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

Letter dated 9 January 1985 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the  
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to  
the President of the General Assembly

On instructions from my authorities, I am writing to advise you that the Australian Government has decided that Australia should withdraw from the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The Australian Government regards the process of decolonization that has occurred since the founding of the United Nations as one of the most significant achievements of the body. The Special Committee has been a key factor in promoting the process and Australia has been proud to have been a member of the Committee from its inception in 1961 until 1968 and again from 1973 until now.

The work of the Special Committee has been reduced considerably because of the success of the decolonization process and Australia now feels, given its other commitments within the United Nations system, that it would be appropriate for it to withdraw from the Committee at this time.

Australia remains very concerned about the major decolonization issue still confronting the United Nations - Namibia - and intends to remain an active member of the United Nations Council for Namibia.

I will be informing a meeting of the Group of Western European and other States of the decision of the Australian Government towards the end of January 1985

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and will advise you if there is any candidate from that Group wanting to take Australia's position. From my informal soundings, I would regard that as an unlikely possibility.

Australia continues to regard the work of the Special Committee as of importance and will monitor its activities with close interest.

(Signed) I. H. HUTCHENS

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