

57. The CHAIRMAN wished Papua New Guinea well in its progress towards independence and prosperity.

AGENDA ITEM 70

United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (*continued*) (A/9854, A/C.4/L.1070)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

58. The CHAIRMAN announced that Belgium, Brazil, Finland, France, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Venezuela had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.1070.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

2119th meeting

Tuesday, 26 November 1974, at 3.25 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Buyantyn DASHTSEREN (Mongolia).

A/C.4/SR.2219

AGENDA ITEMS 13, 23, 64, 69 AND 12, 70 AND 71*

Agenda item 13 (*continued*) (A/9604, A/9727)

Agenda item 23 (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (*continued*) (A/9623 (parts I-IV and VI), A/9623/Add.4 (parts I and II), A/9623/Add.5 (parts I-V), A/9623/Add.6 (parts I and II), A/9654, A/9655, A/9714, A/9715, A/9736, A/9771, A/9802, A/9814, A/9821, A/9824, A/9861, A/C.4/L.1071)

Agenda item 64 (*continued*) (A/9623/Add.7, A/9867)

Agenda items 69 and 12 (*continued*) (A/9603 (chap. VI, sect. F), A/9623 (part VII), A/9638 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, A/9638/Add.2-5, A/9830)

Agenda item 70 (*continued*) (A/9845, A/C.4/L.1070)

Agenda item 71 (*continued*) (A/9877)

GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)

1. Mr. CRAW (New Zealand), speaking on item 23, introduced the members of the delegation from Niue, Mr. Vivian and Mr. Kalauni, representatives of the Government of Niue, who had travelled a long distance to take part in the work of the Committee.

2. The day on which Niue had acceded to full self-government in free association with New Zealand, 19 October 1974, had been a historic occasion for the two Governments directly concerned and for the Fourth Committee. Niue's progress towards self-government had been gradual, in accordance with the wishes of its people. The result was that they had arrived at self-government knowing precisely what was involved and with confidence in their ability to manage their own affairs.

3. New Zealand had always scrupulously fulfilled its obligations under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations. New Zealand and Niuean representatives had participated in the deliberations 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 and of the Fourth Committee. In addition, two Visiting Missions had been invited to Niue to observe its progress towards self-determination. The Special Committee had always displayed understanding of the special circumstances and problems confronting the people of Niue.

4. The outcome of Niue's act of self-determination was a logical result of the findings of the 1972 Visiting Mission to that Territory¹ and of General Assembly resolution 3155 (XXVIII). Both Niue and New Zealand were happy with the result. Since the act of self-determination, the future of Niue lay in the hands of the Niuean people who alone would determine their priorities. While the Government of Niue might take its decisions secure in the knowledge that it had New Zealand's friendship and support, it was responsible for its actions only to its own people.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. M. Y. Vivian and Mr. S. M. Kalauni, representatives of the Government of Niue, took places at the Committee table.

5. Mr. VIVIAN (representative of the Government of Niue), after reading out a message from the Premier of Niue in which the latter apologized for not being able to be present at the discussion in the Committee because the duties of his office kept him in Niue, said that the style of self-government chosen by Niue had been determined by the need to balance the desire of the Niuean people to maintain their traditional close ties with New Zealand and the need to give them the right to control their own affairs. The Constitution of Niue contained a number of unusual concepts and possibly some rather unique features. For example, the New Zealand Government had placed itself under an obligation to continue to provide Niue with economic and administrative support. Moreover, the Niueans remained New Zealand citizens. The essence of that arrangement was that, while the Niuean people continued to enjoy New Zealand assistance and citizenship, they lived beyond the legal jurisdiction of the New Zealand Government.

6. Another distinct feature of that arrangement was that the control of government in Niue was now effectively in the hands of the people. The Constitution of Niue could not be changed without a referendum, with different majorities according to the circumstances. To meet the wishes of the Niuean public servants, who had indicated that they wanted to remain independent from political control, a Public Service Commission had been established whose members included a high-ranking New Zealand official. The size of the public service was a reflection of the way New Zealand had always assisted Niue. In the face of Niuean migration to New Zealand and the need to retain a healthy public service, the New Zealand Government had agreed to link the employment conditions in the Niue public service with those available in New Zealand.

7. Recently, the New Zealand Government had abolished the portfolio of Island Affairs and its relations with Niue had

* For the title of each item, see "Agenda" on page ix.

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8723/Rev.1), chap. XVI, annex I.

been conducted through the New Zealand representative in Niue and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8. The Niueans were proud of their association with New Zealand and felt that their case might serve as an inspiration to other small Territories. They considered it the ideal solution to Niue's peculiar circumstances.

9. The Niucan people were grateful to New Zealand and to the United Nations for all they had done to enable them to assume control of their own affairs and hoped that the Committee would once again be able to adopt unanimously a draft resolution on the question of Niue.

10. Mr. SALIM (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking as Chairman of the Special Committee as well as Chairman of the 1972 Visiting Mission to Niue, expressed his satisfaction at seeing a delegation from Niue, consisting of Mr. M. Y. Vivian and Mr. S. M. Kalauni, representatives of the Government of Niue, present at a meeting of the Committee. It was a cause for rejoicing that the people of Niue had exercised their right to express their wishes regarding their future status in an act of self-determination.

11. The spirit of co-operation shown by the New Zealand Government in providing assistance to its Territories in order that they might achieve self-government and independence in the South Pacific was also worthy of note.

12. In 1972, the Visiting Mission had informed the Special Committee that a majority of the people of Niue favoured self-government but also wished to continue a close association with New Zealand.² The Special Mission sent to Niue in 1974 to observe the act of self-determination in that Territory had concluded in its report, annexed to chapter XXII of the report of the Special Committee, that, in accordance with the results of the voting, in which 97 per cent of the registered voters had participated and a substantial majority had voted for self-government in free association with New Zealand, the people of Niue had exercised their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles of the Charter (A/9623/Add.5 (part V), annex I, para. 146). Furthermore, the Special Mission had recommended a draft resolution for the Special Committee's consideration (*ibid.*, para. 147), in which, *inter alia*, the Special Committee would consider that, in view of the entry into force of the Niue Constitution Act of 1974 and the attainment by the Territory of self-government in free association with New Zealand, the transmission of information in respect of Niue under Article 73e of the Charter was no longer necessary.

13. Thus, the objectives of the United Nations Charter and of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples had been achieved. They were not easy objectives to achieve, although some countries did not understand that. The lesson to be learned from the developments in Niue was that there should be no conflict between the United Nations and the administering Power, and he hoped that other administering Powers would follow the example of New Zealand.

14. The members of the Special Mission to Niue had noted that the island, which was small in area and had only a few thousand inhabitants, was faced with a number of important problems, particularly its great isolation. However, a great future lay before it and with New Zealand's help it would achieve prosperity.

15. Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia), speaking as Chairman of Sub-Committee II of the Special Committee, which dealt with Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region, and as Chairman of the Special Mission which had observed the act of self-determination in Niue, associated himself with the remarks made by the Chairman of the Special Committee

and welcomed the presence of a representative of the Government of Niue in the Committee.

16. For his delegation, it was a source of particular satisfaction that the United Nations had been able to play a positive and constructive role in assisting the people of Niue to fulfil their wishes and aspirations. It demonstrated what could be accomplished where there was co-operation and goodwill on all sides. In the present case, a tribute should be paid to the Government of New Zealand for the generous way in which it had fulfilled its responsibilities towards the people of Niue and the manner in which it had discharged its obligations as a Member of the United Nations. The first United Nations Visiting Mission, in 1972, had helped the leaders and the people of Niue, as well as the administering Power, to arrive at a solution which was consistent with their desire to manage their own affairs and at the same time provided them with the guarantees that were necessitated by the small size of their country and its limited economic resources. It should be emphasized that the solution arrived at had been proposed by the people of Niue themselves and that they could modify it at any time, if they so wished, through due constitutional process.

17. In 1973, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3155 (XXVIII), in which it had requested the Special Committee to send a special mission to Niue to observe the proceedings relating to the act of self-determination by the people of Niue.

18. The Special Mission had included in its report (A/9623/Add.5 (part V), annex I) a full account of its activities and he was happy to state that it had received the fullest co-operation, both from the administering Power and from all the officials of the Government of Niue and that at no time had it encountered any obstacles in discharging its mandate. As explained in the report, the Special Mission had reached the conclusion that the people of Niue had exercised their right of self-determination freely and in accordance with the spirit of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That was also the opinion of the Special Committee when it had unanimously adopted the resolution set out in chapter XXII of its report (see A/9623/Add.5 (part V), para. 12).

19. In conclusion, speaking as the Chairman of the Special Mission, he expressed his profound gratitude to the Government of New Zealand for the exemplary manner in which it had co-operated with the Mission, enabling it to discharge its mandate under the best possible circumstances, and, most especially, to the Government and people of Niue, for the courtesy and hospitality they had displayed to the mission throughout its stay.

20. Mr. SHAHID-NOORAY (Iran) said that, since the representative of Ethiopia, who was the Chairman of the 1974 Special Mission, had already referred to the activities carried out by that Mission, he merely wished to point out that the report of the Mission had been adopted unanimously by its members and that his delegation, therefore, fully subscribed to the conclusions of the Special Committee.

21. Given the physical conditions, geographical situation and small population of Niue, the solution chosen by its people, after careful study of all aspects of the problem, was a wise decision, which they should have no cause to regret. He noted that, before the decision had been taken, the Government of New Zealand had pledged itself to a specific programme of financial aid to Niue over the following three years and to continuing assistance to a self-governing Niue in the years to come. Consequently, when the people of Niue had gone to the polls, they had been assured that their future welfare was in no way dependent upon how they might vote. Another point which should be emphasized was that the as-

² *Ibid.*, para. 267.

sociation between Niue and New Zealand was a free one and the people of Niue could modify it at any time if they so wished, in accordance with the procedures established in the Constitution drafted on the basis of proposals put forward by the people of Niue themselves.

22. The Special Mission had enjoyed every facility during the voting and the counting of the votes and he mentioned, in particular, the atmosphere of calm and tolerance which had prevailed during the voting and the way in which the electoral staff had carried out their instructions. The people of Niue had exercised their right of self-determination freely and under circumstances which had guaranteed the secrecy of the vote. That, in essence, was what the Special Mission had been asked to verify and, on the basis of that conclusion, it had decided that the results of the voting represented the clear and unequivocal choice of the people of Niue.

23. Speaking on a more personal note, he expressed appreciation for the hospitality of the people of Niue and the co-operation received from the leaders and people of Niue and the representatives of the New Zealand Government.

24. Mr. ARTEAGA (Venezuela), after welcoming Mr. M. Y. Vivian and Mr. S. M. Kalauni, the representatives of the Government of Niue, said that, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the people of Niue had exercised their right to self-determination in the referendum held on 3 September 1974. That act and its special consequences represented the culmination of an interesting and fruitful process in which the determination of the people of Niue, the positive attitude of New Zealand as the administering Power, and the active participation of the United Nations had all played a part.

25. In the context of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Niue constituted a striking example because it drew attention to the advantageous results which could be achieved when the open and flexible attitude of the administering Power enabled the United Nations to carry out its important obligations in the field of decolonization.

26. In the decolonization process, the administering Power must be prepared to promote the general development of a Territory under its administration and support the genuine interests of its indigenous inhabitants through the implementation of specific programmes of political education and economic assistance with a view to making the Territory a competent member of the international community. Equally important was the will of the people concerned to become masters of their own destiny and to prepare themselves properly with the help of the administering Power. Both elements had played a part in the case of Niue.

27. The sending of two Missions to the Territory was evidence of effective United Nations participation in the constitutional and political advancement of Niue. The first of those Missions had made a particularly important contribution with regard to the future status of the island and had formulated recommendations and conclusions which had been taken into account by New Zealand and the Niue authorities. Considerable constitutional progress had therefore been achieved in Niue, culminating in the act of self-determination which had been observed by the second United Nations Mission in which Venezuela had had the honour of participating.

28. By a large majority, the people of Niue had chosen self-government in free association with New Zealand on the basis of the Constitution and the Niue Constitution Act of 1974. The referendum had been conducted in a democratic, civic and orderly fashion and had been preceded by careful preparations during which the population of the island had been informed about its scope and significance. Mention

should also be made of the determination of Niue to maintain its own constitutional and political identity and to preserve its own way of life. The fact that the Government of New Zealand had undertaken to continue to provide economic and administrative assistance to Niue in its new status was also important. The specialized agencies of the United Nations could play an important role in the economic development of the Territory and he hoped that they would do so.

29. Mrs. SKOTTSBERG-ÅHMAN (Sweden) said that her delegation was happy to share with the distinguished member of the Niuean Government, Mr. Vivian, the satisfaction of witnessing the emergence of Niue from colonial status to full self-government. The tale of Niue's road to self-determination was without strife or bitterness in a world full of conflicts, hate and violence. It was a tale of what could be accomplished when goodwill, trust and simple human decency were allowed to go to work. Thanks to the willing co-operation of New Zealand, the United Nations had had the opportunity to acquaint itself with some of the problems faced by the people of that tiny island and to follow closely the working out of a solution best suited to the needs of Niue and corresponding to the wishes of its people. The United Nations had thus been able to play its part in the process of decolonization.

30. On 3 September 1974, an impressive majority of the registered Niuean voters had chosen freely and knowingly the kind of constitutional system they wanted to be theirs. That act had been the crowning of a long process started in the early 1960s, when the first consultations concerning the future of the island had been held between the administering Power and the people of Niue.

31. The 1972 Visiting Mission to Niue had been struck by the keen interest with which the villagers had taken part in the discussions on their future status and the frankness with which they had expressed their opinions. At the same time, the Mission had felt that there was a need for further sustained efforts and intensified political education at a time when the Territory was going through a process of rapid change.

32. The report of the 1974 Mission (A/9623/Add.5 (part V), annex I) clearly demonstrated that, during the two years which had elapsed since the visit of the previous Mission, everything possible had been done both by New Zealand and by the leaders of Niue to inform the people of the issues involved and the decision they were about to take. The Mission had concluded that the Niuean voters were fully aware of the implications and significance of the act of self-determination.

33. Her delegation was pleased to have become a sponsor of the draft resolution recording the United Nations recognition of the important decision taken by the Niuean people (A/C.4/L.1071).

34. The outcome of the process gave reason to pay tribute to New Zealand for its enlightened and generous stewardship, to the United Nations, which had approached the special problems of Niue with understanding and realism, and, of course, first and foremost, to the people of Niue itself.

35. In conclusion, she congratulated the people of Niue and wished them a prosperous future. She asked Mr. Vivian to communicate her good wishes to Mr. Robert Rex, Leader of Government of Niue.

36. Mr. BUNE (Fiji), speaking on item 23, said that his delegation welcomed the recent developments in Niue and had the honour of conveying the congratulations of the people and Government of Fiji to the distinguished representative of Niue, Mr. Vivian, on the historic occasion of the island's accession to full self-government in free association with New Zealand. By voting overwhelmingly in favour of self-government in free association with New Zealand, the people of

Niue had exercised their right of self-determination in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. While it could be said that the form of Government which the people of Niue had freely chosen for themselves was not the goal which some delegations might have generally envisaged for dependent Territories, it was the choice of the people of Niue. His delegation was pleased to note that the Niue Constitution Act of 1974 recognized the right of the people of Niue to modify or amend their present status through due constitutional process.

37. The Government and people of Fiji maintained close relations with the Government and people of Niue and looked forward to continued mutual co-operation in regional matters, in particular, the participation of Niue in the various regional institutions in the Pacific.

38. The Government of New Zealand deserved to be commended for the exemplary manner in which it had fulfilled its role as administering Power and in particular for the enlightened and objective approach they had taken with regard to that country's dependent Territories. Niue was an eloquent example of the way in which colonial peoples of small Territories could achieve self-determination when the political will existed between the parties concerned and the full co-operation of the administering Power was assured.

39. The people and Government of Fiji were confident that Niue would contribute significantly towards harmony and co-operation amongst all the peoples of the South Pacific. Fiji, as a member of the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Forum, had followed with keen interest the economic and political developments in the dependent Territories and was deeply aware of the difficulties facing many of the smaller Territories with respect to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Fiji held the view that the progress of dependent Territories towards self-government and independence must be considered in the light of the needs and circumstances of each individual Territory. The formula of self-determination and independence accepted in the case of larger colonial Territories could not always be fully applied to small Territories, thus presenting problems to the peoples of such Territories as well as to those administering Powers which genuinely sought to promote self-determination for those peoples. It was for such reasons and in conformity with the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples that the delegation of Fiji held the view that no satisfactory solution to the problem of small Territories could be achieved unless the people of the Territories themselves were fully consulted and their views concerning their future ascertained and respected.

40. With regard to Pitcairn, his delegation acknowledged that the problem posed by that Territory was unique and most difficult. Given its sparse population, the prospect of constitutional development in the accepted sense was extremely remote. The chief concern should be the welfare of the Territory's inhabitants and it was to be hoped that the administering Power would continue to give special consideration to that aspect of the question.

41. In the British Solomon Islands a new Constitution had come into effect on 21 August 1974, which, according to a statement made by the administering Power, represented the penultimate stage in the evolution of the Territory towards full internal self-government. His delegation welcomed those developments and hoped that the administering Power would ensure that momentum was not lost and would continue to guide the inhabitants of the Territory towards self-government and, if the majority of the people so wished, independence.

42. With respect to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the United Nations Visiting Mission to that Territory had noted in its

report annexed to chapter XXI of the report of the Special Committee that an overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Ellice Island had voted in a recent referendum for separation from Gilbert Island (see A/9623/Add.5 (part IV), annex I, para. 303). Although that separation would mean the fragmentation of an already small Territory, the delegation of Fiji held the view that the wishes of the majority of the population should be respected. Likewise, his delegation noted and welcomed the assurance given by the administering Power that it would look after the interests of both groups and promote their development.

43. His delegation welcomed the number of reforms proposed for the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides in the joint British-French communiqué of 5 November 1974 (A/9861, annex). At the twenty-eighth session—less than one year ago—his delegation had referred to the New Hebrides as the most absurd illustration of non-co-operation between two major colonial Powers (2070th meeting). According to the statement of one of the administering Powers at the 2116th meeting, the reforms covered a very wide range of matters and were designed to encourage the legitimate aspirations of the inhabitants of the New Hebrides to play a greater part in the management of their affairs. His delegation sincerely hoped that both Governments would take immediate steps to translate the substance of their joint communiqué into reality and would always respect the wishes and aspirations of the indigenous inhabitants of the New Hebrides and their right to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

44. With respect to the French dependent Territories in the Pacific, he pointed out that the administering Power had not made any effort to implement the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in those Territories. Instead, the French Government had attempted to assimilate those Territories to its metropolitan territory by designating them as "overseas territories". There was no doubt that throughout the long history of decolonization in the Pacific Territories, the French Government had the most deplorable record of conduct. France had continued to exploit the inhabitants of its dependent Territories and had never given the least sign that it intended to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

45. As an example of the way in which the French Government was frustrating the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of its dependent Territories in the Pacific, he read from an article which had appeared in the August 1974 issue of the *Pacific Islands Monthly* reporting the resignation of Mr. Gosse, a member of the New Caledonian Territorial Assembly, because New Caledonians had no control over their own Territory.

46. His delegation had in the past told the Committee that colonial domination and exploitation of the people and resources of the Territories of the Pacific had taken a new turn. The administering Power was abusing the environment by conducting nuclear tests in French Polynesia. The region of the South Pacific where Fiji was situated had also fallen victim to that callous disregard of world opinion.

47. Mr. GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD (France), speaking on a point of order, said that the question of nuclear tests was not on the Committee's agenda.

48. Mr. BUNE (Fiji) said that, if the representative of France allowed him to continue, he would find that he was referring to the question of decolonization. He said that, in spite of the indignation of the peoples of the Pacific, France, which prided itself on its culture and civilization, was arrogantly disregarding the opinions of the world community, including those expressed in United Nations resolutions.

49. The concerns of the people of the Pacific could not be dismissed, as they had been by the French, as being just emotional. They were genuine concerns of people who were subjected to the hazard of nuclear weapons tests year after year and who relied heavily on the resources of the sea for their diet.

50. The tests were conducted in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of French Polynesia. No legal fiction could alter the fact of geography that the French Territories in the Pacific were not part of metropolitan France, just as Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau had never been provinces of metropolitan Portugal. They were in fact colonial Territories, which had never achieved self-determination. The exploitation of dependent Territories for the purpose of nuclear tests could not be considered to be in conformity with Article 73 of the United Nations Charter. No one could say that those tests were in any way beneficial to the peoples of those Territories. They were a breach of a sacred trust by the administering Power.

51. His delegation maintained that the question of nuclear explosions in French Polynesia was not only a question of disarmament; it was equally a question of decolonization—that of establishing whether the United Nations would permit the exploitation of a dependent colonial people in its own Territory by the administering Power, namely, France.

52. France had recently announced its intention to explode devices underground, with effect from 1975. For the peoples of the Pacific, that was a humiliation rather than a concession. Fiji considered that the decision showed complete disregard for the wishes of the peace-loving peoples of the South Pacific.

53. His delegation would not be satisfied with any draft resolution on the small Pacific Territories unless it reflected Fiji's deep concern at the continued French nuclear testing in the Pacific and called upon France to discontinue its programme of nuclear testing in those Territories.

54. Mr. GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD (France), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Fiji had made statements which he could not let pass. Under the United Nations Charter, the determination of Non-Self-Governing Territories came with the competence of the administering Power. The Territories in question formed part of the French Republic and their inhabitants had democratically manifested their desire to continue to be part of France. For that reason further polemics on the issue were unnecessary.

55. Mr. TAKASUGI (Japan) said that his country had closely watched developments in Niue in recent years. His delegation was therefore gratified to note that the people of Niue had exercised their right of self-determination in a referendum and determined their future status. The Special Mission dispatched to observe the referendum in Niue had confirmed that it had been conducted in accordance with the principles of the Charter (see A/9623/Add.5 (part V), annex I, para. 146). That act of self-determination, which Japan considered to be a significant contribution to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and to the strengthening of international peace and security in the area, had been made possible by the concerted efforts of all parties concerned and in a spirit of mutual trust. The practical and co-operative approach of New Zealand and the flexible and realistic attitude of Niue, together with the unlimited support given by the United Nations, should be remembered.

56. The Government of New Zealand had taken the commendable step of committing itself to furnishing economic and administrative assistance to Niue after it had attained self-government. The Territory's economy was forced to depend heavily on that of New Zealand, owing to its limited area

and geographical isolation and the scantiness of its economic resources. The case of Niue should serve as an example to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly those whose geographical, population and economic circumstances were similar.

57. Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that the case of Niue was an encouraging example of the constructive role of the United Nations in the political development of small Territories. The report of the Special Mission to Niue (*ibid.*, annex I), which was of a high standard, could serve as a guide to the Special Committee in its consideration of the special circumstances prevailing in the other small Territories that were still on the Committee's agenda.

58. In the report of the Mission, which had performed its task with distinction, he was particularly pleased to note the content of paragraph 83-85, on the political education programme for the Niueans. The organization of the referendum and the arrangements that had helped the Mission in its task were fine examples of the constructive role that a visiting mission could play in such a process.

59. In its capacity as administering Power, New Zealand had acted in exemplary fashion. His delegation complimented New Zealand and warmly congratulated the people of Niue. As nations of the Pacific, Niue and Australia had many interests in common, and Australia was prepared to co-operate with Niue in every possible way, in a spirit of good-neighbourliness.

60. Mr. RICHARDSON (United Kingdom) said that the decision taken by the people of Niue in favour of self-government in free association with New Zealand, and their approval of the new Constitution, had twofold significance: they provided clear evidence of the sense of responsibility with which the administering Power had honoured its obligations to the people of Niue under Article 73 of the Charter and they were an excellent illustration of respect for and realization of the principle of self-determination and of the overriding importance of the people themselves on whose behalf the administering Power exercised responsibility.

61. He welcomed the report of the Special Mission to Niue (*ibid.*), in which the Mission expressed its unqualified praise for the way in which the transfer of power to the islanders had been accomplished. Reviewing the developments leading up to the referendum—developments which had begun with consultations between the administering Power and the inhabitants of Niue in 1962—he said that the Niueans had regarded the retention of their New Zealand citizenship as of major importance; at the same time, they had wanted the control over their internal affairs, which would enable them to preserve their own way of life while keeping the New Zealand financial aid essential for the maintenance of an acceptable standard of living on the island. Those requirements had been met by the island's new self-governing status.

62. His Government felt confident that the principles of self-determination and respect for the wishes of the people would continue to be borne in mind in the case of the other Territories with which the Committee was concerned.

63. Mr. ELLIOTT (Canada) said that the Committee was in the process of considering a number of items, most of them related to the work of the Special Committee. His delegation had examined the chapters of the report on item 23 in document A/9623 and its addenda, which provided a wealth of information about the position of smaller Territories which had not yet attained independence. In his delegation's opinion, it would be useful in future for the Committee to have such information as early as possible and to consider the item at an earlier point in its agenda so that it could be given the careful attention it deserved.

64. The situation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories differed widely as between different geographic areas and even within geographic areas. As a result, solutions to the problems involved should take account of those differences and in particular of the freely expressed wishes of their peoples. His delegation drew attention to the understanding and flexible attitude which the Special Committee had recently demonstrated with regard to the expressed wishes of the peoples of the smaller Territories.

65. His Government considered that the decolonization process should essentially be the result of dealings between the parties directly concerned, namely, the administering Power and the Non-Self-Governing Territory, and that the role of the United Nations was to ensure that the rights of the peoples of those Territories and their economic and social development were guaranteed. The United Nations should also be prepared to render all possible assistance for the implementation of the decolonization process.

66. The continuing co-operation of Australia, New Zealand and the United States, and the recent decisions of the United Kingdom and Portugal to work closely with the Special Committee in its consideration of the Territories under their administration had produced positive results, since the Visiting Missions to the Territories concerned had gained a greater understanding of the conditions and problems of the peoples of those Territories and had transmitted their findings to the Committee.

67. His delegation had noted with satisfaction the arrangement arrived at between the Government of New Zealand and that of Niue, which guaranteed the autonomous status of Niue in free association with New Zealand and included a commitment of economic assistance from New Zealand for that Territory. His delegation had also noted the decision of the Governments of the United Kingdom and France to bring about a more normal situation for the peoples of the New Hebrides, and that of the Government of France to organize within a few months a referendum leading to the independence of the Comoro Archipelago.

68. Turning to item 13, he said that his Government was pleased to be one of the sponsors of the draft resolution on Papua and New Guinea (A/C.4/L.1074), which acknowledged the imminent ending of the trusteeship relationship between Australia and that country, on a date to be determined by the Government of Papua New Guinea. His delegation applauded the extraordinary co-operation that had been developed between the two countries and the way in which the Government of Australia had over a period of 20 years contributed to the economic and social development of the Territories in question and had assisted their peoples in their preparations for independence; that country would thus be able to begin its life as an independent State with trained ministers, officials and diplomats who had already had some experience in the roles which they would fulfil in an independent State.

69. Mr. MAYNARD (Barbados), in connexion with item 23, said that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Home Affairs of Belize was in New York City and was in a position to provide information on the situation prevailing in that Territory and the aspirations of its people. He suggested that advantage should be taken of the presence of that high-ranking official by granting him a hearing in the Committee at some point.

70. Mrs. JOKA-BANGURA (Sierra Leone) supported the suggestion of the representative of Barbados.

71. The CHAIRMAN said that the delegation of Barbados, supported by the delegation of Sierra Leone, had suggested that the Committee should grant a hearing to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Home Affairs of Belize. If there was

no objection, he would take it that the Committee decided to grant a hearing to the official in question at a suitable time.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 23

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Territories not covered under other agenda items) (continued) (A/9623 (parts I-IV and VI), A/9623/Add.4 (parts I and II), A/9623/Add.5 (parts I-V), A/9623/Add.6 (parts I and II), A/9654, A/9714, A/9715, A/9736, A/9771, A/9802, A/9814, A/9821, A/9824, A/9861, A/C.4/1071)

QUESTION OF NIUE: CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

72. Mr. TADESSE (Ethiopia), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/L.1071, pointed out that it was intended to complete the process of decolonization and was based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Mission dispatched to Niue in August 1974 to observe the act of self-determination in that Territory (A/9623/Add.5 (part V), annex I, paras. 142-147), which had been unanimously endorsed by the Special Committee.

73. He commented on the fourth, fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs and summarized the content of paragraphs 2 to 5. He drew attention to an important point in paragraph 6: the transmission of information in respect of Niue under Article 73e of the Charter was no longer necessary. With regard to paragraph 7, he said that, as indicated in the report of the 1972 Visiting Mission to Niue,¹ the people of the island had been anxious about their economic future, but that their anxiety had been relieved by New Zealand's promise of economic and administrative assistance to the island, a fact that was noted with appreciation in that paragraph. As stated in paragraph 8, it was to be hoped that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the agencies associated with the United Nations would endeavour to contribute to the development and strengthening of the economy of Niue. Finally, he urged that the draft resolution should be adopted unanimously, as a corollary of the co-operation between the United Nations and New Zealand in ensuring that Niue exercised its right of self-determination.

Mr. Vivian and Mr. Kalauni withdrew.

AGENDA ITEM 70

United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (continued) (A/9845, A/C.4/L.1070)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

74. Mr. ELLIOTT (Canada) said that the objective of the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa was to give training and education to young people from the countries of southern Africa still under colonial administration in order to prepare them to become responsible citizens and perhaps even leaders of their own countries when they became independent. During the five years of its existence, the Programme had provided fellowships to a total of 1,131 young people from Namibia, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe. So far 215 students had completed their studies or training. Contributions from 5 countries had totalled \$4.7 million and, in addition, 21 Governments had offered scholarships for study in their countries. Apart from that participation, there had been notable co-operation on the part of the Governments that had

received scholarship-holders in their institutions and had demonstrated a particular interest in the special position of the students involved. The role played by several African States, in particular, should be mentioned. Draft resolution A/C.4/L.1070 closely resembled those of previous years but contained two new elements. The first was paragraph 4, under which the Assembly would decide that assistance under the Programme should be continued, as a transitional measure and at the request of the Governments concerned, for the inhabitants of Guinea-Bissau and of other Territories covered by the Programme which might attain independence. That paragraph reflected the opinion of the members of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa to the effect that it would be unfortunate to discontinue assistance to students from Guinea-Bissau or other Territories who had only partially completed their studies or to cut off precipitately the possibility of providing fellowships to students of those countries before other multilateral and bilateral fellowship programmes were instituted. Continuation of that transitional measure would depend entirely on the Governments concerned.

75. The second new provision of the draft resolution was paragraph 6, which requested the Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to arrange for an evaluation of the Programme. It was hardly necessary to say that the paragraph was not intended to question the merits of the Programme, but rather to reflect the general feeling that, after five years of the Programme's existence and in the light of its importance, it was time for the Advisory Committee to consider whether the Programme was having the desired effect. It would be particularly interesting to investigate, for example, the question whether the graduates had found their studies suitable to their individual needs and whether they had managed to find employment after completing their studies. The evaluation would be financed through the \$100,000 transitional allocation from the regular budget. Contributions to the Programme had almost reached the point at which the Programme could be regarded as self-supporting. The transitional allocation for 1975 for the purpose of covering the cost of the evaluation in question was acceptable, but his Government suggested that it should be terminated in 1976, since the Programme would by then be firmly established. Continuing voluntary support for the Programme would obviate the need for the transitional allocation.

76. In conclusion, he invited the countries that had not yet done so to consider the possibility of joining those that were co-operating in the Programme.

77. The CHAIRMAN announced that Turkey had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.1070.

AGENDA ITEM 67

Question of Southern Rhodesia (continued)* (A/9623/Add.2, A/9809, A/C.4/777, A/C.4/L.1067 and Corr.1, A/C.4/L.1068 and Corr.1)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)*

78. The CHAIRMAN announced that Kuwait had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/L.1067 and Corr.1 and A/C.4/L.1068 and Corr.1.

AGENDA ITEM 65

Question of Namibia (continued) (A/9623/Add.3, A/9624 (vol. I), A/9624 (vol. II), A/9624/Add.1, A/9725 and Corr.1, A/9728, A/9775-S/11519, A/9786-S/11526, A/C.4/779, A/C.4/L.1066 and Corr.1, A/C.4/L.1072, A/C.4/L.1073)**

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

79. The CHAIRMAN announced that Kuwait and Somalia had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/C.4/L.1072 and A/C.4/L.1073.

80. Mr. SINCLAIR (Guyana) said that his delegation wished to be one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.1072.

AGENDA ITEM 68

Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories under Portuguese domination and in all other Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued)* (A/9623 (part V), A/C.4/L.1069)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

81. The CHAIRMAN said that Kuwait had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/L.1069.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

* Resumed from the 2117th meeting.

** Resumed from the 2110th meeting.