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ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGENCY OR A DEPARTMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FOR UNDERTAKING, CO-ORDINATING AND DISSEMINATING THE RESULTS OF
RESEARCH INTO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND RELATED PHENOMENA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abduldayem MUBAREZ (Yemen)

1. In a letter dated 7 July 1978 (A/33/141), the Deputy Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations requested, on behalf of the Government of Grenada, the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-third session of the General Assembly an item entitled "Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena". An explanatory memorandum was annexed to the request.
2. At its 4th and 5th plenary meetings, on 20 September 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 35th, 36th and 47th meetings on 27 November and 8 December.
4. The Special Political Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/33/268), submitted in connexion with General Assembly decision 32/424 of 13 December 1977 on the question.
5. At the 35th meeting, on 27 November, the Special Political Committee heard an introductory statement by The Right Honourable Sir Eric M. Gairy, Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs of Grenada, who introduced the following draft resolution (A/SPC/L.20):

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of its commitment to promote international co-operation in
solving international problems,

"Noting the statements made by Grenada at the thirtieth, thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding unidentified flying objects and related phenomena which continue to baffle mankind, and Grenada's appeal to have the United Nations conduct and co-ordinate research into these baffling phenomena, and to disseminate more widely among the nations of the world information and other data gathered and available on the phenomena,

"Aware of the growing interest taken by people of the world in unidentified flying objects and related phenomena, and also interest in strange happenings in various parts of the world, and recognizing the commitment to research into these phenomena demonstrated by certain national Governments, individual scientists, researchers and educational institutions,

"1. Recommends that, in consultation with the appropriate specialized agencies, the United Nations initiate, conduct and co-ordinate research into the nature and origin of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit to him by 31 May 1979 information and proposals which would facilitate the proposed study;

"3. Further requests the Secretary-General to appoint at the earliest possible date a three-member group of experts under the aegis of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, for the purpose of defining guidelines for the proposed study;

"4. Decides that the Group of Experts should meet during the sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to study information and proposals submitted to the Secretary-General by Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations;

"5. Further decides that the Group of Experts should report on its work, through the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

"6. Decides further to include in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly an item entitled 'Report of the Group of Experts of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for the defining of guidelines for the study of unidentified flying objects and related phenomena'."

6. At the 47th meeting, on 8 December, the Chairman announced that, as a result of consultations, agreement had been reached on the terms of the draft decision which might be adopted by consensus.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Grenada made a statement and indicated that draft resolution A/SPC/32/L.20 would not be pressed to the vote.

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8. The draft decision was then adopted by consensus (see para. 9 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

9. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Establishment of an agency or a department of the United Nations for undertaking, co-ordinating and disseminating the results of research into unidentified flying objects and related phenomena

1. The General Assembly has taken note of the statements made, 1/ and draft resolutions submitted 2/ by Grenada at the thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the General Assembly regarding unidentified flying objects and related phenomena.

2. The General Assembly invites interested Member States to take appropriate steps to co-ordinate on a national level scientific research and investigation into extraterrestrial life, including unidentified flying objects, and to inform the Secretary-General of the observations, research and evaluation of such activities.

3. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to transmit the statements of the delegation of Grenada and the relevant documentation to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, so that it may consider them at its session in 1979.

4. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will permit Grenada, upon its request, to present its views to the Committee at its next session. The Committee's deliberation will be included in its report which will be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

1/ A/SPC/32/PV.35, A/SPC/32/SR.37 and 40; A/SPC/33/PV.35 and 36, A/SPC/33/SR.47.

2/ A/SPC/32/L.20. For the text of the draft resolution, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 123, document A/32/430; para. 7; A/SPC/33/L.20.