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QUESTION OF THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY .	3	2
III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CO-OPERATION AND EXTERNAL TRADE OF THE COMOROS	4	2
IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS	5	3

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 21 November 1983, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/13 on the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to follow developments concerning this question, in conjunction with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

2. On 3 May 1984, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and External Trade of the Comoros and to the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, drawing their attention to the decision of the General Assembly and inviting them to provide him with any pertinent information for inclusion in his report to the Assembly. A similar letter was sent on the same date to the Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity.

II. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

3. On 8 June 1984, the Executive Secretary of the Organization of African Unity forwarded to the Secretary-General the text of a communication on the subject addressed to him by the Secretary-General of that Organization, which reads as follows:

"I have the honour to inform you that there has been, to date, little change in the situation with regard to this problem, despite the many high-level contacts between the Comorian and French Governments and the direct talks that have been held between the Heads of State of France and the Comoros.

"The Comorian Government is, nevertheless, actively and resolutely continuing to take diplomatic steps to recover the Comorian island of Mayotte."

III. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CO-OPERATION AND EXTERNAL TRADE OF THE COMOROS

4. On 1 September 1984, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and External Trade of the Comoros addressed a note verbale to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the question. The full text of the note reads as follows:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and External Trade of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to its note verbale of 3 May 1984, concerning the Secretary-General's report on the question of the island of Mayotte, has the honour to inform it that there has been little change in the situation with regard to this problem.

"Indeed, despite the many high-level contacts between the two Governments and the direct talks that have been held between the Heads of State of the

Comoros and France and in spite of the willingness repeatedly proclaimed by the latter to seek with the Comorian side without delay a just solution to the problem within the framework of Franco-Comorian friendship, no specific proposal has been put forward by the French authorities.

"On the contrary, owing to the lax administration and confusion maintained on Mayotte, there has been a deterioration of the situation on the island, which, unless halted as quickly as possible, is very likely to place the solution of the problem in serious jeopardy.

"Consequently, the Comorian Government intends, for its part, actively and resolutely to pursue its diplomatic efforts aimed at recovering the Comorian island of Mayotte.

"It likewise would like the United Nations to give a new impetus to the legitimate demands of the Comorian people by taking action along the lines of the resolutions which the General Assembly has previously adopted on this subject."

IV. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

5. On 10 September 1984, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed a note verbale to the Secretariat of the United Nations on the subject. The full text of the note reads as follows:

"The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Organization and has the honour to refer to its note of 3 May concerning the question of Mayotte.

"The atmosphere of trust which has been established between France and the Comoros is conducive to the continuation of a constructive dialogue between the two Governments with the aim of finding a solution to the problem of Mayotte that is acceptable to all, in conformity with international law and the Constitution of the French Republic.

"France intends to continue to develop and increase economic, social and cultural contacts in order to foster closer relations between the islands of the archipelago."
