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**GENERAL  
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**FOURTH COMMITTEE, 1562nd  
MEETING**

Thursday, 18 November 1965,  
at 4.25 p.m.



**NEW YORK**

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*Chairman: Mr. Majid RAHNEMA (Iran).*

AGENDA ITEMS 23 AND 24

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples: reports 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: Cook Islands (continued) (A/5800/Rev.1, chap. XV; A/5961; A/6000/Rev.1, chap. VIII)

Report of the United Nations Representative for the Supervision of the Elections in the Cook Islands (continued) (A/5962 and Corr.1)

*At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Omar A. H. Adeel, United Nations Representative for the Supervision of the Elections in the Cook Islands, took a place at the Committee table.*

GENERAL DEBATE (continued)

1. Mr. Chipping H. C. KIANG (China) said that the recent elections in the Cook Islands had been the culmination of a long process of self-determination in that Non-Self-Governing Territory. It had been the first time that the United Nations had played an active role in supervising elections in a Non-Self-Governing Territory and the New Zealand Government was to be congratulated on having taken the initiative in inviting the United Nations to do so.

2. In adopting resolution 2005 (XIX) authorizing supervision by the United Nations of the elections in the Cook Islands, the General Assembly had been given to understand by the Secretary-General that the dominant issue in the elections would be the future status of the Territory. The United Nations Representative for the Supervision of the Elections in the Cook Islands had now reported that the newly

elected Parliament had determined that the people of the islands should be self-governing in free association with New Zealand. According to the United Nations Representative, the people of the Territory had spoken freely and had chosen freely. Since the elections as an act of self-determination had been found by the United Nations Representative to be free and genuine, the choice made by the people through their representatives in the Legislative Assembly must be respected.

3. In terms of the obligations under the United Nations Charter, all that the Organization should do with respect to the Cook Islands was to determine whether or not the Territory had achieved a full measure of self-government as the result of the elections. The report of the United Nations Representative (A/5962 and Corr.1), and his statements in the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples showed clearly that, since the people of the Territory had opted for self-government in free association with New Zealand, the Territory had now attained a full measure of self-government within the meaning of General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) and that the conditions laid down in the various General Assembly resolutions regarding the cessation of the transmission of information had been fully met. Although the people of the islands had not chosen to be a sovereign independent State, they had the power under article 41 of their Constitution to change the free-association arrangement and discharge their responsibilities for themselves.

4. What the United Nations could and should do now in the interests of the Cook Islanders was to provide them with assistance to promote their social and economic development. His delegation was glad to hear that with New Zealand's active encouragement, the regional representative of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in Western Samoa had visited the Cook Islands and conferred with the Government about its needs and priorities. He was glad to note, too, that the New Zealand Government had promised to continue providing assistance to the people of the Islands.

5. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's appreciation of the good work the New Zealand Government had done in promoting the welfare of the Cook Islanders.

6. Mr. AL-JEBOURI (Iraq) said that his delegation, which had already presented its views fully on the question of the Cook Islands in the Special Committee (see A/6000/Rev.1, chap. VIII, paras. 106-113), would like to reiterate the special tribute it had paid the

United Nations Representative for the valuable work he had done in supervising the elections in the Cook Islands and for his comprehensive report.

7. At the 379th meeting of the Special Committee his delegation had said that the supervision of the elections had been an event of great importance in that it was the first time that the United Nations had taken an active part in supervising elections in a Non-Governing Territory, and that it was to be hoped that the example set by New Zealand in inviting the United Nations to supervise the elections would be followed by other colonial or administering Powers. His delegation had also said that the results obtained fully justified such recourse by the administering Powers to the United Nations to facilitate the process of liberation and independence for the Territories still under foreign rule.

8. The importance of the elections derived from the fact that they were intended to be in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and that the principal issue had been the future status of the Territory.

9. In his report, the United Nations Representative had said that in spite of two imperfections it would be fair to conclude that the administrative and physical arrangements for the conduct of the elections had been in accordance with existing election legislation and he had drawn attention to the fact that no party or political organization had wanted to break with New Zealand. The report had furnished conclusive evidence that the Cook Islanders had freely opted for full internal self-government and that they had

freely chosen to associate themselves with New Zealand. What was more significant was the fact that the people of the islands had the right to renounce that association at any time, if they so desired. Thus the report had conclusively established that the Cook Islands could be said to have achieved a full measure of self-government and that New Zealand was no longer bound to transmit information on the Territory.

10. With regard to the question whether the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had been fully met in the Cook Islands, his delegation had said at the 379th meeting of the Special Committee that if the Cook Islanders were free to decide at any time to change their status, it could be said that the objectives of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) had been realized.

11. The United Nations had a special responsibility to provide assistance to the Cook Islands in view of the Territory's lack of skills and resources. Mr. Albert Henry, the Premier of the Territory, had told the Special Committee that he would not hesitate to ask the United Nations for such assistance. It was his delegation's understanding that the Cook Islands could request such assistance direct from the United Nations representatives in the area without having recourse to the New Zealand Government. The United Nations could thus contribute substantially to the economic and social development of a Territory whose inhabitants had won the sympathy and understanding of peoples in many parts of the world.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.