



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/36/420
6 August 1981

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-sixth session
Item 19 of the provisional agenda*

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

Letter dated 4 August 1981 from the Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 35/20 of 11 November 1980, the Government of the United Kingdom has taken the necessary steps to enable Belize to become an independent State before the conclusion of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Legislation has now been enacted and it has been agreed that Belize should become independent on 21 September 1981.

In accordance with operative paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Government of the United Kingdom, acting in close consultation with the Government of Belize, has been negotiating with the Government of Guatemala in order to reach a settlement of the dispute between them without prejudice to the exercise by the people of Belize of their inalienable rights. The Government of the United Kingdom was encouraged by the progress made in those negotiations, which enabled Heads of Agreement to be signed on 11 March 1981 which form the framework for an acceptable settlement of the dispute. It regrets that at two further rounds of negotiation in New York it was not possible to reach agreement on detailed treaties to give effect to those Heads of Agreement. It hopes nevertheless that, in accordance with the joint communiqué issued at the end of the latest round of talks on 10 July 1981, the Heads of Agreement may still provide a basis for a just and lasting settlement.

In the meantime the Government of the United Kingdom will proceed with its preparations to grant independence to Belize as called upon in repeated resolutions of the General Assembly, and welcomes the declared intention of the Government of Belize to apply for membership of the United Nations upon attainment of independence in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 19 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) A. D. PARSONS

* A/36/150.