



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1829
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES,
PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

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I. QUESTION OF THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

1. The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands en bloc at its 688th to 694th meetings, between 22 May and 1 June 1995.
2. During its consideration of these items, the Subcommittee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat on these Territories (A/AC.109/2012, 2013 and Corr.1 and Add.1, 2014, 2015 and Add.1, 2016 and Add.1, 2017 and Add.1, 2018-2019, 2020 and Add.1 and 2021-2023).
3. The Subcommittee conducted a review of the political, economic and social conditions in each of the Territories in the light of the information contained in the working papers prepared by the Secretariat and the statement of the representative of an administering Power (New Zealand) and the people of Tokelau, who participated in the discussions, as well as information furnished by petitioners who appeared before the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee noted that the information contained in the working papers was not always up to date and requested the Secretariat to continue to collect information on the Territories in cooperation with the administering Powers.
4. In the course of its review, the Subcommittee considered all aspects of the issues relating to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and focused attention on the following:
 - (a) Progress or lack of progress in ascertaining the wishes of the population of the Territories regarding their future status;
 - (b) The position of the territorial Governments and political parties and constitutional developments on the question of the future status of the Territories;
 - (c) The general socio-economic developments and specific problems faced by some Territories in respect of environment, drug-trafficking, etc.;
 - (d) The dispatch of visiting missions and participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee so that the Committee can get first-hand information on the wishes of the population.
5. The Subcommittee noted that in some cases there was no up-to-date information on the wishes of the population regarding their future status. It requested the administering Powers to conduct appropriate exercises to ascertain those wishes. The outcome of such exercises would help the Subcommittee in reviewing the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories inscribed on the list of the Special Committee. The Subcommittee was aware that some of the

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Territories were not seeking independence but sought other options of self-determination. The Committee also noted that some Territories attached priority to socio-economic development before making a choice as to their future status.

6. The Subcommittee attached importance to a review of the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the context of the fact that 1995 is the mid-point in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and that the United Nations is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 1995.

7. The representative of New Zealand, as an administering Power, and special representative of Tokelau participated in the discussions of the Subcommittee during its consideration of Tokelau. An elected member of the Guam legislature also participated in the discussions on the question of Guam. A statement was read out on behalf of the Speaker of the twenty-third Guam legislature. The Subcommittee expressed its appreciation for that participation and for the additional information provided by the administering Power concerned, the special representative of Tokelau and the elected representative of Guam.

8. The Subcommittee reiterated its view that the cooperation of all administering Powers was essential for the discharge of its mandate and resolved that it should seek the cooperation of all administering Powers through demonstration of a practical, flexible and innovative approach. The Subcommittee was conscious of the change in the international situation and the consequent need to adopt appropriate changes in its approach in tune with the changed circumstances. The Subcommittee expressed its readiness to work with the administering Powers in a spirit of constructive cooperation to achieve the goals of the United Nations in respect of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Committee hoped that the administering Powers would take note of this new approach and come forward with cooperation.

9. The Subcommittee encouraged the non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

B. Draft general resolution

10. Having considered the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, the Subcommittee has decided to recommend the following draft resolution for action by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands,

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Having examined the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance,

Recognizing that 1995 is the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and that decolonization is one of the proudest achievements of the Organization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the people of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles which should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of those Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as administering Power in the work of the Special Committee, and welcoming its statement that it will abide by the wishes of the population of Tokelau in determining their future political status,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to decide their future status,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness, both to the Territories and to the Special Committee, of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

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Expressing its conviction that referendums and other forms of popular consultation on the future status of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are an appropriate means of ascertaining the wishes of the peoples in those Territories with regard to their future political status,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide the most effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to those Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Mindful also that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. Approves the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands;

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of those Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the people of those Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, in that connection, calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination, in conformity with the legitimate political status options clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV);

4. Requests the administering Powers to ascertain expeditiously, by means of popular consultations, the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories regarding their future political status so that the Special Committee can review the status of the Territories in accordance with the expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories;

5. Requests the administering Powers to facilitate the dispatch of the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories regarding their future political status so that the Special Committee can review the status of the Territories in accordance with the expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territory;

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6. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of those Territories, and recommends that priority should continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. Requests the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offenses;

9. Stresses that the achievement of the declared goal of eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned, and appeals to the administering Powers to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee;

10. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

11. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

12. Decides to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

C. Draft resolutions on specific conditions prevailing in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

1. American Samoa

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Taking note of the fact that a large number of American Samoans have emigrated to the United States of America and are residing there,

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Noting the constitutional developments in the Territory,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements,

Recalling the dispatch in 1981 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power to carry out, at the earliest possible date, a democratic exercise to ascertain the wishes of the people of American Samoa regarding the future status of the Territory;

2. Calls upon the administering Power, to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory and the development of manpower resources.

2. Anguilla

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting that general elections were held in March 1994,

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993-1997,

Aware that the exploitation of deep-sea resources would help reduce the risk of depleting the Territory's own fishing resources as a result of overfishing,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in 1984,

1. Requests the administering Power to carry out, at the earliest possible date, an exercise to ascertain the wishes of the people of Anguilla regarding the future status of the Territory;

2. Requests all countries, organizations and United Nations agencies with deep-sea fishing experience to assist the Territory in improving its capacity in exploiting deep-sea fishing.

3. Bermuda

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the decision of the territorial legislature to hold the independence referendum scheduled for mid-1995,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the issue of a referendum and the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting also the closure of the Canadian base in 1994 and the announced plans of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to close their respective air and naval bases in Bermuda in 1995,

1. Requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in the preparation and holding of the independence referendum;

2. Requests the administering Power to facilitate the visit of a team of the Special Committee to observe the independence referendum in Bermuda;

3. Calls upon the administering Power to continue its programmes of socio-economic development.

4. British Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting the results of the constitutional review of 1993-1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading off-shore financial centres,

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Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power to continue the process for facilitating the expression of the will of the people regarding the future status of the Territory;

2. Requests the administering Power, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors.

5. Cayman Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the constitutional review of 1992-1993, according to which the population expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Noting also the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading off-shore financial centres,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

2. Also requests the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

3. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue and increase their programmes of assistance to

the Territory with a view to strengthening, developing and diversifying its economy;

4. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, funds smuggling and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking.

6. Guam

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the results of the general elections held in November 1994,

Recalling that in a referendum held in Guam in 1987, the people of Guam endorsed a draft Commonwealth Act which would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Recalling the statement by the Special Representative of the United States on 12 December 1993 that he hoped to have a bill for the passage of the Commonwealth Act before Congress by the end of 1994,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Calls upon the administering Power and the territorial Government to expedite the early conclusion of the negotiations on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory;

2. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. Also requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

4. Further requests the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

5. Further requests the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities.

7. Montserrat

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat,

Noting also the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Recalling that a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory took place in 1982,

1. Requests the administering Power to conduct an appropriate exercise, at the earliest possible date, to ascertain the will of the people regarding the future status of the Territory;

2. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other multilateral financial institutions, to continue their assistance to the Territory in the strengthening, development and diversification of the economy of Montserrat in accordance with its medium-term and long-term development plans.

8. Pitcairn

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Taking into account the unique nature of the Territory in terms of population and area,

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Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

Requests the administering Power to continue its assistance for improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory.

9. St. Helena

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Taking into account the unique character of the Territory, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

1. Requests the administering Power to conduct the constitutional review in the Territory, taking into account the wishes of its population;

2. Requests the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory.

10. Tokelau

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Having heard the statements of the representatives of New Zealand, the administering Power, and the Special Representative of Tokelau, who conveyed a message from the Council of Faipule to the Committee,

Recalling the Solemn Declaration on the Future Status of Tokelau delivered by the Ulu o Tokelau on 30 July 1994, that an act of self-determination in Tokelau is now under active consideration, together with the Constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the present preference of Tokelau is for a status of free association with New Zealand,

Noting the emphasis placed in the Solemn Declaration on the terms of Tokelau's intended free association relationship with New Zealand, including the

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expectation that the form of help Tokelau could continue to expect from New Zealand in promoting the well-being of its people, besides its external interests, would be clearly established in the framework of that relationship,

Noting also the Territory's concentrated focus in 1995 on strengthening its national institutions and creating a structure of government to meet modern needs, preparatory to the exercise by the people of Tokelau of their right to self-determination,

Acknowledging the endeavours of Tokelau to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994,

1. Notes, on the basis of statements made by representatives of the administering Power and Tokelau subsequent to the 1994 United Nations visiting mission, that Tokelau is working towards an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. Takes note of the expressed wishes of the people of the Territory indicating a strong preference for a status of free association with New Zealand;

3. Notes the readiness of the people of Tokelau to assume full governmental responsibility and to conduct their own affairs within the framework of a constitution, which is currently being developed;

4. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand that will meet its obligation to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

5. Invites the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue their assistance to the social and economic development of Tokelau.

11. Turks and Caicos Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting recent changes to the Constitution of the Territory and the intention of the territorial Government to continue to campaign for further constitutional changes,

Noting also that general elections took place in the Territory on 31 January 1995,

Noting further the policy of the authorities of maintaining a balance between creating a more liberal investment environment while preserving access by the population to economic benefits,

Noting the increase in aid, particularly financial assistance, granted to the territorial Government by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

1. Requests the administering Power to conduct, at the earliest possible date, an appropriate exercise to ascertain the will of the people regarding the future status of the Territory;

2. Calls upon the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory.

12. United States Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to the general resolution above,

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

Bearing in mind the results of the referendum on political status held in the Territory on 11 October 1993, in which the majority of the people of the Territory voted in favour of continued or enhanced territorial status,

Noting the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community,

Noting also the necessity to further diversify the Territory's economy,

Noting further that the question of Water Island is still under consideration through bilateral negotiations,

Noting that in 1993, the territorial Government purchased the assets of the West Indian Company, which had significant property and development interests in the Charlotte Amalie Harbour,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Requests the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

2. Also requests the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

3. Welcomes the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

II. QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Subcommittee

11. In accordance with its programme of work for 1995, adopted at its 688th meeting, on 22 May 1995, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 692nd to 694th meetings, on 30 and 31 May and 1 June 1995.

12. During its consideration of the item on the question of dissemination of information on decolonization, the Subcommittee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

B. Statement by the representative of the Department of Public Information

13. In his statement, the representative of the Department of Public Information said that Department's multimedia activities covered a wide range of issues pertaining to decolonization, including questions relating to Western Sahara and the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean region, as well as the Security Council's termination of the trusteeship agreement for Palau. The Department also continued to provide coverage with regard to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (1990-2000). The adoption of resolution 49/90 of 16 December 1994 was highlighted by the Department's daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations world wide and received emphasis in its press release service (English and French).

14. As part of its regular coverage of United Nations activities, the Department issued a total of 62 press releases in English and French on issues relating to decolonization. These related to the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the

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Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance; consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly of decolonization issues; and the Assembly's meetings devoted to decolonization issues. In addition, the Department's annual compilation of Assembly resolutions included the 11 resolutions and decisions adopted on decolonization. These press releases were furnished to journalists upon request, as were posters, pamphlets and other relevant materials.

15. The UN Chronicle, a quarterly magazine published by the Department in the six official languages, covered major developments in the field of decolonization, including the work of the Special Committee on Decolonization and the Fourth Committee. Articles included: "Western Sahara: Identification Commission to Proceed with Voter Registration" (June 1994); "Palau Compact Implementation Urged" (September 1994); "Western Sahara: Disagreement on OAU observers (September 1994); "Trusteeship Council Formerly Suspends Operation: Palau admitted to UN" (March 1995). In addition, the Department reprinted a pamphlet entitled "What's the UN?" for elementary- and high-school-aged children which describes the United Nations structure and activities and includes sections on the Trusteeship Council and decolonization. The Department also continued to distribute the poster on decolonization, published in 1994 in English, French and Spanish, entitled, "Complete Decolonization by the Year 2000 - Freedom to Choose."

16. The Department of Public Information has currently under production the following publications: the 1994 edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations, which will contain a chapter relating to trusteeship and decolonization, and the fiftieth anniversary commemorative editions of Basic Facts, featuring decolonization in one of its eight chapters, and the "UN in Brief", a pamphlet which provides a basic overview of the United Nations and its system of agencies, including a section focusing on the Trusteeship Council and on decolonization.

17. The Department produced a total of 24 radio programmes on decolonization in nine languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, Bangla, Creole and Dutch. These were disseminated world wide. Programmes included an edition of "UN Calling Asia" (English) devoted to the process by which Palau gained independence and membership in the United Nations. In addition, "Chinese News" (Chinese), "UN News Magazine" (English and Russian), "World in Review" (English) and "Puntos Cardinales" (Spanish) featured the termination of the mandate of the Trusteeship Council. An edition of "The Arabic News Programme" focused on the functions of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly. The English programme "UN Caribbean Magazine", the Dutch "Nieuwe Connecties" and the Creole "Nouveau Contacts" featured the work 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 and its recommendations to the General Assembly on the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

18. The representative of the Department of Public Information said that during the reporting period, activities within the United Nations system related to decolonization were televised and disseminated through feeds and dubs made

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available to networks and other television stations and through packages of television news and video highlights provided to international news syndicators. The Department's Audio/Visual Library continued to make tapes and cassettes on decolonization issues available to correspondents, delegates, United Nations radio producers and outside producers.

19. The world-wide network of 68 United Nations information centres and services continued to distribute the Department's information materials relating to decolonization, through the local media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. Whenever appropriate, information centres incorporated such information in their briefings on the work of the Organization as well as in their periodic newsletters.

20. To promote awareness by non-governmental organizations of United Nations activities on decolonization, the Department continued to disseminate information materials to each of the over 1,300 non-governmental organizations associated with it. At Headquarters, it responded to public inquiries and requests for information on decolonization by distributing, as hand-outs or through the mail, publications, pamphlets, booklets and brochures.

C. Statement by the representative of the Department of Political Affairs

21. In his statement before the Subcommittee, the representative of the Department of Political Affairs reviewed that Department's activities in 1994 in the area of dissemination of information on decolonization. Those activities were concentrated in three major areas. First, through oral dissemination of information in speeches and lectures at conferences organized by academic circles and various professional groups, as well as by maintaining personal contacts of the Department's officers with leading experts on Non-Self-Governing Territories; secondly, through systematic distribution of United Nations documents on decolonization issues, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, particularly in connection with regional seminars and other forums taking place in and away from United Nations Headquarters; and, thirdly, through preparation of contributions for recurrent or occasional United Nations publications, such as the United Nations Yearbook, the UN Chronicle and Objective Justice. All these activities were closely coordinated with the relevant departments and services of the United Nations Secretariat, first and foremost with the Department of Public Information.

22. As in previous years, the Department of Political Affairs placed emphasis on providing up-to-date information and political advice to the Department of Public Information in the preparation of published materials. Among those were articles on decolonization prepared for the UN Chronicle. The Department of Political Affairs also cooperated with the Department of Public Information in the preparation of pamphlets on decolonization. Prior to their publication, all materials were carefully reviewed, verified and updated by the Department.

23. An important aspect of the Department's cooperation with the Department of Public Information continued to be the preparation of relevant chapters for the United Nations Yearbook, the most recent being the 1994 edition.

24. The continued cooperation between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information helped to publicize various aspects of the United Nations activities in the field of decolonization among the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

25. Dissemination of information on decolonization continued to be a priority task at the seminars away from Headquarters organized by the Special Committee during last years. The Department attaches great importance to the regional seminar to be held this summer in the Caribbean. This seminar would provide another excellent opportunity for the United Nations to share the views on the current status of decolonization process with the representatives of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers, experts in the field of Non-Self-Governing Territories and representatives of the non-governmental organizations with expertise in decolonization. The seminar would place particular emphasis on the examination of the options of self-determination which may be available for the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

26. Another important element of the Department's work in cooperation with the Department of Public Information was related to dissemination of information to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on United Nations activities in the field of decolonization through United Nations information centres. They also continue to provide valuable feedback to the Department of Political Affairs to assist it in formulating the strategy of addressing the issues of decolonization in the rapidly changing international environment. The representative of the Department emphasized that the activities of United Nations information centres facilitate a two-way flow of information between the United Nations and the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned. In this area, United Nations information centres have been doing their best within the financial constraints experienced by the Organization.

27. The secretariat of the Special Committee continued to be active in the dissemination of information on decolonization through contacts with academic circles and institutions of higher education, both in New York and elsewhere in the United States of America.

28. The Department of Political Affairs continued to attach great importance to the distribution of the United Nations documents dealing with decolonization issues. The Department took particular care to reply to all individual requests for information on the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization.

29. The Department maintained regular and fruitful contacts with regional intergovernmental organizations, both in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, especially the Caribbean Community, the Eastern Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank and the South Pacific Forum. The valuable input from these organizations on the issues facing small island Non-Self-Governing Territories enabled the Department to undertake thorough in-depth analysis of political, economic and social developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and reflect them adequately in the Working Papers.

30. The representative of the Department of Political Affairs concluded by saying that the Department would not spare any effort to fulfil its mandate as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 49/90 within the limits of its resources. The Department of Political Affairs will take into consideration all guidelines and recommendations which the Subcommittee and the Special Committee formulate at the conclusion of their session this year.

D. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (22-26 May 1995)

31. In accordance with the programme of work for 1995 adopted by the Special Committee at its 1441st meeting, on 27 February 1995, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance considered the question of the Week of Solidarity at its 693rd meeting, on 25 May 1995.

32. The Chairman of the Special Committee made the following statement on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity:

"Since 1972, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), the Governments and peoples of the world have been observing annually a Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories. This celebration is in full accord with the purposes and tenets embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and is in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which is contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

"Today, when the world celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of our Organization, its success in the field of decolonization is universally recognized. Hundreds of millions gained their freedom and independence in the surge of decolonization following the creation of the United Nations. Their membership in the United Nations as sovereign States strengthened the fundamental basis of the international community.

"We remember the history of the struggles against colonialism and pay tribute to all those who took part in them. We remain mindful of the sacrifices that made it possible for hundreds of millions of people to achieve self-determination and independence.

"However important the success in the field of decolonization, the task is still unfinished in that area and requires further concerted and determined action on the part of all those involved. There are still peoples who have not been able to exercise their right to self-determination. These are mostly peoples of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories located mainly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions. They are confronted, inter alia, by problems of their small size, low population, geographic remoteness, limited natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters. Their situations require new and innovative solutions geared towards the implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism launched by the General Assembly in 1988.

"Convinced as we are that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, we once again reiterate the legitimacy of all options of self-determination consistent with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) as long as it is ascertained that they are the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. We should continue to exercise flexibility and realism in our endeavours to complete the process of decolonization. The wishes of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not be ignored when examining once again the options of self-determination available to them. The year 1995, which is the year of mid-term review of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, is an appropriate time for this task.

"In that connection, we further appeal for the strengthened and continued support of the administering Powers, whose cooperation with the Special Committee is essential for the progress of the Territories towards self-determination. We count on the support from the specialized agencies, which should continue to assist the Non-Self-Governing Territories in enhancing their standard of living and promoting their self-sufficiency. We count on regional and international organizations, which should explore new avenues to provide the Non-Self-Governing Territories with legal and political opportunities for participating in programmes that relate to their environment and livelihood. We count on support for our efforts from all Member States and non-governmental organizations.

"We hope and believe that our combined, unrelenting efforts will ensure the fulfilment of the promise for freedom, lasting peace, sustained growth and sustainable development for all the peoples of our planet in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

E. Draft resolution on dissemination of information
on decolonization

33. Having concluded its examination of the item, the Subcommittee has decided to recommend the following draft resolution for action by the Special Committee:

The Special Committee,

Having examined questions relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, in particular General Assembly resolution 49/90 of 16 December 1994,

Recognizing the need for flexible, practical and innovative approaches towards reviewing the options of self-determination for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to achieving complete decolonization by the year 2000,

/...

Reiterating the importance of dissemination of information as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration, and mindful of the role of world public opinion in effectively assisting the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to achieve self-determination,

Aware of the role of non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization,

1. Approves the activities in the field of dissemination of information on decolonization undertaken by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs;

2. Considers it important to continue its efforts to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information on decolonization, with particular emphasis on the options of self-determination available for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. Requests the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information to take into account the suggestions of the Special Committee to continue their efforts to take measures through all the media available, including publications, radio and television, as well as the Internet, to give publicity to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, and, inter alia:

(a) To continue to collect, prepare and disseminate basic material on the issues of self-determination of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) To seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in the discharge of the tasks referred to above;

(c) To maintain a working relationship with the appropriate regional and intergovernmental organizations, particularly in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, by holding periodic consultations and exchanging information;

(d) To encourage involvement of non-governmental-organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(e) To report to the Special Committee on measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests all States, including the administering Powers, to continue to extend their cooperation in the dissemination of information referred to in paragraph 2 above.

III. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

34. Having carefully examined the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the question of dissemination of information on decolonization, the Subcommittee adopted by consensus the texts of the preceding draft resolutions, and conclusions and recommendations contained therein, at its 695th meeting, on 6 June 1995, for action by the Special Committee.

35. At the same meeting, the Subcommittee adopted the present report.
