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

Letter dated 18 February 1965 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the General Assembly

I should appreciate it if you would have circulated as a United Nations document the attached statement of the United States position on the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 February 1965 concerning the forthcoming elections in the Cook Islands.

(Signed) Adlai E. STEVENSON

* Item 21 of the provisional agenda.

The United States Delegation notes that the representative of New Zealand, the Administering Power of the Cook Islands, requested by letter of 2 February 1965 (A/5880), that the Secretary-General nominate an appropriate person or persons to be present on behalf of the United Nations in the Cook Islands for the forthcoming elections in the latter part of April, as well as for the debate and decision upon the Constitution which will be taken by the newly elected Legislative Assembly in late May.

In questions relating to administration and political developments in non-self-governing territories, the Administering Power has the ultimate authority and responsibility. We, therefore, believe it is appropriate in this case that the desires of the Administering Authority be met. We understand that the proposal made by the Secretary-General (A/5882) in response to the request of the representative of New Zealand met with the wishes of the Administering Power.

Consequently the United States Delegation expressed no objection to the draft resolution providing for an observation mission to the Cook Islands. Nevertheless, the Delegation wishes to reserve its position on the general applicability or suitability of the procedure involved, as well as on certain of its details. It will be recalled that we expressed a specific reservation in the Committee of Twenty-Four when that Committee's report on the Cook, Niue and Tokelau Islands was approved on 9 November 1964.
