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## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

### Report of the President of the Council

1. At its resumed forty-fifth session the Council agreed that the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Implementation of the Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples should hold further consultations on the Implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and that a report should be submitted to the Council at its forty-seventh session. At its twenty-third session the General Assembly adopted resolution 2426 (XXIII) on this same question, in operative paragraph 7 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council "to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant General Assembly resolutions".
  2. Accordingly, the President of the Council held consultations on this question with the Chairman of the Special Committee in Geneva on 17 July 1969.
  3. The Chairman recalled that the Special Committee had recently given renewed consideration to the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in accordance with operative paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII). In doing so, the Committee had had before it a report submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Assembly's request that he should "obtain and transmit to the Special Committee for its consideration concrete suggestions from
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the specialized agencies and international institutions concerned as regards the best ways and means of achieving the full and speedy implementation of the relevant resolutions" (resolution 2426 (XXIII), operative paragraph 8 (b)).

4. The Chairman said that, judging from the statements made during the Special Committee's consideration of the item, and from his conversations, members of the Committee were appreciative of the serious efforts made by a number of the specialized agencies and international institutions to find ways of implementing the Declaration within the scope of their respective activities. Members had noted the view expressed by the ACC at its spring session that the offers of increased support for the work on behalf of refugees from the colonial territories in Africa, made by most members of the United Nations system, had already been translated into positive results and that the arrangements agreed upon by the ad hoc inter-agency meeting convened, following an ACC decision, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during January 1969 should pave the way for further increased inter-agency co-operation in this field. They had also noted the considerable progress made in co-operation with the High Commissioner for Refugees as well as through the relationship agreements and other special arrangements with the Organization of African Unity in working out measures to increase the scope of assistance which could be provided by the agencies to refugees from the colonial territories in Africa.

5. In addition, members had recalled that in adopting resolution 2426 (XXIII), the General Assembly was aware that the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions was a matter that would require continuing attention. It was for that reason that the General Assembly had invited the Secretary-General to obtain and transmit to the Special Committee concrete suggestions from the specialized agencies and international institutions regarding the best ways and means of achieving the full and speedy implementation of the relevant resolutions. However, it had been noted from the Secretary-General's report that only a few of these bodies had found it possible to submit concrete suggestions.

6. The Chairman suggested and the President agreed that the Council for its part might invite the specialized agencies to participate fully in the discussion at its forty-seventh session of the question of the further measures to be taken for the co-ordination of ~~their policies and activities in implementing the relevant General Assembly~~ resolutions. The Chairman also felt that any suggestions the executive heads might be able to advance in that regard should be useful.

7. The Chairman of the Committee expressed the hope that the specialized agencies and international institutions in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would intensify their efforts to increase the scope of their assistance to refugees from the colonial territories, including assistance to the Governments concerned in the preparation and execution of projects beneficial to such refugees. The President of the Council noted that the ACC under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General had expressed the same view at its last session. Further, the Chairman considered it desirable that, in order to facilitate the working out of concrete programmes of assistance as envisaged in operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII), recourse should be had to the establishment of relationship agreements or other special arrangements with OAU.

8. As regards procedural aspects, the Chairman and the President noted that, in the opinion of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the existing arrangements for inter-agency co-operation required to be strengthened in order to facilitate the planning and implementation of joint or complementary activities and to permit of a concerted approach to existing refugee problems. They also took note of the hope expressed by the High Commissioner that greater flexibility could be introduced into procedures currently followed by some of the agencies in the field of assistance to refugees. The Chairman cited, for instance, the practice of requiring, for the purpose of establishing projects for refugees or including them in such projects, separate governmental requests to the respective agencies concerned. In this connexion the arrangements approved by the ILO at its 173rd session of the Governing Body, under which assistance to refugees sponsored by UNHCR would be given by the ILO upon a request by the High Commissioner, were an example of the kind of flexibility envisaged.

9. Lastly, the Chairman suggested that the Council should consider inviting the executive heads of agencies to bring the attention of their governing bodies, or deliberative organs as appropriate, the specific problems which they might be encountering in their efforts to give effect to the relevant General Assembly resolutions. This would provide the States Members of those bodies an opportunity to take the necessary action in accordance with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII) to initiate such policy and other changes as were required to give speedy and full effect to the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

10. The President of the Council had no objection to this suggestion. Consequently, if this question was brought to the attention of the governing bodies, the executive heads might at the same time be invited to provide an account of such action as their respective governing or legislative organs had been able to take so far. In addition, the executive heads might in due course be requested to report to the Secretary-General for the information of the United Nations bodies concerned on the results of the consideration of the matter by those organs.

11. Finally, the Chairman and the President agreed that, in view of the foregoing, it might be desirable for the Council to give continuing attention to this question and for the President to maintain contacts with the Chairman in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2426 (XXIII).