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Agenda item 18

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

Chapters of the report 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 relating to specific Territories  
not covered by other agenda items

Report of the Fourth Committee (Part I)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ron S. MORRIS (Australia)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fourth plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples:

"(a) Report 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;

"(b) Report of the Secretary-General".

At the same meeting, the Assembly decided to allocate to the Fourth Committee those chapters of the report of the Special Committee relating to specific Territories.

2. The chapters of the Special Committee's report concerning the Territories which were not covered by other agenda items related to the following specific Territories:

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee</u>
Western Sahara	A/34/23/Add.3, chap. X
Gibraltar	A/34/23/Add.3, chap. XII
Brunei	A/34/23/Add.3, chap. XIII
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XIV
New Hebrides	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XV
Tokelau	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XVI
Pitcairn	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XVII
St. Helena	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XVIII
American Samoa	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XIX
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XX
Bermuda	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXI
British Virgin Islands	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXII
Montserrat	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXIII
Turks and Caicos Islands	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXIV
Cayman Islands	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXV
United States Virgin Islands	A/34/23/Add.5, chap. XXVI
Guam	A/34/23/Add.6, chap. XXVII
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	A/34/23/Add.7, chap. XXVIII
Belize	A/34/23/Add.7, chap. XXIX
Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and St. Vincent <u>1/</u>	A/34/23/Add.7, chap. XXX
Gilbert Islands <u>2/</u>	A/34/23/Add.8, chap. XXXI
St. Lucia <u>3/</u>	A/34/23/Add.8, chap. XXXII

3. At its second meeting, on 27 September, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 18, 89, 91, 93 and 12, 94 and 95, on the understanding that individual draft resolutions on matters covered by those items would be considered separately.

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1/ St. Vincent acceded to independence on 27 October 1979 as St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

2/ The Gilbert Islands acceded to independence on 12 July 1979 as Kiribati.

3/ St. Lucia acceded to independence on 22 February 1979 as Saint Lucia.

4. At the 12th meeting of the Fourth Committee on 17 October, the Rapporteur 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 introduced the chapters of the report of that Committee referred to in paragraph 2 above, with the exception of the chapter relating to Guam, as the Special Committee had not at that time concluded its consideration of the question of Guam. The Fourth Committee also had before it a letter dated 26 February 1979 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/103), concerning the question of the New Hebrides.

5. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee commenced the general debate covering the items referred to in paragraph 3 above.

6. In a further letter, dated 24 October 1979, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/616), the Permanent Representative of France and the United Kingdom invited the United Nations to send a mission to observe the election process in the New Hebrides on 14 November 1979.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/34/L.8

7. On 29 October, a draft resolution concerning the New Hebrides (A/C.4/34/L.8) was circulated, which was finally sponsored by the following Member States: Australia, Denmark, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sweden and United Republic of Tanzania.

8. At its 19th meeting, on 30 October, the Fourth Committee decided that, in order to enable the General Assembly to consider the recommendation of the Committee on this question at the earliest possible date, the report should be submitted to the Assembly without delay.

9. At the 21st meeting, on 31 October, the Chairman of the Fourth Committee drew attention to a statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly concerning the administrative and financial implications relating, inter alia, to the provisions contained in the draft resolution on the New Hebrides (A/C.4/34/L.12).

10. At the same meeting, the Fourth Committee adopted the draft resolution without objection (see para. 12 below).

11. An account of the Fourth Committee's consideration of the remaining Territories falling within the purview of agenda item 18 will be submitted as addenda, as appropriate, to the present report.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE

12. The Fourth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of the New Hebrides

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the New Hebrides,

Having examined the relevant chapters of the report 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, 4/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to the Territory, including General Assembly resolutions 31/51 of 1 December 1976, 32/26 of 28 November 1977 and 33/30 of 13 December 1978,

Noting with appreciation the invitation extended by the Governments of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to observe the elections in the Territory, scheduled to be held on 14 November 1979, 5/

Taking note of the joint commitment of the two administering Powers to bring the Territory to independence by 1980 and, in this regard, welcoming recent positive developments in the Territory,

1. Approves the chapter of the report 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 relating to the New Hebrides; 6/

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. Reaffirms the territorial integrity and national unity of the New Hebrides;

4. Requests the administering Powers to continue to take all appropriate measures to strengthen the economy of the New Hebrides and implement concrete programmes of assistance and economic development in the critical period leading to independence, and expresses the hope that such assistance will be continued after independence;

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4/ A/34/23 (Part II), chap. IV and A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XV.

5/ A/34/616.

6/ A/34/23/Add.4, chap. XV.

5. Requests the administering Powers to continue to enlist the assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations within the United Nations system in accelerating progress in all sectors of the national life of the Territory,

6. Urges the administering Powers, in co-operation with the Government of the New Hebrides, to safeguard the inalienable right of the people of the Territory to the enjoyment of their natural resources by taking effective measures which guarantee the rights of the people to own and dispose of those natural resources and to establish and maintain control of their future development,

7. Welcomes the joint commitment of the two administering Powers to the independence of the New Hebrides and notes their invitation to the Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to observe the forthcoming elections in the Territory; 5/

8. Requests the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Chairman of the Fourth Committee, to appoint a mission to observe the forthcoming elections in the Territory and to report thereon;

9. Expresses the hope that the New Hebrides will move towards independence in a smooth and speedy fashion.

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