



Sixteenth session
Agenda item 88

THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Letter dated 23 January 1962 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to the invitation you addressed to me that Her Majesty's Government should be represented on the Committee of Seventeen which you are appointing in accordance with resolution 1654 (XVI).

I thank you for the close interest which Your Excellency has taken in this matter and I am pleased to inform you that Her Majesty's Government accept your invitation to be represented on this Committee. In doing so, however, they wish to draw attention to the statement made by the Minister of State at the 1066th meeting of the General Assembly on 27 November 1961, on the subject of British colonial policy and the proposed establishment of the present Committee. In the course of his speech he stated:

"We have at every stage made it plain that we shall discharge our responsibility fully and fearlessly. We cannot share or shift that responsibility. Neither have we any wish to shirk it. We have made it clear throughout that we cannot accept any form of intervention in the administration of the territories for which we are responsible; and if there were any attempt to intervene in their administration we should be bound to withdraw our co-operation. We have co-operated very fully with the Committee on Information, and indeed as far as we are concerned we see no need for another committee. Nevertheless in the spirit of co-operation we are willing, subject to its satisfactory composition and on the clear understanding that it will not attempt to intervene in the administration of territories for which we are responsible,

to co-operate with the Committee, to participate in it, to provide it with information and join in its discussions. This is the spirit of co-operation which we have always shown in these matters. It was in this spirit that we announced earlier in this session our intention to provide the United Nations with full political and constitutional information on all our remaining dependent territories, and it is in this spirit that we make this further declaration of co-operation today."

It is on this understanding that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to participate in the Committee.

I would be grateful if your Excellency would circulate this letter as a document of the United Nations.

(Signed) Patrick DEAN
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations
