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IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT  
OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND OF THE SPEEDY  
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND  
PEOPLES FOR THE EFFECTIVE GUARANTEE AND OBSERVANCE  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/10 August 1981/

1. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic regards the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination as one of the most important conditions for the socio-economic progress of the peoples of colonial Territories. The complete and final elimination of colonialism and neo-colonialism and the institution of socio-economic reforms in the interests of the working people will establish the necessary basis for the liberated peoples' enjoyment of fundamental political, social, cultural and economic rights.
2. As a strong and consistent supporter of the strict implementation of all resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies aimed at the final elimination of racism, apartheid and the remnants of colonialism in Africa, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic resolutely condemns and demands an end to political, diplomatic, economic, commercial, military, nuclear, strategic, cultural, sporting and other ties maintained by Western countries with the racist régime in South Africa, since such ties encourage that régime stubbornly to crush the peoples' aspiration for self-determination and independence.
3. The regular Weeks of Solidarity with the peoples of southern Africa have become a manifestation of the Soviet people's immutable support for the national liberation movement of the peoples of Africa and their fight against the forces of imperialism and racism. From 25 May to 1 June, in many towns of the Republic, gatherings and meetings of community representatives were held during which the participants expressed feelings of fervant sympathy with the struggling people of Namibia, thus highlighting the fact that our country, as was reasserted at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the CPSU, has been and continues to be a sincere and consistent friend of the States and peoples of Africa, and unswervingly supports the struggle of the peoples of Africa for their national liberation, against the intrigues of imperialism and racism.
4. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic recognizes the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign rule by every available means, including armed struggle.
5. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic supports the self-determination of Palestine and resolutely condemns all partial agreements and separate treaties, which are a scandalous infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people, the principles of the United Nations Charter and the resolutions adopted at various international forums on the question of Palestine; it also resolutely condemns the expansionist activities of Israel in the Near East, its constant bombing of Arab

civilian settlements, especially Palestinian ones, and the destruction of their camps, which is serious obstacle to the achievement of self-determination and independence by the Palestinian people.

6. We demand the prompt and unconditional release of all persons detained or imprisoned as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence, and the full observance of basic human rights in connexion with those people, including children, detained in the prisons of Namibia and South Africa.

7. In aiming for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we must not forget that many so-called small Territories and enclaves, situated in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and in the Caribbean region, are still under the yoke of colonialism.

8. The United Kingdom alone continues to hold sway over a dozen or so such colonial Territories, trampling on the right of the inhabitants of the Territories to self-determination and independence. The network of military bases located in those Territories creates a direct threat to the peoples standing up for their right to independent development.

9. The right of peoples to self-determination has been held in utter contempt by the agreement between two colonial countries to turn the island of Diego Garcia into a United States military base in the Indian Ocean. Those actions, dictated by the global-strategic ambitions of imperialism, are a flagrant violation of the territorial integrity of the State of Mauritius. The Byelorussian SSR fully supports the just demand of the State of Mauritius for the return to its sovereignty of the Chagos archipelago belonging to it, including the island of Diego Garcia.

10. One manifestation of the policy aimed at perpetuating colonial rule is the situation in Micronesia which has arisen through the fault of the United States. Acting in contravention of the United Nations Charter and contrary to the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, and side-stepping the Security Council, the United States continues to take unilateral actions aimed the dismemberment and annexation of the Territory. Such expansionist activities on the part of the United States, which is occupying the Territory of Micronesia for military and strategic purposes, are clearly incompatible with the right of peoples to self-determination.

11. The Byelorussian SSR resolutely condemns the practice of employing mercenaries against national liberation movements and sovereign States, considering it to be a criminally punishable action and the mercenaries themselves to be criminals.

12. Social conditions in our country completely rule out the possibility of the recruitment, financing, training or transport of mercenaries by its nationals.

13. The Byelorussian SSR gives many different forms of assistance and support to peoples fighting for their national liberation. In the Republic's higher

education establishments and technical schools, there are students from Asian and African countries, many of whom are activists in national liberation organizations in southern Africa, the Palestinian resistance movement and other patriotic organizations.

14. In the Byelorussian SSR, there is widespread public activity denouncing racism and apartheid and supporting peoples fighting against colonialism and national oppression.

15. Every year the Republic celebrates International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March and, on 1 January, the Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Arab People of Palestine for their Rights. From 25 May to 1 June, there is the Week of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Peoples of Southern Africa; 25 May is Africa Liberation Day; 16 June is the Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa; 26 August marks the Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of Namibia, and so forth.

16. The Byelorussian SSR will continue to maintain its position of principle in support of the just struggle of peoples for independence and liberation from the fetters of colonialism and against apartheid, racism and other forms of mass and flagrant violations of human rights.

EGYPT

Original: Arabic

4 September 1981

1. In its preamble, the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt states that Egypt is committed to respect the freedom and independence of other peoples, and to work towards the achievement of "peace in our world, based on the determination that peace can only be founded on justice and that political and social progress can only be effected through the freedom and independent will of these peoples, and that no culture is worthy of its name unless it is free of exploitation, of whatever nature and in whatever form".

2. Article 77 (f) of the Penal Code provides that "Any person who, without the Government's authorization, undertakes to assemble soldiers or carry out any other act of aggression against a foreign country that is likely to expose the Egyptian State to the danger of war or the breaking of diplomatic relations, shall be liable to imprisonment. Should this act result in war or the breaking of diplomatic relations, the penalty shall be temporary hard labour."

FINLAND

/Original: English/

/24 July 1981/

1. In its reply, the Government of Finland referred to a letter dated 3 June 1981 which contains the views of the Government of Finland on this matter and which declares Finland's readiness to consider, in co-operation with other States, the problems related to the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries with a view to finding ways and means which could be conducive to the solution of these problems.

2. The answer also contains information about the present legislation in Finland concerning the recruitment of mercenaries.

ITALY

/Original: French/

/27 August 1981/

The Government of Italy submitted the following observations concerning the national legislation on mercenaries:

A. Article 244 of the Common Penal Code: hostile acts against a third State which threatened the peace of the Italian State

1. Any person who, without the approval of the Government, recruits others or acts against a third State at the risk of war is punished by a term of imprisonment of from 5 to 12 years. If such hostile acts are liable to disrupt relations with a third State or if they expose the State or its citizens, wherever they may reside, to the risk of retortion or retaliation, the penalty provided is from 2 to 8 years' imprisonment. If, as a result, diplomatic relations are suspended or if retortion or retaliation actually occurs, the penalty provided is from 3 to 10 years' imprisonment.

2. Reference is made to "recruitment or other hostile acts without the approval of the Government"; such recruitment (which cannot but refer to the concept of the "use of mercenaries" as contained in article 47 of Additional Protocol I of 10 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949) is thus included in the more general category of "hostile acts"; such recruitment must be directed "against a third State", in other words, against the legitimate régime of a State; any person who "effects" such recruitment is punished but, because of the lack of case law, it is not clear here whether the "persons recruited", as well as the organizers of such recruitment, are to be included among the punishable persons.

3. There are two hypothetical situations:

(a) The first paragraph stipulates that "hostile acts" are those which are liable to expose the Italian State to the danger of war;

(b) The second paragraph provides for a less serious possibility involving two different cases: hostile acts which are liable to disrupt ... or expose ...; and hostile acts having caused an actual break in diplomatic relations, and so forth.

B. Article 288 of the Common Penal Code: unauthorized recruitment or armament in the service of a third State

4. Any person who, in the territory of the State and without the approval of the Government, recruits or arms citizens to fight in the service or on behalf of a foreign country is punished by a term of imprisonment of from 3 to 6 years; this penalty is increased if the persons recruited include military personnel or persons performing their military service.

5. This case is different from and more specific than that covered in article 244, since it refers only to "recruitment or armament" carried out not against, but on behalf of a third State (recruitment of mercenaries on behalf of the legitimate Government of a third State). Moreover, the words "in the territory of the State", which are not contained in article 244, are used in article 288. Article 244 states the general norm contained in article 7 of the Constitution, which stipulates that, under Italian legislation, all offences committed against the State are punishable (inter alia, those cited in articles 244 and 288), even when they are committed abroad.

6. Articles 302, 304 and 305 also deal, though indirectly, with the "recruitment of mercenaries" question, by mentioning such offences as instigation, political conspiracy through agreement and political conspiracy through association and also by referring to the cases covered by articles 244 and 288. A connexion can be seen between the "recruitment of mercenaries" and the possibility covered by article 246 ("corruption of a citizen by a foreigner") which could refer precisely to "recruits", namely "those Italian citizens who have received or who have been promised by a foreign recruiter, either money or any other advantage with a view to perpetrating acts contrary to the national interests" (such as enlistment in military or paramilitary activities having the consequences specified in article 244). Under article 313 of the Penal Code, all proceedings relating to the offences covered by article 244 and article 288 are subject to the authorization of the Ministry of Justice.

C. Article 77 of the Military Penal Code in time of peace

7. This article applies to the crime of high treason and includes in this category the offence covered by article 288 of the Common Penal Code when it is committed by a member of the military; the penalty provided under article 288 mentioned above is increased by one third, and supplemented by dismissal from the military.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

/Original: Russian/

/11 August 1981/

1. The Ukrainian SSR firmly and steadfastly advocates the immediate realization by the peoples of colonial Territories of the right to self-determination and independence enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the United Nations decisions adopted pursuant to the Declaration.
2. The realization of the right of peoples and nations to self-determination and independent determination of their political fate, and support for the struggle of peoples for national liberation and social progress, are among the basic objectives of the Ukrainian SSR's foreign policy. These objectives are set out in the Programme of Peace endorsed at the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Congresses and developed at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the CPSU and embodied in the Constitutions of the USSR and the Ukrainian SSR.
3. Accordingly, the Ukrainian SSR supports the struggle of peoples for rights and freedoms, against imperialist oppression and aggression and for peace and social progress.
4. In the more than 20 years since the adoption of the historic 1960 Declaration, which solemnly proclaimed the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed the right of peoples to self-determination, much success has been achieved in the struggle to eliminate the system of colonial oppression. The second half of the twentieth century became the decisive stage in the liberation of colonial countries from imperialist rule. The destruction of the colonial system and the formation of new, independent States were the result not of a display of good will by the former parent States, but of the resolute struggle for national liberation waged by the oppressed peoples, with whom the countries of the socialist community stood firmly.
5. The question of the final elimination of colonialism has still not been dropped from the United Nations agenda, however. As before, it is a major international political problem and a pressing task for all progressive and peace-loving forces.
6. We know that newly independent States were formed and are still being formed in a context of sharp confrontation between the forces of national liberation and progress and the imperialist and reactionary forces which seek to slow down this irreversible process and even to launch a counter-attack. Using the policy of hegemonism and expansionism, they arbitrarily declare various areas of the world to be zones of "vital interest" to them and intensify the tendency to export counterrevolution and to suppress the peoples' national liberation movement under the false pretence of combating "international terrorism". In so doing, they trample on generally accepted norms of international law reflected in the United Nations Charter, the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Helsinki Final Act and other documents.

7. This is demonstrated, inter alia, by the situation which has developed in southern Africa, where a centre of colonialism and racism continues to exist. The inhuman policy of apartheid pursued by the racist régime of South Africa causes justified concern in the entire world community. The time has also come to force the South African racists to end the occupation of Namibia and not to obstruct the realization by its people of the right to self-determination.
8. The crime of apartheid committed in the territories of South Africa and Namibia and the increasingly frequent acts of aggression and terror carried out by the racists against the neighbouring independent African States pose a threat to international peace and security.
9. Without the comprehensive aid and support, both open and secret, provided to the racists of South Africa by the Western States, primarily the NATO countries, as well by Israel, that colonial and racist régime would certainly have been eliminated long ago.
10. As a member of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid, the Ukrainian SSR has consistently advocated and continues to advocate the strict implementation of United Nations and OAU resolutions on the apartheid régime in South Africa, the immediate and unconditional granting of independence to Namibia and the transfer of power to SWAPO, the sole legal representative of its people, the observance of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against Pretoria and the adoption of comprehensive sanctions against the South African racists in the economic, trade, financial and other fields, in full accordance with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Ukrainian SSR supports the relevant decisions of the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa.
11. The continued flagrant violation of the rights of peoples to self-determination in the Arab territories occupied by Israel gives cause for serious concern. The explosive situation which has developed in the Near East as a result of the occupation is aggravated every day. Developments in that area show that the situation cannot be settled through separate deals based on the Camp David accords and aimed at consolidating the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.
12. As a member of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Ukrainian SSR firmly supports the struggle of the Palestinian people against the aggression and terror of the Israeli occupiers and believes that a comprehensive and just settlement of the Near East problem can be achieved through collective efforts based on complete withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, the realization of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent State, and realization of the rights of all States in that area to independent and secure existence and development. Such a settlement could be achieved through a specially convened international conference.
13. The Ukrainian SSR draws attention to the fact that there are dozens of so-called small colonial Territories and enclaves in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans and in the Caribbean whose peoples are also deprived of their inalienable right to self-determination.



14. Nowadays, the administering Powers attempt to dissociate themselves in speech from the colonialist policy which they are pursuing, whereas in practice they are doing everything possible to perpetuate their colonial rule.
15. The situation in Micronesia provokes deep concern. The United States continues to obstruct the exercise by the people of this Trust Territory of the right to self-determination and has established its naval and air bases there, transforming these Pacific islands into a strategic military beach-head. Acting in violation of the United Nations Charter and in defiance of the 1960 Declaration and other relevant decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, and side-stepping the Security Council, the United States is attempting to divide up and annex this Territory. Such expansionist action by the United States clearly contradicts the right of peoples to self-determination.
16. An example of the "colonialist solidarity" of the imperialist countries was the action of the United States and the United Kingdom concerning Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean. Disregarding the right of peoples to self-determination and using its status as administering Power, the United Kingdom grossly violated the territorial integrity of the State of Mauritius and concluded an agreement with the United States on the transformation of Diego Garcia Island into a United States military base in the Indian Ocean. The Ukrainian SSR shares and fully supports the demand of the State of Mauritius for the restoration of its territorial integrity and the return to its sovereignty of Diego Garcia Island as well as the entire Chagos archipelago belonging to it.
17. Striving towards the speediest possible and full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Ukrainian SSR consistently advocates strict compliance with and implementation of all subsequent United Nations resolutions and decisions aimed at the complete and final elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid, such as General Assembly resolution 35/35 A of 14 November 1980.
18. Expressing its belief in the lofty ideals of the United Nations, the Ukrainian SSR will likewise in future facilitate the provision of assistance to countries and peoples deprived of their lawful right to self-determination and independence.
19. As regards paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 35/35 A of 14 November 1980, concerning the provision of information on the legislation of Governments declaring the recruitment, financing, training and transit of mercenaries to be punishable offences and prohibiting their nationals from serving as mercenaries, the very social and political nature of our Soviet State and its legislation entirely preclude the possibility of participation by Soviet nationals as mercenaries in armed action against any sovereign State or national liberation movement.
20. The Ukrainian SSR advocates the speediest possible elaboration of an international convention on measures to prevent the use of mercenaries, since it consistently supports the just struggle of peoples for national liberation and social progress and decisively condemns the use of mercenaries by the imperialist

Powers and reactionary régimes for the purpose of perpetuating colonial oppression and exploitation of peoples and in order to take aggressive action against newly independent States - Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and the Arab countries.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

/Original: Russian/

/31 July 1981/

1. The speediest possible achievement of the complete and final elimination of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is a necessary prerequisite for the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination. The historic 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the decisions adopted in pursuance of it contained demands for the elimination of all colonial régimes, proclaimed the legitimacy of the struggle of the peoples of colonies for their national liberation, and called on all States to grant them material and moral support in that struggle. The United Nations thus elevated the task of the elimination of colonialism to the level of one of the main international political problems. In the years following the adoption of the Declaration, all the colonial empires were shattered. But colonialism has still not been completely eliminated.
2. It is well known that, for the peoples who have broken the chains of colonial bondage, freedom was not a gift from someone but was won as a result of their courageous struggle. It is also well known that the triumph of the lawful cause of the oppressed peoples was facilitated considerably by the unswerving solidarity and support of the States of the socialist community. In this connexion, it should be noted that the USSR position on the question of the peoples' right to self-determination and their attainment of independence from the colonial yoke and from foreign supremacy has always been based on consistent principles.
3. The right of all nations and peoples without exception to self-determination and to independent determination of their political fate was proclaimed in the Leninist Decree on Peace and formed the basis of both the domestic and the foreign policy of the first socialist Soviet State in the world. This position was reflected as one of the main foreign policy principles of the Soviet Union in the Programme of Peace approved at the Twenty-fourth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and in the USSR Constitution. It was further developed in the decisions of the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Congresses of the CPSU. In full accordance with this principle, the Soviet Union supports the struggle being waged for the rights and freedoms of peoples, against imperialist oppression and aggression, and for lasting, just peace and social progress. Two thirds of the States in the world today are countries liberated from the colonial yoke and from imperialist dependence. However, the question of the final elimination of colonialism still remains on the agenda of the United Nations and is the urgent task of all progressive and peace-loving forces. For this reason, the complete and final elimination of the vestiges of the system of colonial oppression and of all hotbeds of racism and apartheid and instances of infringement of the peoples' equality and independence is one of the main goals of USSR foreign policy.

4. The experience of history shows that the forces of imperialism and colonialism have not given up the policy of suppressing the national liberation struggle of the colonial peoples. They are using any pretext for interference in the affairs of other peoples and for their military and political expansion. And when no such pretexts exist, they invent some.
5. The Soviet Union has always supported and continues to support the strict and full observance vis-à-vis all States of the principle of equality and the generally accepted norms of international law. These are the norms embodied, for example, in the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, etc. The USSR therefore strongly condemns the policy of hegemonism and expansionism, which is incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and with the task of preserving peace. This policy includes the imperialist Powers' arbitrary declaration of various parts of the world to be areas in which their "vital interests" are involved and the increasing tendency to export counter-revolution and suppress the peoples' national liberation movement under the false pretext of combating "international terrorism". The Soviet Union welcomes the positive changes which have taken place recently in Africa. Thanks to the courageous struggle of the African peoples, supported by progressive forces throughout the world, the process of the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism and racism on the African continent has entered its concluding phase. The achievements of the African countries and peoples would no doubt have been more significant if the imperialists had not tried to recover the positions lost by them in Africa, to deprive the African peoples of the achievements gained in the national liberation struggle and to bind those peoples by new methods of neo-colonialist dependence. The Soviet Union, doing everything possible to encourage the national liberation process, decisively condemns the intensification of military and political interference by NATO countries in the affairs of African States and the imperialists' attempts to use their territories for the establishment of military bases, which is a threat to the peoples of that continent and to peace throughout the world. The USSR advocates the elimination of hotbeds of tension in the African continent and the peaceful settlement of issues in dispute between the African States on the basis of the principles and relevant decisions of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. The Soviet Union has a high regard for the work of the Organization of African Unity to eliminate the vestiges of colonialism and racism and strengthen independence, unity and co-operation among the African countries, and expresses its solidarity with OAU.
6. The persistent tense situation in southern Africa is a source of serious anxiety. As stressed in the greeting sent by the President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L. I. Brezhnev, on 20 May 1981 to the participants in the International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa convened under a General Assembly decision, "The South African racist régime, contravening the Charter and decisions of the United Nations and ignoring the demands of an overwhelming majority of States, is continuing its policy of apartheid and mass terror with outside support. It is keeping Namibia under its domination illegally, and constantly committing acts of aggression against neighbouring African States. South Africa's actions thus pose a threat to international peace and security". The just struggle waged by the peoples of Africa against the policies of South Africa - the last bulwark of colonial and racist oppression on the continent - in order to eradicate the shameful system of apartheid enjoys the complete support of the USSR.

7. The Soviet Union demands an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by the South African régime and South Africa's instant withdrawal from Namibia. It condemns the attempts by the Pretoria racists and a number of Western States to settle the Namibian issue outside the ambit of the United Nations and foist a neo-colonialist puppet régime on the people of that country. The USSR reaffirms its support for SWAPO as the sole true representative of the Namibian people and calls for the complete implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the independence of Namibia.
8. The Soviet Union is in total solidarity with the People's Republic of Angola, the People's Republic of Mozambique and other African States which are subjected to systematic acts of aggression by South Africa. In this regard, the dangerousness of the course taken by the current United States Administration - strengthening its ties with South Africa and expanding its support for the counter-revolutionaries in Angola - cannot but evoke dismay, since it is incompatible with the Charter and decisions of the United Nations.
9. In our efforts to secure the prompt and complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we must also draw attention to the fact that numerous so-called small Territories and enclaves in the Pacific, Indian and Atlantic Oceans and in the Caribbean region are still under colonialism's heel. The United Kingdom alone, for example, is known to have a dozen or so such colonial Territories still under its dominion, flouting the right of the peoples who live there to self-determination and independence.
10. The network of military bases in such Territories poses a direct threat to peoples upholding their right to independent development. The agreement between two colonial countries to turn the island of Diego Garcia into a United States military base in the Indian Ocean displays utter contempt for the right of peoples to self-determination. Such actions, dictated by the global strategic designs of imperialism, are a gross violation of the territorial integrity of the State of Mauritius. The Soviet Union fully supports the just demand by the State of Mauritius for the restoration to its sovereignty of the Chagos archipelago belonging to it, including the island of Diego Garcia.
11. One manifestation of the policy of perpetuating colonial dominion is the situation which has developed in Micronesia through the fault of the United States. Acting in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, heedless of the 1960 Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant decisions by the General Assembly, and bypassing the Security Council, the United States is pressing ahead with its unilateral moves to dismember and annex Micronesia. Such expansionist activities by the United States, which is occupying the Territory for military-strategic purposes, are clearly incompatible with the right of peoples to self-determination.
12. The dangerous developments in the situation in the Near East, which have occurred because of attempts to foist separate deals on the Arab peoples, are a matter of deep concern. The Soviet Union believes that a way out can be found through honest joint attempts to find a comprehensive, just and realistic

settlement; under current circumstances, this might be achieved at a specially convened international conference. Such a settlement would have to provide for the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, realization of the lawful rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and the creation of their own independent State, and guarantees for the right of all States in the region to an independent and secure existence and development.

13. As regards resolution 35/35 A, paragraph 7, concerning the provision of information on national legislation declaring the recruitment, financing, training and transport of mercenaries to be punishable offences and prohibiting nationals from serving as mercenaries, the Soviet Union, which consistently supports the just struggle of peoples for national liberation and social progress, roundly condemns the imperialist forces' and reactionary régimes' practice of using mercenaries to perpetuate their colonial oppression and exploitation of peoples and in aggressive activities against newly independent States such as Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique and the Arab countries. It favours the immediate formulation of an international convention on measures to combat the use of mercenaries. The whole social and political nature of the Soviet State - a socialist State of the entire people, enfolding workers of various nations and nationalities in one fraternal family - absolutely rules out the possibility of Soviet nationals participating as mercenaries in armed operations against any sovereign State or national liberation movement.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

/Original: French/

/21 August 1981/

1. In its reply, the Government of the United Republic of Cameroon referred to the provisions of articles 106 and 107 of the national Penal Code, which provide penalties for activities relating to mercenaries.
2. Article 106 provides a penalty of imprisonment for a term ranging from 1 to 5 years and a fine ranging from 50,000 to 5 million francs, or only one of these penalties, for any person who, in time of peace:
  - (a) Enters into an understanding with agents of a foreign Power likely to jeopardize the military or diplomatic situation of the Republic;
  - (b) Recruits or enlists individuals for a foreign army in the territory of the Republic and without the authorization of the Government;
  - (c) Exposes citizens to reprisals through acts which have not been approved by the Government.
3. Article 108 provides a penalty of imprisonment ranging from 10 to 20 years for any person who, in time of war, commits one of the crimes cited in article 106.

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II. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

/Original: English/

/26 June 1981/

1. The Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) indicated in its reply that the support for the struggle for absolute respect for the dignity of the peoples and their right to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for and guarantees of basic freedoms and human rights, is part of the programme proclaimed by WIDF which its affiliated national organizations have been implementing for over 35 years through their continuously growing and varied activities. The extensive and increasing solidarity with the women and children of the peoples fighting against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism and racial discrimination, apartheid, foreign domination and oppression merits particular mention in this connexion.

2. The Federation submitted a survey of its principal activities in support of the peoples struggling against colonial oppression, foreign occupation and foreign domination and control. 1/ Also enclosed were copies of documents published by the Federation's secretariat ("News in Brief", Nos. 40/1980, 1/1981, 3/1981, 6/1981, 8/1981, 9/1981, 11/1981 and 16/1981 to 18/1981), a statement made at an international seminar of the Federation held at Aden (8-10 November 1980) and issues Nos. 1 and 2 of the journal entitled Women of the Whole World. 1/

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1/ Available in the files of the Secretariat.