



Eighteenth session
Agenda item 23

REPORT 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

Rapporteur: Mr. K. NATWAR SINGH (India)

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- II. LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 1963 ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
- III. LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

/Original: French/

New York, 25 October 1963

Sir,

... I have the honour to transmit to you the report to the General Assembly 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, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962. This report covers the work of the Special Committee during 1963.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Sori COULIBALY
President of the Special Committee

His Excellency U Thant
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

CHAPTER I

ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

1. At its sixteenth session, the General Assembly considered the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples contained in resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.^{1/} On 27 November 1961, the General Assembly adopted resolution 1654 (XVI) by which it decided to establish a Special Committee of seventeen members to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly. The Special Committee was directed to examine the application of the Declaration, to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration and to report to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session.

2. On 23 January 1962, the President informed the General Assembly that, pursuant to resolution 1654 (XVI), he had nominated the following to be members of the Special Committee:

Australia	Tanganyika
Cambodia	Tunisia
Ethiopia	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
India	
Italy	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Madagascar	United States of America
Mali	Uruguay
Poland	Venezuela
Syria	Yugoslavia

3. The Special Committee of seventeen members established under General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) held 117 meetings during the period 20 February to 19 September 1962. The work accomplished by the Special Committee in 1962 is described in detail in its report to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.^{2/}

^{1/} For background and text, see A/5238, chapter I, paragraphs 1 to 8.

^{2/} A/5238.

4. At its seventeenth session, the General Assembly, following its consideration in plenary meetings of the report of the Special Committee established under resolution 1654 (XVI), adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) on 17 December 1962 by which it decided to enlarge the membership of the Special Committee by the addition of seven new members to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly. The text of resolution 1810 (XVII), which sets out the terms of reference of the enlarged Special Committee, is reproduced below:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 by which it established a Special Committee of seventeen members on the implementation of the Declaration,

"Conscious of the fact that the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples and the subsequent establishment of the Special Committee have raised great hopes everywhere, in particular among peoples which have not yet attained independence, for the elimination of all forms of colonialism and foreign domination without delay,

"Having considered the report of the Special Committee,

"Noting with profound regret that, in spite of the efforts of the United Nations, the provisions of the Declaration have not been fully implemented in a large number of territories and that, in certain cases, even preliminary measures have not yet been taken to realize its objectives,

"Deeply concerned by the negative attitude and the deliberate refusal of certain Administering Powers to co-operate with the Special Committee,

"Reaffirming its conviction that any delay in the implementation of the Declaration constitutes a continuing source of international conflict, seriously impeding international co-operation and creating in many regions of the world increasingly dangerous situations likely to threaten international peace and security,

"1. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the work it has accomplished;

"2. Takes note with approval of the methods and procedures which the Special Committee has adopted for the discharge of its functions;

"3. Solemnly reiterates and reaffirms the objectives and principles enshrined both in the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV) and in resolution 1654 (XVI);

"4. Deplores the refusal of certain Administering Powers to co-operate in the implementation of the Declaration in territories under their administration;

"5. Calls upon the Administering Powers concerned to cease forthwith all armed action and repressive measures directed against peoples who have not yet attained independence, particularly against the political activities of their rightful leaders;

"6. Urges all Administering Powers to take immediate steps in order that all colonial territories and peoples may accede to independence without delay in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Declaration;

"7. Decides to enlarge the membership of the Special Committee established by resolution 1654 (XVI) by the addition of seven new members to be nominated by the President of the General Assembly;

"8. Invites the enlarged Special Committee:

"(a) To continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all territories which have not yet attained independence;

"(b) To propose specific measures for the complete application of the Declaration;

"(c) To submit to the General Assembly in due course, and not later than its eighteenth session, a full report containing its suggestions and recommendations on all the territories mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Declaration;

"(d) To apprise the Security Council of any developments in these territories which may threaten international peace and security;

"9. Requests all Member States, especially the Administering Powers, to afford the Special Committee their fullest co-operation;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Committee with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the implementation of the present resolution."

5. On 20 December 1962, the President informed the General Assembly that the additional members of the Special Committee would be announced at a later date. Subsequently, the President of the General Assembly informed the Secretary-

General^{3/} that the following Members had accepted his invitation, under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of resolution 1810 (XVII), to serve on the Special Committee:

Bulgaria	Iraq
Chile	Ivory Coast
Denmark	Sierra Leone
Iran	

6. In addition to resolution 1810 (XVII), the General Assembly at its seventeenth session adopted a number of other resolutions concerning Territories to which the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples applies. These resolutions are dealt with in the appropriate chapters of this report.

B. OPENING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS IN 1963

7. The first meeting of the Special Committee in 1963 (118th meeting) was opened by the Secretary-General. In his opening address, the Secretary-General recalled that, at its fifteenth session, the General Assembly had adopted the historic Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, which was regarded as a landmark in the efforts of the United Nations towards the realization of the high principles and objectives of the Charter. At its sixteenth session the General Assembly had established the Special Committee and at the Committee's opening meeting, on 20 February 1962, he had emphasized the importance of the task entrusted to it and had expressed the belief that its members would conduct their discussions in a spirit of co-operation, particularly in view of the fact that there was unanimity with regard to the final objective, namely the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories to which the Declaration applied. The report of the Special Committee to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly^{4/} was a testimony to the constructive spirit in which its members had approached their task and to their untiring efforts.

8. During the past year there had been a number of other bodies also dealing with matters concerning dependent territories. In the introduction to his

3/ A/5397.

4/ A/5238.

annual report^{5/} he had suggested that all work in that field might usefully be combined and brought under the Special Committee of Seventeen, and he was glad to note that the work performed by the other bodies had now to a large extent been entrusted to the enlarged Special Committee. That decision should avoid duplication of effort on the part of delegations and of the Secretariat.

9. The desire of the Members of the United Nations to bring about the final end of colonialism as speedily as possible by peaceful means was well known. It was generally recognized that the emancipation of all peoples still living in dependent status would not only remove one of the major obstacles to the maintenance of peace but would greatly contribute to the realization of the principles of equality enshrined in the Charter.

10. The Secretary-General earnestly hoped that the endeavours of the Special Committee would be fruitful and that it would play a useful and constructive role in speeding up the process of decolonization. He wished the Committee success in the difficult task it was about to undertake.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman

11. At its 118th meeting, the Special Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Sori Coulibaly (Mali) as Chairman.

Vice-Chairmen

12. At its 120th meeting, the Special Committee decided to elect two Vice-Chairmen. Following that decision, it elected by acclamation Mr. Carlos María Velázquez (Uruguay) as First Vice-Chairman and Mr. Voeunsai Sonn (Cambodia) as Second Vice-Chairman.

Rapporteur

13. At the same meeting, the Special Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Najmuddine Rifai (Syria) as its Rapporteur.

14. At the 205th meeting, on 6 September 1963, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that Mr. Rifai had been assigned by his Government to a post in his

country and that therefore he would not be able to continue as Rapporteur. Members of the Special Committee expressed regret at Mr. Rifai's departure and paid tributes to him for his valuable services, both as the representative of Syria on the Committee and as the Committee's Rapporteur since its beginning in 1962.

15. At the 206th meeting on 9 September 1963, the Special Committee elected by acclamation Mr. K. Natwar Singh (India) as Rapporteur.

D. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

16. The Special Committee held 101 meetings during 1963, as follows:

First session, 118th-169th meetings, 19 February to 10 May

Second session, 170th-202nd meetings, 10 June to 26 July

Third session, 203rd-218th meetings, 5 September to 21 October.

17. The Sub-Committee on Petitions held 17 meetings (26th to 42nd). In addition, the Special Committee established a Working Group, which held nine meetings, and Sub-Committees on Southern Rhodesia, Aden and British Guiana.

E. METHODS OF WORK AND PROCEDURES

18. Following extensive discussions at the beginning of the Special Committee's work in 1962, it agreed on its methods of work and procedures. These are described in the Special Committee's report to the seventeenth session of the General Assembly.^{6/} In the same report, the Special Committee stated that, on the basis of its experience during the year, it was satisfied that the methods and procedures it had followed were most appropriate and effective in the discharge of its functions.^{7/}

19. The General Assembly, in operative paragraph 2 of its resolution 1810 (XVII), took note "with approval of the methods and procedures which the Special Committee has adopted for the discharge of its functions".

^{6/} A/5238, chapter I, paragraph 112.

^{7/} A/5238, chapter I, paragraph 148.

20. At its 120th meeting, on 28 February 1963, the Special Committee decided to continue to follow these methods and procedures in the discharge of its functions.

F. SUB-COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

21. At its 121st meeting, on 1 March 1963, the Special Committee decided that the Sub-Committee on Petitions should continue to be composed of the same seven members as during 1962, namely, Australia, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, Poland, Tunisia and Venezuela.

Elections of officers

22. The Sub-Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri (Tunisia)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Leonardo Díaz González (Venezuela)

Meetings of the Sub-Committee

23. During the period covered by this report, the Sub-Committee on Petitions held 17 meetings and submitted 17 reports^{8/} to the Special Committee. These reports dealt with the Sub-Committee's consideration of 306 written communications, which included 26 requests for hearings.

G. PROGRAMME OF WORK

24. At its 123rd meeting, the Special Committee decided to begin its work with the consideration of Territories under Portuguese administration, Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa in that order.

Establishment of the Working Group

25. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided to establish a Working Group, composed of the officers of the Committee and other representatives to be nominated by the Chairman, to consider and to make recommendations on the list of Territories to be considered by the Special Committee and the order of priority for their consideration. At the 126th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that he had nominated Bulgaria, Iraq, Italy and Sierra Leone to be members of the Working Group in addition to the officers of the Committee (Mali, Uruguay, Cambodia and Syria).

^{8/} A/AC.109/L.39-43, L.45, L.48-51, L.57, L.59, L.64, L.66, L.79, L.87 and L.93.

Recommendations of the Working Group

26. During the period covered by this report, the Working Group held nine meetings and submitted six reports^{9/} in addition to an oral report submitted by the Chairman.^{10/}

List of Territories to which the Declaration applies

27. The first report of the Working Group^{11/} to the Special Committee contains the following statements concerning the list of Territories to which the Declaration contained in resolution 1514 (XV) applies:

"4. The Working Group noted that General Assembly resolution 1810 (XVII) invites the Special Committee to submit to the General Assembly not later than its eighteenth session 'a full report containing its suggestions and recommendations on all the territories mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Declaration'. It also noted that in order to comply with this request, it would be necessary to have a list of the territories referred to in paragraph 5 of the Declaration, namely, 'Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories or all other territories which have not yet attained independence'. In the course of its consideration of this question, the Working Group recognized that the drawing up of a complete list of territories would involve detailed consideration by it of various factors requiring additional meetings of the Group. It therefore decided that, as a first step, a preliminary list of territories to which the Declaration applies should be prepared, which should include territories coming under the following categories:

"(a) Trust Territories;

"(b) The Territory of South West Africa;

"(c) Territories which have been declared by the General Assembly as Non-Self-Governing Territories within the meaning of Chapter XI of the Charter, but on which information is not transmitted under Article 73 e by the Administering Powers concerned;

"(d) Non-Self-Governing Territories on which information is transmitted by the Administering Powers concerned.

^{9/} A/AC.109/L.44, L.60, L.69, L.76, L.84 and L.86.

^{10/} A/AC.109/SR.179.

^{11/} A/AC.109/L.44.

"5. The preliminary list of territories drawn up by the Working Group in accordance with this decision is annexed to this report.

"6. The representative of Bulgaria reserved the position of his Government with regard to the inclusion of Macao and dependencies and Hong Kong in the list referred to in paragraph 5 above. He stated that his Government regarded these territories as integral parts of the People's Republic of China forcibly occupied in the past by Portugal and the United Kingdom respectively.

"7. The Working Group further decided that it should consider the list of 'all other territories which have not yet attained independence' to be added to the preliminary list at its future meetings and report to the Special Committee."

28. At its 141st meeting, the Special Committee approved the preliminary list of Territories prepared by the Working Group. The preliminary list of Territories approved by the Special Committee is attached to this report as Annex I.

29. With regard to the list of "all other territories which have not yet attained independence", the Working Group in its sixth report^{12/} submitted to the Special Committee on 16 September 1963, stated as follows:

"6. The Working Group also considered its previous decision^{13/} to consider at a future date the list of 'all other territories which have not yet attained independence', to be added to the preliminary list of territories to which the Declaration applies. The Working Group decided to inform the Special Committee that because of lack of time it had been unable to consider this list. It also decided to suggest to the Special Committee that it consider this question at its meetings next year."

30. At its 211th meeting, the Special Committee approved this suggestion of the Working Group.

Priorities for the consideration of Territories

31. The order in which the Special Committee considered various individual Territories, following the consideration of Territories under Portuguese administration, Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa, to which the Special

^{12/} A/AC.109/L.86.

^{13/} A/AC.109/L.44, paragraph 7.