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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
THE REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Resolution relating to the observer status of national
liberation movements recognized by the Organization of
African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/37/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 December 1980, the General Assembly adopted resolution 35/167, entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States", the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Invites all States which have not done so, in particular those which are hosts to international organizations or to conferences convened by, or held under the auspices of, international organizations of a universal character, to consider as soon as possible the question of ratifying, or acceding to, the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character;

"2. Calls upon the States concerned to accord to the delegations of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States, and which are accorded observer status by international organizations, the facilities, privileges and immunities necessary for the performance of their functions in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. By a note dated 12 February 1981, the Secretary-General invited governments to provide him with any information and comments they might wish to suggest in order to contribute to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General requested in operative paragraph 3 of the above resolution.

3. As of 27 July 1982 replies had been received from the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cyprus, the German Democratic Republic, Mexico, the Philippines, Uganda, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. These replies are reproduced below. Further information and comments will be reproduced in addenda to this paper.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[10 June 1982]

1. The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic is and always has been on the side of peoples fighting for their national and social liberation and contributes

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actively to the adoption of further measures to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the 1980 Plan of Action on its application to any territory remaining under imperialist, colonial and racist domination.

2. The Byelorussian SSR has ratified the 1975 Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character and advocates implementation of the provisions both of the Convention and of the resolution relating to the observer status of national liberation movements.

3. The resolution relating to the observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or the League of Arab States adopted in 1975 by the Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, considers the recent growing trend towards speedy completion of the decolonization process. However, despite the broad range of national liberation movements, some peoples in various parts of the world are, as before, suffering under the colonial yoke or imperialist domination. The struggle of the peoples of southern Africa and the Middle East has given birth to powerful national liberation movements which enjoy the support of such regional organizations as the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States.

4. The practice which has recently grown up in international relations, whereby national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or the League of Arab States have a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of international organizations and also conferences convened by the United Nations or a number of its specialized agencies, is especially significant in this connexion. Such a practice offers international organizations an opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of the many problems facing the national liberation movements, so that these can be resolved speedily and effectively. It is a major factor in helping to defend the interests of peoples struggling for their independence, enhances the authority and prestige of the national liberation movements and enables them to participate more actively in international life.

5. The Byelorussian SSR co-operates actively with the national liberation movements in adopting different international measures being implemented through the World Peace Council, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and other progressive organizations of international public opinion. Thus, in recent years, the Republic has received delegations from the mayors of the Palestinian towns of the West Bank (1979), the General Union of Palestinian Women (1980), SWAPO women's branch (1981) and others.

6. In 1982, the Republic will celebrate days of friendship and solidarity with the Arab peoples of Palestine.

7. The Byelorussian SSR resolutely supports the struggle of the Palestinian people for its legitimate rights, consistently advocates full participation by PLO in the settlement of the Middle East problem and lends support to the peoples of

Namibia and South Africa who are struggling against the Republic of South Africa, the final bastion of colonialism and racism on the African continent.

8. Each year, people in the Byelorussian SSR observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, African Liberation Day, the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa, Namibia Day, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and other memorable dates devoted to the national liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa and the Middle East.

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[20 March 1981]

Having voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 35/167 of 15 December 1980, entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States", the Government of Cyprus is fully in accord with that resolution and urges its implementation by all States concerned.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: English]

[22 April 1982]

1. In holding corresponding international conferences the German Democratic Republic proceeds, where the granting of privileges and immunities to their participants is concerned, from the principle of according to representatives of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States a status equal to that of representatives of States. This also holds true with regard to the application of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character. 1/
2. The instrument of ratification of the German Democratic Republic for the above-mentioned Convention was deposited on 28 June 1977.
3. The German Democratic Republic holds the view that an early entry into force of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character would be of great importance for the full implementation of operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 35/167 which calls upon States to accord to the delegations of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States privileges and immunities in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]
[26 March 1981]

1. Mexico is a federal State and, under article 76 (1) of the Constitution, international agreements must be submitted to the Senate of the Republic for approval. In the particular case of the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character, the Convention is being studied by the competent Mexican authorities with a view to its eventual submission to the corresponding legislative organ.
2. With reference to the request for information or comments from States, the Government of Mexico cannot express any opinion on the matter at this juncture since, not being a party to the above-mentioned international instrument, it cannot report on the practical implementation of its provisions.

PHILIPPINES

[Original: English]
[19 May 1981]

In response to the note dated 12 February 1981 requesting information on the Philippine Government's implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/167 of 15 December 1980, entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States", the Philippine Mission wishes to state that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) attended, in the capacity of observer, the World Tourism Conference which was held at Manila from 27 September to 10 October 1980.

UGANDA

[Original: English]
[19 March 1981]

1. The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the note dated 12 February 1981 regarding General Assembly resolution 35/167 of 15 December 1980, entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States".
2. The Permanent Mission wishes to confirm to the United Nations Secretariat that the Government of Uganda has no difficulty with any part of the said resolution and has already fulfilled the requirements of the said resolution.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[5 May 1982]

1. The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, guided by the Leninist principles of foreign policy of the Soviet State and firmly committed to the policy established by the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of strengthening ties with national liberation movements, consistently upholds the struggle of oppressed peoples for national independence and social progress and against imperialism, racism and colonialism.
2. The Ukrainian SSR maintains that the efforts of the international community to eliminate colonialism, racism and apartheid and to render assistance to peoples struggling for their national independence and to their national liberation movements will be greatly assisted if States which have not yet done so will promptly ratify the 1975 Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character or if as many as possible will accede to it, and if they will implement the resolutions of the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations 2/ relating to the observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States. This would promote more active and comprehensive participation by the representatives of national liberation movements in the work of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international organizations and in the proceedings of conferences held under their auspices.
3. Such participation is conducive to the more effective consideration by the United Nations and other international organizations of practical measures to assist the peoples in their struggle, enhances the authority and prestige of the national liberation movements, enables those movements to be more active at the international level, and provides the opportunity for broad segments of world opinion to realize fully the importance and urgency of settling, as rapidly as possible, the problems that confront the national liberation movements.
4. The Ukrainian SSR has ratified the Vienna Convention and is conscientiously implementing related United Nations resolutions and decisions.
5. In accordance with the principles of solidarity with peoples fighting for their national and social liberation, the Ukrainian SSR provides ample moral support and material assistance to national liberation movements and advocates recognition of the legitimacy of their struggle.
6. Accordingly, meetings of representatives of the public are regularly held in the Ukrainian SSR in observance of international days proclaimed by the United Nations. These include the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), African Liberation Day (25 May) and the Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Equal Rights (26 August) and the International Day of Solidarity

with the Palestinian People (29 November). The Ukrainian SSR makes contributions to the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa.

7. Higher education establishments in the Ukrainian SSR are attended by students from various areas, in particular from southern Africa, whose peoples are waging a national liberation struggle.
8. The Ukrainian SSR received the visits of delegations from the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Thus, in January 1982, a delegation of the African National Congress of South Africa came to Kiev, the capital of the Ukrainian SSR, to take part in a solemn meeting held on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the formation of the African National Congress of South Africa.
9. The Ukrainian SSR considers it essential that PLO should take part, on an equal footing with other participants, in an international conference on the Middle East, the convening of which was the subject of a proposal made at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.
10. The Ukrainian Society for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Other Countries, the Committee for the Protection of Peace of the Ukrainian Republic, the Ukrainian branch of the Soviet Association for Friendship with the Peoples of Africa and other public organizations of the Republic are taking an active part in events held in support of national liberation movements.
11. As a member of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Ukrainian SSR is contributing to the efforts of these bodies to assist the just struggle which the oppressed peoples of southern Africa and the Arab people of Palestine are waging under the leadership of their national liberation movements.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[29 April 1982]

1. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in accordance with the Leninist principles of solidarity with peoples struggling for their national and social liberation, supports and has always supported the just cause of the national liberation movement, which now emerges as one of the decisive factors in the struggle against imperialism, racism and neo-colonialism. As was declared anew at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the USSR is willing to carry on its consistent policy of strengthened ties with national liberation movements and co-operation with the countries which have liberated themselves.
2. The effective participation of representatives of national liberation movements in the work of the United Nations and of other international organizations

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and in the proceedings of conferences held under their auspices is a major factor in assisting peoples fighting for their independence to defend their interests, ensure their more active participation in international life and enhances the authority and prestige of national liberation movements. It is also of considerable importance in fostering an understanding among the international community of the problems confronting the national liberation movements and facilitating the urgent settlement of such problems. The observance by States of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 35/167, relating to the observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations, may also prove to be important to such comprehensive participation.

3. The Soviet State has ratified the 1975 Vienna Convention and advocates the implementation of the afore-mentioned resolution. The Soviet Union is consistently and actively pursuing a policy aimed at expanding co-operation with national liberation movements and developing this co-operation in a variety of ways. The representatives of such influential organizations as the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) were invited as guests to the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

4. The representatives of the national liberation movements participate, as a general rule, in the major international events held in the USSR by the World Peace Council, the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization and other progressive organizations of international opinion. Accordingly, the representative of the National Youth League of Organizations for South West Africa, the youth and student branches of ANC, SWAPO and the United Nations took part, in 1979, in the World Conference for a Peaceful and Secure Future for All Children and in the international meeting entitled "Lenin and Youth" in 1980.

5. The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee provides both moral support and material assistance to the peoples fighting under the leadership of ANC, SWAPO and PLO.

6. The Soviet Union consistently advocates that PLO should take part, on an equal footing with other participants, in an international conference on the Middle East, which was proposed at the Twenty-sixth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union as a feasible and constructive method of reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question.

7. The PLO representation in Moscow has official diplomatic status. Every year the Soviet committee for friendship and solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine organizes, in the USSR, in co-operation with PLO, a number of activities dedicated to the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine. A major landmark in Soviet-Palestinian relations was the series of events, held at Moscow in January 1982, in the context of the international week of solidarity with the Arab peoples.

8. Every year the Soviet public observes the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa (16 June), South Africa Freedom Day (26 June), Namibia Day (26 August) and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November).

9. Soviet public organizations take an active part in events in support of the national liberation movements organized in co-operation with the World Peace Council, the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, the International Committee against Apartheid, Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Southern Africa, and the International Commission of Inquiry of the Crimes of Racists in South Africa.

1/ United Nations Conference on the Representation of States in Their Relations with International Organizations, Official Records, Vol. II, Documents of the Conference (A/CONF.67/18 and Add.1), pp. 207-224.

2/ Ibid., pp. 204 and 205.