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Agenda item 18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL ON CONSULTATIONS  
HELD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION

1. At the second regular session of 1978, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1978/38 of 21 July 1978, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations". In paragraph 11 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue consultations on this matter with the Chairman 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 to report thereon to the Council.
2. At its 1123rd meeting on 25 August 1978, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, by which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session. 1/
3. At its thirty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 33/41 of 13 December 1978, in paragraph 15 of which it requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
4. An account of the consultations held, in the light of the foregoing, between the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee is set out below.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/33/23/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 16.

5. The President of the Economic and Social Council informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had continued to give close attention to the question during the past year and most recently during its session in April/May 1978. The President of the Council also informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that, in accordance with paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1892 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, a further meeting of representatives of the agencies, the United Nations and the general secretariat of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as well as those of the national liberation movements, was held on 2 August 1978, during the second regular session of the Council of 1978, and that a meeting for the current year was scheduled to take place in June during the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. The two presiding officers noted that the meetings in the past had indeed provided useful guidance to the agencies as to the priorities of the national liberation movements, had clarified a number of issues of mutual concern and had strengthened the co-operation between the agencies, OAU and the national liberation movements. Accordingly, they considered it extremely useful and desirable that such consultations be continued on a regular basis, as called for in the above resolution.

6. The Chairman of the Special Committee informed the President of the Council that, in pursuance of paragraph 10 of Council resolution 1978/38, the Special Committee's attention had been drawn to that resolution as well as to the discussions leading thereto during the Council's second regular session of 1978 (E/1978/C.3/SR.1-5; E/1978/SR.32). He also informed the President of the Council that the Committee, at the beginning of its current session, had requested its Sub-Committee on Petitions, Information and Assistance to continue to follow the implementation by the specialized agencies and the institutions associated with the United Nations of the Declaration and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including in particular General Assembly resolution 33/41. Guided by the positive results of the contacts established in 1978 with representatives of a number of specialized agencies, the Special Committee, through the Sub-Committee, had continued similar consultations during its current session. During its meetings held at Belgrade in April this year, the Special Committee had received further information from the representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) concerning the latest activities of those organizations in support of the peoples concerned. Further, the Chairman of the Committee had held, at the end of April, a useful and constructive exchange of views on matters of common concern with the Director-General of UNESCO at the organization's headquarters in Paris. In addition, the Special Committee had dispatched in May this year a mission to the headquarters of several agencies, which held consultations with their executive heads. During its examination of the question in August 1979, the Special Committee would take into account the results of those consultations, as well as the outcome of the Council consideration of the item at its second regular session of 1979.

7. The two presiding officers noted that, in response to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned, several agencies and organizations had expanded, in varying degree, the volume and scope of their assistance to the peoples in the remaining colonial territories, particularly within the framework

of programmes of assistance formulated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The two presiding officers noted, however, that, according to the available information, the assistance extended so far to the peoples concerned, particularly to those of Zimbabwe and Namibia, fell far short of their pressing needs and, accordingly, the international community should enlist whatever resources were available in providing to them the assistance awaited. In that context, they were convinced that efforts must be intensified to secure an increased flow of funds required in the preparation of extended programmes of assistance and that to that end the support of the major funding institutions within the United Nations system was essential. They believed that, given the necessary commitment and determination, ways would be found to remove any existing constraints or difficulties, procedural or otherwise, so as to ensure the availability of the added resources required. The role to be played by the executive heads of the institutions concerned in that connexion, the two presiding officers agreed, was of particular importance and it was hoped that, in keeping with paragraph 13 of resolution 33/41 of the General Assembly and paragraph 9 of resolution 1978/38 of the Economic and Social Council, specific proposals would be formulated by them without further delay for the consideration by the respective governing and legislative organs. The two presiding officers also agreed that those agencies and organizations that had thus far depended mainly on extrabudgetary sources for the financing of assistance projects, should endeavour to find, in so far as possible, ways and means to include provision in their regular budgets for initiating and/or expanding projects supported by OAU and the national liberation movements. In the same context, they recalled the positive action taken by the United Nations Development Programme by which over 30 projects had been financed from within the resources made available from the Trust Fund for Assistance to Colonial Countries and Peoples and from the allocations made by the Governing Council under the indicative planning figure (IPF) for assistance to the national liberation movements concerned. They noted that the 1977-1981 IPF for Namibia now amounted to \$7.75 million and that the total resources available for the cycle amounted to \$8.33 million. With respect to IPF for the African liberation movements, the two presiding officers noted, a total of 18 projects at the cost of \$5.3 million had been approved in 1978, thus increasing the total amount committed to \$15.2 million. In that connexion, the two presiding officers noted with concern that owing to the lack of additional resources, certain projects, for the implementation of which at least \$3.2 million was needed, were being held in abeyance for the time being.

8. The two presiding officers noted with satisfaction the closer contacts and liaison established by the organizations within the United Nations system with the national liberation movements, OAU and the United Nations Council for Namibia. They welcomed the arrangements made by the agencies and organizations to ensure the active and direct participation in their meetings of representatives of the national liberation movements, thus contributing to the effective consideration by the organizations concerned of measures in support of the colonial peoples. They also noted that, in conformity with paragraph 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015 (LXI), several agencies defrayed the cost of travel and other related expenses of representatives of national liberation movements invited to attend such meetings. Further, they noted that the United Nations Council for Namibia had been represented at many agency conferences and meetings and had been admitted to membership in some agencies.

9. The two presiding officers expressed the confidence that these closer contacts would facilitate effecting further increases in the volume and scope of the assistance by the specialized agencies and organizations within the United Nations system and would enhance the ability of agencies to respond more quickly and with greater flexibility to needs as they were identified. In that connexion, the two presiding officers expressed the hope that the agencies and organizations would take further steps to expand the existing measures of co-ordination, such as the arrangements proposed by UNDP providing for regular meetings in the field of representatives of the agencies and the national liberation movements to exchange information on assistance projects, or the forum proposed earlier by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the effective interagency co-ordination of assistance for education and training to national liberation movements and refugees from the colonial territories. The two presiding officers emphasized that not only was such an exchange of information necessary concerning the various activities undertaken within the United Nations family of organizations but that it was also essential to ensure that the ongoing or proposed assistance projects by various agencies were not left unrelated or unco-ordinated, as they believed that recourse should be had to such multidisciplinary approaches in order to make the maximum use of the limited resources available.

10. The two presiding officers noted that there had been a continued influx of refugees from Zimbabwe and Namibia, seeking asylum in neighbouring States, particularly Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia. That had substantially increased the requirements for emergency and other forms of humanitarian assistance. In that context they noted with satisfaction that there had been a considerable increase in international assistance extended through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in close co-operation with a number of organizations within the United Nations and with OAU. They noted that the number of Zimbabwean refugees more than doubled the 1977 level, totalling 163,000 by the end of 1978, and that the number of Namibians assisted increased to some 36,000 by the year end. For these refugees, over \$11 million had been expended through UNHCR. The presiding officers also noted that the programmes of assistance approved since 1977 by the World Food Programme had amounted to some \$19 million in food aid to the peoples concerned. They expressed the hope that the agencies and organizations within the United Nations system would continue to do everything possible to assist the Governments concerned in providing emergency and other aid to the growing number of refugees.

11. The two presiding officers noted that measures adopted by a number of agencies to withhold all assistance from the Government of South Africa and the illegal régime in Southern Rhodesia continued to be in force. They agreed that the United Nations system of organizations should strengthen such measures so as to bring about the maximum isolation of those régimes, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned.

12. Bearing in mind that the matters raised in the present report would require continuous review by the Economic and Social Council and the Special Committee, the two presiding officers agreed that, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its thirty-fourth session and in conformity with such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the Special Committee, they should maintain close contact with each other on the question.