



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/34/784
7 December 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-fourth session
Agenda item 127

QUESTION OF THE ISLANDS OF GLORIEUSES, JUAN DE NOVA,
EUROPA AND BASSAS DA INDIA

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Paul COTTON (New Zealand)

1. In a letter dated 12 November 1979 addressed to the Secretary-General (A/34/245), the Permanent Representative of Madagascar to the United Nations requested the inclusion in the agenda of the thirty-fourth session of the General Assembly of an additional item entitled "Question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India". Attached to the letter were an explanatory memorandum, submitted in accordance with rule 20 of the procedure of the General Assembly, and four appendices.
2. At its 70th plenary meeting, on 16 November 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.
3. The Special Political Committee examined the item at its 37th, 38th and 39th meetings, on 27, 28 and 30 November 1979.
4. At its 37th meeting, on 27 November, the Special Political Committee heard a statement by the representative of Madagascar, who introduced a draft resolution (A/SPC/34/L.21) sponsored by Algeria, Angola, Benin, the Congo, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania, subsequently joined by Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone.
5. At its 39th meeting, on 30 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/34/L.21 by a roll-call vote of 74 to 6, with 34 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cape Verde, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Yemen, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Belgium, France, Italy, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

6. Statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of France, Togo, Zaire, Gabon, Chile, the Philippines, Greece and Morocco.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

7. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova,
Europa and Bassas da India

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, setting forth the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling also the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, set forth in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

/...

Considering its resolution 34/21 of 9 November 1979, as well as previous resolutions on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Bearing in mind the decisions on the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its fifteenth and sixteenth regular sessions, held respectively at Khartoum from 18 to 22 July 1978 and at Monrovia from 17 to 20 July 1979,

Noting the section concerning the Malagasy islands in the Indian Ocean of the Final Declaration of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979, 1/

Recalling the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Noting the claim by Madagascar for the reintegration of the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India,

Considering that the Government of Madagascar has repeatedly signified its willingness to enter into negotiations with the Government of France with a view to finding a solution to the question in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Reaffirms the necessity of scrupulously respecting the national unity and territorial integrity of a colonial territory at the time of its accession to independence;
2. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.732 (XXXIII) on the islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its sixteenth ordinary session; 2/
3. Invites the Government of France to initiate negotiations with the Government of Madagascar without further delay for the reintegration of the above-mentioned islands, which were arbitrarily separated from Madagascar;
4. Requests the Government of France to repeal the measures which infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Madagascar and to refrain from taking other measures that would have the same effect and could hinder the search for a just solution to the present dispute;

1/ See A/34/542.

2/ A/34/552, p. 32.

5. Invites the Secretary-General to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;

6. Decides to include an item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India" in the provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session.