



Twentieth session

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

BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND AND SWAZILAND

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The question of the implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) in respect of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland was first considered by 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 May-June 1962. In the course of the discussion of this item in the Special Committee, several members expressed concern about the economic situation in these Territories and emphasized the need for providing them with additional economic, financial and technical assistance.
2. A resolution adopted by the Special Committee on 7 June 1962 for the consideration of the General Assembly^{1/} contained the following paragraphs relating to the economic and social situation in the three Territories:

"Deploing the particularly alarming economic and social situation prevailing in the High Commission Territories after several decades of the colonial regime,

...

"4. To make a serious effort to provide economic, financial and technical assistance through United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and the specialized agencies, in order to remedy the deplorable economic and social situation of the three Territories;"

* Item 23 of the provisional agenda.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238, chapter V, para. 214.

3. At its seventeenth session, the General Assembly, following consideration in its plenary meetings of the report of the Special Committee covering its work in 1962 (A/5238), adopted resolution 1817 (XVII) of 18 December 1962 on the question of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. This resolution, inter alia, contained the following:

"Deploing the particularly alarming economic and social situation prevailing in Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland after several decades of colonial rule,

...

"4. Considers that a serious effort should be made to provide economic, financial and technical assistance, through United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and the specialized agencies, in order to remedy the deplorable economic and social situation of the three Territories;"

4. The situation in the three Territories was again considered by the Special Committee in July 1963. The resolution on these Territories adopted by the Committee on 26 July 1963,^{2/} inter alia, provided as follows:

"Mindful of the unsatisfactory state of economic, financial and social conditions in these three Territories and their dire need for external assistance,

...

"6. To make increasing efforts to provide economic, financial and technical assistance commensurate with the special needs of the Territories through the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and the specialized agencies."

5. At its eighteenth session, the General Assembly, following consideration in its plenary meetings of the report of the Special Committee covering its work in 1963 (A/5446/Rev.1), adopted resolution 1954 (XVIII) of 11 December 1963 on the question of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland. This resolution, inter alia, provided as follows:

"Mindful of the unsatisfactory economic, financial and social conditions in these three Territories and their dire need for external assistance,

...

^{2/} Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23, document A/5446/Rev.1, chapter IX, para. 113.

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide economic, financial and technical assistance commensurate with the special needs of the Territories through the United Nations programmes of technical co-operation and the specialized agencies."

6. The Special Committee considered the situation in the three Territories for the third time during October-November 1964. During the consideration of this question, the Committee also had before it a report by the Secretary-General dated 19 October 1964 (A/AC.109/98) containing a summary of the information received from the United Nations agencies concerning the steps they had taken to increase economic, financial and technical assistance to the Territories in the light of operative paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1954 (XVIII).

7. A resolution adopted by the Special Committee on 2 November 1964 (A/AC.109/103) contained the following paragraphs relating to the economic and social situation in the three Territories:

"Taking into account the fact that the economic and social situation in the three Territories is critical,

"Noting with appreciation the action taken by the Secretary-General, through United Nations programmes of technical assistance and the specialized agencies, to provide economic, financial and technical assistance for these Territories,

...

"5. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the administering Power, to undertake a study as to the ways and means of ensuring the economic independence of these Territories vis-à-vis the Republic of South Africa and to submit a report to the Special Committee and the General Assembly;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to intensify, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, programmes of economic, technical and financial assistance to these Territories."

8. This report is submitted to the Special Committee and to the General Assembly in accordance with the request addressed to the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of the Special Committee's resolution of 2 November 1964 referred to above.

9. By letter dated 6 November 1964, the Secretary-General transmitted a copy of the Special Committee's resolution to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and inquired as to what extent his Government would

be prepared to assist the Secretary-General in the preparation of the study called for by the Special Committee. Following this, discussions concerning the matter were held between representatives of the United Kingdom Government and the Secretary-General in New York and, later, in London.

10. During these discussions, the representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that the Secretary-General had been requested by the Special Committee to undertake the study "in consultation with the administering Power".

11. The representative of the United Kingdom recalled that, during the debate on the resolution in the Special Committee, his delegation had made clear its position in regard to paragraph 5 of the resolution. At that time, he had said that the study called for was unrealistic since the plain facts of geography were such that there was inevitably a high degree of economic interdependence between these Territories and South Africa. The representative of the United Kingdom stated further that while his Government continued to maintain that position in respect of the specific study called for by the Special Committee in paragraph 5 of its resolution of 2 November 1964, it was interested in finding ways of increased co-operation between the United Kingdom and the Secretary-General. In that context, his Government would consider the possibilities of co-operation with the Secretary-General in a study of the economic needs of these Territories.

12. Subsequently, in a letter dated 15 March 1965, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom informed the Secretary-General as follows:

"My Government would be glad to co-operate with the Secretary-General in a study of the economic needs of these Territories. It proposes to invite a three-man team to visit the Territories with the following terms of reference:

'To investigate and advise upon the scope for additional economic and technical assistance to Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland.'

"My Government would be happy if the Secretary-General would suggest a member of the Secretariat as Chairman and the name of another person to be a member of the team, the third being selected by my Government. In accordance with normal practice the team would report to my Government and its report would simultaneously be available to the Secretary-General and the Governments of the Territories. The expenses of the visit would be borne by my Government.

"My Government hopes that the Secretary-General may be able to assist them in the manner proposed. The suggestion is that the team should visit the Territories in May."

13. On 5 April 1965, the Secretary-General informed the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom as follows:

"The Secretary-General welcomes the offer of the United Kingdom Government to co-operate with him in a study of the economic needs of these Territories and is glad to agree to the proposals of your Government concerning the visit to the Territories of a Three-man Team.

"The Secretary-General would regard this operation as coming within the context of the 'consultation with the administering Power' envisaged in operative paragraph 5 of the Special Committee's resolution."

14. Accordingly, the Secretary-General nominated Mr. M.E. Chacko, Director of the Department of Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Territories, as Chairman and Mr. M. Minchin, of the same Department, as a member of the Mission. The United Kingdom Government nominated Mr. P.S. McLean, O.B.E., of the Ministry of Overseas Development, as a member.

15. The Mission visited the three Territories in May-June 1965 and submitted its report to the United Kingdom Government. In accordance with the original arrangement, the report was simultaneously made available to the Secretary-General by the United Kingdom. The letter transmitting it to the Secretary-General and the report of the Mission are annexed to the present report for the information of the members of the Special Committee and the General Assembly.

16. The Secretary-General is aware of the great concern of the Special Committee and of the General Assembly, as expressed in the various resolutions referred to earlier, about the economic situation in the three Territories and the need to take effective steps to improve the situation. He also noted that a resolution on Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland adopted by the Special Committee on 17 June 1965 during its meetings in Africa (A/AC.109/127) included the following paragraphs concerning the economic situation in these Territories:

"Noting with concern the preponderant influence of the Government of the Republic of South Africa and certain financial interests in the three Territories,

"Being aware of the unsatisfactory economic, financial and social conditions in the three Territories and their imperative need for United Nations assistance,

...

"6. Requests the Secretary-General, pending the completion of the study requested in paragraph 5 of its resolution of 2 November 1964, to intensify in co-operation with the specialized agencies the provision of economic, financial and technical assistance commensurate with the special needs of the Territories;"

17. The Secretary-General has considered the economic and social situation in the three Territories on the basis of the information available to him, including that contained in the Mission's report.

18. The Mission has concluded that considerable funds would have to be made available to the three Territories if they are to be enabled to take steps to develop the various sectors of the economy. At present, economic, financial and technical assistance is being made available to the Territories by the United Kingdom and by the agencies of the United Nations. It may be assumed that this assistance will continue to be made available to the three Territories. However, it is clear from the Mission's analysis of the situation in the three Territories that continued assistance from the United Kingdom and by the agencies of the United Nations on the present scale, or even on a moderately increased scale, would not meet the needs of the situation as indicated in the various resolutions referred to above, or the intentions of the Special Committee as expressed in operative paragraph 5 of its resolution of 2 November 1964.

19. In the circumstances, the Secretary-General would propose for the consideration of the Special Committee and the General Assembly the establishment of a fund for assistance to Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland which would be made available for the economic development of the Territories to supplement the assistance provided by the administering Power and the agencies of the United Nations. Such a fund would be made up of voluntary contributions by Member States and would be administered by the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Governments of the three Territories and with the co-operation and assistance of the Special Fund, the Technical Assistance Board, the Economic Commission for Africa and the specialized agencies concerned.

20. In making this recommendation, the Secretary-General also has in mind the recognition by the Special Committee and by the General Assembly in their resolutions that these Territories need external assistance. He believes that this proposal, if accepted, would be a positive step in the direction of achieving the objective desired by the Special Committee.

21. The Secretary-General also endorses the suggestion by the Mission that immediate steps be taken by the administering Power to establish properly staffed planning machinery in each Territory. As envisaged by the Mission, economic planning and statistical units would be set up in each Territory to assist in the drawing up and periodic review of a comprehensive and co-ordinated long-range development plan. If the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a fund is accepted, the economic planning and statistical units would also be invaluable as a means of providing the necessary basic information to enable the fund to be directed towards projects which would make the greatest possible contribution to the development of these Territories.

22. It is also the intention of the Secretary-General to recommend, at the appropriate time, the establishment in each Territory of a United Nations Technical Assistance Office headed by a resident representative and staffed by the necessary personnel to expedite and co-ordinate all United Nations assistance to the Territory concerned, including that made available from the proposed fund, if one is established on the basis of his proposals.

ANNEX

Letter dated 23 August 1965 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of
the United Nations

I have the honour to forward a copy of the report of a Mission to Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland comprising Mr. M.E. Chacko as Chairman and Mr. M. Minchin and Mr. P.S. McLean as members, to investigate and advise upon the scope for additional economic and technical assistance to these Territories. The report is forwarded in accordance with the undertaking given when the establishment of the Mission was announced in the House of Commons on 7 May that copies of the report would be made available to Your Excellency and to the Governments of the Territories simultaneously with its submission to the United Kingdom Government.

In transmitting the report I wish to express to Your Excellency the thanks of my Government and myself for your co-operation in agreeing to nominate and make available the services of the Chairman and a member of the Mission as proposed by the United Kingdom Government.

(Signed) CARADON