



Chairman: Mr. Zdeněk ČERNÍK
(Czechoslovakia).

**AGENDA ITEMS 13, 22, 63, 67, 68 AND 12,
69 AND 70***

Agenda item 13 (continued) (A/8704, A/8825)

**Agenda item 22 (Territories not covered under other
agenda items) (continued) (A/8723 (parts II and IV),
A/8723/Add.4 (parts I and II), A/8723/Add.5,
A/8723/Add.6 (parts I and II))**

**Agenda item 63 (continued) (A/8723/Add.7, A/8821 and
Add.1 and 2, A/8827)**

Agenda item 67 (continued) (A/8723 (part III))

**Agenda items 68 and 12 (continued) (A/8647 and Add.1
and 2, A/8703 (chapter XVI), A/8723 (part V), A/8862)**

Agenda item 69 (continued) (A/8850 and Add.1)

Agenda item 70 (continued) (A/8855)

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. BLANC (France), Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council during its thirty-ninth session, speaking in connexion with agenda item 13, submitted the Council's report on its activities from 19 June 1971 to 16 June 1972 (A/8704). At its thirty-ninth session, the Council had considered political, economic, social and educational matters in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and in Papua New Guinea. In accordance with Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, information on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had been transmitted to the Security Council in a separate report.¹

2. With respect to Papua New Guinea, the Trusteeship Council had sought to ensure that the people of the Territory were brought to self-government as swiftly as feasible. The Council had therefore been most encouraged that, as a result of the 1972 House of Assembly elections, the first indigenous national Government had been formed, including representatives of virtually all the major population groups in the country. The Council's report also provided information on the various legislative and administrative

measures taken or about to be taken in order to enable the Territory to achieve self-government. The Council had noted that the Administering Authority was ready to discuss with the elected leaders of Papua New Guinea the programme for the attainment of full self-government, on the assumption that that would be achieved in the lifetime of the recently elected House of Assembly.

3. The Trusteeship Council had welcomed the eagerness of the National Coalition Government formed after the recent election to exercise the inalienable right of the peoples of Papua New Guinea to self-determination and independence.

4. In conclusion, he paid a tribute to the United Nations Visiting Mission, composed of members of the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which had remained in Papua New Guinea from 17 February to 15 March 1972 and had observed the elections to the House of Assembly. The Visiting Mission's report² had made a valuable contribution to the Trusteeship Council's discussion of conditions in the Territory.

5. Mr. ASWIN (Australia) said that 1972 had been a year of change in Papua New Guinea: elections had been held and a National Coalition Government formed. The rate of localization had been stepped up; the Government had announced its intention of reducing the number of expatriates in the public service, had acquired substantial holdings in a number of foreign-owned enterprises and had said that it would consider a new set of guidelines for foreign investors. The Chief Minister had stressed that the second five-year development programme would be built upon the needs and wishes of the people, who must look to their own customs and values on which to build a new society. A constitutional committee had been set up by the House of Assembly to prepare a constitution and a target date had been established for the attainment of full self-government.

6. The objectives called for by the General Assembly in resolution 2865 (XXVI) had therefore been achieved. In practice a large degree of self-government already existed in Papua New Guinea and, although Australia retained its constitutional responsibilities and obligation to report to the United Nations on political, economic, social and educational advancement, deci-

* For the title of each item, see "Agenda" on page ix.

¹ Official Records of the Security Council, Twenty-seventh Year, Special Supplement No. 1 (S/10753).

² Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 2 (T/1739).

sions relating to most aspects of those subjects were now taken by the Government of Papua New Guinea. Even in areas where Australia still had final power, decisions were being taken with the advice of the Papua New Guinea Government.

7. He went on to introduce two members of the Papua New Guinea House of Assembly, Mr. Albert Maori Kiki, Minister for Lands and the Environment in the Government and a member of the Administrator's Executive Council, and Mr. Pita Lus, who were acting as advisers to the Australian delegation. He also introduced Mr. Benais Sabumei, a Third Secretary in the Australian Permanent Mission and an officer of the Papua New Guinea Public Service, who, with others, would form the nucleus of the Foreign Ministry of independent Papua New Guinea.

8. Papua New Guinea had substantial relationships with the international community: it was an associate member of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE), the Asian Development Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) and would send its own delegation to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conference in 1973. Ministers of the Papua New Guinea Government had led delegations to international meetings in various parts of the world, and Australia, with the consent of the Government of Papua New Guinea, had invited a number of eminent people to visit that country. Those visits had made it possible for the country to become aware of a much broader series of alternatives than Australia and Papua New Guinea itself could offer. Moreover, they were presenting the country to the world as a meaningful State with its own identity and traditions.

9. The Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea had agreed that Australia would retain final responsibility for Papua New Guinea's foreign relations until independence, but that the Papua New Guinea Government must be fully involved in the determination of policy on those matters. He gave two examples of how that was being achieved. In October 1972, talks had taken place in Djakarta between Australia and Indonesia about the demarcation of the sea-bed in the Timor and Arafura seas. As one of the issues had concerned demarcation in the area of the West Irian-Papua New Guinea boundary, Papua New Guinean representatives had been included in the Australian delegation. In October 1972 talks had also taken place between a Japanese delegation and Australian Ministers. One subject on the agenda had been that of Japan's economic relations with Papua New Guinea. Three Papua New Guinean Ministers had taken part in those talks.

10. In August 1972 the Chief Minister of the Papua New Guinea Government had announced that his Government had agreed in principle to the opening of foreign consular offices in the country. All proposals to open such offices would have to be endorsed by the Papua New Guinea Government before being approved by Australia.

11. He drew attention to recommendation 10 in paragraph 11 of chapter XX of the report of the Special

Committee (see A/8723/Add.5), which called for assistance by the United Nations family of organizations in the attainment of independence by the people of Papua New Guinea and in the acceleration of progress in all sectors of the national economy. The United Nations agencies were actively involved in Papua New Guinea, but there was scope for additional assistance from them, as also from bilateral donors. That was partly to accelerate the rate of development but also to broaden Papua New Guinea's economic relationships and to modify the extent to which it would be financially bound to Australia. The Chief Minister had already made it clear that his Government sought to develop its economic relationships, covering both trade and aid, with countries other than Australia, and the Australian Government welcomed that decision. Australia was not seeking to escape from its obligations but it thought that Papua New Guinea would be greatly assisted by a generous response from the international community. His delegation hoped that the recommendation of the Special Committee would be endorsed by the General Assembly.

12. Since July 1970 Papua New Guinean Ministers had exercised full and final powers over a considerable number of subjects. The chief executive figure, however, had continued to be the Administrator, appointed by the Australian Government, although he was required to accept his Council's advice.

13. During the previous session, at the 1956th meeting, he had told the Fourth Committee that the Australian Government had decided that, if a cohesive group of ministers with majority backing in the House of Assembly emerged from the elections, Australia would regard that group as constituting a government; the principal member of the group would become Chief Minister and the authority of the Administrator would be confined to matters which remained an Australian responsibility.

14. The elections had resulted in the formation of a House of Assembly more clearly divided into party groups than the previous House had been. Although the United Party, a number of whose members had been ministers in the previous Government, was the largest group, it had not gained a majority and had been unable to form a government. The second largest group, the Pangu Pati, had been able to negotiate with other groups to establish a National Coalition Government commanding a majority in the House, and its leader, Mr. Michael Somare, had become Chief Minister.

15. After Mr. Somare's Government had assumed office, constitutional talks had taken place between Australia and Papua New Guinea to discuss the transfer of further powers. The Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly had participated in those talks although it had been made clear that his party would not consider itself bound by decisions taken at them. It had been agreed at the talks that final responsibility for a number of additional matters could be transferred to the Papua New Guinea Government immediately after such transfer had been approved by the House

of Assembly. Those matters, for which responsibility had now been transferred, included wages and industrial relations policy, localization and training in the private sector, immigration, development policy, land settlement and political education. It had also been agreed that responsibility for further matters such as area authorities, banking, tertiary education, investment policy and tariffs could be transferred as soon as the necessary legislation had been passed by the House of Assembly.

16. While both sides at the talks had agreed that foreign affairs and defence would be the responsibility of Australia until independence, they had also accepted that the Papua New Guinea Government should be fully involved in those matters. It had been decided that positions of spokesmen for defence and for the police should be created in the Papua New Guinea Government. The Chief Minister had himself assumed those positions.

17. In addition to action to transfer powers to the Government of Papua New Guinea as soon as possible, a target date had now been set for the completion of the transfer and the assumption by Papua New Guinea of full internal self-government. The Chief Minister had tabled a paper on that question in the House of Assembly in June and had announced that a vote would be taken on it in September. When the question had come before the House in September, the House had voted first on an amendment to the paper, moved by the Chief Minister, which had proposed that the House should endorse two points: that constitutional changes necessary for full self-government should be made no later than the target date; and that the only powers remaining to Australia thereafter would be defence and foreign affairs and that those would be exercised in the fullest consultation with the Papua New Guinea Government. The amendment had been carried by a vote of 51 to 37 and the House had adopted the paper by 52 votes to 34. By those votes Papua New Guinea had decided that full self-government should be attained by 1 December 1973 or as soon as possible thereafter.

18. On 10 October the Australian Minister for External Territories had informed the Australian Parliament of those events and had said that the Australian Government accepted the timing for self-government as endorsed by the House of Assembly. He had also told Parliament that the Government had been obliged to consider whether a majority vote in the House of Assembly conformed with the Charter requirement that self-government should be brought about in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the people, and that it had followed the policy of looking to the House of Assembly to represent the wishes of the majority of the people. He had informed Parliament that he had discussed with the Chief Minister and his colleagues ways of putting that policy into practice and it had been agreed that important constitutional changes required a recorded vote in favour in the House of Assembly by a substantial majority of members, the majority being broadly representative of the country as a whole. The Minister had concluded by saying

that it was the Government's intention to put the utmost effort into preparations for effective and responsible self-government in Papua New Guinea.

19. Concluding his review of developments in the constitutional field, he informed the Committee that a Constitutional Planning Committee had been set up to make recommendations about Papua New Guinea's future constitution. Matters to be considered by that Committee would include the system of government, relations between central, regional and local governments, relations with Australia, the need for an Ombudsman, citizenship and the protection of minority rights. In proposing the formation of the Committee to the House, the Chief Minister had stressed the need to ensure that the constitution was suited to the needs and circumstances of Papua New Guinea and was not imposed from outside.

20. The Committee, of which the Chief Minister was Chairman, *ex officio*, was composed of nine members of the House of Assembly from the Coalition Government and six from the Opposition. It had already begun its work and would visit all parts of Papua New Guinea, invite submissions from all interested persons and organizations and enlist the aid of expert advisers. The political education system in Papua New Guinea would publicize the work of the Committee widely in order to encourage the fullest possible public discussions.

21. With regard to the recommendation in General Assembly resolution 2865 (XXVI) that political education should be intensified, the Chief Minister had announced such an intensification in May 1972. Political education officers had been appointed in all districts and close co-operation was being maintained between all interested groups such as political parties, tertiary education institutions, the news media, government departments and local government councils. The main point to be stressed was that the programme was now fully the responsibility of the Papua New Guinea Government.

22. For several years the Fourth Committee had pressed Australia to establish a target date. His Government's response had been that it had no objection to doing so in principle but that it could not do so in practice until the wishes of the people of Papua New Guinea were clear. In 1971 an approximate time-table had been set by the properly constituted representatives of the people and Australia had been able to vote in favour of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly. A specific target date had now been set and he was sure that the Committee and the General Assembly would welcome the actions which had been taken and applaud the people and Government of Papua New Guinea for their determination and courage.

23. With regard to the Australian Government's intention that its exercise of the residual powers over foreign affairs and defence during the pre-independence period should be undertaken in close consultation with the Government of Papua New Guinea, he drew attention to a statement by the Australian Minister for External Territories in June 1972

that it was imperative for decisions made about Papua New Guinea to bear the full stamp of approval of the elected representatives of the people.

24. If self-government and independence were to have full meaning, Papua New Guinean ministers should not have to depend unduly on expatriate public servants to advise them. The Governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia were well aware of that and had been engaged for some time in accelerating the process of localization. A great deal had been achieved and many senior positions were being localized on a broad front. In addressing a Senior Executive Programme Seminar in October 1972, the Chief Minister had assured the participants that they would quickly attain top positions in the public service if they could show that they were capable of handling them. The Chief Minister had announced recently that the Government had set a target of reducing the overseas staff of the public service by some 3,000 to 4,000 over the next three and a half years. He had also referred to the need to bring more and more Papua New Guinean thinking into the policy-making side, for more of the day-to-day work of government administration to be carried out by Papua New Guineans themselves and for the cost of the public service to be reduced to a scale that could be afforded in the immediate future. He had made clear that the reductions would be carried out in an orderly way and would not be allowed to impair the operations of the public service.

25. One of the difficulties in the development of localization had been the working out of a satisfactory scheme of employment for expatriate officers being displaced. Proposals made in previous years had been unacceptable to the Public Service Association. Under a new scheme, which had been accepted by the Australian and Papua New Guinean Governments and by the Association, the Australian Government would assume responsibility for expatriates in the Papua New Guinea public service and would make arrangements for compensation payments, fares and removal costs when employment was terminated. In announcing the scheme on 27 October, the Australian Minister for External Territories had said that the two Governments believed that the arrangements would greatly assist Papua New Guinea in retaining the solid core of experienced public officers until independence and thereafter and would provide overseas officers with just compensation for any loss of career or premature termination of service as a result of Papua New Guinea's progress towards self-government and independence.

26. With regard to developments affecting the economy of Papua New Guinea, the Chief Minister had told the House of Assembly on 26 September 1972 that economic development under his Government would be directed at a more equal sharing of wealth between expatriate and national, between the rich and the poor Papua New Guinean and between districts. He had stressed that Government activity should not be directed at satisfying the demands of a black élite and that his Government would always regard ordinary people as being the most important in the country.

27. In presenting a White Paper setting out the principles of a second five-year development plan for the period 1973/74-1977/78, the Chief Minister had stressed that the plan should be built on the needs and wishes of the people; that hard choices would have to be made about priorities; that Papua New Guinea should finance as much of the plan as it could from its own resources; that development should not be concentrated on areas with the best potential but should be spread according to needs; and that it was important for the flow of foreign investment to continue and for the Government to ensure that investors were fairly treated. At the same time, the Government would make sure that national interests were safeguarded and that Papua New Guineans had a fair share in those investments.

28. A large sector of the Papua New Guinean economy was still that of subsistence agriculture and husbandry. The monetary sector was primarily agricultural although forestry and, increasingly, fisheries and mining were also of significance. His Government and that of Papua New Guinea had taken note of the relevant recommendations made by the Special Committee. The problems referred to were of course not peculiar to Papua New Guinea; they affected all countries heavily dependent on the export of a few tropical agricultural products. There were stabilization schemes in Papua New Guinea for a number of such products and the Papua New Guinea Government was concerned that its interests should be protected in international arrangements such as those for coffee and cocoa. There was a continuing need, however, for diversification of production and for the further development of such resources as fish and timber. In both sectors, agreements had been negotiated during the current year with Japan for expanded production; the agreements provided for maximum localization and training, for Papua New Guinean shareholding and for the progressive development of local processing.

29. The Chief Minister had recently referred to the need to close the gap between the new world and the old in Papua New Guinea by involving the villages in the economy, and gearing business to the real needs of the country. It was not easy to find the right path along which to change the age-old pattern of life of the subsistence village and along which to promote closer co-operation between foreign-controlled business and local interests. To involve villages more in the economy, educational facilities had to be expanded, finance had to be made available and advice and assistance had to be provided. The Papua New Guinea Government, which now had full responsibility in all those areas, was encouraging that process through the establishment of schools, the continuing expansion of loans by the Papua New Guinea Development Bank and the further development of co-operatives, as also by fostering District Development Corporations, an idea put forward by a United Nations consultant two years previously.

30. Mr. Lus had expressed reservations about the Development Bank, feeling that its loan policy was too heavily concentrated on small-scale loans for simple enterprises and that it was reluctant to put faith

in Papua New Guineans who had larger entrepreneurial ideas. In response, he would only say that it was for the Papua New Guinea Government to determine overall policies with regard to development.

31. To increase Papua New Guinean participation in new business and in areas where foreign investment had been made, there were schemes whereby the Government assisted business enterprises in providing training for their employees, both in Papua New Guinea and in Australia. Papua New Guinean businesses were stimulated by selective tendering requirements under which proposed New Guinean contractors were given first preference for all the Government contracts up to \$50,000. Business and industry centres were being established in major centres around the country and provided Papua New Guinean businessmen with low-rental premises until they could afford to establish their own offices or workshops. As a further method of increasing Papua New Guinean participation in the economy, the Government had imposed restrictions on the employment of expatriates in 100 categories.

32. The Investment Corporation, to which he had referred the previous year, was now in operation. In brief, its mandate was to acquire equity in foreign investments on behalf of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea and to obtain such shares where a proposed investment was of major public significance or where the profitability rate of an enterprise seemed likely to be high. While the Corporation was beginning to make a significant impression on the pattern of ownership in Papua New Guinea, it was not of course the entire answer to the problems.

33. The Government of Papua New Guinea had announced its intention of preparing new policy guidelines for foreign investment, which would cover both criteria for what investments were desirable and criteria for equity participation by the Government in development projects.

34. The Australian Minister for External Territories had made it clear in a statement some months previously that the objective was to secure a high degree of local participation on all fronts and to do so as rapidly as possible consistent with the continuing development of the economy.

35. The Government of Papua New Guinea had recently decided to set up a national airline encompassing airlines at present operating in the country, a national broadcasting authority and a tourist authority to oversee all aspects of tourism in Papua New Guinea. It had indicated its agreement with the interim recommendations of a Committee on Banking that control of banking in the country should be handed over to the Government of Papua New Guinea as soon as possible and that a central bank should be established with power to act as the central monetary authority.

36. Turning to the question of education, he said that in 1972 the number of children attending secondary schools had shown an increase of 3,000 over 1971 and was well above earlier planning estimates. Three senior

schools had been established and a fourth would be opened in 1973. New schools would be established as the need arose. With regard to the problem of children finishing primary school who were unable to obtain places in secondary school, a new selection system for secondary schools, recommended by the National Education Board, had been approved by the Minister for Education. It was designed to allow the local community to play a greater part in deciding which primary school graduates should continue to secondary level education by giving greater weight to the views of the primary school Boards of Management. Responsibility for tertiary education had been transferred to Papua New Guinea and thus authority over all aspects of education rested with its Government. In a statement made on 5 August, the Minister for External Territories had emphasized that Australia would continue to give financial assistance for the development of tertiary education in Papua New Guinea, but that final decisions on all matters of policy would be the responsibility of the Papua New Guineans. He had pointed out that there were well over 2,000 students enrolled in tertiary education institutions and that that development was of great significance because it had given Papua New Guinea the machinery to train the people it needed to assume responsibility for the conduct of its own affairs.

37. Both the Australian and the Papua New Guinean Governments agreed with recommendation 11 in paragraph 10 of Chapter XX of the report of the Special Committee (see A/8723/Add.5) about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the people of Papua New Guinea. Responsibility now lay entirely with the Government of Papua New Guinea, which was continuing past policies designed to prevent the export of important artefacts, was dealing with the conservation of wildlife and the establishment of national parks and was giving high priority to the preservation of the country's cultural heritage. The creation of a Ministry for Culture was being considered. Government broadcasting stations had been actively involved in the recording and collection of traditional songs and stories with the collaboration of the educational institutions. Creative writing was being stimulated by the Department of Information and Extension Services in conjunction with the University. The Government's philosophy in that regard was reflected in its policies towards the drafting of the constitution, the preparation of the development plan and the reorganization of the public service. The heritage of the past would not be neglected.

38. Preservation of the country's cultural heritage could contribute greatly to efforts to instil in the people a sense of nationhood. Modern Papua New Guinea, thinking about its past, would increasingly find common threads in the way the large number of small groups separated by mountains, jungle and swamp responded to challenges set by similar environments and in the myths handed down from ancient times.

39. There had recently been a severe famine in the districts of the Western and Southern Highlands, caused by unusually harsh frosts combined with

drought. Towards the end of September it had become apparent to the Papua New Guinea Government that there was a national emergency. By mid-October the Government had been spending \$50,000 each day to feed people in the famine areas. By November it had been providing food for about 118,000 people and had estimated that that number might still increase. On 11 October, the Government had declared a food relief state of emergency and the Chief Minister had announced a national appeal for assistance. The total cost of the emergency was now estimated at over \$7 million. A Famine Relief Appeal Committee had been set up under the chairmanship of the Chief Electoral Officer and with the participation of the Australian Minister for External Territories. Substantial contributions had been made by local government councils and individuals, schools, businesses, clubs and other bodies, as also by non-governmental organizations and private persons in Australia and elsewhere. The Australian Government was providing financial and material assistance and had made available large transport aircraft and helicopters to distribute supplies in the affected areas. Australia was grateful for the assistance offered by so many organizations and private persons and by countries in the Pacific region. Food was being distributed on a considerable scale and the attention of the Government of Papua New Guinea was now being directed towards famine prevention measures.

40. The emergency had confirmed the capacity of both the public service of Papua New Guinea and the private sector to cope with a serious problem. The Chief Minister had stated on 19 October that officers of all departments were working together to bring relief to the people of the Highlands and that such unselfish teamwork strengthened his view that Papua New Guinea was ready to run its own affairs. The emergency had also impressed on the people of Papua New Guinea the importance of their Government and of national unity. The theme that the emergency was a challenge to which the Government and people of Papua New Guinea had to respond as one and which they had to meet essentially by their own efforts had run consistently through Government statements. The Chief Minister had stated that the Government, by involving the people in the reconstruction of their areas, could give them the sense of purpose that they now lacked. The fact that it had been the Highlands where in the past most doubts had been expressed about the pace of movement towards self-government made the theme even more significant. The Government of Papua New Guinea had made it clear that it did not wish to see issues such as the timing of self-government become roots of discord harmful to national unity.

41. In an editorial of 11 July, the *Post-Courier*, Papua New Guinea's only daily newspaper, which was not always sympathetic to the Government, had stated that the Chief Minister had returned from the Highlands with added stature as a national leader. It had described the support he had received and the awareness shown of the right of the country's leader to go about his lawful business. It had stressed the significance of the Highlands leaders' readiness to recognize a coastal man

as a leader and to talk with him. In fact the whole Ministry included representatives of all but three of the main population groups in Papua New Guinea. Ten of the 18 Districts were represented in the Shadow Cabinet formed by the opposition party.

42. It was not surprising that national unity should become a crucial issue as independence approached. Minority groups needed to be assured that they would not suffer from political change. Papua New Guinea's territorial boundaries were a heritage of a colonial era. The issues that bedevilled the cause of national unity remained: inter-clan disputes, regional fear of domination by other regions, and the legacy of past division or neglect. Perhaps the prevalence of small clan groups rather than a few large ones made the development of unity less difficult. In any case, in forging Papua New Guinea's constitution, the Constitutional Committee and the House of Assembly would have to confront such issues.

43. The constitution-writing process, because it would be based on nation-wide consultation and debate, should become a catalyst of unity. Both the present Government and its predecessor had regarded the promotion of national unity as a task of the highest priority and an objective to be taken into account in all policy decisions. It was taken into account in recruitment and training in the public service, the police and the defence forces and in the formation of social and educational policies, economic development programming and political education. It was the conscious goal that national unity should grow stronger out of the whole process of society and government, from the experience of elections, from the deliberations of the House of Assembly, from day-to-day contacts with the modern world and from a burgeoning knowledge of the outside world.

44. The celebrations which had taken place on Papua New Guinea's National Day had shown that the idea of nationhood was growing stronger. On that occasion, the Australian Minister for External Territories had said that it was the firm aim of the Australian Government to advance Papua New Guinea to self-government and independence as one country and had stressed that the people had to work for national unity and take their own decisions. The Chief Minister had said that the people should be proud because they were first and foremost Papua New Guineans and that he was sure that they could work together to make a country of which all could be proud.

45. In 1971, the General Assembly had endorsed the objective that Papua New Guinea should move to independence as one united country. He hoped that it would wish to reaffirm that objective during the current session. It was, however, the resolve of the Papua New Guineans, their representatives in the House of Assembly and their Government that really counted.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, the list of speakers would be closed on Tuesday, 21 November, at 6 p.m.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 22**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/8723/Add.4 (part II))****QUESTION OF FRENCH SOMALILAND****

47. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to chapter XIV of the report of the Special Committee (see A/8723/Add.4 (part II)) which covered French Somali-

** With regard to the new designation of the Territory, see Terminology Bulletin No. 240 issued by the Secretariat of the United Nations on 15 April 1968 (ST/SC/SER.F/240).

land, and referred to the Special Committee's decision contained in paragraph 8 of the chapter, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its twenty-seventh session, to give consideration to that Territory at its next session. It had been suggested that, in view of that decision, the Committee might wish to recommend to the General Assembly that consideration of French Somaliland should be postponed to the twenty-eighth session, when the General Assembly would have before it the relevant report of the Special Committee.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.