled through diplomatic channels.

"The two Governments will keep under constant review the progress of the studies of the working groups. A further round of negotiations will be held within the second quarter of 1978."

e/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXX, annex I, paras. 5-25; and ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVIII, annex, paras. 9-31.

15. At a press conference held after the talks, Mr. Edward Rowlands, the United Kingdom Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, stated that he considered it a success that the negotiations had been held directly and at such a high level, even though no solution had been reached at the meeting. He also stressed that the United Kingdom Government would not put before Parliament for consideration any proposed solution which did not have the support of the people of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Mr. Rowlands reportedly flew to Rio de Janeiro on 18 December to meet with representatives of the territorial Legislative Council, including the Governor, to consider the possibility of including a representative of the islanders in the United Kingdom delegation to the talks.

16. The first meeting of the working groups was held, at an official level, between the two Governments at Lima, from 15 to 17 February 1978. No joint communiqué was issued at the close of the meeting, which was characterized as preparatory to plenary round discussions scheduled to be held at a ministerial level during the second quarter of 1978. According to the press, the delegations were headed by Mr. Medina Muñoz of the Argentine Ministry of External Relations and Worship, and Mr. George Hall, Under-Secretary of State at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. Shackleton report

17. As previously reported, f/ the report prepared by Lord Shackleton, entitled Economic Survey of the Falkland Islands, g/ was issued by the United Kingdom Government in July 1976. In the introduction to the report, it was stated that the terms of reference were very wide since it was intended to provide an over-all survey of the economic prospects of the Territory in all sectors. In order to assess fully the development potential of the Territory, account had to be taken of the social dimensions of the situation. The terms of reference excluded any political considerations, however, and the report was thus based on the premise that the political status of the Territory would remain as it had been over the past 150 years. It was none the less stated that in certain proposed areas of development, particularly those related to the exploitation of off-shore resources, "co-operation with Argentina - even participation - should, if possible, be secured".

18. Lord Shackleton stated that his recommendations were based on the need not only to stimulate economic development, but also to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants, so as to counteract the trend of emigration and the feelings of isolation of the community. Three measures regarded as fundamental to any major development programme were suggested:

(a) A reversal of the outflow of funds from the Territory to the United Kingdom, to provide for investment locally, both by the Falkland Islands Company (FIC) and the people. The outflow of funds consists of company dividends and undistributed profits (after local taxes) from which there is substantial gain to the United Kingdom Exchequer through taxes. According to the Shackleton report,

f/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVIII, annex, paras. 27 and 40.

g/ London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1976.

it is estimated that between 1951 and 1973 the United Kingdom gained approximately £1.9 million h/ in taxes on the outflow. During the same period, United Kingdom aid to the Territory totalled approximately £900,000.

(b) The extension of the airport runway to handle large aircraft, requiring an additional investment of some £5.5 million on the part of the United Kingdom Government.

(c) The appointment of a Chief Executive, directly under the Governor, who would be responsible for economic and social development.

19. Some of the main recommendations are listed below:

(a) Diversification and development of the agricultural sector through the expansion of the research in progress by the Grasslands Trial Units (GTU) and the extension of its functions so as to provide other advisory services to farmers; the creation of small farm units to provide additional employment and improve the supply of fresh produce and livestock for local consumption; and the appointment of a wool-marketing adviser to improve returns from this sector and stabilize prices to producers.

(b) Development of potentially exploitable marine resources such as fish, krill (a small prawn high in protein) and kelp (for the production of alginates), which would require exploratory fishing surveys, feasibility studies and multinational collaboration, but would offer very substantial long-term economic benefits.

(c) Introduction of the required legislative, technical and environmental measures, as well as co-operation with Argentina, to exploit the promising prospects for the discovery of oil and gas deposits in the off-shore areas of the Territory.

(d) Industrial development, which would include the expansion of knitwear production, now carried out on a small scale, following organizational, marketing and design studies, thus providing increased full-time and part-time employment. The failure of an earlier attempt to establish a mutton-freezing plant indicates the need for a feasibility study, to be undertaken after the results of research by GTU become available; the possibility of integrating mutton freezing with the freezing of fish for export should be considered.

(e) Development of the tourism sector, which would be limited to a specialized group of people interested in wildlife (see para. 26 below). This development, which could provide increased employment in the catering, hotels and handicraft sectors, would be dependent on extension of the airport runway.

(f) Improvements to the road system in Stanley and to the outlying settlements, as well as to coastal shipping and the internal air service. This would require a large investment but would have major economic and social benefits.

h/ The local currency is the pound sterling.

(g) Improvements to secondary education through centralization of the educational system in Stanley, construction of boarding facilities, provision of vocational training both for students and those beyond school age, provision of better teaching facilities in the camp and the recruitment of certified teachers.

B. Implementation of the recommendations
of the Shackleton report

20. On 16 December 1977, replying to questions in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Secretary (Junior Minister) to the Ministry of Overseas Development, made the following statement with reference to the Shackleton report:

"First, I should like to state emphatically that the present Government, as its predecessors, has always recognized that the remaining dependencies have a special call upon the aid programme. Political considerations apart - and I am not going to trespass on the territory of my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs - this has meant that the Ministry of Overseas Development has given a high priority to considering the economic and social needs of the 1,950 inhabitants of the Falkland Islands. The commissioning of the report from Lord Shackleton and his team and the seriousness with which we have followed up the report's suggestions give abundant evidence of our concern with and involvement in their problems.

"There is one general point which I must make. When the Ministry and the Falkland Islands Government consider aid - because, needless to say, British aid is not imposed on the Falkland Islands but is provided at the request of, and after discussion with, the Falkland Islands Government - we have to consider the amount of aid which the Falkland Islands can absorb without putting strains on its economy. The islands have hitherto been self-supporting, in the sense that the United Kingdom has not provided them with financial means to balance the budget. They and we wish this to remain so. We therefore have to consider aid which will not place an intolerable burden of recurrent costs on a small community, mainly engaged in the wool and sheep industry.

"Nor do we wish to flood the islands with expatriates. We have already a very extensive programme, for a country of this size, of technical co-operation and we also supplement the salaries of 44 expatriate officers working in the islands. The Ministry of Overseas Development pays for a large expert team working on the improvement of grasslands, an essential task in an economy based on sheep, but this sort of work is not the kind which produces instant dramatic results, or anything like the publicity which it really merits, both within and outside the Falkland Islands. We have funded a number of visiting experts to advise on subjects ranging from education to fire fighting, and we shall, of course, continue to respond to similar requests from the Falkland Islands Government as and when they come forward.

"Since the publication of the Shackleton report, our programme of technical co-operation and other aid in the Falkland Islands has in no way ignored Lord Shackleton's recommendations - quite the opposite is the case.

I would like to mention some of the things which we have financed which are directly in line with what the report recommends. The report rightly stresses the importance of internal transport to the islanders. We have financed a study of these problems taking into account both road, sea and air transport. Its recommendations should be ready very soon, and the Falkland Islands Government and ourselves will be able to study them early in the new year.

"Another major point made in the report was the importance of improving the education system in the islands. As a result of a subsequent visit by one of the Ministry's education advisers, a project for a new boarding school in Port Stanley has been drawn up, and we are prepared to provide finance for its building. We are also financing the expansion of the important Grasslands Trials Unit, which I have already mentioned, and we have sent an expert out to the islands to demonstrate sheepskin processing. We shall also be prepared, at the right time - the report suggests that this would be after the reports of the Grasslands Trials Unit have been received - to finance a study of mutton freezing.

"If and when the Falkland Islands want it, we would be prepared to advise on diversification of agriculture, on fisheries and on knitwear production. We have already provided advice on the Islands' fiscal and taxation problems, and this is being studied by the Falkland Islands Government. At their request, we are also recruiting a development officer. All these activities, none of them bringing about revolutionary and dramatic changes, are precisely the kind of things which are needed in a small community with limited manpower resources.

"The Shackleton report, of course, made other recommendations of a far more wide-ranging sort. In particular, the report suggested that there could be large-scale exploitation of three industries in or around the islands, namely, oil, fisheries and tourism. The Government's attitude to these suggestions has been consistent, ever since the late Anthony Crosland made his statement to the House last February. If the industries are to be exploited, it will be for the commercial sector, and certainly not for the Ministry of Overseas Development, to provide the considerable capital sums needed. I do not think that there would be major disagreement with that assertion, but it will not be possible for such large-scale exploitation to take place outside a general framework of economic co-operation with Argentina." i/

21. On 22 June 1978, Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made the following statement in the House of Lords concerning implementation of the recommendations of the Shackleton report:

"I reviewed our action to implement the Shackleton report in my answer to questions on 25 January. Since then we have made further progress. We are financing the construction of an all-weather road from Darwin to Stanley and of a new school hostel in Stanley. We are also strengthening the Public

i/ United Kingdom, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) House of Commons, Official Report (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1977) 16 December 1977, cols. 1233-1235.

Works Department, an essential contribution to these projects. We are carrying forward our urgent discussions with the Falkland Island Government on expanding the internal air service. A Salaries Commissioner and other experts have visited the Falklands. We are recruiting a fiscal adviser and a development officer." j/

C. The economy

22. The economy of the Territory continues to be overwhelmingly dependent on sheep farming for wool production. The grasslands are generally poor owing to difficult climatic and soil conditions, and as a result the yield per hectare is restricted. GTU, established in 1975 and financed by the United Kingdom Government, is conducting research into the improvement of pastures and related aspects of sheep farming (see paras. 19 (a) and 20 above). In 1975/76, there were 644,819 sheep in the Territory (628,147 in 1973/74) distributed as follows: East Falkland 365,673; West Falkland 209,790; other islands 69,356.

23. The price of wool, the principal export, is the most important factor governing the economic life of the Territory. Exports of wool were valued at £1.8 million in 1976 (£1.2 million in 1975), reflecting an increase in the price per kilogram, and a further increase was expected in 1977. Possibilities exist for the export of hides and skins, and in November 1977, Dr. John Barlow, an expert in this field, paid a three-week visit to the Territory to advise on the tanning and processing of sheepskins and hides, an activity which could be developed into a profitable home industry.

24. The Falklands Island Company, registered in the United Kingdom in 1851, is the major contributor to the economy, and the development of the Territory has been closely tied to the growth of the company. FIC, through its ownership of 288,843 sheep (out of a total of 644,819 in 1975/76) and 46 per cent of the land, is the largest producer of wool, and controls much of the local banking, commerce and shipping. After publication of the Shackleton report, and in relation to its recommendations on small-farm development and home-ownership in the Territory, FIC issued a statement late in 1976 on the question of home-ownership for farm employees and the need to provide finance to this end. Under the present system, farm owners provide employees with rent-free houses, which they must leave on retirement. Subsequently, in 1977, FIC issued a paper on housing finance, in which it recommended the establishment of a building society. FIC expressed the hope that the proposal for a building society, which had the backing of the Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association, Ltd., and the Falkland Islands Association of Farm Management, would receive the support of the local administration. The territorial Government is reported to be interested in this scheme and to have sought the advice of Mr. Trevor Pepper, its fiscal adviser, on the proposal. In November 1977, FIC offered to set up a pilot project in small-farm management on its farm at Green Patch, East Falkland. It proposed the division of the farm into six workable economic units for new owners or tenants who would use the facilities on a co-operative basis. FIC also stated that should the proposal be implemented, it would guarantee the livelihood and accrued benefits, including provident funds and pensions, of the present tenants.

j/ Ibid., House of Lords, Official Report (London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1978), 22 June 1978, cols. 1526-1528.

25. Other potential areas of economic development include tourism, fisheries, and the processing of kelp into alginate. As previously reported, k/ Alginat Industries, Ltd. informed the Government in June 1977 that it would not continue its plans for the production of alginate in the Territory.
26. Tourism, which is enhanced by the abundance of marine and bird-life in the Territory, registered a substantial increase in the period 1971-1975, with the number of sea-borne tourists amounting to 6,201 in the latter year. The major attractions for tourists are the large number of penguin rookeries, the breeding colonies of albatross and other sea-birds, seals, sea-lions and geese. Detailed figures for 1977 are not available, but the number of visitors is expected to increase further in the 1978 season, following the recent arrangements made for visits by three ships of the Costa Line. A Tourist Advisory Board exists in the Territory, to which members are appointed for a two-year period.
27. During the year under review, the Taiyo Fishing Company of Japan continued its research into fishing resources with a view to establishing a deep-sea fishing industry, and a United Kingdom company continued to explore the possibility of exploiting the stocks of king crab. Krill is reported to be present in very abundant quantities in the waters around the Islands. Several countries are reported to be interested in exploiting this valuable source of protein.
28. In April 1977, Mr. R. Duran, a consultant retained by the West Coast Trading Company, S.A., of Bergen, Norway, was reported to have spent a week in the Territory setting up an experiment, in co-operation with FIC, to determine the feasibility of air-drying unsalted fish. There appears to be a considerable market for this product, which is used for animal feed in certain developed countries. As mentioned in paragraph 19 (b) above, any large-scale fisheries development would require multinational co-operation in the area.
29. Important new prospects for development might result from the discovery of oil deposits in the Territory and its off-shore areas. The possibility of finding large oil deposits in the Malvinas Basin between Argentina and the Territory has aroused the interest of several major oil companies. Some petroleum geologists believe that there is a potential production comparable to that of the North Sea fields of the United Kingdom and Norway.
30. In late 1977, it was reported that Mr. Martínez de Hoz, the Argentine Minister of Economy, had visited the North Sea oil region on a visit to Europe and had discussed the possibility of United Kingdom co-operation with Argentina in the off-shore exploration programme.
31. On 1 December 1977, The Financial Times (London) reported that major international oil companies would carry out seismic exploration for oil in the waters around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The territorial Government subsequently announced that Geophysical Services, Inc. would survey the waters as far out as the 100-fathom line, would pay a fee of £100 to the Government and

k/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVIII, annex, para. 36.

would make the data available gratis. Geophysical Services, which is one of the two companies already carrying out seismic surveys in the area, was reported to be making the survey on behalf of the major oil companies, including the British Petroleum Company Ltd. The United Kingdom Government, which expected to receive the data for evaluation in March 1978, is reported to have said that, as on previous occasions, data on the oil potential of the area would be exchanged with the Argentine Government.

32. The Territory depends on imports to meet almost all of its requirements for consumer goods and capital equipment, and in past years, the United Kingdom has absorbed most of the Territory's exports and provided most of its imports. As noted in a previous report of the Special Committee, 1/ steps have been taken to increase trade between the Territory and the Argentine mainland, including the granting to Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales (YPF), the Argentine State oil company, of the rights to supply petroleum products to the Territory.

33. In 1971, the Governments of Argentina, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and the United Kingdom signed a Communications Agreement at Buenos Aires, designed to improve economic, social and cultural co-operation between the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Argentina. Air communications between Argentina and Stanley are operated on a weekly basis by Líneas Aéreas del Estado (LADE), a state-owned Argentine airline. The permanent airport at Stanley, constructed with United Kingdom Government funds and by Argentine technicians, was to be opened to traffic in May 1977. The airport was designed to take aircraft up to the size of the Hawker Siddeley HS-748; an extension to the runway would be necessary to accommodate larger aircraft.

34. Following the publication of the Shackleton report, the United Kingdom Government agreed to carry out a survey of the internal transport service (road, sea and air) in the Territory. The cost of the survey is being met from technical co-operation funds of the United Kingdom Ministry of Overseas Development. The purpose of the survey is to advise on the capital and recurrent costs of establishing and operating an efficient, cost-effective internal transport system.

4. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

35. There was no significant change in the labour situation in the Territory during the period under review. Owing to limited employment opportunities, there has been some loss of population to other countries. In order to reverse this trend, steps have been taken by the Government to stimulate the over-all development of the Territory, especially through economic diversification.

36. The Government maintains a general hospital with 27 beds at Stanley, which provides medical, surgical, obstetric and geriatric care. The Medical Department employs one senior medical officer, three medical officers and other staff. Following a report by a professional hospital administrator, improvements were made in the organization and management of the hospital at Stanley, and United

1/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/10023/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXIX, annex, paras. 7-10.

Kingdom development aid funds have been made available for the purchase of additional hospital equipment. Total expenditure on all aspects of health care and public health in 1976/77 amounted to £152,650.

37. In 1976, there were 319 pupils (313 in 1975) attending government schools, which provide primary and junior secondary education. In 1976, the schools, were staffed by 70 teachers, of whom 33 were itinerant teachers for outlying areas. There are two Argentine teachers sponsored by the Argentine Government who give classes in Spanish to school children and officials in Stanley. Approximately 23 children of secondary school age from the Territory were being educated in the United Kingdom, Uruguay and Argentina. The Government of Argentina provides an unlimited number of scholarships for secondary education to students from the Territory.

38. As mentioned in paragraph 20 above, the United Kingdom Government is financing a project for the construction of boarding-school facilities at Stanley, as one of the means of improving secondary education in the Territory. Government expenditure on education in 1976/77 was estimated at £155,669.

ANNEX II*

Note verbale dated 31 August 1978 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

/Original: Spanish/

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations has the honour to address itself to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with reference to the working paper concerning the Malvinas Islands a/ prepared by the secretariat 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.

In this connexion, the Permanent Mission wishes to state that, as has been the case with all previous studies on the Malvinas Islands prepared by the secretariat of the above-mentioned Committee, this is a valuable document reflecting the highly serious and responsible attitude adopted by the secretariat in carrying out its very important work.

Without prejudice to the above, the Permanent Mission wishes to provide certain additional data which it believes will serve to supplement and clarify the information contained in the document in question and requests that they be taken into account in the preparation of future papers on this topic.

With regard to paragraph 31 of the paper, it should be pointed out that the seismic explorations referred to are being carried out under contracts concluded between the companies mentioned and the Argentine Government. While it is true that certain oil companies, including British Petroleum, are sponsoring the exploration, it is not being carried out on behalf of these companies (as stated in the document), but under the contracts referred to above which, of course, presume that the Argentine Government will be kept fully informed of the results.

With regard to paragraph 32, it should be noted that the Argentine Government has taken numerous steps to facilitate the flow of goods between the Islands and the Argentine mainland.

In particular, with reference to the supply of fuel from the Argentine State oil company, Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales, it should be noted that the provision of this service necessitated the construction of a fuel storage plant by the Argentine State oil company at an approximate cost of \$US 1,500,000.

This storage plant was completed three years ago. However, it has not yet been possible to make use of it because of the lack of a wharf to accommodate pipelines through which fuel could be pumped from tankers to the plant. It should be emphasized that there exists an undertaking on the part of the United Kingdom to provide a wharf (in accordance with an agreement signed in 1974), and that, after some delay, the United Kingdom Government has, according to available information, adopted the necessary measures to put it into effect.

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/573.

a/ See annex I above.

With regard to paragraph 33, we wish to point out that the Communications Agreement between Argentina and the United Kingdom enabled the Argentine Government to carry out a series of measures benefiting the islanders in the health, education, cultural, tourist and technical fields. This action was limited, however, due to the fact that a number of Argentine proposals were not received favourably on the British side.

It should also be pointed out that the frequency of the air service established by the Argentine Government between the Malvinas and the Argentine mainland has been increased to two flights weekly.

In addition to carrying passengers, these flights perform an important function in supplying goods to the islands, particularly since the cargo-carrying potential of the air service in question has also been increased. Mention should also be made of the transport of mail and the evacuation of emergency cases to hospitals, which, in the absence of an adequate sea-link, has been carried out by the transport service of the Argentine navy. The navy has also made periodic visits to the Malvinas carrying passengers, mail and cargo.

In conclusion, with reference to paragraph 37, it should be pointed out that the co-operation of the Argentine Government in the field of education in the Malvinas, in addition to the provision of an unlimited number of scholarships to enable the Islands' children to pursue studies in bilingual institutions on the Argentine mainland and of two teachers of Spanish for the schools in Stanley, has also included an offer to provide a college of arts and crafts for the teaching of practical specialties such as carpentry, mechanics, gas-fitting, and plumbing. As yet, no official reply has been received from the United Kingdom either accepting or rejecting this offer.

CHAPTER XXIX*

BELIZE

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee considered the question of Belize at its 1123rd meeting, on 25 August 1978.

2. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 32/42 of 7 December 1977 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular: ... to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session". The Committee also took into account General Assembly resolution 32/32 of 28 November 1977 concerning Belize, by paragraph 7 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee "to remain seized of the question and to assist the people of Belize in the exercise of their inalienable rights".

3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

4. At its 1123rd meeting, on 25 August, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1123), the Special Committee decided, without objection, to give consideration to the item at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion at its thirty-third session, and, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Assembly, to authorize its Rapporteur to transmit to the Assembly all available information on the question.

* Previously issued as part of A/33/23/Add.7.

ANNEX*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1264.

BELIZE a/

1. GENERAL

1. Basic information on Belize is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. b/ Supplementary information is set out below.

2. At the last census, taken in 1970, the total population of the Territory was 119,863, of whom 39,332 lived in Belize City. Belmopan, the capital, had approximately 3,000 inhabitants in 1972, when the population of the Territory was officially estimated at 127,000. The population is currently estimated at 144,000 consisting mainly of Creoles, American Indians (Mayas) and Caribs.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

3. An outline of the constitutional arrangements set out in the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1963, as amended in 1973 and 1974, is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. c/ Briefly, the Constitution of Belize provides for a Governor appointed by the Queen, a Cabinet and a bicameral National Assembly consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Of the eight members of the Senate, five are appointed by the Governor (Mr. Peter McEntee) on the advice of the Premier (Mr. George Price); two on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Dean Lindo); and one after such consultations as the Governor considers appropriate. The House of Representatives has 18 members elected by universal adult suffrage for a period of five years. At the last general elections, which took place on 30 October 1974, the People's United Party (PUP) secured 12 seats, the lowest total in 20 years, and the remaining seats went to the coalition called the United Democratic Party (UDP). Since the elections, a member of UDP has joined PUP, which now has 13 seats.

4. The Governor retains responsibility for defence, external affairs, internal security (including the armed forces) and the public service. Under the Belize Letters Patent, 1964 to 1974, the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of

a/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 20 July 1977 for the year ending 31 December 1976.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVI, annex.

c/ Ibid., Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1) vol. VI, chap. XXVII, annex, paras. 3-4 and 10-14.

the Premier, may assign to the Premier or any other minister responsibility for any business of the Government, not otherwise delegated, as well as for the department of the Attorney-General. The Governor may also, under conditions imposed by him, delegate to a minister chosen after consultation with the Premier, responsibility for matters relating to external affairs. Delegation of this authority is subject to the prior approval of the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

5. The Cabinet consists of the Premier and other ministers (10 at present).

6. On 17 February 1978, the National Assembly passed an electoral reform bill which granted those 18 years of age the right to vote. It provided also for a permanent, continuous system of registration of voters, introduced the issuance of identification cards to registered persons and established an Elections and Boundaries Commission.

B. Consideration by the General Assembly

7. In a statement before the Fourth Committee at its 20th meeting, on 9 November 1977, d/ the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations recalled that, at the previous session, his delegation had expressed the hope that negotiations between the parties would be successful and had stressed the urgency of coming to an agreement which would enable Belize to achieve independence as soon as possible. He stated his regret that no settlement had been reached and that Belize had had to wait for the independence desired by its Government and people, and which the United Kingdom Government also supported.

8. His Government over the past year had been reluctantly obliged to reinforce its armed forces stationed in the Territory in order to meet its obligations to provide for the security of Belize. However, some progress had been achieved. In July 1977, ministers of the United Kingdom and Guatemala had met at Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter Mr. Edward Rowlands, the United Kingdom Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, had met with the President of Guatemala and the Minister for External Relations at Guatemala City. The parties had committed themselves to making every effort to create a positive atmosphere conducive to the process of negotiations.

9. The Permanent Representative said that, on the international scene, there had been two important moves towards assisting the parties in reaching a settlement. In June 1977, the Commonwealth Heads of Government, meeting in London, had reaffirmed their full support for the aspirations of the people of Belize and had agreed to establish a ministerial committee (see para. 31 below) to assist the parties concerned in finding early and effective arrangements for the independence of Belize. e/ In August, following talks at Bogotá, six heads of Government of countries in the region f/ had issued a communiqué which agreed that a solution to the problem of Belize should be found. The views of the United Kingdom were well known; his Government sought the peaceful and secure independence of Belize at the earliest practicable time. In making arrangements for this, the United Kingdom would take fullest account of the desire of the people of Belize that their

d/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Fourth Committee, 20th meeting, paras. 5-11.

e/ Ibid., Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXIX, annex, para. 29.

f/ Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela.

independence should be attained in peace and security and their territorial integrity preserved. The aim of the United Kingdom was that an independent Belize should not live in fear, but should enjoy a peaceful and co-operative relationship with Guatemala and with other countries in the area.

10. He reiterated the recent statement of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that any settlement reached between the Governments of Guatemala and the United Kingdom must be acceptable to the Government and people of Belize. He stated that the Guatemalan Government had expressed its determination to take full account of the vital interests of the people of Belize. In pursuing the negotiations, the United Kingdom would be flexible and constructive and urged Guatemala to negotiate in the same spirit.

11. At the 22nd meeting of the Fourth Committee, held on 11 November 1977, Mr. Price, the Premier of Belize, made a statement at the invitation of the Chairman. g/ He stated that the territorial Government had participated in the negotiations held at Washington, D.C., in July (see para. 8 above), and went on to describe the concessions and proposals outlined by the United Kingdom Government, aimed at allaying Guatemalan fears and concerns and meeting its needs as expressed over the years of negotiations.

12. He said that those proposals, the substance of which had already been formulated in the agreed specific terms of a draft treaty in 1976, were regarded by Guatemala as not meeting its needs. For political, economic and security reasons Guatemala considered essential the cession of land in the southern part of Belize, without which no settlement was conceivable. By insisting on territorial cession, Guatemala was disregarding the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee and the General Assembly in 1975 and 1976. Guatemala's military actions had affected the climate of the 1977 negotiations.

13. Mr. Price further stated that Guatemala had maintained that the independence of Belize could only be achieved through a settlement between Guatemala and the United Kingdom. But by insisting on land cession - a condition which Belize could not accept - as a part of that settlement, Guatemala was in effect exercising a veto over Belizean independence. However, the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination could not be subject to a veto, and the Belizean people were committed to independence.

14. Mr. Price stated that no group in any part of Belize would consider annexation by Guatemala, and those in the southern area of Belize, claimed by Guatemala as being persons of Guatemalan ethnic origin, had recently restated their desire to remain a part of Belize. Any solution involving the cession of territory would go counter to United Nations resolutions on territorial integrity.

15. On behalf of Belize, Mr. Price urged the adoption of a resolution, similar to resolution 31/50 adopted at the previous session of the General Assembly, which contained an account of the events over the past months and reflected the urgency of the situation. He said that Belize would assume its independence with suitable security arrangements and its sovereignty and territorial integrity preserved. It was prepared to continue efforts for a settlement with Guatemala before and after independence, if necessary. Belize and Guatemala were neighbours and should learn to live in peace and co-operation with each other.

g/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Fourth Committee, 22nd meeting, paras. 4-31.

16. At the 24th meeting of the Fourth Committee, on 14 November 1977, h/ the representative of Guatemala made a statement to introduce a draft resolution on Belize (A/C.4/32/L.23/Rev.1), which he stated reflected the current stage of negotiations and showed the determination of the parties to arrive at an early settlement of the problem. He referred to the complexity of the Belize case, and pointed out the characteristics by which it differed from other colonial situations. He repeated his Government's view that Belize was an integral part of Guatemalan territory, and that many inhabitants of Belize were linked through origin, tradition, customs and interests to Guatemala. He referred to the attempts made over the years by the Guatemalan Government to settle the dispute, which had only had encouraging results over the past two years, when the United Kingdom Government and members of the local administration and political parties had participated in the negotiations. Considerable progress had been made at the meeting at Washington, D.C., in July (see para. 8 above) and the parties had agreed to meet again at an early date.

17. The representative of Guatemala then referred to the remarks made earlier by the United Kingdom representative concerning the constructive spirit of the talks at Guatemala City, the intention of the parties to continue negotiations and their determination to create a climate favourable to those negotiations. The United Kingdom representative had also stated that in the resumed talks, his Government would be ready to take account of the fundamental interests of Guatemala.

18. The representative of Guatemala then assured the members of the Fourth Committee that his Government would be prepared to resume negotiations as early as possible, with the hope that it would lead to an early and just settlement of the dispute, due account being taken of the fundamental interests of the people of Belize.

19. He also recalled his statement to the General Assembly on 30 September 1977, i/ during which he had said that the time was favourable for negotiated solutions, rather than force, as in the case of the Panama Canal agreement. His Government, being convinced that there were no problems too complex for solution by peaceful means, was ready to speed up negotiations on Belize so as to reach an early, honourable and equitable settlement of the dispute. The dispute was solely between Guatemala and the United Kingdom and not with the people of Belize, with whom Guatemala shared a common destiny.

20. On 28 November 1977, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/32, by which it reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Belize to self-determination and independence; reaffirmed that the inviolability and territorial integrity of Belize must be preserved; called upon the Government of the United Kingdom, acting in close consultation with the Government of Belize, and the Government of Guatemala to pursue vigorously their negotiations, in consultation as appropriate with other especially interested States in the area, with a view to concluding the negotiations before the thirty-third session of the General Assembly; called upon the parties involved to refrain from any threats or use of force against the people of Belize or their territory; urged all States to respect the right of the people of Belize to self-determination, independence and territorial integrity, and to render all practical assistance necessary for the secure and early exercise of that right; and requested the Governments concerned to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session on the outcome of their negotiations.

n/ Ibid., 24th meeting, paras. 1-18.

i/ Ibid., Plenary Meetings, 15th meeting.

C. Contacts between the Governments concerned

21. As previously noted, j/ during 1977 the Governments of Guatemala and the United Kingdom held talks on the question, with the participation of representatives of Belize. Reference was made to those contacts by all parties concerned in statements before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (see paras. 8-12 above).

22. On 10 December 1977, The Times (London) reported that the United Kingdom and Guatemala had held "confidential, exploratory discussions ... in an attempt to establish a basis for a further round of negotiations". The talks were held while the General Assembly was in session, and a spokesman from the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office stated that the Government of Belize had been kept informed of the "exploratory discussions".

23. Subsequently, it was reported that in mid-December 1977, Mr. Edward Rowlands, the United Kingdom Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mr. Price, the Premier of Belize, had met in New York to discuss the question, and that the Minister of State had also flown to Mexico City for related discussions. Further talks between Mr. Price and Mr. Rowlands were held in Jamaica on 18 January 1978.

24. On 25 January 1978, Mr. David Owen, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made a statement on Belize in the House of Commons, k/ during which he stated:

"Accompanied by ... the Minister of State /Mr. Rowlands/, ... I held meetings yesterday and today with the Premier of Belize, the Honourable George Price, who was accompanied by Ambassador Courtenay and Mr. Shoman, the Attorney-General of Belize. There was a frank discussion of the problems facing Belize. The Belizean representatives reiterated the position of their Government, that negotiations should continue on the basis of the United Nations resolution l/ and the territorial integrity of Belize.

"I confirmed that any settlement must be acceptable to the Government and people of Belize. I said that recent British discussions with the Guatemalans had been exploratory; various proposals, including the possibility of territorial adjustments, had been discussed, but no agreements had been made or would be made which were not subject to the approval of the people of Belize. The Premier of Belize asked that the issue should be put directly to the people of Belize and that the Commonwealth should be associated with this process of consultation. I readily agreed to both these requests.

"Both Governments agreed that their aim was early and secure independence for Belize.

"The British Government will continue its search for a negotiated settlement, which has not yet been achieved, in discussions with Guatemala and other interested Governments.

j/ Ibid., Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXIX, annex, para. 30.

k/ United Kingdom, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), House of Commons, Official Report (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1978), 25 January 1978, cols. 1384-1391.

l/ General Assembly resolution 32/32.

...

"I can say that no decision to cede territory would be made without the agreement of the people of Belize. I think that is perfectly clear. That is the assurance that I have consistently given and that ... the United Kingdom Prime Minister has given. ... the Minister of State, who has done so much in the recent negotiations, has consistently and firmly held to that position." 1/

25. In response to a question regarding the form in which the consultation with the population of Belize would take place, bearing in mind that there were a number of political parties, Dr. Owen responded:

"I think we have to take account of that, but it is primarily with the Government of Belize that we would discuss these issues. I have given an assurance that the method of consultation would be discussed with them, and we would seek to reach agreement on this. I think that that is the fair way of proceeding. But I recognize that we have to take account of all views in Belize on this issue."

26. To the question as to what the attitude of the United Kingdom Government would be, if the people of Belize refused to agree to cede a portion of their territory, Dr. Owen answered:

"If this situation were put to the people of Belize and they decided that they did not want any change, the status quo would continue. It would remain a Crown colony and Britain would defend the territorial integrity of Belize.

"The problem we face is that the people of Belize have, for over a decade or more, naturally wanted increasingly to have their independence. We have a problem as to bringing that country to secure and stable independence, with the territorial claims and the associated problems around the boundaries of that country. The issue can either be just left alone or it has to be grappled with. I think that it should be grappled with - with the absolute safeguard that it will be the people of Belize who will decide."

27. Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, former Liberal Party leader, then asked the Secretary of State if he agreed with the Premier of Belize that the Territory's integrity must be inviolate prior to independence; whether consultation meant preparedness to hold a referendum prior to independence; and whether he would not discuss the possibility of a Commonwealth guarantee of the integrity of the boundaries of Belize. In this regard, Dr. Owen stated:

"Anyone who knows Mr. Price, who has led his people for the last 14 years very successfully, knows that he would never agree to a sell-out, and the British Government have no intention of agreeing to a sell-out. Mr. Price has never changed his position on territorial integrity. He has maintained that, and also his position on the United Nations resolution.

"I have made it clear to the House that we are discussing, among other things, territorial adjustments. I think that it is right that those should be explored. But any territorial adjustment would be put to the people of Belize. As to the form in which it would be put, Mr. Thorpe's suggestion is clearly one obvious way in which it could be done. I have undertaken to discuss this with the Government of Belize and to take account of the views of the people of Belize.

"We have been trying to get guarantees for an independent Belize for many years, and I think it is important to get these guarantees. If I believed it were possible to get a United Nations guarantee, or something of that sort, we should probably not be involved in some of these difficult negotiations."

28. Asked whether the Government of Belize was consulted and its permission obtained in advance of discussions on the demarcation of territory, the Secretary of State replied:

"The Premier of Belize and the Government have constantly, consistently and rightly held their position on territorial integrity and on the United Nations resolution. I think they recognize that the British Government have the ultimate responsibility for attempting to bring Belize to independence. Premier Price has attended all the formal negotiations and has been kept fully informed of all our informal discussions with the Guatemalans, but he has not shifted from his basic position, nor do I think it appropriate for him to do so. The British Government do not accept that there should be any claim on the territory of Belize. We are prepared to try to see whether negotiation can resolve the problem."

29. At a press conference in London on 25 January 1978, Mr. Price, the Premier of Belize, stated his opposition to a proposal to cede approximately 2,590 square kilometres of Belizean territory to Guatemala as a means of obtaining the Territory's independence. Mr. Price stated that cession of land would create problems, not solve them, and indicated that he would seek the assistance of Caribbean Governments to guarantee Belize's security. It was also reported that the national executive of the United Kingdom Labour Party had unanimously approved an emergency resolution calling on the United Kingdom Government to support the territorial integrity of Belize. This resolution was supported by Mr. James Callaghan, the Prime Minister.

30. The Times (London) of 2 February 1978 reports that, on 1 February, further informal consultations were held at Washington, D.C., between Mr. Rowlands, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mr. Adolfo Molina-Orantes, the Minister for External Relations of Guatemala. Mr. Cyrus R. Vance, the United States Secretary of State, was also present at the talks, following which it was announced that formal talks would be resumed at the end of March 1978.

D. Relations with the Governments of the region

31. As noted above (see para. 9), a Commonwealth Ministerial Committee composed of Barbados, Canada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania was established to assist in finding early, effective arrangements for the independence of Belize. The Committee met twice during the thirty-second session of the General Assembly to review the question of Belize. The Premier of Belize was also present at the meetings.

32. On 9 December 1977, the question of Belize was discussed at a ministerial meeting held at Kingston, Jamaica, which was attended by ministers of the Governments of Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama and Venezuela and by the ambassadors of Barbados and Suriname; the Government of Mexico was represented by an observer and the Premier of Belize was invited to participate. At the conclusion of the

meeting, the parties present issued a declaration. "Recognizing that the people of Belize continue to be denied the exercise of their right to a peaceful and secure independence" and "Convinced of the need for an early, peaceful and secure independence which guarantees the unimpeded development of the people of Belize", they declared:

"1. That frustration of the exercise of the right of the people of Belize to independence constitutes an intolerable situation, the continuation of which could have serious implications for peace in the region and could inhibit the further development of harmonious relations among States in the hemisphere and beyond;

"2. That there can be no lasting settlement of the controversy without the full consent of the Government and people of Belize and consequently, the Government of Belize must be fully involved in all consultations and negotiations aimed at achieving a solution;

"3. That the parties concerned must urgently seek a peaceful solution to the controversy which ensures the speedy attainment of a secure independence by Belize on the basis of self-determination and territorial integrity;

"4. Their continued support, by diplomatic and other methods as appropriate, to the Government and people of Belize, to secure a solution that is peaceful, just and lasting;

"5. Their readiness to give their full co-operation to all efforts designed to realise the objective of this Declaration."

33. On 17 and 19 January 1978, Mr. Rowlands, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, held consultations with the Governments of Barbados and Jamaica.

34. Commenting on discussions with the Commonwealth Committee on the question of Belize, Dr. Owen, in his statement of 25 January (see paras. 24-28 above), said:

"I attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Group in New York, and I have always been very frank with them about what has been discussed. I am very grateful to the Commonwealth countries for observing the necessity to keep some of these negotiations private.

...

"As to being satisfied about the territorial adjustment and the Guatemalan attitude, I think that there is beginning to be a recognition in the whole of the region that it would be in the interests of the whole of the region to resolve this issue. I pay tribute to the great help that has been given by many other countries. They have differing views on the justice and rights of the claim, but they are all trying to get a settlement. It will not be easy to get a settlement and the final decision will be taken by the people of Belize." m/

m/ Ibid., cols. 1387 and 1388.

35. The Governments of the region took further action in support of the principle of the territorial integrity of Belize, following the statement by Dr. Owen in the House of Commons on 25 January. On 27 January, in a statement n/ in the Trinidad and Tobago House of Representatives, the Minister for External Affairs reaffirmed his Government's unequivocal support to the right to self-determination of the people of Belize; expressed concern that undue pressure was being brought to bear on Belize and that new tensions were being introduced into the situation by the irresponsible sale of arms; and reiterated the view that any settlement of the Belize-Guatemala dispute must be agreed to by the Government and people of Belize, and must provide credible guarantees for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent Belize.

36. In early February 1978, the Governments of the Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago issued a joint statement indicating their concern about Belize and calling on the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to co-operate fully with the Government of Belize in a quick and peaceful settlement of the territorial dispute with Guatemala. The six Governments, restating their firm commitment to the principle of self-determination and to the right of the people of Belize to independence and territorial integrity with secure borders, reiterated their belief that cession of land was not a just solution.

37. Subsequently, on 22 and 23 February, a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the six Governments of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was convened at Belmopan, Belize, to review the situation affecting that country's future in the light of recent developments and against the background of relevant decisions taken by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 1975 and 1977 (see para. 9 above), and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. In the final communiqué, the meeting reaffirmed their support for the early and secure independence of Belize with full sovereignty and territorial integrity; supported the view of the Government of Belize that land cession was unacceptable as a means of settling the controversy; took note of the statement of the United Kingdom Government that no solution would be imposed against the wishes of the people of the Territory, and in that regard welcomed the Premier's report of his recent consultations with the people; pointed out the urgency of a just settlement in accordance with established principles to enable an independent Belize to be fully involved in plans for regional development; recognized that the controversy was a continuing obstacle to the development of harmonious relationships in the region, and should therefore be removed; and, finally, requested members of the Commonwealth Ministerial Committee to convene an early meeting.

38. Consultations within the region were carried out early in March 1978 by the Premier of Belize, during visits to Guyana and Venezuela. Mr. Price also met with Mr. Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, on 24 March. According to the Miami Herald of 26 March, Mr. Price subsequently stated that "the position of the United States is not to advocate any one settlement, but to do what is best to maintain the peace and harmony in the area". The Premier of Belize is reported to be seeking to negotiate with Commonwealth countries for a security force to replace the British garrison currently stationed in the Territory.

n/ The statement was circulated to the members of the Special Committee as aide-mémoire 3/78.

E. Positions of local political parties concerning the future of the Territory

39. As noted in previous reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly, o/ the People's United Party (PUP) and the United Democratic Party (UDP), the two major political parties of the Territory, held sharply differing views on the timing of independence, although they co-operated in presenting a joint position at the thirtieth session of the General Assembly. Mr. Lindo, the leader of the opposition party, UDP, together with the Premier, also attended the negotiations held between Guatemala and the United Kingdom during 1976 and 1977. On 8 February 1978, following disclosure of the discussions between the United Kingdom and Guatemala on the possible cession of Belizean territory, the opposition party issued a declaration in which it called for a moratorium on independence for at least 10 years, during which time the energies of the people should be channelled towards the economic and social development of the Territory, the National Army should be strengthened and, with the United Kingdom, the Belize Government should seek the military co-operation of friendly nations for the defence of Belize.

40. Mr. Lindo also claimed that the people of Belize supported the views of UDP on independence, as demonstrated by their overwhelming support for that party in the Belize city council elections of 7 December 1977. In those elections, campaigning for which was reportedly based on national as well as municipal issues, UDP won all nine seats on the Council (in the previous Council, UDP held six seats and PUP three).

41. On 22 and 23 February 1978, during the meeting of CARICOM Foreign Ministers at Belmopan (see para. 37 above), demonstrators of UDP picketed the delegates with placards reading, inter alia, "Referendum before Independence".

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

42. The economy of the Territory was at one time almost entirely based on the export of forest products; since the 1950s, however, due to the depletion of forest resources, agriculture has become the dominant export sector, accounting for 31 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1975. Sugar and citrus are the two most important export products, which in the past have been produced mainly by large foreign-owned and managed estates. Since 1972, under a programme of land reform, local farmers have acquired larger farms and are increasingly involved in the production of these export crops. Other agricultural activities, particularly the production of bananas and rice, show potential for expansion in the export sector. Much farming still remains at the subsistence level, providing a variety of fruit, grain and root crops for the domestic market. A tobacco industry is also being developed and provides 15 per cent of the domestic needs of the Territory.

o/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), vol. VI, chap. XXVII, annex, paras. 5 and 8; and ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXVI, annex, paras. 6 and 7.

43. Although forestry no longer plays a leading role in the economy, steps have been taken to improve output through a policy of control, sustained yield and regeneration of the forests, so as to take advantage of the high demand for timber on the world market. Improvement in the export sales of forest products in 1973 and 1974 (\$BZE 3.5 million p/ and \$BZE 4.2 million, respectively) was followed by a decline in 1975 (to \$BZE 1.9 million) with some recovery in 1976 to 1973 levels.

44. The principal manufacturing industries, which are largely owned by foreign interests, are those related to the Territory's major export products, sugar refining, citrus canning and sawmilling. Further industrial and agricultural development has been actively encouraged by the Government. The manufacture of garments has grown in importance as export sales have increased in recent years. There are also a number of smaller firms producing manufactured goods, such as paper products, furniture and fertilizer, for the local market. There are opportunities for exploitation of Belize's natural resources: fisheries, livestock and possibly petroleum.

45. The Government has been promoting the development of tourism, with the objective of enabling Belizeans to maintain control and ownership of the industry. Between 1972 and 1975, the number of hotels increased from 54 to 71, and the number of beds rose correspondingly from 984 to 1,320. In December 1977, the Government of Belize obtained a loan of \$US 45,000 from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), to finance a technical study by overseas consultants for a convention hotel at Belmopan.

46. The Territory is heavily dependent on external sources for most of its capital development and on imports for the majority of manufactured goods. According to trade statistics, for the year ending 30 September 1977, imports amounted to \$BZE 135.8 million, and exports totalled \$BZE 95.7 million (see also paras. 48-49 below). Sugar accounted for more than 50 per cent of export earnings, while food imports represented 21.2 per cent of the total import bill. As in previous years, trade was mainly conducted with the United Kingdom and the United States.

B. Public finance

47. On 6 January 1978, Mr. Price, the Premier and Minister of Finance, presented the 1978 budget to the House of Representatives. Total expenditure was estimated at \$BZE 110 million (an increase of \$BZE 10 million over 1977) and comprised \$BZE 94.7 million for the budget of the Government and \$BZE 15.3 million for the budget of the statutory bodies.

48. In his presentation, Mr. Price reviewed briefly the world economic situation and its effects on the Belize economy. Despite negative aspects, such as continuing inflation, the depression of commodity markets, lower prices for grain and sugar due to surpluses and higher oil costs, preliminary data for 1977 suggested that there should be a growth in the economy from 5 to 6 per cent over 1976, which should be continued in 1978. There had been production increases in citrus, pork

p/ The monetary unit is the Belizean dollar (\$BZE). On 11 May 1976, the Government of Belize announced that the link between the Belizean dollar and the pound sterling was being severed and that, in future, the Belizean dollar would be linked to the United States dollar at the rate of \$BZE 1.00 to \$US 0.50.

products, rice and mangoes; export earnings from fish (lobster, shrimp, conch, dried and fresh fish) had increased to \$BZE 6.0 million in 1976, as against \$BZE 3.8 million in 1975, although the volume of exports remained relatively stable at 725,000 kilograms per annum. In addition, the rehabilitation of the banana industry had brought an increase in export values from \$BZE 1.7 million in 1976 to over \$BZE 2.0 million in 1977. Earnings from the sugar industry had totalled \$BZE 60.0 million in 1977, with a production of 93,323 metric tons, compared to 1976 earnings of \$BZE 36.5 million through the export of 56,596 metric tons of sugar and 23,264 metric tons of molasses. Production increases in 1978 were expected in the manufacture of garments, metal products and timber, while construction was expected to increase owing to activity in housing, ports, water and sewage projects (see paras. 55-56 below).

49. Of the \$BZE 94.7 million in estimated expenditure for 1978 (see para. 47 above), \$BZE 42.8 million was allocated to recurrent expenditure (\$BZE 38.2 million in 1977) and \$BZE 51.9 million to the capital budget. Allocations under the recurrent budget were as follows: personal emoluments and pensions, \$BZE 24.2 million; public debt charges, \$BZE 3.1 million; and goods and services, \$BZE 15.4 million. The Premier stated that efforts had been made to restrain the growth of this expenditure and that only those new services which were absolutely essential were being undertaken. Public debt charges had increased only minimally over the 1977 figure of \$BZE 3 million, and amounted to 7.3 per cent of total recurrent revenue and 2.4 per cent of the total value of visible exports for 1976. At the end of 1976, the public debt was approximately \$BZE 19.6 million.

50. The capital programme for 1978 is broken down into two parts, the first to be financed from local sources (\$BZE 11.1 million) and the second to be financed from grants (\$BZE 19.2 million) and loans (\$BZE 21.6 million). Items to be financed under part II include primary school facilities, slum clearance, the citrus industry shortfall from 1976, subsidies to the marketing and electricity boards and subventions to municipalities.

51. Projects to be financed through United Kingdom co-operation include highways, water supply systems, primary schools, and part of the defence requirements. The Belize City sewage project and grain storage project will be financed with the co-operation of the Canadian Government. Loans will be required from CDB for the deep-water port for Belize City, Commerce Bight Pier, sugar-cane feeder roads and the electrification scheme. With assistance from the European Development Fund, it is proposed to finance the banana industry, infrastructure for low-cost housing, radio transmitters for the Territory's radio station and loans to small farmers.

52. Revenue estimates for 1978 amounted to \$BZE 53.9 million. In order to meet an anticipated deficit of \$BZE 4 million, the Premier announced proposals to increase customs and excise duties on beverages (wines and spirits), cigarettes, petroleum products and motor vehicles; stamp duties would also be revised. The Premier stated that the aim of the budget strategy for 1978 was to lessen the effects of inflation, hold down recurrent expenditure and support projects which would increase production and employment and restrain prices and inflation. The budget incorporates programmes outlined in the "Manifesto for the Independent Belize" and the Economic Development Plan, 1977-1979 (see paras. 58-63 below).

53. The Premier gave an account of the loans approved up to the end of 1977, as follows:

(Millions of Belizean dollars)

Electricity	7.0
Banana industry	1.3
Development Finance Corporation (DFC) for agricultural and industrial credit	15.4
Sugar-cane feeder roads	2.4
Port facilities	19.7
Rice mill (Toledo district)	0.7
Student loans	0.9
Industrial estates	1.0
Housing	1.7
	<hr/>
	50.1

Direct bank loans approved for the private sector totalled \$BZE 4.1 million.

54. At 31 December 1976, the resources of DFC amounted to \$BZE 20.6 million and loans issued amounted to \$BZE 14.7 million. As previously reported, q/ DFC had set up an investment company, which has invested in a citrus-waste feed mill, meat-packing plant and abattoir, a garment factory and a clay products factory.

C. Communications and basic facilities

55. In March 1978, work commenced on a deep-water port for Belize City which will cost approximately \$BZE 21 million, to be financed largely through loans from CDB (see para. 51 above). When completed in mid-1979, it will be possible to unload two ships simultaneously at a pier-head of some 130 square metres, sitting 5 metres above sea level. Construction is being carried out by the Misiner Construction Company of Florida, which anticipates employing up to 40 local workers on the project.

56. A new water and sewage system for Belize City, the cost of which is estimated at \$BZE 16 million, is to come into operation in 1980, and is being financed through grants and loans from the Canadian Government. Construction of the treatment plant commenced in January 1978; the second phase of the project, the laying of collection mains and delivery lines, will begin as soon as the pipelines are delivered from Canada. During the year under review, a new water supply system was installed at Punta Gorda with technical assistance from the United Kingdom, at a cost of \$BZE 165,000.

57. In August 1977, Belize Airways, Ltd. (BAL) obtained approval from the United States Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) to begin flights between the Territory and Miami. The inaugural flight took place on 1 October and it was expected that flights would continue on a daily basis. BAL, using two Boeing 707 aircraft, also flies to San Salvador thrice weekly and to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, four times a week. BAL hopes to add a third aircraft to the service and is reported to be seeking CAB permission to fly to Houston, Texas.

q/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXIX, annex, para. 41.

D. Development plan

58. In August 1977, the Government of Belize published an economic development plan for the period 1977-1979, setting out goals to be attained as the first step in socio-economic and political change over the next 25 years. The aim of this process of change, as set out in the "Manifesto for the Independent Belize" is "to accelerate the economic development of Belize, to provide a new social order" so as to bring "all aspects of social democracy to Belizean life". The policies of the plan therefore aim at greater self-sufficiency through increased food production; the substitution of locally manufactured goods for imports; the accumulation of local savings for investments; and the provision by the public sector of economic infrastructure and institutions, which will stimulate the private sector to take advantage of economic opportunities.
59. In working out the strategy of development, it was recognized that agriculture, forestry and fisheries represented the main productive complex of the Belize economy and could provide the basis for development of secondary industries. Proposals have already been made for the regulation of the fishing industry through the licensing of fishermen and their boats and the establishment of a closed season on conch. Measures will be taken to encourage deep-sea and freshwater fishing to meet the needs of the local market, and towards further processing of fish products for export.
60. Agricultural production can be expanded, not only to meet domestic requirements, but also to increase export earnings from such crops as sugar, rice, maize and soya beans and from livestock. Expansion of production would require greater use of the cultivable land in the Territory (some 850,000 hectares), only 10 per cent of which is now used for agriculture. Of the cultivable land, 56.4 per cent is owned by the Government, the remainder being privately owned, many large tracts lie in inaccessible areas. Under the development plan, it is proposed to provide access to unutilized areas and to continue the acquisition of suitable land from large land-owners for subdivision and leasing to farmers. Markets for agricultural products and livestock are already available in the CARICOM area and the United States. In this connexion, Belize is regarded as having an important role to play in the CARICOM regional food plan. Feasibility studies, funded through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, are under way for a livestock project for Belize which entails the development of a herd of 4,500 dairy cattle to produce 7.6 million litres of milk annually, thereby making the Territory self-sufficient in milk. Linked with this would be a stock-feed production plant with an annual output of 6.8 million kilograms of concentrates.
61. Belize is also a participant in the Regional Agribusiness Development Programme, together with Barbados and the seven countries of the Leeward and Windward Islands. On 14 March 1978, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CDB signed the fifth soft-loan agreement for a loan of \$US 6.5 million (see chap. XXIII of the present report). r/ An Agribusiness Development Fund, established with this loan and \$US 260,000 from CDB, will finance loans and equity investments in agribusiness and labour intensive enterprises, to the benefit of small farmers and the rural poor.
62. An inflow of foreign capital is regarded as crucial to development strategy; the Government is aware that its financial position needs to be strengthened

r/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 23, vol. III.

and that domestic savings are inadequate to provide for rapid growth of the economy. The policy of the Government, therefore, is to invite foreign private investment, under specific conditions and in specific areas, and to engage in joint ventures with member Governments of CARICOM and other countries. Taking into account the shortage of skilled labour and the need for on-the-job training at all levels, the plan recommends an inflow of skilled manpower together with new capital, equipment and technology. The programme of industrial development envisaged under the plan would be based on local raw materials and imported raw materials where these can be linked to other sectors, and will take into account opportunities available in the CARICOM region, not only as a market, but also as a source of finance, as well as managerial and technical skills. The role of DFC and the investment company (see para. 54 above) will be improved, and at least one industrial estate will be constructed during the period of the plan. The objectives are to develop import-substitution industries as well as export industries in urban areas; and to encourage export-oriented industries and a higher level of national participation. Infrastructural development currently under way or projected - roads, ports, electricity and water - will assist in the process of industrialization.

63. The plan, which, it is estimated, will cost \$BZE 174.0 million over the three-year period, will be financed as follows: \$BZE 72.0 million from overseas loans from CDB or the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); \$BZE 46.0 million from overseas grants from the United Kingdom, Canada and the European Development Fund; and \$BZE 56.0 million from local sources, i.e., capital revenue, public sector savings and local borrowing.

4. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

64. In an address on National Day, 6 September 1977, Mr. Price reviewed the progress made by his Government over the previous year. Among the projects completed was the Orange Walk Town Hospital, which was constructed at a cost of \$BZE 1.3 million, funded mainly with United Kingdom aid. The 28-bed hospital which was opened in August, will handle general, maternity and surgical cases; it is fully equipped with X-ray and laboratory facilities. In Belize City, the Holden Memorial Hospital closed its 40-bed in-patient section in November. This private hospital, which will continue to operate as a clinic, found its services less in demand due to the improvement of government medical services in the Territory.

65. In the same address, Mr. Price reaffirmed his Government's support of the church-State educational system and its policy to supply the services which the church-State system could not provide. During 1976-77, improvements were made on three schools under the church-State system and three under the government system. Construction of the Belize University Centre at Belize City for the Extramural Department of the University of the West Indies, was completed in 1978. The Centre was financed by the Governments of Belize and Canada. In 1977, there were more than 200 Belizeans studying abroad in fields such as architecture, archaeology, medicine, engineering, surveying, credit unions, land management and commerce.

CHAPTER XXX*

ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA, ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee considered the question of Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent at its 1129th meeting on 1 September 1978.
2. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 32/42 of 7 December 1977 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 13 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories which have not yet attained independence and, in particular: ... to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session". The Committee also took into account General Assembly decision 32/413 of 28 November 1977 and resolution 32/186 of 19 December 1977 concerning the Territories.
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territories.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

4. At its 1129th meeting, on 1 September, following a statement by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1129), the Special Committee decided, without objection, to give consideration to the item at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion at its thirty-third session, and, in order to facilitate consideration of the item by the Assembly, to authorize its Rapporteur to transmit to the Assembly all available information on the question.

* Previously issued as part of A/33/23/Add.7.

ANNEX*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1268 and Add.1.

ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA, a/
ST. LUCIA AND ST. VINCENT b/

1. GENERAL

1. Basic information on the West Indies Associated States is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. c/

2. Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla form part of the Leeward Islands and lie midway in the arc of the West Indian Islands. Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent form part of the Windward Islands.

Area and population

	<u>Area</u>	<u>Population</u>	
	(square kilometres)	<u>1970</u>	<u>Mid-year 1976</u>
		(census)	(estimates)
Antigua (including Barbuda)	443	65 525	71 000
Dominica	750	70 513	76 000
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla	401	64 000 <u>a/</u>	66 000
St. Lucia	616	100 893	110 000
St. Vincent (including the St. Vincent Grenadines)	389	87 305	100 000 <u>b/</u>

Source: United Nations Statistical Papers (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.A/123).

a/ Includes estimates of 6,524 persons for Anguilla, which did not take part in the 1970 census.

b/ Official estimate at 31 December 1973.

3. The population of the Associated States is mainly of African and mixed

a/ A separate Constitution for Anguilla came into effect in February 1976.

b/ The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports.

c/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Third-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXV, annex.

descent. In Dominica, there are about 380 Caribs, descendants of an American Indian tribe, living on a reservation of over 1,500 hectares. On 19 August 1977, it was reported that the Government of Dominica had given the assurance that the land would remain theirs after independence.

4. The World Bank, together with several other organizations, convened the Conference on Economic Development in the Caribbean at Washington, D.C. on 14 and 15 December 1977 (see chap. XXIII of the present report). d/ Dealing with the current economic problems of the Caribbean countries, the Chairman of the Conference emphasized that the growth of population in the region had led to high unemployment in the urban areas and widespread underemployment in the rural areas. The recent curtailment of emigration opportunities to traditional host countries had heightened the problem markedly. The virtual loss of that historical safety valve was especially serious in view of spatial limitations. The average population density of the island Territories, already the highest in the Western Hemisphere, was expected to rise further. During the year, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities continued to help the Caribbean countries to tackle their respective population problems.

5. On 17 August 1977, after examining the question of the Associated States, the Special Committee decided to consider the item at its next session, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in that connexion at its thirty-second session. e/

6. By its decision 32/413 of 28 November 1977, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the question of the Associated States until its thirty-third session.

7. By its resolution 32/186 of 19 December 1977, the General Assembly stressed the urgency of rendering all necessary assistance to the peoples of the Associated States in their efforts to strengthen their national economies and called upon the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in consultation with the freely elected representatives of the peoples of those Territories, to take adequate steps to establish and finance an appropriate programme of development of the Territories. The Assembly requested the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system, including in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), international financial institutions and aid donors to intensify their assistance within their respective spheres of competence to the peoples of the Associated States.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Present constitutional arrangements

8. Following the dissolution of The Federation of the West Indies in 1962 and

d/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/33/23/Rev.1), vol. III

e/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1),
vol. IV, chap. XXX, para. 5.

subsequent negotiations on the status of the individual Commonwealth Caribbean Territories, the Government of the United Kingdom proposed in 1965 a new constitutional status for six Territories, namely Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Under the proposals, which were implemented in 1967 in Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Lucia and in 1969 in St. Vincent, each Territory became a "State in association with the United Kingdom", with control of its internal affairs and the right to amend its own constitution, including the power to terminate the association with the United Kingdom and eventually to declare itself independent; the Government of the United Kingdom retained responsibility for the external affairs and defence of the Territories. Grenada attained independence upon termination of its associated status on 7 February 1974. As a result, there remain only five Associated States.

9. Other main features of the constitution for each Territory include provision for a parliament: one house in Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and an upper house and a lower house in Antigua. Each parliament has a life of five years. In each Territory, the head of the executive Government is the Governor, who is appointed for a term of five years by the Queen, and who acts in accordance with the advice of a cabinet, composed of the Premier and other ministers. The cabinet is charged with the general direction and control of the Government and is collectively responsible to its parliament.

10. The Governments of the Associated States participate in a Supreme Court of Judicature whose jurisdiction may be extended to other interested Territories in the Caribbean. The Court has jurisdiction, among other matters, over fundamental rights and freedoms, membership of the parliaments, and conflicts between parts of the constitution of each State. The jurisdiction of the Court is prescribed by the parliament of the respective Associated States.

11. A representative of the British Government in the area is responsible for the conduct of relations between the United Kingdom and the Territories.

12. As previously noted, f/ a special situation existed in Anguilla. Briefly, under the terms of the Anguilla Act, 1971, the United Kingdom Government resumed direct responsibility for the affairs of Anguilla. Subsequently, a separate constitution for the island came into operation on 10 February 1976.

13. In 1975, the Constitution of St. Vincent was amended to empower the Governor, acting in his own deliberate judgement, to **appoint** a Leader of the Opposition if there were two or more elected members who did not support the Government, but none of whom commanded the support of the other or others. In the exercise of his judgement, the Governor was instructed to be guided by the seniority based on the length of service of the elected member and/or by the number of votes polled by the member at the general elections. On 6 July 1977, it was reported that under that amendment, Mrs. Ivy Joshua, head of the Peoples' Political Party (PPP) and a member of the House of Assembly, had been appointed Leader of the Opposition (see also para. 55 below).

f/ Ibid., annex, paras. 9-18.

B. Future status of the Associated States

General

14. The West Indies Act, 1967, establishing the West Indies Associated States (WIAS), provides two means by which any Associated State may become independent. Under section 10 (1) and its schedule, the local legislature is empowered to pass an independent constitution with a two-thirds majority, which must be ratified by a two-thirds majority in a referendum. Under section 10 (2), the United Kingdom Government may, at any time, terminate its association with an Associated State by an order-in-council.

15. It will be recalled g/ that, in this connexion, the Heads of Governments of the Associated States adopted a resolution at a meeting held at Basseterre, St. Kitts, in December 1975. The resolution noted, among other things, that the constitution of no other Commonwealth Caribbean country made provision for a referendum as a prerequisite to independence and that the status of association could no longer serve the development and constitutional requirements and aspirations of the Governments and peoples of the Associated States. It was therefore resolved: "That the Governments of the Associated States approach the United Kingdom Government at the earliest possible date with a view to seeking the termination of the status of Association with the United Kingdom in accordance with the provisions of section 10 (2) of the West Indies Act, 1967." During the same month, the Second Conference of Heads of Governments of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which was held also at Basseterre, adopted a separate resolution supporting the desire of the Governments of the Associated States to terminate the status of association and to proceed to full independence.

16. It will also be recalled h/ that, at about that time, an official of the United Kingdom Government with responsibility for relations with the Associated States had stated to the press that the United Kingdom would not prevent any of the Associated States from becoming independent, nor would it push them into independence. During a visit to Dominica in December 1977, Miss Anne Stoddart, deputy head of the department at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office that deals with the Associated States, reaffirmed the above-mentioned position of her Government, adding that the United Kingdom was happy to see the Territories proceed to independence.

17. In the case of Antigua, the leaders of the two political parties in the House of Representatives expressed opposing views on the question of independence in their statements made between April and October 1977. The Antigua Labour Party (ALP) is headed by Mr. Vere Bird, who has been the Premier of the Territory since early 1976. Mr. Bird declared that "we want to establish a strong, confident, socially, economically and politically developed State before we embark on the road to gain independence from the United Kingdom". Mr. George Walter leads the

g/ Ibid., Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXV, annex, paras. 17-19.

h/ Ibid., para. 16.

Progressive Labour Movement (PLM), which had ruled the Territory until early 1976. According to Mr. Walter, nearly all of the other Associated States were moving towards independence and it was only a matter of time before Antigua did likewise. He therefore called for fresh elections to allow Antiguan to decide on their own future. Following is a summary of recent developments in Dominica, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

Dominica

18. As previously noted, i/ conferences on constitutional arrangements for Dominica were held in London in March and in May 1977, following the adoption by the territorial legislature of a resolution requesting the United Kingdom Government to grant full independence by November of that year. The draft constitution was the main subject under discussion at the final conference, held from 16 to 20 May, and agreement was reached in most respects.

19. In July, Mr. Patrick John, the Premier, informed the United Kingdom Government that in the light of further discussions recently held in Dominica, the territorial Government would agree to the following:

(a) Dominica would adopt a republican form of government, to be headed by a President. He would be selected after consultation between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, but would be elected by the House of Assembly if they failed to agree.

(b) The House of Assembly would consist of 21 elected members and 9 nominated members (who might be called "senators"), 5 nominated by the Prime Minister and 4 by the Leader of the Opposition.

(a) Independence proposals

20. On 21 October 1977, the House of Assembly of Dominica adopted, by a vote of 16 to 5, a resolution introduced by the Premier, whereby the Territory would proceed to independence under the Government's constitutional proposals.

21. During the debate on the resolution, the opposition Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) suggested that a president should be elected by the electorate and that the house should consist of 13 elected members to be elected by proportional representation. In making the suggestions, Miss Eugenia Charles, the Leader of the Opposition, explained that an elected president should be void of political leanings and would serve as a check on excesses which might be pursued by the Government in power. With the establishment of the proposed system of proportional representation, she said, representation in parliament would be more evenly distributed, and parliament would no longer be composed of hand-picked individuals of the ruling and opposition parties.

i/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXX, annex, para. 36.

22. The Premier replied that even if a president were elected by the people of the Territory, there would be no guarantee that he would act impartially, and that an elected president would be in a position to frustrate the function of the Government if he was not in favour of its policy. Agreeing with the Premier, another member from his party stated that the system of proportional representation was suitable for a country with different ethnic groupings, and that the working of the system was an intricate matter which would take a number of years to explain fully to the public.

23. Moreover, the Premier did not agree with the Opposition that not enough had been done to educate the public on the issue of independence. He pointed out that the people of the Territory had participated in discussions on the matter. In that connexion, he drew attention to 21 seminars held by the Opposition, the weekly radio programme entitled "Independence Forum" and meetings organized by members of the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) in their constituencies, as well as by the various independence committees.

(b) Debates in the United Kingdom House of Lords

24. On two occasions, members of the United Kingdom House of Lords held debates on the situation in Dominica. The first took place on 29 November 1977, when Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replied to questions put to him. Among the points he made were the following: j/

(a) A number of individuals had written expressing opposition to independence for Dominica. Representations from DFP had concerned the constitutional details and the method and timing of a move towards independence.

(b) A general strike had occurred in the Territory, lasting from 1 September to 17 October 1977. The causes of the strike were somewhat more varied than purely constitutional (see also paras. 67-69 below).

(c) The attitude of the United Kingdom Government so far had been that both DLP and DFP had clearly expressed themselves as being in favour of independence. That had been apparent at the Constitutional Conference held in early 1977. In October, the House of Assembly of Dominica had debated on and approved, by a vote of 16 to 5, the territorial Government's independence proposals (see paras. 20-23 above). Considering it important that the consensus in Dominica should be effectively in favour of independence, the United Kingdom Government awaited a statement by the Premier of the Territory on how the consultations through the public media had proceeded locally and a report on the state of public opinion on the issue from the British Government representative in Dominica.

j/ United Kingdom, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), House of Lords, Official Report (London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1977), vol. 387, No. 12, cols. 1086-1089.

(d) Upon receipt of the two documents, the United Kingdom Government would be in a position to decide, among other things, whether it should ascertain the political aspirations of the people of the Territory through a general election or a referendum.

(e) The overriding obligations of the United Kingdom Government were to recognize the wishes of the people of Dominica in expressing their will for self-determination rather than to pursue a general policy of decolonization against the wishes of the local people.

(f) The details of the programme of United Kingdom aid to the Territory after its independence would be determined in consultation with the Dominican Government. However, the United Kingdom Government would certainly not envisage any reduction in project aid and technical co-operation in the first few years of independence.

25. In reply to questions raised during the second debate on the situation in Dominica, held on 19 January 1978, Lord Goronwy-Roberts made the following main points: k/

(a) The United Kingdom Government had not received any request to delay a decision on Dominica's independence until after the next general election there. The Opposition had proposed that the independence constitution should provide that such an election be held in early 1980, which was when it would be due under the present Constitution.

(b) Although the United Kingdom Government was responsible for the external affairs and defence of the Territory, it had no responsibility for, nor power to intervene in, Dominica's internal affairs. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom Government was in a position to intimate to the Dominican authorities its hope that they would find it possible to take measures aimed at ensuring proper preparations for a viable election.

(c) The United Kingdom Government had received detailed reports of the public and parliamentary discussion of a White Paper on independence emanating from the 1977 Constitutional Conference. Lord Goronwy-Roberts stated: "If we are satisfied that the desire for independence is widely supported by the people of Dominica, we shall recommend that they proceed to independence".

(d) The progress and the process of internal discussion regarding the nature of the constitution accepted at that Conference was considered to be encouraging. Although the Government and the Opposition were at variance on a number of constitutional points, they agreed that Dominica should proceed to independence. The United Kingdom Government had the impression that their differences were narrowing practically day by day.

k/ Ibid., vol. 388, No. 24, cols, 207-209.

(c) Situation since January 1978

26. On 15 February 1978, Mr. John, the Premier, was reported to have sent a telegram of congratulations to Grenada on the fourth anniversary of its independence. In the telegram, he said that Dominica was seeking independence from the United Kingdom during the year.

27. On 14 April, it was reported that a five-member delegation headed by Mr. John had arrived in Barbados from London after further talks on independence for Dominica. There were indications that the talks had been "reasonably successful" and that the Territory was well on its way to independence. At a youth rally in Portsmouth on 23 April, the Premier announced that, during the recent talks at London, he had been told that the preparations for independence should continue, since the United Kingdom Government had no intention of delaying Dominica's move towards independence.

28. At the Premier's invitation, three officials of the United Kingdom Government visited the Territory from 13 to 19 May for further talks on an independent constitution for Dominica. Mr. Richard Prossnet, an adviser to the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who had attended the 1977 Constitutional Conference, stated that he had held lengthy discussions with both the Government and the Opposition, which he described as "fair, frank and profitable". On 21 July, after considering the current situation in Dominica, the United Kingdom House of Commons approved, without a vote, an order granting full independence to the Territory. Later, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office announced that Dominica would become fully independent on 3 November.

St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla

29. As previously noted, 1/ at the last general elections, held in St. Kitts-Nevis on 1 December 1975, the ruling Labour Party (LP), led by the late Premier, Mr. Robert Bradshaw (who died in May 1978), was returned to power. No election took place in Anguilla because of the special circumstances affecting that island (see para. 12 above). Independence was an election campaign issue of LP.

30. In March and April 1976, the territorial Government sent a delegation to London to hold talks with the United Kingdom Government on the future constitutional status of the Territory. It was reported that the opposition Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) had refused to participate in the first round of independence talks in March on the grounds that the people of Nevis were not interested in any form of independence. However, NRP was represented in the second round in April, which explored the differences of views between the Government and the Opposition on the question under consideration. It was also reported that Anguilla had not taken part in those talks because its people did not want to be independent with St. Kitts and Nevis, or even separately, at that time.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXV, annex, paras. 24 and 37-38; *ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXX, annex, para. 41.

31. Further meetings were held in London on 16 and 17 March 1977 between a delegation from the Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Mr. Edward Rowlands, the United Kingdom Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to discuss proposals for the constitutional advancement of the State. The delegation consisted of Mr. Bradshaw, the late Premier, Mr. Paul Southwell, the Deputy Premier, Mr. Lee Moore, the Attorney-General, and Mr. Simeon Daniel, Leader of the Opposition. Earlier, Mr. Daniel had expressed opposition to Mr. Bradshaw's invitation to reunite the people of Nevis under independent status and had repeatedly stated that it was the desire of the voters of Nevis to achieve political separation from St. Kitts. This was reflected in the results of a "referendum" in Nevis called by NRP later in the year.

32. It was reported that, towards the end of March, a delegation composed of Messrs. Bradshaw, Southwell and Moore met with Mr. Rowlands at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office. According to officials of the United Kingdom Government, the United Kingdom would be in a position, under the West Indies Act, 1967, to grant independence to the Territory as requested by Mr. Bradshaw; it would, however, first want to be satisfied that "the majority of the people of the Territory through a referendum or a general election show that they are in favour of this". They went on to say that the United Kingdom would only agree to "Anguilla being included in any independent St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla federation if this is what the people of Anguilla also want".

33. In public statements made between September 1977 and January 1978, Mr. Bradshaw was reported to have made the following observations concerning the ultimate future of the Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla:

(a) The failure to achieve independence for the State in 1977 was attributed to "continued fundamental differences between the United Kingdom Government and ourselves over the question of Anguilla".

(b) The United Kingdom Government would have to "recognize that Anguilla is still legally part of the State ... The door should be left open for Anguilla to be fully reintegrated into the State at some time in the future".

(c) The "referendum" recently carried out by NRP in Nevis had no legal basis and "we still intend to go to independence with Nevis". No real threat to independence was coming from the would-be separatists on that island.

(d) Recent "authoritative" indications were that it should be possible for the State to become independent in 1978.

34. During a visit to Antigua on 2 February, Mr. Moore stated that Mr. Bradshaw's illness had forced the suspension of talks with the United Kingdom Government over the future status of the Territory, but that discussions on the question of Anguilla were continuing between the parties concerned.

35. In his message on New Year's Day, Mr. Southwell, the Deputy Premier, reaffirmed that 1978 should see the Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla proceeding to

independence. He added that its Government, "having committed itself in the elections of December 1975 to take the State into independence, is anxious to get ahead with the coming independence". In May, he was appointed Premier following Mr. Bradshaw's death.

St. Lucia

36. It will be recalled m/ that preliminary independence talks were held in London in April 1977 between representatives of the United Kingdom and the two political parties in St. Lucia's House of Assembly: the ruling United Workers' Party (UWP) and the opposition Labour Party (LP). Following the talks, the United Kingdom Government issued an official release, in which it was stated that the St. Lucia Government would publish a consultative document setting out for public discussion the advantages it saw in independence and any possible modifications to the current Constitution.

37. In July, the territorial Government released a green paper on independence and invited all sections of the community to express their views on the issue by 30 September. After that period of public discussion, another round of talks was expected to be held in London to review the outcome of the consultations.

38. In the Green Paper, the Government proposed no substantial changes in the current Constitution. Among the advantages outlined in the paper was St. Lucia's membership in the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The paper also described how Mr. John Compton, the Premier, had, as early as 1967, envisaged independence for the Territory and how the Government had at first worked for political co-operation on the question with the other Associated States. The paper further pointed out that in successive speeches announcing the Government's policies and programmes delivered by the Governor before the legislature, he had said that there had been no progress towards independence and that if no joint approach was forthcoming, St. Lucia would go it alone.

39. On 6 October, in reply to the Government, LP was reported to have published a "red paper" on independence in which it claimed that public reaction to the Green Paper "remains deeply sullen and overwhelmingly adverse". It also alleged that the people of St. Lucia were "convinced that the burden of independence will be beyond their capacity to bear and that independence at this time would only worsen the grave economic situation in which St. Lucia finds itself today". Moreover, it was highly critical of the entire performance of the Government.

40. In its "red paper", LP expressed the belief that should it be decided at the forthcoming London talks that the public had not shown sufficient interest in the matter, the Government's request that St. Lucia be granted independence in 1978

m/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXX, annex, paras. 47-49.

would be abandoned "at least for the time being". The paper reiterated the party's stand that the decision on the Territory's future was not for the Government to take but for the people.

(a) Second round of constitutional talks

41. The second round of talks on the question of independence for St. Lucia was held in London from 14 to 16 March 1978. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Rowlands and was attended by delegates of the two parties in the St. Lucia House of Assembly, namely, UWP, led by Mr. Compton, the Premier, and LP, led by Mr. Alan Louisy, Leader of the Opposition.

42. During the debate on the question, Mr. Compton was reported to have said:

"... The Government of St. Lucia holds most fervently that it is the inalienable right of every country, however small, to be free and to preside over its own destiny ... St. Lucia now has a status of association with the United Kingdom ... This association is said to be 'free and voluntary' and may be terminated at any time by any party in accordance with procedures laid down in the Constitution.

"... It is this Government that has formally notified Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of its desire to terminate the association. With this notification, any procrastination in acceding to the wishes of the people of St. Lucia as notified through their duly elected Government, calls into question the 'free and voluntary' nature of this association.

"It has been accepted that one of the procedures - that of referendum - laid down in the Constitution for terminating the association is now obsolete ... The only other option is that of Her Majesty's Government.

"... We have over the past two years given every opportunity for debates about our constitutional future but in any democratic society, when there is disagreement, the will of the majority must prevail ... The St. Lucia Government representatives therefore demand that Her Majesty's Government take, as soon as possible, the appropriate constitutional steps, to surrender to the people of St. Lucia through its duly elected Government the residual powers now retained by Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom ...

"The St. Lucia Government representatives, however, wish to assure Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom that there will be full consultation with the people regarding any changes in the Constitution which may be necessary to achieve full independence. ... When these consultations on the Constitution have been completed, a delegation from St. Lucia will be prepared to return to discuss with you Mr. Rowlands an agreed constitution for an independent St. Lucia, which it will be our desire to have inaugurated not later than 13 December 1978 ...".

43. According to an official communiqué issued at the end of the talks, the participants agreed that the process of consultation would be consolidated and that as part of this the Government of St. Lucia would publish for public discussion a draft constitution for an independent St. Lucia. Mr. Rowlands said that, subject to his being satisfied that all the processes had been completed, he would be prepared to call a constitutional conference within the next four months.

44. On 20 March, after his return from London, Mr. Compton told supporters of his party that the time had come for St. Lucians to realize that the responsibility for the country was theirs, and that they must have one goal: the independence of the island by 13 December 1978. He added that countries much smaller than the Territory had achieved their independence and that in the next few weeks, the Government would ask St. Lucians to discuss the type of constitution they would want.

45. In a statement released after the recent constitutional talks, LP said that Mr. Rowlands had not been satisfied that adequate consultation with St. Lucians on the question of independence had taken place and that he had not acceded to a request by the territorial Government that the United Kingdom Government set 13 December as the date for independence. It was now left to the people of St. Lucia, during the next four months of consultation, to indicate whether they would want independence and if so, when.

46. In a speech announcing the territorial Government's current policies and programmes, delivered at the opening session of the legislature on 5 April, the Governor, after reviewing the recent developments on the independence issue, expressed the hope that the constitutional conference scheduled to take place in London before the end of July would settle the issue once and for all. He pointed out that work on the preparation of a draft constitution for an independent St. Lucia had already begun. Although the Government envisaged no major changes in the current Constitution, he urged the people of St. Lucia to pay the most careful attention to the contents of that document and to make their comments freely available, so as to guide their elected representatives in the preparation of the final act. Finally, he appealed for national unity in the movement towards nationhood.

47. On 12 April, in reply to questions in the United Kingdom House of Lords, Lord Goronwy-Roberts announced that no date for St. Lucia's independence had yet been agreed upon by the parties concerned. In drawing attention to the official communiqué issued after the recent constitutional talks (see para. 43 above), he said that no serious uncertainty would accrue from the time-table specified in it, and that Mr. Rowlands was prepared to convene, before the end of July, a constitutional conference leading to independence, if certain reasonable conditions of consensus were obtained. He expressed the belief that both the Government and the Opposition in St. Lucia had the best interests of the country at heart and that the United Kingdom Government should "co-operate through section 10 (2) - if that proves to be the right process - of the 1967 West Indies Act". n/

n/ United Kingdom, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard): House of Lords, Official Report (London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1978), vol. 390, No. 60, cols. 625 and 626.

(b) Draft constitution for an independent St. Lucia

48. On 9 May, the territorial Government was reported to have published for public discussion a simplified and condensed version of the draft of the proposed independence constitution entitled the Layman's Guide. The actual draft was still being printed.

49. In the Guide the Government said that all the rights and freedoms of the individual as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and guaranteed in the current Constitution of the Territory would continue to be guaranteed in the proposed independence constitution, "subject to the rights and freedoms of others and what is in the public interest". In addition, it would be provided that a person arrested or detained should have the right to engage a lawyer to represent him and speak to such a lawyer in private, and that the amount of bail fixed for an arrested person should not be excessive.

50. The Government also said that the House of Assembly would continue to have 17 elected members, but that the number of the nominated members would be increased from 3 to 5. The Government went on to say that although it had no immediate plans to create a senate, provision would be made for the establishment of such a chamber "whenever it may be considered necessary".

51. According to the Guide a member of the house with the qualifications of a lawyer would be appointed to the post of Attorney-General, at which time the law officer currently in that post would become Director of Public Prosecutions.

52. There would be provisions for: (a) the appointment of a public service commission to safeguard the independence and impartiality of the service; and (b) persons having been aggrieved to retain the right of appeal.

53. From 24 to 27 July 1978, a Constitutional Conference was held in London with a view to making constitutional arrangements for granting independence to St. Lucia. It was attended by delegates of UWP and LP, the two parties represented in the St. Lucia House of Assembly.

54. On 27 July, at the final session of the Conference, Mr. Compton is reported to have said:

"We have spent the past four days modelling the new framework within which the people of St. Lucia will soon begin to conduct their affairs as a free and sovereign people. We have arrived at substantial agreement on the nature of that new framework. The narrow margins of difference [between] my delegation and that of the Opposition will, I have no doubt, be readily resolved in our House of Assembly."

The Premier again called on the United Kingdom Government to give St. Lucia full independence on 13 December 1978.

St. Vincent

55. At the last general election, held on 9 December 1974, o/ the St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), led by Mr. R. Milton Cato, won 10 of the 13 elected seats in the House of Assembly; the Peoples' Political Party (PPP), led by Mr. Ebenezer T. Joshua, won 2 seats; and Mr. James F. Mitchell, the Premier in the previous Government, who campaigned as a member of a break-away faction of PPP, retained his seat for the Grenadines. SVLP contested the election in a unity agreement with PPP. On 10 December, Mr. Cato, who was appointed Premier and Minister of Finance, formed a new Government, in which Mr. Joshua became the Minister of Trade and Agriculture. At about that time, the latter's wife, Mrs. Ivy Joshua, who had secured the seat for North Windward, advised the Governor that she would not support the Government. She was later appointed Leader of the Opposition (see para. 13 above).

(a) Position of the major political parties concerning the future of the Territory

56. SVLP campaigned on the issue of full independence for the Territory during the next five years, either in unity with one or more Territories or alone. In his speech at the opening of the territorial legislature in January 1975, the Governor declared that the Government, acting on the clear and unmistakable mandate given to it by the people, would seek independence. He reaffirmed that commitment in subsequent speeches delivered to the legislature. Furthermore, Mr. Cato's associated statehood messages in 1976 and 1977 and his recent statements have indicated no change in the Government's position in this regard.

57. In a letter dated 22 February 1978, addressed to the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Joshua stated that PPP was not in favour of independence for St. Vincent without holding a referendum or general election. He also charged that Mr. Cato had adopted a "unilateral approach to the vital question of independence" and had ignored the opinion of PPP.

58. On 9 March, upon learning of the position taken by PPP, Mr. Cato addressed a letter to Mr. Joshua asking him to withdraw his letter to the Secretary of State. Making two replies, Mr. Joshua refused to comply with that request mainly on the grounds that "PPP, which has a unity agreement with your party, is nevertheless a fully autonomous and duly constituted body in its own right". On 13 March, in a memorandum addressed to Mr. Joshua, the Governor informed him that his office, as of that date, had become vacant on the advice of the Premier.

(b) Resolution on St. Vincent's ultimate status

59. On 23 March, Mr. Cato was reported to have submitted to the House of Assembly a draft resolution authorizing the Government to seek full independence for the Territory without delay. During the debate on the draft, the Premier

o/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXV, annex, paras. 30 and 32-33.

maintained that because his party had received 19,579 out of the 28,574 votes cast in the 1974 general election, it had a mandate for leading St. Vincent to nationhood. He asked all Vincentians, including the Opposition, "to act in a statesmanlike manner to move the country from serfdom to freedom".

60. Mr. Joshua, who had been relieved of his cabinet post in March (see para. 58 above), and had thus become an opposition member, argued that the Government did not have a clear mandate for a change in the Territory's political status because SVLP had joined PFP to win the last election. He reiterated his views on the question of independence (see para. 57 above), which were shared by Mr. Mitchell, the former Premier.

61. At the end of the debate, the draft resolution was adopted by a vote of 10 to 2. Mr. Joshua, who had been requested to leave the chamber by the Speaker for his refusal to be called to order, did not participate in the voting; Mrs. Joshua and Mr. Mitchell voted against the draft resolution.

(c) Preparations for independence talks

62. Soon after the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution, Mr. Cato, the Premier, together with Mr. Arthur Francis Williams, the Attorney-General, visited London for preliminary discussions with officials at the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The discussions reportedly centred on procedures for leading St. Vincent to independence. The Premier also intended to raise the questions of United Kingdom financial and technical assistance for an independent St. Vincent.

63. On 17 May, the Office of the Premier announced that the territorial Government and the Opposition would hold their first formal round of independence talks with the United Kingdom Government in London in early September. At the talks, consideration would be given to the amendments required to the current Constitution for the Territory to make it appropriate to an independent St. Vincent. All three opposition members in the House of Assembly would be invited to attend the talks.

64. Earlier, individuals and groups in the Territory had been given two months ending 31 May, to submit memoranda containing proposals for possible inclusion in an independence constitution for St. Vincent. On 1 June, it was reported that in response to public demand, the Premier had extended the deadline to 31 July.

C. Other developments

Antigua

65. In late 1977, it was reported that, following a third round of negotiations, Antigua and the United States of America had signed a new 11-year agreement allowing the latter continued use of the bases at Coolidge, where the United States operates a tracking station and an oceanic research station.

66. In a communiqué issued after the signing of the above agreement, the territorial Government announced that, under the new agreement which replaced the one due to expire on 31 December 1977, Antigua would receive an annual payment of \$EC 4.2 million. p/ It added that the negotiations had also provided additional opportunities for Antigua to participate more fully in the economic assistance given by the United States through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). It went on to say that there had been a series of very productive meetings between representatives of the Antigua Government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and that Antigua was encouraged by the prospects of a new era of economic assistance programmes.

Dominica

67. In July 1977, the Civil Service Association (CSA) of Dominica rejected the Government's latest proposal for the settlement of a claim by civil servants for back pay over the period January 1974 to June 1976, and demanded that the Government pay in cash the estimated \$EC 4.1 million due civil servants by the end of the following month. On 1 September, after being informed that the Government could not meet the union's demand, some 2,000 civil servants went on strike, later being joined by port workers. The strike closed public offices and schools, stripped hospitals of nursing services and halted much of the air and shipping services. The Government reported that the strike would probably cost approximately \$EC 4.0 million.

68. According to local reports, the situation had not become desperate and there had been no disturbances, although there had been shortages of food and industrial raw materials.

69. On 17 October, after the parties involved had reached an agreement, the strikers returned to work. Under the terms of the agreement, the Government would pay the \$EC 4.1 million demanded (see para. 67 above) and would offer certain other benefits to all striking civil servants. On the other hand, CSA would not demand any salary revision from the Government before January 1979. Beginning on 1 September 1977, however, each public officer would receive \$EC 10.0 per month whenever the cost-of-living index rose by 10 points.

70. In January 1978, ministerial changes in the Government occurred. Mr. Michael Douglas, Minister of Communications, Works and Hydraulics, and Mr. Ferdinand Parillon, Minister of Home Affairs, Health and Welfare, were removed from their ministries for political reasons. They were succeeded by Mr. Osbourne Theodore and Mr. Randolph Bannis, respectively. Subsequently both Mr. Douglas and Mr. Parillon resigned from the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) which had won 16 of the 21 elected seats in the House of Assembly at the last general election held in March 1975.

p/ The local currency is the East Caribbean dollar (\$EC). In July 1976, the East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) decided to sever the link with the pound sterling and to link the dollar to the United States dollar. Parity was established at the rate of \$EC 2.70 to \$US 1.00.

71. During the same month, a further important development affecting governmental structure came about with the decision of Mr. Pat Stevens, an independent member in the House of Assembly, to join the opposition Dominica Freedom Party (DFP), which had won three elected seats in the House at the 1975 elections. In doing so, Mr. Stevens stated that with independence approaching, it would be necessary to strengthen the Opposition with a view to exercising greater influence on parliamentary debates.

St. Vincent

72. On 13 March 1978, an important political development in the Territory took place with the announcement by the Governor that Mr. Joshua's responsibility as Minister of Trade and Agriculture had been entrusted to Mr. Vincent Beache, the former Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry. As a result, Mr. Joshua resumed his duties as the leader of PPP (see also paras. 55 and 58 above).

D. External relations

73. The five Associated States are members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) (embracing the Caribbean Common Market) and its associate institutions. One such institution is the Council of Ministers of the West Indies Associated States whose objective is to promote intergovernmental co-operation among the States.

74. On 1 and 2 March 1978, the Premier of the Territory delivered an opening statement before the Council of Ministers at a meeting held at Castries, St. Lucia. Among other things, he called upon the participants to consolidate the institution to face the future, especially since some of its members were seeking early independence from the United Kingdom.

75. The Council then considered a number of matters relating to civil aviation; currency; overseas representation and, specifically, the Council's commissions in Canada and the United Kingdom; the West Indies Associated States Supreme Court; representation on the boards of regional bodies; and a meeting on marine issues, to be held towards the end of March by the representatives of Grenada and Montserrat. The Council also considered follow-up action to the Conference on Economic Development in the Caribbean held at Washington, D.C., on 14 and 15 December 1977, which was sponsored by the World Bank and, among others, CDB, another associate institution of CARICOM (see chap. XXIII of the present report q/ and para. 4 above).

76. The Governments of the Associated States helped to establish on Tortola in the British Virgin Islands the Regional Police Training Centre for the Eastern Caribbean. In July 1977, the Centre was opened with a total enrolment of 27 police officers (including 12 from the Associated States).

77. The Governments of the Associated States have also made contributions to certain UNDP regional projects. In December 1976, UNDP provided \$US 1.1 million to meet part of the cost of a regional project for continuing its technical

q/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/33/23/Rev.1), vol. III.

assistance to CDB; the balance of the \$US 6.8 million project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 1979, will be borne by 17 participating countries, including the Associated States (see chap. XXIII of the present report). r/ In July 1977, it was decided that another regional project for the education and training of allied health (paramedical) personnel in the 17 Commonwealth Caribbean countries (including the Associated States), which had become fully operative in July 1975, should be extended from one and a half to five and a half years. This project will cost a total of \$US 9.3 million to be financed partly by UNDP (\$US 1.3 million) and partly by the Governments of the participating countries (\$US 8.0 million).

78. On 28 February 1975, a treaty envisaging wide-ranging economic co-operation between the members of the European Economic Community (EEC) and certain African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries was signed at Lomé, Togo (see A/AC.176/7). As long as the Territories remain States in association with the United Kingdom, a member of EEC, they will be covered by the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. The terms of the Convention provide for special arrangements for sugar which involve a guaranteed market in EEC for up to 1.3 million metric tons annually at a guaranteed minimum price linked to the EEC sugar price. St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, a sugar producer and exporter, participates in the arrangements. The Convention also establishes a scheme covering a number of commodities including fresh bananas designed to stabilize the earnings of the individual exporters which include Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Moreover, EEC makes aid available to the Associated States through the European Investment Bank and the European Development Fund.

r/ Ibid.

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS s/

A. General

79. The economies of the Associated States are based largely on agricultural exports, construction, tourism and government expenditures which in turn depend almost entirely on external aid to cover capital expenditure and recurrent budgetary deficits. The manufacturing and distribution sectors are small-scale and there is an absence of commercial mineral deposits.

80. The economic recession which had struck the English-speaking Caribbean region in 1973/74 continued into 1977, albeit with some limited measure of recovery in many of the more developed countries, i.e., Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica, and the less developed countries, including the Associated States. Trinidad and Tobago, an oil-producing country, was an exception in this general picture, although, like all the other member countries of CARICOM, it was still suffering from the effects of inflation imported from the industrialized countries. World market prices of sugar, the chief export product of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, were lower than in 1976. Export prices of bananas, the principal cash crop of Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, remained the same.

81. Generally speaking, the Associated States continued to experience balance-of-payment pressures, recurrent budgetary deficits, and to face the deep-rooted structural problems of small island economies. In those Territories, levels of unemployment and underemployment were exceptionally high and per capita production and incomes have actually been declining over the past few years.

B. Recent economic developments

82. Following is an outline of recent economic developments in the Associated States.

Agriculture

83. Because of unavailability of data on agricultural production for domestic and regional consumption, the information given below deals principally with agricultural production for export to extraregional markets.

(a) Sugar

84. St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla is, by world standards, a minor producer and exporter of sugar and its sugar crop is mainly grown on St. Kitts. The Governments of

s/ The information contained in this section has been derived from published reports and from information taken from the Caribbean Development Bank: Annual Report 1977 (Barbados).

Antigua and St. Vincent have recently sought to revive their respective sugar industries. In 1977, Antigua imported from St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla material for planting sugar cane in the Territory. In the case of St. Vincent, the Government has undertaken a project aimed at producing enough sugar for local consumption. In January 1978, CDB was reported to have approved a loan of approximately \$US 3 million to meet part of the cost of the estimated \$US 4 million project, which involves planting sugar cane on the Langley Park Estate and manufacturing it into sugar at a mill to be built at Mount Bentinek. Work on the mill is expected to be completed by the end of 1979.

85. On 23 April 1978, speaking at a youth rally at Portsmouth, Mr. Patrick John, the Premier of Dominica, stated that, based on the results of recent surveys it had conducted, the territorial Government intended to establish an integrated sugar industry capable of providing sugar and other raw materials for the manufacture of rum and spirits.

86. In 1977, the sugar crop in St. Kitts amounted to 41,382 metric tons, compared with 35,339 metric tons in the previous year. According to the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, it acquired the St. Kitts Sugar Factory (now known as the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation) in December 1976, following the conclusion of an agreement with its former owner, the London-based Henekell-Dubuisson Company, Ltd. In 1977, the Government-owned corporation made an after-tax profit of \$EC 2.6 million, of which \$EC 1.3 million was used to pay the first instalment of its take-over cost under the agreement.

87. In 1976/77, world production of cane-sugar was estimated at 86.7 million metric tons, compared with 82.4 million metric tons in the previous year. On 1 January 1978, a new five-year International Sugar Agreement came into force, the basic elements of which are: (a) the fixing of a minimum and maximum price range of \$US 0.11 to \$US 0.21 per pound; (b) the keeping of prices within this range by regulating market supplies through a system of export quotas and reserve stocks built up by exporters from excess supplies; and (c) the financing of the cost of holding the stocks by a levy on shipments moving through international trade. Under the terms of the agreement, an export quota of 71,120 metric tons of raw sugar is assigned to the Territory.

88. For the year ending 30 June 1978, EEC agreed on a new guaranteed price for sugar imported from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries (see also para. 78 above). EEC expects ACP countries to secure a price increase of 5.6 per cent on their sugar, owing to the new guaranteed price and the adoption of a proposed special self-balancing storage levy system for sugar from ACP countries.

89. On 18 January 1978, a spokesman for CARICOM stated at Georgetown, Guyana, that information received by the Community secretariat (with headquarters located there) suggested that the Canadian Government was considering reducing its \$8-a-ton tariff preference on about 50,000 tons of sugar sold to Canada by sugar-exporting member countries of CARICOM. It had previously been reported that Canada and the Commonwealth Caribbean countries had begun negotiations in 1976 aimed at devising a pact to replace the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, and that the new pact could include a tariff preference such as that enjoyed by sugar.

(b) Bananas

90. In 1977, bananas exported to the United Kingdom from the Windward Islands, including Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent amounted to 113,131 metric tons, compared with 122,524 metric tons the previous year; the decline was attributed mainly to the unfavourable weather conditions in those islands. During the first three months of 1978, however, banana exports totalled 30,130 metric tons, compared with 28,642 metric tons for the same period in 1977. Production was expected to increase further over the next three months, especially in Dominica and St. Lucia, the main exporting countries.

(c) Coconuts

91. Coconuts, which provide copra, are grown in Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Soon after the establishment of CARICOM in July 1973, arrangements were made for the intraregional marketing of certain selected agricultural commodities. Under these arrangements, coconut oil and copra produced in the three Territories during recent years have been exported to other CARICOM countries.

(d) Arrowroot

92. The arrowroot, grown in St. Vincent, which is the sole exporter of this commodity from the CARICOM area, is of a variety reputed to yield the world's purest root starch. Production decreased from 8,227 barrels in 1975/76 to 7,438 barrels in the following year, while the price per barrel during this period increased from \$EC 140 to \$EC 170.

Tourism

93. Owing to the severe winter in North America during 1976/77, tourist arrivals in most Commonwealth Caribbean countries, including the Associated States, increased appreciably in the winter season, a trend which continued into the summer season.

94. In 1977, tourist arrivals by air were as follows (with percentage gains over 1976 given in parentheses): Antigua, 67,412 (19.5 per cent); St. Lucia, 45,057 (24 per cent); Dominica, 21,737 (13 per cent); St. Vincent, 18,200 (6 per cent); and St. Kitts-Nevis, 15,400 (10 per cent).

95. Between late 1977 and early 1978, there were two important developments concerning the tourist industry in Antigua and St. Lucia. It will be recalled that under a new agreement concerning United States military bases in Antigua, the Territory was to receive an annual payment of \$EC 4.2 million over the period 1978-1988 (see paras. 65-66 above). The Government of Antigua intended to spend most of this amount on its hotel expansion programme. In the case of St. Lucia, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism was reported to have said that the I.H.M. Corporation of the United States had begun to construct a resort complex at Troumassee, to be completed in 1980, at a cost of \$EC 125.0 million. The first phase of this project would include a golf course and a hotel.

Manufacturing

96. Each of the Associated States has a number of small industrial concerns producing mainly for the local market. CDB continued to assist those States in accelerating industrial development, and in 1977 it approved 16 manufacturing loans totalling nearly \$US 7 million, the largest of which was for the revival of the sugar industry in St. Vincent (see para. 84 above). Loans were also approved for the construction of two industrial estates in Antigua and St. Lucia with respective factory spaces of 9,300 and 5,400 square metres. Additionally, several loans were granted to Antigua, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla under the Small Industry Credit Programme and the agricultural and industrial credit programmes; the average loan was about \$US 200,000.

97. From late 1977 and early 1978, new factories were established and others were being set up to produce: (a) jeep-like vehicles and women's undergarments in Antigua; (b) knitwear, paint and timber in Dominica; (c) flour in St. Lucia and St. Vincent; and (d) electronic products and shoes in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

98. In January 1978, the Government of Antigua announced that it had reached an agreement with Arencos, Inc. of the United States which allowed the company, among other things, to take over an 80 per cent interest in a small oil refinery that the Government had acquired in 1975 from the West Indies Oil Company, owned by the Natomas Company of the United States. At the same time, the Hess Oil Corporation of the United States was continuing to construct a much larger oil refinery and a terminal in St. Lucia at an estimated cost of \$EC 135 million.

Infrastructure

(a) Projects mainly financed by CDB

99. By the end of 1977, the port project for Dominica was almost at the stage of completion. Owing to technical difficulties, work on the construction of a port in St. Lucia came to a standstill. The St. Lucia Government subsequently obtained a loan of \$EC 7.5 million from Venezuela to finance the final phase of the project, which was expected to be undertaken by a Venezuelan firm. Plans for the port in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla were nearing completion.

100. During the same year, the cargo facility at Coolidge Airport, Antigua, was put into full use. The new passenger terminal building at Vigie Airport, St. Lucia, became fully operational. Construction work continued on the improvement and expansion of water supply systems in Dominica and St. Lucia. The two projects were also supported with bilateral assistance from the Canadian Government. Construction of a sewage disposal system for St. Lucia was completed.

(b) Other projects

101. In early 1978, the European Development Fund signed two separate agreements with the Governments of Dominica and St. Lucia, providing them with \$EC 6.5 million and \$EC 3.0 million, respectively, for their road projects.

102. Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd., which provides telephone, telegraph and telex services in the Associated States, inaugurated a new telecommunications system, with the capacity to carry nearly 1,000 telephone calls simultaneously, extending from the British Virgin Islands in the north to Trinidad and Tobago in the south. Installation of that part of the system covering the English-speaking Caribbean region amounted to \$EC 14.0 million. The system replaces the previous radio system which was insufficiently equipped to meet traffic demands not only within the Eastern Caribbean but also from other regions.

Currency and banking

103. The Associated States have been members of the East Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA) since its establishment in 1965. ECCA is responsible for the issuance and management of a common currency, the East Caribbean dollar. The Council of Ministers of the West Indies Associated States appoints the managing director of ECCA and seven directors nominated by member Governments for a three-year term. On 12 September 1977, Mr. Cecil Jacobs, the Managing Director, told reporters that members of ECCA were considering proposals to upgrade it to a central bank. He also agreed that a common currency for CARICOM countries would be of considerable advantage to the area (see also para. 113 below).

104. In recognition of the need to foster development of indigenous commercial banks in the Eastern Caribbean, the Council, at a meeting held in St. Lucia in early March 1978, agreed that a committee of experts should be set up to investigate the operations of such banks in the Associated States, and to encourage their establishment in islands where they did not exist (see also paras. 74-75 above).

Public finance

105. As has been stated, the Government of each Territory depends almost entirely on external aid to cover capital expenditure and recurrent budgetary deficits (see para. 79 above). In 1977, each territorial Government introduced measures to strengthen its financial position, mainly by increasing tax rates, by improving the yield from given tax rates and by imposing new taxes.

106. The Associated States have received financial and technical assistance from certain external sources on a bilateral or multilateral basis. These have included the administering Power; the Governments of Canada, the United States and Venezuela; CARICOM and its associated institutions, especially CDB; EEC; and organizations within the United Nations system, notably UNDP. Moreover, following the decision taken by the Conference on Economic Development in the Caribbean, held at Washington, D.C., in December 1977 (see paras. 4 and 75 above), the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development was established to serve as a mechanism particularly for the co-ordination and strengthening of external assistance to the Caribbean, of which the Associated States form a part (see below).

107. CDB continued to assist member countries, particularly the less developed countries, in facing their financial difficulties during 1977. It granted the latter 79 per cent (\$US 23.5 million) of total loan approvals, amounting to

\$US 30.0 million, and 95 per cent (\$US 20.2 million) of total soft-loan approvals, amounting to \$US 21.3 million. The Board of Directors of CDB decided that no less than 70 per cent of the resources of the Bank's Special Development Fund should go to the less developed countries where CDB also introduced a New Agricultural Production Credit Scheme for small farmers. CDB gave continuing attention to ways and means of improving the viability and quality of operations of the development finance corporations in less developed countries, bearing in mind their serious under-capitalization and cash flow problems and the inability of their Governments, owing to budgetary constraints, to make up the deficits. In particular, CDB agreed that loans to the development finance corporations for agricultural and industrial credit formerly made on "hard" terms should now be made on "soft" terms, under certain conditions.

108. For the period 1977-1981, UNDP assigned to the Caribbean region, including the Associated States, an adjusted indicative planning figure of \$US 4.9 million, including \$US 831,000 for 1977 and \$US 868,000 for 1978.

C. Caribbean economic integration

109. A basic objective of CARICOM, which was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas of 1973, is to promote the economic integration of its member countries. In pursuance of this objective, the Caribbean Common Market was created: (a) to strengthen, co-ordinate and regulate the economic and trade relations among member countries; (b) to encourage the sustained expansion and continuing integration of economic activities, taking into account the need to provide special opportunities for the less developed countries; and (c) to achieve a greater measure of economic independence and effectiveness of its member countries in dealing with States, groups of States and entities of whatever description.

110. According to CDB, in 1977, the regional integration movement was subjected to "severe pressures" caused mainly by the adverse balance-of-payments position of some member countries. Thus, the latter took action to curtail imports significantly, including those from other parts of the region. Nevertheless, there were favourable developments concerning the Common Market which are summarized below.

Decisions of the Common Market Council of Ministers

111. At its 11th meeting held in 1977, the Common Market Council of Ministers took the following decisions: (a) to introduce on 1 January 1978, new and tighter rules of origin for manufacturers trading between member countries; (b) to bring into force on 1 January 1979 a fully integrated common external tariff; (c) to establish, before the end of 1977, a working party of regional experts to work out a new strategy to accelerate industrial development in the less developed countries and, to this end, to set up a programme for the allocation of industries, which would be financed by the Caribbean Investment Corporation (CIC); (d) to relax the application of the treaty provision concerning import restrictions (arising from balance-of-payments difficulties) on exports from less developed countries; (e) to ameliorate constraints on the agricultural programme of the less developed countries; (f) to

consider revising the price formula for intraregional trade in sugar; and (g) to improve the implementation of the Agricultural Marketing Protocol so as to bring about greater benefits to the less developed countries.

112. By the end of 1977, the Council had examined the report of the working party of regional experts (see para. 111 (c) above) and the proposal to revise the price formula for the intraregional trade in sugar (see para. 111 (f) above). The results were submitted to member Governments of CARICOM.

Establishment and development of regional projects

113. The CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility, which came into effect on 16 June 1977, replaces the bilateral clearing arrangements previously made by the central banks of the more developed countries, the Monetary Authority of Belize and ECCA (see para. 103 above). The Facility provides for the settlement of payments between participating countries up to a maximum of \$US 40 million. Under the Facility, agreed lines of credit will be accepted from and extended to each participant and transactions will be calculated in United States dollars.

114. An agreement establishing the CARICOM Enterprise Régime was signed in 1977 by some member Governments. The Régime envisages the establishment of companies substantially owned and effectively controlled by nationals of at least two member countries with the aim of implementing high priority projects. This instrument is expected to be a major contributor to the regulated movement of investment capital between member countries, particularly into the less developed countries.

115. In 1977, efforts were made to develop two regional schemes. Both the CARICOM secretariat and CDB continued work on the first scheme, which involves the identification and preparation of projects falling under the Regional Food Plan designed to reduce importation of \$EC 1.5 billion worth of food-stuffs into the area. All member States had already signed the agreement establishing a Caribbean food corporation, expected to come into full operation in the first half of 1978. Under the second scheme, the secretariats of CARICOM and the East Caribbean Common Market (ECCM), together with CDB, were working at the technical level on the bases and procedures for regional industrial programming as set out in the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The pulp and paper sector was being given priority attention in this effort.

Intraregional financial assistance

116. In his budget speech delivered to Parliament in 1977, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago stated that his Government would operate its own Caribbean aid project for the benefit of CARICOM countries.

External economic relations of CARICOM

117. At a meeting held in May 1977, the Special Committee for Contribution and Negotiation of the Organization of American States (OAS) reviewed the operation of the United States Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) after its first year of operation. Under the system, a wide variety of exports from more than 90 less developed countries may enter the United States duty-free. Member Governments

were subsequently requested to notify the CARICOM Secretariat of any products of interest to them that were not currently eligible under GSP with a view to making a further joint CARICOM submission to the United States Government.

118. Four additional important developments took place during the year: (a) the holding of further discussions between representatives of the Canadian Government and CARICOM on the question of most-favoured-nation treatment in the draft agreement on trade and economic co-operation between the two parties; (b) the allocation by EEC of 32 million European units of account for CARICOM regional fisheries projects and regional development projects, including in particular the purchase of two ships for use by the West Indies Shipping Corporation on the Eastern Caribbean route; (c) the granting by the European Investment Bank, an institution established by EEC, of a \$EC 3.1 million loan to CIC; and (d) the provision by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) of a \$US 1.5 million grant to CDB, including \$US 500,000 for use by the CARICOM Secretariat to undertake general pre-investment and other related studies in agriculture, industry, trade policy and export promotion.

119. On 14 March 1978, the fifth soft-loan agreement was signed between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and CDB, providing for a loan of \$US 6.5 million to undertake a Regional Agribusiness Development Programme in Barbados and the less developed countries. USAID also made available a grant of \$US 450,000, to be used to commission adaptive research related to the Programme (see chap. XXIII of the present report). t/

120. The first meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development took place from 19 to 24 June 1978 at Washington, D.C., under the chairmanship of the World Bank (see also para. 106 above). CDB, IADB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were associated with the Bank in convening the meeting, which was attended by 44 participants, including representatives of donor and recipient Governments, organizations such as the secretariats of CARICOM and ECCM, UNDP and other international lending and development agencies.

Action taken at the first meeting of the Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development

121. Following is a summary of the conclusions and consensuses adopted by the Caribbean Group.

122. The Group reached a consensus on the establishment of the Caribbean Development Facility (CDF) as a mechanism for channelling foreign resources to help finance essential imports and to offer supplementary financing, mainly for local costs, to assist in the execution of development programmes and projects. CDF was expected to be an instrument to help recipient countries in an adjustment period of no more than five years, during which time special external assistance might be needed for maintaining acceptable levels of development and employment, while economic policies would be directed towards achieving sustained financial stability. At the meeting, 10 donor countries and international agencies indicated that they would make available, during the year beginning 1 July 1978, approximately \$US 112 million to meet the needs of the Caribbean countries for this type of assistance. Additional amounts were expected to be made available, particularly as fuller consideration would be given to the requirements of some countries which were not taken up in detail at the meeting.

123. The annual amount of special external assistance required by CDF would be preliminarily estimated by a working group formed for the purpose by the World Bank, IMF, IADB and CDB. The working group would make recommendations on the needs and eligibility of individual recipient countries for CDF financing, based upon their short-term and medium-term economic policies, which would then be reviewed in subgroup meetings on individual countries. During the meeting held from 19 to 24 June, subgroups met to consider the requirements of three of the more developed countries and all the less developed countries of CARICOM.

124. It was estimated that during the period 1979-1981 approximately \$US 1,950 million in gross disbursements of external official capital assistance or an annual average of \$US 650 million, would be required by the Caribbean countries. About two thirds of the annual amount - some \$US 450 million a year, or slightly more than twice the gross 1974-1976 level - would be made available on official development assistance terms.

125. The single most important category of external official assistance for the Caribbean was considered likely to remain the traditional forms of project financing. This category would probably account for somewhat more than \$US 350 million annually, out of the \$US 650 million annual average. The Caribbean countries' need for emergency official financing as provided by CDF was expected to average about \$US 125 million a year.

126. The Caribbean Group also arrived at a consensus about the creation of a steering committee on technical assistance to be formed by UNDP, CDB, IADB and the World Bank, which would be presided over by UNDP. The committee would assist countries in the following areas: the preparation and maintenance of an inventory of identified technical assistance projects requiring financing; the establishment of priorities, in consultation with countries and regional organizations, for technical assistance projects consistent with national and regional development programmes and plans; and the development of a greater capacity to prepare technical assistance project documents. The committee would also provide assistance to countries and regional organizations in obtaining financing of technical assistance activities.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

127. As noted in the preceding sections, the economies of the Associated States have not expanded fast enough to provide adequate employment opportunities for their growing labour forces in recent years. As a result, there has been considerable unemployment and underemployment, particularly among youths, in the Associated States (see also paras. 4 and 79 above and paras. 136-138 below).

128. On 19 December 1977, the General Assembly adopted resolution 32/186 concerning the Associated States. The resolution stressed the urgency of rendering all necessary assistance to the Territories and called upon the United Kingdom Government and others concerned to take adequate steps to establish and finance an appropriate programme of development of the Territories.

129. The 1977 Conference on Economic Development in the Caribbean also noted these problems with concern. Realizing that many other Caribbean countries faced similar problems, the Conference discussed the development needs of the region in general and the less developed countries in particular. It then agreed to establish a Caribbean Group for Co-operation in Economic Development, which held its first meeting in June 1978 (see paras. 106 and 120-126 above). At the meeting, the Group took measures designed to help Caribbean countries to meet their need for external assistance so that among other things, they could maintain acceptable levels of development and employment. During the meeting, subgroups, which were considered most likely to take effective action, met to consider the Associated States and several other Caribbean countries. The Associated States have also continued to receive aid from traditional sources to accelerate economic development and expand productive employment.

130. The Group estimated that approximately \$US 1,950 million in gross disbursements of external official capital assistance would be required by the Caribbean countries over the period 1979-1981. Until and unless bankable projects are formulated and disbursements for their implementation made on schedule, it will be difficult for those countries to make a significant improvement in the employment situation over that period.

B. Public health

131. During the period 1976-1978, the Associated States and other CARICOM countries intensified their co-operative effort to improve the public health situation. They continued to participate in the UNDP regional project for the education and training of allied health (paramedical) personnel (see para. 77 above) and gave special attention to two questions - one relating to environmental health and the other to health and youth.

Question of environmental health

132. The Second Conference of Health Ministers of CARICOM countries was convened in Montserrat in July 1976. After examining the environmental conditions in the region, the Conference decided to develop a regional environmental health strategy project aimed at defining precisely the activities that would have to be carried out. In March 1977, following the establishment of the project, a series of interagency meetings were held, attended by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the CARICOM Secretariat and CDB. It was proposed at the meetings that the strategy cover the following five main areas: drinking-water supplies, disposal of liquid waste, solid waste management and control, pollution of coastal waters; and industrial wastes.

133. In December 1977, it was announced that the CARICOM Secretariat would hold a conference in Antigua from 5 to 9 June 1978, which was expected to adopt a regional environmental health strategy. The Secretariat would then co-ordinate the search for resources to implement the strategy, especially in the areas of water supply and sewage disposal. Each CARICOM country would be free to adapt the regional approach to its own particular circumstances and needs.

Question of health and youth

134. As previously noted, u/ the Third Conference of Health Ministers of CARICOM countries held in St. Kitts in June 1977 adopted a health policy for the region and particularly expressed concern over the health problems of youth. The CARICOM Secretariat was requested to convene a Caribbean meeting on the subject of health and youth before the next Conference of the Heads of Government of CARICOM.

135. In March 1978, it was reported that Mr. A. C. K. Antrobus, Family Health Adviser of PAHO-WHO for the region, had stated in a recent speech that there was an urgent need for an appropriate regional strategy which would allow the youth (defined by him as persons between 15 and 24 years of age) to withstand the many threats to their well-being encountered during that stage in life. In developing the strategy, he suggested that an analysis should be made of data on youth based on what he identified as the factors responsible for their vulnerability to certain health problems. Those were sex, age group, residence, income levels, education, employment and social attitudes.

136. Mr. Antrobus pointed out that teen-age pregnancy was a problem among young women, notably those from 15 to 19 years of age. Additionally, compared to men, they availed themselves of fewer opportunities for training in various skills and for higher education, and suffered from unemployment at rates two to three times higher than those of men. On the other hand, it was the men who had the higher drop-out rate from school and swelled the ranks of rural-urban migrants. Environmental and social conditions in urban areas ensured the persistence of such problems as behavioural disorders, drug abuse and venereal diseases. In those circumstances, life for the youth was fraught with imbalances and maladjustments and inevitably led to the breakdown of the socio-cultural system of values. Rural life, however, was not necessarily exempt from that range of problems.

137. Commenting on family income levels, Mr. Antrobus said that lower socio-economic status was generally associated with larger families and a shorter interval between childhood and full adult responsibility. In this group, there was also a greater likelihood of early school drop-out. The youth in that category generally either entered the labour force at the early age of from 15 to 18 years, or joined the ranks of the unemployed. On the other hand, the youth in the higher income group might particularly be subject to a greater degree of stress resulting from high parental expectations.

138. According to Mr. Antrobus, the school curriculum covering family life or health education for pupils was either inadequate or non-existent. There was nothing more than the scantiest provision for counselling services for adolescents. In many aspects, the most critical issue was unemployment which was at its highest level in the age group under consideration. For young women, the higher level of unemployment was a factor which must be properly and fully assessed when their health problems were studied. Liberalization of moral attitudes towards sex, dress and public behaviour had made a great impact on the youth of the Caribbean.

u/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXX, annex, para. 77.

5. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

139. One of the objectives of CARICOM is to achieve functional co-operation between member countries which includes, in particular, the efficient operation of certain common services and activities. In furtherance of this objective, the member States have undertaken to make every effort to extend co-operation in the educational and other specified fields such as health (see paras. 131-138 above). With regard to educational development in the region, the Associated States have agreed to retain the regional character of the University of the West Indies (UWI) and to recognize the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) as an associate institution of CARICOM.

140. In early 1978, the Council was reported to have chosen four subjects (English, geography, history and mathematics) with which to start the introduction of a Caribbean examination, which was expected to replace the United Kingdom General Certificate of Education examination in June 1979. The Council was planning to expand its programme to cover the whole syllabus.

141. For higher education, students from the Territories have, in the past, attended the University of the West Indies, usually under government sponsorship. Faced with higher operating costs in recent years, the University has required the territorial Governments to increase their annual contributions substantially. These Governments have found it difficult to meet such contributions, partly because of the withdrawal by the British Development Division in the Caribbean of its contribution on their behalf.

142. According to the annual report of CDF for 1977, most of the borrowers under its student loan scheme sought and obtained new loans to continue their training programmes. This evidently increasing dependence on the scheme was due to the continued reduction of the number of educational awards provided by traditional aid donors, owing mainly to the increased cost of higher education. During the year, cumulative net loan approvals increased by \$US 1.37 million to \$US 2.41 million (including \$US 1.63 million given directly to the Territories). In most of the recipient countries, two of the most important objectives of the loan scheme - namely, providing for the skilled manpower needs of the countries and making the project self-liquidating - have been met.

143. In late 1977, it was announced that the University would receive assistance from EEC totalling \$US 35.0 million.

144. Another important development affecting the Associated States occurred when Mrs. Coral Peterson, a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), visited St. Lucia in early 1978. She met with Mr. Augustus Compton, Executive Secretary of the West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers, to consider the possibility of the Associated States participation in UNESCO programmes of education, culture, communications and natural sciences. The programmes were expected to operate both on a national and regional basis.

CHAPTER XXXI*

SOLOMON ISLANDS**

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1102nd meeting, on 1 February 1978, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1205), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to refer the Solomon Islands to the Sub-Committee on Small Territories for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1109th meeting on 29 June.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including in particular resolution 32/25 of 28 November 1977 on the question of the Solomon Islands, whereby the Assembly reaffirmed "the inalienable right of the people of the Solomon Islands to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" and requested "the Special Committee to keep the situation in the Solomon Islands under review."
4. During its consideration of the Territory, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory.
5. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power concerned, participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item. Mr. Francis Bugotu, the Secretary of the Solomon Islands Council of Ministers, also participated in the consideration of the item.
6. At its 1109th meeting on 29 June, the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1109) introduced the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.109/L.1240), containing an account of its consideration of the Territory.
7. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of Chira (A/AC.109/PV.1109).
8. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted, **without objection**, the report of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see para. 10 below). The Chairman made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1109).
9. On 30 June, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

* Previously issued as part of A/33/23/Add.8.

** The Solomon Islands acceded to independence on 7 July 1978.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

10. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 1109th meeting, on 29 June, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below:

(1) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction the progressive steps which will lead to the accession to independence of the Solomon Islands on 7 July 1978, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. Furthermore, the Committee looks forward to the time when that island nation will take its rightful place in the international community and will become a Member of the United Nations.

(2) The Special Committee notes with appreciation the role played by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, in seeking to allay any fears that the country might be abandoned to an uncertain future, once independence is achieved. The Committee welcomes the decision of the administering Power to contribute £26 million to the Solomon Islands in the form of grants over a four-year period and to continue current grants.

(3) The Special Committee is grateful to have had a most useful exchange with Mr. Francis Bugotu, the Secretary to the Solomon Islands Council of Ministers, during his visit to New York. The meeting with Mr. Bugotu has afforded the Committee the opportunity to assess anew the situation in the Solomon Islands, as well as the usefulness of the United Nations in playing an effective role in guiding all colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence. In this respect, the Committee reiterates the importance it attaches to the obligation of all administering Powers to inform the populations of the Territories under their administration of the options concerning their future which are open to them in conformity with the Declaration.

(4) Turning to economic considerations, the Special Committee notes the intention of the Solomon Islands to develop its expert knowledge in fisheries and to utilize fully its lawful and inalienable right to the resources of the sea. The Committee also takes note of the Territory's potential in the areas of timber and bauxite.

(5) As the Solomon Islands takes its place in the international community, the Special Committee wishes to stress the importance of regional co-operation, through participation in regional conferences and organizations, as an important element in fostering stability and understanding in the area. In this regard, the Committee notes with particular interest that the Regional Fisheries Agency of the South Pacific Forum may establish its headquarters in the Solomon Islands.

(6) Finally, the Special Committee warmly congratulates the people and Government of the Solomon Islands upon their accession to independence and wishes them peace and prosperity in their newly acquired status.

ANNEX*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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Map

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1215.

SOLOMON ISLANDS a/

1. GENERAL

1. Basic information on the Territory is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. b/ Supplementary information is set out below.
2. In February 1976, a full census taken in the Solomon Islands showed a population of 196,823, an increase of 35,825 over the six years since the previous census. About 94 per cent of the population was Melanesian. The largest concentration of people was in Honiara, the capital, which had a population of 14,942 in 1976.
3. In 1977, acting on a motion by a member, the Legislative Assembly called for a report on Gilbert Islanders in the Territory. As a consequence, a request was sent to the Governor asking for a list of those Gilbertese seeking employment and those who had settled in the Territory without the knowledge of the authorities.
4. In August 1976, Kavachi, a relatively inactive undersea volcano some 30 metres below the surface of the ocean, rose above sea level for the fourth time since 1952 to form an island 75 metres long and 10 metres high. The volcano, which is located about 25 kilometres south of Vangunu Islands, was apparently still active in October 1976. It was thought that recent huge earthquakes in China and the Philippines and a smaller one in the New Hebrides might have reactivated Kavachi.
5. On 21 April 1977, at least 32 persons were killed or reported missing in a series of earthquakes and ensuing landslides in the Territory. Most of the deaths were believed to have occurred on the main island of Guadalcanal. The shocks reached a high of 7.4 on the Richter scale and lasted six hours. Earthquake damage was estimated at \$A 1 million. c/

a/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from the information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 20 July 1977 for the year ending 31 December 1976.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XXI, annex.

c/ Until 24 October 1977, the local currency in the Territory was the Australian dollar (\$A) (see para. 27 below). In January 1978, \$A 1.00 equalled approximately \$US 1.14.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. General

6. In recent years, as the Territory has moved towards independence, there have been changes in the status of the local Governor and the executive and legislative bodies. Internal self-government was achieved on 2 January 1976; independence is anticipated in mid-1978. Under the terms of the present Constitution, which came into effect on 21 August 1974, the Governing Council was replaced by a Legislative Assembly. A subsequent order-in-council increased the number of elected members from 24 to 38. The elected members choose the Chief Minister. The Assembly also has two ex officio members: the Deputy Governor (whose chief function is to act as an assistant to the Governor in the exercise of his responsibilities for defence, external affairs, internal security and the public service), and the Attorney-General.

7. In 1975, the Chief Minister enlarged his cabinet from six to eight members. Ministers other than the Chief Minister are formally appointed by the Governor, acting in accordance with the advice of the Chief Minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.

8. The newly enlarged Legislative Assembly was elected by universal suffrage on 22 June 1976, the voting age having been reduced from 21 to 18 years before the election. Subsequently, the Assembly elected Mr. Peter Kenilorea, an independent, as the Territory's Chief Minister. Mr. Kenilorea has been a school teacher, and was formerly Secretary of the Legislative Assembly and District Commissioner of Makira.

B. Judiciary

9. Civil and criminal jurisdiction is exercised in the Solomon Islands by the High Court of the Western Pacific, consisting of a Chief Justice and a puisne judge. The Chief Justice is ordinarily resident in the Territory and the puisne judge usually resides in the New Hebrides. The Court is a superior court of record and exercises jurisdiction similar to that vested in the High Court of Justice in the United Kingdom. The High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules, 1964, regulate the civil procedures of the Court. In addition, magistrates courts operate in the four administrative districts together with local courts, whose cases include customary titles to land. The right of appeal may take cases to the High Court, the Fiji Court of Appeal or the Privy Council in the United Kingdom.

C. Local government

10. The Territory is divided into four administrative districts, comprising seven local councils and the Honiara Town Council. The councils receive financial and management assistance from the central Government to help cope with the extra duties and responsibilities they agreed to assume in 1974, when the number of local councils was reduced from 18 and the number of elected seats from 228 to 174. The total number of elected seats is now 167.

11. The local councils, elected by universal adult suffrage, are responsible for a

wide range of facilities, including transport and communications, rural health services and schools. Many such projects, including roads, bridges and road transport, are wholly subsidized by the Government. Educational and health facilities are financed by the churches and the central Government.

D. Future status of the Territory

12. In September 1977, a Solomon Islands **Conference** on independence was held in London under the chairmanship of Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. The **Conference**, which lasted two weeks, agreed on a new constitution, new regulations for land title and citizenship and the termination of colonial rule on 7 July 1978. To help the new nation towards its goal of economic self-sufficiency, the United Kingdom Government will contribute \$A 44.8 million in development aid over a four-year period. In addition, the Territory's outstanding long-term loans were converted to outright grants. The Solomon Islands thus became the first country administered by the United Kingdom to be given a large sum of money without the obligation to repay it.

13. Prior to the **Conference**, the Legislative Assembly had approved a proposal initiated by Mr. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, Leader of the Opposition, that the country become a republic a year after independence, unless there were substantial objections. The conference, however, rejected the proposal and agreed that the Solomon Islands would retain its link with the monarchy and would become a member of the Commonwealth.

14. The citizenship question delayed the **Constitutional Conference** because the United Kingdom Government had requested that the 3,000 Gilbertese who had settled in the Territory over the past 20 years be given automatic Solomon Islands citizenship. The Chief Minister's position was that a number of members of the Legislative Assembly were not prepared to agree to such a measure. Their view was that the British had brought in the Gilbertese and were therefore responsible for them.

15. The Chief Minister and his delegation subsequently withdrew their reservation and agreed to offer citizenship with a consequent right to own freehold land to those "belongers" (a word used in the independence **Constitution**) of whatever race, provided they complied with the requirements of the **Constitution** and applied for Solomon Island citizenship before independence day in 1978.

E. Public service

16. According to the annual report of the administering Power, there was a substantial increase in the number of public service posts during the period under review. The increase was due in part to activities associated with the National Development Plan (1975-1979) and in part to the need to provide posts for pensionable marine staff at levels not provided for in the budget estimates.

17. The proportion of Solomon Islanders employed in the service rose from 74.6 per cent of the established posts in 1975 to 82.8 per cent in 1976. The number of designated expatriate officers fell from 273 to 243 and the number of non-designated expatriates from 53 to 34. The number of vacancies (130, or 5.5 per cent) was the lowest recorded over the last seven years (203 in 1975).

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

18. The Territory's principal resources are its agricultural land, coconut palms, fisheries, forests and minerals. It specializes in the production of a few commodities for export, mainly copra and timber, and depends heavily on imported goods to satisfy local requirements.

19. It is considered that the economy of the Solomon Islands will be heavily dependent on foreign assistance for some time. Agriculture accounts for some 60 per cent of the gross domestic product, while mining, manufacturing and utilities account for only 1.5 per cent. The manufacturing industry is still in its early infancy and industrial activities have not yet been given high priority in the over-all development plan. In 1973, only 1,000 persons were employed in the manufacturing sector.

20. The Territory's population is growing at the rate of 3 per cent annually. This and the rising expectations that come with the increased monetization of the economy may in the long run create a threat to economic and social stability unless opportunities are created to absorb the growth.

21. In 1976, imports totalled \$A 21.9 million (\$A 54,000 more than in 1975) and exports amounted to \$A 19.3 million (\$A 11.8 million in 1975). Copra exports decreased from \$A 4.7 million (27,477 metric tons) to \$A 3.6 million (23,015 metric tons). Fish and timber exports were valued at \$A 6.8 million and \$A 6.1 million respectively (\$A 2.8 million and \$A 3.1 million in 1975).

B. Agriculture

22. The National Development Plan recognizes the fundamental importance of agriculture to the economy. The over-all concept behind the Plan is to continue the trend away from dispersive and often destructive subsistence farming towards a more disciplined commercial approach, which, it is considered, would be the only form of viable agriculture acceptable to, and providing job opportunities for, future generations.

23. The Solomon Islands has begun to export rice to Papua New Guinea. The target under the Plan is to attain a commercial production level of 5,000 metric tons by the end of 1976.

C. Fisheries

24. In its annual report, the administering Power states that 1976 proved to be a year of spectacular consolidation and growth in fisheries. It predicted that growth and expansion would continue in 1977 and expressed the hope that the industry would further diversify both in the catching and marketing of fish. Solomon Taiyo, Ltd., had a record year in all areas.

25. A programme of large-scale fisheries development is under preparation and the likelihood of extending the economic zone to 200 nautical miles gives such

programmes some urgency. The Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the South Pacific Commission and other regional and international bodies have shown an interest in the fisheries development programme.

D. Mining

26. It was reported in September 1977 that the Mitsui Mining and Smelting Company, a Japanese concern involved in the \$A 300 million bauxite mining project, had ended its operations because of financing and marketing difficulties. Mitsui had initiated the bauxite project seven years ago, but had encountered difficulties in its negotiations with the Solomon Islands Government and the people of Western Rennell, where the deposits were discovered. In announcing the decision, the Director said that although his company had withdrawn from the project, it would not close its office at Honiara.

E. Public finance

27. From 24 October 1977, a new Solomon Islands currency was officially introduced and Australian currency is no longer recognized. Consisting of \$SI 10, \$SI 5, and \$SI 1 notes and coins ranging from one cent to one dollar, it has the same value as Australian currency (see foot-note c above).

28. The Territory's recurrent budget is balanced by a grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom and most of the capital budget is met from United Kingdom development funds. According to the report of the administering Power, revenue and expenditure for 1974 and 1975 were as follows:

	(Australian dollars)	
	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>
Local recurrent revenue	8 215 533	9 169 624
United Kingdom aid (grant-in-aid and capital aid)	5 190 223	6 097 878
Other revenue	170 386	150 069
Recurrent and capital expenditure	12 896 492	14 082 495

29. The Finance Minister, in presenting the 1977 budget to the Legislative Assembly stated that he expected the whole of the capital budget to be financed by grants or soft loans from overseas, two thirds of which were expected to come from United Kingdom aid, about one quarter from the Australian aid programme and the rest from other sources, including New Zealand and UNDP.

30. At 31 December 1975, the public debt amounted to \$A 989,855 (\$A 644,353 in 1974). The Government had issued guarantees in respect of the repayment of certain loans and thereby retains a contingent liability fund totalling \$A 1.2 million.

4. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Co-operative societies

31. The organized co-operative movement in the Solomon Islands completed its second decade during 1976. The year proved to be a difficult one, particularly for societies and members in the rural areas. The very low copra price carried forward from 1975 continued until early July, when the price for first-grade copra rose from 4 cents (Australian) per pound to 6 cents per pound. Although the price had risen to 8 cents by December, the increase came too late to make any significant change in the economic trend in rural areas. According to the annual report of the administering Power, the depressed price of copra stimulated a verbal demand for diversification of the rural economy, but, in fact, very little was done to change the situation. Consistently high prices for such commodities as chillies and cocoa failed to result in increased planting or production.

32. Final accounts for 1976 were not yet available when the annual report was prepared, but it was expected that the turnover in rural societies would remain substantially similar to that for 1975.

B. Labour

33. The Solomon Islands General Workers' Union (SIGWU) was formed early in 1975 under the leadership of Mr. Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, who until July 1976 remained its General Secretary. In the general elections of that month, Mr. Ulufa'alu, stood for the East Honiara constituency and was elected. He is now Leader of the Opposition.

C. Education

34. The number of registered primary schools at 1 March 1976 was 344 (unchanged from the previous year). Of this number, 265 were aided primary schools and 79 were private primary schools (266 and 78 respectively in 1975). The number of students in primary schools was 27,021 (28,219 in 1975). There were five aided secondary schools and one private secondary school, in addition to four new secondary schools with a total enrolment of 2,182 (1,555 in 1975). The teacher-training courses produced 25 teachers for the primary and 18 teachers for the secondary schools (24 and 15 respectively in 1975). During the year, 471 students were enrolled at the Honiara Technical Institute (589 in 1975). Students attending higher education institutions overseas numbered 160 (144 in 1975).

35. Government expenditure on education was \$A 2.3 million in 1976 (20.04 per cent of total government expenditure) compared with \$A 2.2 million in 1975 (17.9 per cent of total government expenditure).

CHAPTER XXXII *

TUVALU 1/

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1102nd meeting on 1 February 1978, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of its work (A/AC.109/L.1205), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to refer Tuvalu to the Sub-Committee on Small Territories for consideration and report.
2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1109th meeting on 29 June.
3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as decision 32/407 of 28 November 1977 whereby the Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed "the inalienable right of the people of Tuvalu to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960" and requested "the Special Committee, in continued co-operation with the administering Power, to keep the situation in the Territory under review."
4. During its consideration of the Territory, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see annex to the present chapter) containing information on developments concerning the Territory.
5. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power concerned, participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the item.
6. At its 1109th meeting, on 29 June, the Rapporteur of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1109) introduced the report of the Sub-Committee (A/AC.109/L.1241 and Corr.1), containing an account of its consideration of the Territory.
7. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of China (A/AC.109/PV.1109).
8. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted, without objection, the report of the Sub-Committee on Small Territories and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see para. 10 below).
9. On 30 June, the text of the conclusions and recommendations was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

* Previously issued as part of A/33/23/Add.8.

1/ Tuvalu acceded to independence on 1 October 1978.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

10. The text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Special Committee at its 1109th meeting, on 29 June, to which reference is made in paragraph 8 above, is reproduced below:

(1) The Special Committee notes with satisfaction the progressive steps taken by the Government of Tuvalu 2/ towards its accession to independence on 1 October 1978 in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) The Special Committee welcomes the financial arrangements agreed to by the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Tuvalu at the Constitutional Conference in February 1978, which provide for a special development fund of £2.62 million for special projects and ordinary capital assistance of £2.62 million until 1980, as well as budgetary aid and technical co-operation. The Committee notes that new arrangements for the period 1981-1984 will be concluded in 1980, and that the administering Power will provide minimum amounts of aid after 1980. The Committee notes with appreciation that the Government of Australia is providing Tuvalu with some \$A 1.25 million for the construction of a wharf at Funafuti, the administrative centre of the Territory.

(3) The Special Committee, mindful of the importance of financial and economic assistance from the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, notes with satisfaction the aid which Tuvalu has received from the United Nations Development Programme in formulating its development plan. The Committee further notes that the plan accords priority to the improvement of communications, the expansion of agricultural and fisheries production and the creation of employment opportunities.

(4) The Special Committee expresses its warm wishes to the people and Government of the Territory when they accede to independence on 1 October 1978.

2/ Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands separated from the former Territory of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands on 1 January 1976.

ANNEX*

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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Map

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/L.1213.

TUVALU a/

1. GENERAL

1. Basic information on Tuvalu is contained in the report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. b/ Supplementary information is set out below.
2. Tuvalu, formerly known as the Ellice Islands, assumed its own identity when it was legally separated from the Gilbert Islands on 1 October 1975 (see A/C.4/786). The action was taken in accordance with the wishes of the people of the Territory as expressed in a referendum in 1974 and observed in part by a United Nations visiting mission. c/
3. The nine islands of the Central Pacific group, lying just south of the equator, are estimated to have a land surface of approximately 26 square kilometres. Its population numbers some 8,000.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. General

4. On 1 January 1976, Tuvalu formally took over its own administration with headquarters at Funafuti and prepared to move towards independence. The Tuvalu Order, 1975, of 17 September, establishes the islands as a separate Territory and provides for a Constitution. The Territory has a ministerial form of government. The Cabinet consists of an elected Chief Minister, two ministers appointed by Her Majesty's Commissioner on the advice of the Chief Minister and two ex officio members, the **Attorney-General** and the Financial Secretary. The Order also establishes a House of Assembly and a High Court. Voting is on a common roll. Because of the large number of islanders living abroad, it is provided that membership of the House of Assembly does not require residence in the Territory immediately prior to the date of election.
5. The Commissioner is appointed by the Queen as the representative of the Crown in Tuvalu with responsibility directly to the United Kingdom Secretary of

a/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 20 July 1977 for the year ending 31 December 1976.

b/ Official Records of the General Assembly Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/31/23/Rev.1), vol. III, chap. XIX, annex, paras. 95-120.

c/ Ibid., Twenty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/9623/Rev.1), vol. V, chap. XXI, annex I and III.

State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Under the Constitution, he presides over the Cabinet and is responsible for external affairs, defence, internal security and the police force, finance and the public service.

6. The Tuvalu House of Assembly, which came into existence on 1 October 1975, comprises the eight elected members (one for each of the eight main islands of the Territory) d/ formerly representing the Ellice Islands in the Assembly of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, and two ex officio members, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary (see below).

7. Each of the eight main islands has an island council, consisting of six elected members, including a president. Members of the House of Assembly and the resident medical officers are ex officio members of the councils. In addition, an additional three members (four where there is no medical officer) were to be appointed to councils by the Chief Minister in 1976. The councils are responsible for and finance local services required at the island level.

8. On 29 August 1977, a general election was held for a new, enlarged 12-member House of Assembly. The four islands with a population of more than 1,000 each (Nanumea, Niutao, Vaitupui and Funafuti) elected two members each and the remaining four (Nanumanga, Nui, Nukufetau and Nukulaelae) elected one member each. As a result of the election, Mr. Isakaia Paeniu of Nukulaelae lost his seat to Mr. Henry F. Naisali, the former Financial Secretary. Mr. Petero Koveu defeated Mr. Sione Tui Kleis of Nui, Speaker of the former House, by one vote. The four new seats were won by former civil servants. Following the general election, Mr. Toalipi Lauti was re-elected Chief Minister.

B. Future status of the Territory

9. In December 1976, the House of Assembly established a constitutional committee with membership limited to the elected members of the House under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. At its first meeting, it agreed to a time-table leading to independence on 1 October 1978, a date chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the Territory's legal separation from the Gilbert Islands in 1975. A pre-independence Constitutional Conference took place in London from 13 to 17 February 1978. The United Kingdom Government is committed to the continued support of the financial and economic development of Tuvalu after independence, to ensure that the new State will have a sound economic and political base.

3. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. Public finance

10. Estimated revenue for 1978 totalled \$A 1,446,108, e/ including a grant-in-aid

d/ The ninth island, Niulakita, is regarded as part of Niutao.

e/ The local currency is the Australian dollar (\$A). \$A 1.00 equals approximately \$US 1.13.

from the United Kingdom of \$A 437,968. The main items of revenue are income tax, the housing loan scheme, import duties, fares and freight charges from the MV Nivanga and philately.

11. Estimated expenditure included allocations for the following:

(Australian dollars)

Ministry of Home Affairs	610 680
Ministry of Social Services	331 540
Finance	177 290
Office of Her Majesty's Commissioner	166 298
Chief Minister's Office	131 910
Police and prisons	76 310
Ministry of Commerce and Natural Resources	45 300
Pensions and gratuities	40 160

12. At its 595th meeting, on 25 January 1978, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), announced that it would meet the request of the Government of the United Kingdom to assign a separate indicative planning figure of \$US 550,000 to Tuvalu. Upon achieving independence, that amount would be increased to \$US 1.1 million, in accordance with the Governing Council's decision to increase the indicative planning figure of newly independent countries. f/

B. Agriculture and livestock

13. Most of the land is covered with coconut palms, which are not only an important source of nutrition but also provide the islanders with copra, their only known cash crop. In 1976, 80 metric tons of copra, valued at approximately \$A 200,000, were produced and sold, and some 680,000 kilograms of fish, valued at \$A 45,000, were marketed locally.

C. Transport and communications

14. In February 1978, the territorial Government agreed to the operation of a

f/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 2A (E/5846/Rev.1), para. 292.

seaplane service within the Territory for a two-year period, after which the need for such a service would be reviewed. The plan and the essential infrastructure for the service (hangar, slipway, mooring buoys, etc.) were to be provided by United Kingdom development aid. A private aviation firm was to operate the service for the Government.

15. At present, Tuvalu is served by one ship, the MV Nivanga. The United Kingdom Government has agreed to refit the vessel and to replace it at the end of its useful life. Tuvalu is also linked to its Pacific neighbours by two airline services operated regularly by Fiji Air, Ltd., and Air Pacific on a bi-monthly basis.

4. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

16. The active work force in Tuvalu is estimated at around 3,000 persons. According to the December 1973 census, of the 3,569 inhabitants 15 years of age and over, 2,317 were active in the village economy and 449 in the cash economy. About 200 seamen are away at any given time working on ships overseas, while an undisclosed number of Tuvaluans work in the phosphate industries on Ocean Island (Gilbert Islands) and Nauru.

17. According to reports, 12 Tuvaluans left the Territory in 1977 to work in a factory in New Zealand. They were the first Tuvaluans recruited to work in a foreign country other than those engaged on a regular basis for work in the phosphate industry.

B. Public health

18. The Health Division, established after Tuvalu separated from the Gilbert Islands, and the Education Division form the Ministry of Social Services. A new main hospital was opened at Funafuti in 1975; the older buildings had been destroyed by a hurricane in 1972. The 30-bed hospital, which has an operating theatre and a dental centre, is considered by the administering Power to be adequate for a population of about 8,000. Construction was to begin in 1977 on an extension to the hospital, which would improve dispensing and laboratory facilities and provide room for the storage of medical supplies and for a new X-ray machine. The hospital has a staff of a **senior medical officer and 16 nurses and medical assistants**. Each island has a resident paramedic and a registered nurse.

19. Apart from United Kingdom assistance, Tuvalu receives technical and material aid from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

20. Filariasis was common until 1975, when a programme undertaken by WHO

virtually eliminated the disease. Mosquito-borne dengue fever is occasionally present, but there is no malaria. Generally, health in the islands is reported to be very good.

5. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

21. During the year under review, there were nine primary schools (eight government and one managed by the Seventh Day Adventist Church under a provisional licence), with a total enrolment of 1,558.

22. Motufoua Junior High School on Vaitupu, the only co-educational secondary school in the Territory, is administered jointly by the Government and the Tuvalu Protestant Church through a Board of Governors on which both parties have equal representation. At the end of 1976, the school had an enrolment of 243. In 1976, the United Kingdom provided \$A 200,000 for the upgrading and expansion of the school.

CHAPTER XXXIII*

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

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee considered the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions at its 1122nd meeting, on 23 August 1978.
2. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 32/42 of 7 December 1977 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also took into account other pertinent resolutions of the Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 which, inter alia, dissolved the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and transferred certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and paragraph 4 of resolution 32/33 of 28 November 1977 which requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, 1/ and to report thereon to the Assembly at its thirty-third session.
3. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (see annex to the present chapter) containing information on the dates on which information from the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned, called for under Article 73 e of the Charter, was transmitted for the years 1976 and 1977.
4. In addition, the Special Committee had before it a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/L.1267) submitted by the Chairman.
5. At its 1122nd meeting, on 23 August, the Special Committee considered and adopted the draft resolution without objection (see para. 7 below) (A/AC.109/PV.1122).
6. On 30 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/570) was transmitted to the administering Powers for their attention.

* Previously issued under the symbol A/33/23/Add.9.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Nineteenth Session, Annexes, Annex No. 8 (Part I) (A/5300/Rev.1), chap. II.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

7. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/570) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1122nd meeting, on 23 August, to which reference is made in paragraph 5 above, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

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

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee 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 on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 32/33 of 28 November 1977, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Deploring that 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,

1. 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 of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests 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, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connexion, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

2/ See annex to the present chapter.

ANNEX*

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Transmission of information under Article 73 e of
the Charter of the United Nations

1. The Secretary-General's previous report on the subject a/ listed the dates on which information was transmitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73 e of the Charter up to 1 August 1977. The table at the end of the present report shows the dates on which such information was transmitted in respect of the years 1976 and 1977 up to 16 August 1978.
2. The information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter follows in general the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history, population, economic, social and educational conditions. In the case of Territories under the administration of Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the annual reports on the Territories also include information on constitutional matters. Additional information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories under their administration is given by the representatives of Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States during meetings 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. Supplementary information is also made available by the United Kingdom and the United States concerning Territories under their administration.

Study of information transmitted under Article 73 e
of the Charter

3. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including in particular resolution 32/33 of 28 November 1977, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation of working papers on each Territory for the Special Committee.

* Previously issued under the symbol A/AC.109/566.

a/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/32/23/Rev.1), vol. IV, chap. XXXII, annex.

Dates of transmission of information under Article 73 e of
the Charter of the United Nations for 1976 and 1977 a/

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
AUSTRALIA (1 July-30 June) <u>b/</u>		
Cocos (Keeling) Island	7 July 1977	30 May 1978 <u>c/</u>
FRANCE (calendar year)		
New Hebrides (condominium with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)		
NEW ZEALAND (1 April-31 March) <u>d/</u>		
Tokelau	3 October 1977	25 July 1978
PORTUGAL		
East Timor <u>e/</u>		
SPAIN (calendar year)		
Western Sahara <u>f/</u>		
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (calendar year)		
Antigua <u>g/</u>	-	-
Belize	20 July 1977	
Bermuda	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
British Virgin Islands	20 July 1977	7 August 1978
Brunei <u>h/</u>	-	-
Cayman Islands	20 July 1977	14 June 1978
Dominica <u>g/</u>	-	-
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
Gibraltar	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
Gilbert Islands	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
Montserrat	26 July 1977	7 August 1978
New Hebrides (condominium with France)	22 July 1977	
Pitcairn	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
St. Helena <u>d/</u>	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla <u>g/</u>	..	-

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND (calendar year) (continued)		
St. Lucia <u>g/</u>	-	-
St. Vincent <u>g/</u>	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	22 July 1977	
Turks and Caicos Islands	22 July 1977	7 August 1978
Tuvalu	20 July 1977	7 August 1978
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1 July-30 June) <u>b/</u>		
American Samoa <u>b/</u>	28 March 1977	14 April 1978
Guam	13 May 1977	7 March 1978
United States Virgin Islands	15 March 1977	11 April 1978

a/ For a preliminary list of Territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) applies, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/5514), part one, annex II.

b/ Period extends from 1 July of the previous year to 30 June of the year listed.

c/ Information covers the period 1 January 1977 to 30 April 1978.

d/ Period extends from 1 April of the year listed to 31 March of the following year.

e/ On 4 April 1978, the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that, during 1977, the conditions prevailing in the Territory, as described in the note dated 20 April 1977 (A/32/73), still persisted and that owing to those circumstances, the Portuguese Government was de facto prevented from transmitting any information under Article 73 e of the Charter concerning the Territory (A/33/75).

f/ On 26 February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that "The Spanish Government, as of today, definitively terminates its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deems it necessary to place the following on record: ... (a) Spain considers itself henceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connexion with the administration of the said Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory ..." (A/31/56-S/11997).

g/ At previous sessions of the General Assembly, the United Kingdom had declared that, having achieved the status of Associated State, this Territory had attained a full measure of self-government and, consequently, the transmission of information thereon was, in its view, no longer appropriate (see

(Foot-notes continued on following page)

also documents A/AC.109/341, A/C.4/725, A/AC.109/PV.762 and Corr.1, A/C.4/SR 1752 and A/C.4/SR.1867).

h/ On 18 September 1972, the Government of the United Kingdom notified the Secretary-General that this Territory had attained full internal self-government and, consequently, the transmission of information thereon was, in its view, no longer appropriate.

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