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QUESTION OF THE MALAGASY ISLANDS OF GLORIEUSES,
JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA AND BASSAS DA INDIA

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 34/91 of 12 December 1979, concerning the question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India,

"Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Recalling further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

"Considering its resolution 34/21 of 9 November 1979, as well as previous resolutions on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

"Bearing in mind the decisions on the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fifteenth 1/ and sixteenth 2/ regular sessions, held at Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978 and at Monrovia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

1/ See A/33/235 and Corr.1.

2/ See A/34/552.

"Taking note of the part of the Political Declaration adopted by the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, relating to the Malagasy islands in the Indian Ocean, 3/

"Recalling the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the peaceful settlement of disputes,

"Noting the request of Madagascar for the reintegration of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India, 4/

"Considering that the Government of Madagascar has repeatedly signified its willingness to enter into negotiations with the Government of France with a view to finding a solution to the question in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"1. Reaffirms the necessity of scrupulously respecting the national unity and territorial integrity of a colonial territory at the time of its accession to independence;

"2. Takes note of the resolution on the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Monrovia from 6 to 20 July 1979; 5/

"3. Invites the Government of France to initiate negotiations without further delay with the Government of Madagascar for the reintegration of the above-mentioned islands, which were arbitrarily separated from Madagascar;

"4. Calls upon the Government of France to repeal the measures which infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Madagascar and to refrain from taking other measures that would have the same effect and could hinder the search for a just solution to the present dispute;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

"6. Decides to include an item entitled 'Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India' in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session."

3/ A/34/542, annex, sect. I, para. 100.

4/ See A/34/245, annex.

5/ See A/34/552, annex I, resolution CM/Res.732 (XXXIII).

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

2. In response to the request contained in paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Secretary-General addressed communications on 1 May 1980 to the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and to the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations inviting them to inform him whether any developments had taken place in the matter subsequent to the adoption of the resolution.

III. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MADAGASCAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

3. In a communication dated 22 August 1980 from the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations, the Secretary-General was informed as follows:

"... the Government of Madagascar has asked me to inform you that it has noted no developments in the attitude of the French Government subsequent to the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution."

In a further communication dated 11 September 1980 from the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the United Nations, the Secretary-General was informed that the question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India had been considered by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-fifth session, held at Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 18 to 28 June 1980, and that it had adopted resolution CM/RES.784 (XXXV) which read as follows:

"The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its thirty-fifth ordinary session in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 18 to 28 June 1980,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the Glorious, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India Islands contained in document CM/1040 (XXXV) part III,

"Recalling the resolutions adopted on the question at its thirty-first and thirty-third ordinary sessions,

"Further taking note of the part of the political declaration adopted by the Sixth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries (Havana, 3 to 9 September 1979) on the Malagasy Islands of the Indian Ocean,

"Considering that no step so far was taken by the French Government to give effect to the resolutions of the Organization of African Unity and of other international organs,

"1. Reaffirms that the Glorious, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India constitute an integral part of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar;

"2. Urges the French Government to begin negotiations as soon as possible with the Malagasy Government for the reintegration of the above-mentioned islands into the Democratic Republic of Madagascar;

"3. Calls upon the French Government to revoke measures which might hinder meaningful negotiations between the two parties and to refrain from taking other measures which might have the same effect;

"4. Calls upon the African Group at the United Nations to follow the development of the matter at the thirty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly."

IV. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

4. The Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in a communication dated 18 September 1980 informed the Secretary-General as follows:

"...

"The French position on the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India was made known in the course of the thirty-fourth session, in particular on 27 November 1979 at the 37th meeting of the Special Political Committee. Statements on the same subject were made, moreover, by the French delegation on 12 November 1979 to the General Committee of the General Assembly and on 12 December 1979 in plenary session.

"I also made a statement on this subject on 17 September 1980 to the General Committee of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

"Following the information given orally to members of your staff, I confirm that the above-mentioned statements fully explain my country's position on the said question."
