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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA
OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO

Letter dated 17 August 1982 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Cuba addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Question of Puerto Rico".

In pursuance of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached herewith.

(Signed) Isidoro MALMIERCA

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The question of Puerto Rico has been considered by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples since 1967, resolutions having been adopted on that item on 28 August 1972, 30 August 1973, 12 September 1978, 15 August 1979, 20 August 1980, 20 August 1981 and 4 August 1982, as well as a decision, on 7 September 1976.
2. In paragraph 1 of all those resolutions, the Special Committee "recognizes" or "reaffirms" the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and its full applicability with respect to Puerto Rico.
3. Furthermore, in its resolutions of 20 August 1981 and 4 August 1982, the Committee recommended "that the General Assembly should examine the question of Puerto Rico as a separate item at its thirty-seventh session in the light of that resolution" (referring to General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), cited in paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned resolutions).
4. The statements made before the Special Committee by the representatives of all the political parties of Puerto Rico, without exception, and of the most important social, professional and cultural organizations, societies and institutions, as well as by persons prominent in the political, religious, social and cultural life of the country, demonstrate unequivocally the dissatisfaction of the people of Puerto Rico with their present political status, which impedes the attainment of their legitimate aspirations.
5. The historical background of the case of Puerto Rico, from the signing of the Treaty of Paris of 1898 until the present day, is well known, and copious information is contained in the records of the Special Committee, which has been considering it since 1967. There is therefore no need to dwell on such aspects in this memorandum.
6. The competence of the United Nations to consider the question of Puerto Rico has thus been established, inter alia, by the resolutions of the Special Committee, approved each year by the General Assembly, and the desire of the people of Puerto Rico to change their present political status has been proved by their statements before the Committee itself.
7. For these reasons, the General Assembly has the right and, indeed, the duty to consider the question of Puerto Rico and to advocate ways and means whereby the people of that Latin American nation may exercise, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1514 (XV) their right to self-determination and independence.