



Twenty-first session
Agenda item 23

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

Letter dated 16 November 1966 from the Permanent Representative
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to
the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 August last my delegation addressed a letter to you about South Arabia welcoming the assistance and participation of the United Nations in achieving the British Government's declared policy of bringing South Arabia to independence as a united sovereign State by 1968.^{1/}

In that letter my Government accepted the operative paragraphs of the General Assembly's resolutions of 1963 and 1965 and said that it would be glad to co-operate with a mission appointed by the Secretary-General. At the same time we drew attention to two features of the present constitutional position in South Arabia.

I now invite your attention to the record of a statement which I made in the Fourth Committee on 10 November on this subject.

In particular I invited special reference to the statement made by the British Foreign Secretary in the General Assembly on 11 October when he gave the following assurance:

^{1/} A/6374, section A.

"We shall be glad to co-operate with a special mission from the United Nations to recommend practical steps for the full implementation of those resolutions. We hope it will soon be possible for the Secretary-General to find the right men to serve on this mission and that the mission's work will help not only to produce constructive results as South Arabia moves to independence, but also to bring about a fuller understanding in the United Nations Organization as a whole of the true state of affairs in that area of the Arabian peninsula." 2/

I also invite reference to the following extract from my speech in the Fourth Committee:

"On 1 August, as you know, my delegation addressed a letter to the Secretary-General welcoming the assistance and participation of the United Nations in achieving the aim of early independence for South Arabia, and promising to co-operate with a mission to be appointed by the Secretary-General. That letter stated two facts. We thought it right and necessary to state them. But this statement of fact has, I know, given rise to doubts and misunderstandings, and I have carefully studied the comments made in the Committee of Twenty-Four. I wish to remove the doubts and misunderstandings which have arisen by making the following formal declarations.

"By drawing attention to these two facts it was not, and it is not now, the intention of my Government in any way to place obstacles in the way of the mission. On the contrary, my Government wishes to reaffirm its readiness to co-operate with the United Nations in working out practical steps by which the relevant resolutions can be implemented, and it is our clear and confirmed intention to co-operate with the mission to enable it to make a full and constructive contribution." 3/

The United Kingdom Government wishes to reaffirm its readiness to co-operate with the United Nations in the full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions at the earliest possible time and the working out of practical steps in this regard.

I trust that these assurances will clear the way for the appointment of the special mission and facilitate its urgent task.

I should be grateful if this note could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) CARADON

2/ A/PV.1436, p. 31.

3/ See A/C.4/SR.1633, p. 7.