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

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

The enclosed communications from heads of State or Government, which relate to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, are being circulated in accordance with the statement made by the President of the General Assembly at the 90th plenary meeting, on 10 December 1980.

II. MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT

CHINA

Message from the Vice-Premier of the State Council and Minister
for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

/Original: Chinese/

/11 December 1980/

On the occasion of the meeting convened by the General Assembly to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, I wish to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our warm congratulations to the meeting, and our high respects to the countries and peoples fighting to win or safeguard their national independence.

Since the end of the Second World War, nearly a hundred colonies and semi-colonies as well as Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories have shaken off the yoke of colonialism and declared independence after waging a heroic and arduous struggle over a long period of time. This has greatly changed the face of the world. In 1960, acting on the proposal of many Asian and African countries, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, solemnly declaring that an end must be put to alien subjugation, domination, exploitation and armed repression and that the territorial integrity of the colonial countries and their right to independence shall be respected. It has thus significantly helped to advance this historical process.

At present, the old colonial system has collapsed, but colonialism and racism, particularly in southern Africa, have not yet died out. Moreover, that late-coming super-Power is trying to replace the old-line imperialism and colonialism in an attempt to carry out infiltration, expansion and aggression in the third world countries. This is a form of new colonialism and also of hegemonism. Opposing colonialism in all its forms and manifestations remains the important task of the United Nations. The countries that have won independence are faced with an arduous struggle to consolidate independence, safeguard sovereignty, develop the economy and defend world peace and security. We are sure that the increasingly awakening third world countries and peoples, relying on their own strength and unity and supported by the people of all

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countries, will be able to resist any outside force that is trying to control and interfere in their affairs, and win complete victory for their national liberation. The Chinese Government and people will, as always, firmly stand on their side and work in concerted efforts to oppose imperialism, colonialism, racism and hegemonism and to safeguard world peace.

May the meeting be crowned with success.

HUANG HUA
Vice-Premier of the State Council
and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of China

DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Telegram from the President of the Presidium of State and
Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea

/Original: French/

/8 December 1980/

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, I wish to address to you my warmest congratulations; to the movements of the peoples struggling for independence throughout the world, particularly those of Afghanistan, Azania, Namibia and Palestine, I wish to express my hopes for the victory of their just cause.

General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 has given great encouragement to the independence movements of all countries and peoples throughout the world. Since its adoption, 54 countries have attained independence and become Members of the United Nations.

Since 1955, as a Member of the United Nations, Kampuchea has played an active part in the implementation of that resolution and has waged a long struggle to strengthen its own independence.

However, since 25 December 1978 the independence of Kampuchea has been violated in the most barbaric manner by acts of aggression and expansion perpetrated by a neighbouring country. The Kampuchean nation must grapple with a danger that threatens its very existence. The war inflicted upon the people of Kampuchea is not a colonialist or imperialist war such as those which occurred in the past. It is a war aimed at annihilating an entire nation, an entire people, waged by the aggressors with a view to annexing Kampuchea, parallel with their attempts to achieve their expansionist ambitions in the region. Today, the foreign aggression forces more than 250,000 strong, continue to massacre the population of Kampuchea using conventional weapons, chemical weapons and, in particular, famine, which has been systematically created by the aggressors in accordance with their policy of genocide.

The people of Kampuchea must take up arms again and fight to ensure that the nation survives and that Kampuchea always remains an independent, neutral and non-aligned country.

In view of the situation in Kampuchea, the General Assembly, faithful to the sacred principles of the Charter of the United Nations, has adopted resolutions 34/22 and 35/6, calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea so as to allow the people of Kampuchea to exercise their right to determine their own future, and deciding, in that spirit, to convene an international conference to solve the problem created by the acts of aggression against Kampuchea.

General Assembly resolutions 34/22 and 35/6 have greatly encouraged the people of Kampuchea and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, which are currently continuing to overcome all obstacles, to endure all sorts of hardships, to make sublime sacrifices and to hold high the flag of combat under the leadership of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and of the Front de grande union nationale patriotique et democratique de Kampuchea, for the survival of the Kampuchean nation and for a perpetually independent Kampuchea. By means of this struggle, the people of Kampuchea and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea are likewise defending, with their very flesh and blood, the cause of peace, stability and security in South-East Asia and in the world and the cause of the independence of all countries and peoples, which is supported by the Declaration of 14 December 1960.

KHIEU Samphan
President of the Presidium of State
Prime Minister

ETHIOPIA

Message from the Chairman of the Provisional Military
Administrative Council and of the Commission to
Organize the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia

/Original: English/

/11 December 1980/

On the occasion of the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly, it is particularly fitting to recall one of the most phenomenal features of the post-Second World War era, namely, the unremitting struggle waged in the noble and just cause for the emancipation of hundreds of millions of subjugated peoples from the clutches of imperialist and colonialist exploitation.

The historic Declaration of 14 December 1960 has truly ushered in a new era of freedom and independence for the formerly oppressed countries and peoples, thereby enlarging the United Nations family by over threefold from its original membership of 51 States. The remarkable widening of the frontiers of freedom has thus enabled our world Organization to fulfil to a significant degree one of its paramount purposes, namely, the promotion of self-determination of peoples and their liberation from colonialist and imperialist subjugation.

While Socialist Ethiopia rejoices at this remarkable achievement and pays tribute to the memory of the heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the bitter struggles so far waged for the right of self-determination and independence, for human dignity, equality, peace and justice, it also reiterates its strong appeal that the international community urgently impose and rigorously implement comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the racist Pretoria régime so that the people of Namibia and South Africa shall, at long last, be liberated from the inhuman and odious system of apartheid. Furthermore, Socialist Ethiopia stands for peace, equality, justice and economic and social progress, and rededicates itself to ensuring, together with the international community, the full respect of the Charter which today is being undermined by the forces of expansion and aggression that are constantly threatening peace and stability in our region.

We also consider that this is an opportune moment for the international community to raise its voice in a strong condemnation of these destructive forces of aggression and expansion, as well as their imperialist benefactors.

In recognition and deep appreciation of the great contributions which the United Nations has made towards the independence of colonial countries and peoples, it is with particular pleasure that, on behalf of the people and Government of Socialist Ethiopia and on my own behalf, I extend to you our warmest congratulations on this happy occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Mengistu HAILE-MARIAM
Chairman of the Provisional Military
Administrative Council and of the
Commission to Organize the Party of
the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE),
Commander-in-Chief of the
Revolutionary Army of
Socialist Ethiopia

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Message from the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the
Socialist Unity Party and Chairman of the Council of State of the
German Democratic Republic

/Original: English/

/10 December 1980/

The twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is an occasion for me to reaffirm the solidarity of the German Democratic Republic with the peoples' struggle for national and social liberation.

The people of the German Democratic Republic welcomes the commendable progress achieved in eliminating colonialism. Since the Second World War more than 90 nationally liberated States have emerged which are making great efforts to overcome the vestiges of colonial rule and to resist neo-colonial dependence. Their commitment to peace, disarmament and equal international co-operation is highly appreciated. Together with them, the German Democratic Republic strives for international security, détente, universal implementation of the right to self-determination and a democratic restructuring of international economic relations.

As a matter of fact, millions of people continue to live under colonial and racial subjugation. The right to self-determination and independence as manifested by the Declaration applies without exception to all nations. Therefore, the German Democratic Republic opposes all attempts to hamper decolonization and misuse still dependent territories for aggressive military purposes.

The German Democratic Republic condemns the terror of the apartheid régime, its illegal occupation of Namibia and its aggression against neighbouring States as well as the continued support of this régime by imperialist States and international corporations. The German Democratic Republic emphatically speaks out for the strict observance of the arms embargo, the prohibition of any nuclear collaboration with South Africa and for the implementation of comprehensive economic sanctions. It extends solidarity and support to the people of Namibia and its legitimate liberation organization, SWAPO, in the struggle for national independence and self-determination.

The peoples will continue to fight until colonialism and apartheid are completely eliminated, and they will score fresh successes in implementing their inalienable rights. I assure you, Mr. Secretary-General, that the German Democratic Republic will also in the future contribute to the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Erich HONECKER

General Secretary of the Central
Committee of the Socialist Unity
Party of Germany and Chairman of
the Council of State of the
German Democratic Republic

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HUNGARY

Telegram from the President of the Presidential Council of
the Hungarian People's Republic

/Original: English/

/9 December 1980/

On behalf of the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic, the Hungarian people and on my own behalf, I extend my greetings to the session of the General Assembly on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The adoption of this historic document at the fifteenth session of the General Assembly gave a new stimulation and impulse to the devoted struggle for the final liquidation of the colonial system during the past 20 years. The peoples living under colonial oppression and exploitation have achieved considerable successes in their struggle for the attainment and strengthening of political and economic independence of their countries. As a result of this a great number of countries suffering earlier under the colonial yoke have entered on the road of independent development. The adoption of the Declaration was an important milestone in the history of the United Nations and became an effective instrument of the world Organization in the struggle for the liquidation of the colonial system. The Hungarian People's Republic is in solidarity with the peoples fighting against colonial oppression and with the liberation movements and according to its possibilities assists actively their struggle. It condemns the policies of the colonial and racial systems and supports resolutely the efforts aimed at the full implementation of the provisions laid down in the declarations of the United Nations. Finally, I should like to express my hope that the present session of the General Assembly will adopt further effective measures in the interest of an early, complete and final liquidation of colonialism, racism and apartheid.

Pal LOSONCZI
President of the Presidential Council
of the Hungarian People's Republic

INDIA

Message from the Prime Minister of the Republic of India

/Original: English/

/2 December 1980/

On the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization, it gives me great pleasure to reiterate India's total support to the struggle for national liberation which is being waged by the peoples under alien and colonial domination. Having itself struggled for many long years against imperialist domination, it is only natural that India should consistently and steadfastly support the freedom movements of oppressed peoples everywhere.

The United Nations' adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was one of the most momentous decisions taken by the international community for the welfare of mankind. The Declaration is a beacon of hope and inspiration to millions of dependent peoples throughout the world. It is significant that in the 20 years since the adoption of the Declaration, more than 50 countries representing over 70 million people from Africa, Asia and Latin America have won independence and have joined the community of free and sovereign nations. Recently we rejoiced in the victory of the heroic people of Zimbabwe.

India has been privileged to play a crucial role in the process of decolonization through direct moral and material support to liberation movements and through its anti-colonial actions at the United Nations and in the Movement of Non-aligned Countries. We remember with pride that the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, himself attended the United Nations General Assembly session in 1960, when the historic Declaration was adopted.

I take this opportunity of expressing the hope that the United Nations will soon succeed in eliminating the remaining vestiges of colonialism and alien domination, particularly in southern Africa, which continue to plague the international community.

Indira Gandhi

POLAND

Message from the President of the Council of State of the
Polish People's Republic

/Original: English/

/10 December 1980/

On behalf of the authorities of the Polish People's Republic and the Polish people, I wish to extend through you to the session of the General Assembly expressions of deep satisfaction and cordial congratulations on the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the General Assembly.

We rejoice at the fact that this Declaration - being an offspring of the fundamental principles of the United Nations, a manifestation of the loftiest aspirations of the whole of mankind and a response to the immediate interests of the oppressed nations - has become a powerful weapon for those who want to wipe out colonialism, which was and still is the disgrace of the twentieth century. Poland, true to its traditional ideals of freedom and sovereignty of nations, together with other States of the socialist community, actively participated in the adoption of the Declaration and continues to contribute to its implementation. My country develops comprehensive economic, scientific and technical co-operation with new African, Asian and Latin American States; also, inter alia, as a member of the United Nations Council for Namibia, it actively participates in actions aimed at the final elimination of any remnant of colonialism.

On the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, which has become one of the most important and fruitful United Nations documents, we reaffirm our resolute will to co-operate further in favour of full and urgent implementation of all its objectives.

Henryk JABŁONSKI
President of the Council of State
of the Polish People's Republic

ROMANIA

/See A/35/726/

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/See A/35/751-S/14294/

VIET NAM

Telegram from the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam

/Original: French/

/10 December 1980/

On the occasion of the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, on behalf of the Vietnamese people and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and on my own behalf, I have the honour to address warm greetings to you and to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Since the Second World War, mankind has witnessed unprecedented progress in the history of the struggle for national liberation. The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted at the very heart of that struggle, was fully in conformity with the interests and ardent aspirations of thousands of people who rose up to struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism and for national independence, democracy and social progress.

During the past two decades, the national liberation movement has won the most glorious victories in history. Many countries have reconquered their national independence and have become masters of their own fate and Members of the United Nations, playing an active part in the political life of the international community. However, the enemies of independence cannot resign themselves to accepting their defeats. They have intensified their collusion in order to create tension and revive the cold war so as to create favourable conditions in which they can continue their aggression and intervention in the affairs of independent countries, pillage natural resources and cling to their remaining colonies.

Looking to their past experience, the peoples of the world are resolutely intensifying their solidarity in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, zionism, apartheid, expansionism, hegemonism and all the forces of oppression and exploitation, so as to reconquer and consolidate their national independence, thus contributing to the defence of international peace and security and to the establishment of a new, just and progressive international economic order. That cause will undoubtedly prevail.

The Vietnamese people resolutely support the struggle for national independence being waged by the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and hopes that after this solemn observance, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly, will be fully implemented as soon as possible in order to respond to the aspirations and desires of the peoples of the world, in the interest of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

PHAM VAN DONG
Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic
of Viet Nam
