

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/5079
26 October 1971

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Resumed fifty-first session
Agenda item 5

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 Economic and Social Council

1. At its forty-ninth session, the Economic and Social Council, by adopting resolution 1534 (XLIX) of 24 July 1970, endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the President on this item (E/4892 and Corr. 1). One of these conclusions was that:

"Guided by such decisions as might be taken by the Special Committee, by the Council and by the General Assembly, the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee should maintain contact with each other on the question."

2. On 27 August 1970, the Special Committee, following its consideration of the item, adopted a resolution, by paragraph 15 of which it requested its Chairman to continue his consultations on the item with the President of the Economic and Social Council.^{1/}

3. At its twenty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 2704 (XXV) of 14 December 1970 concerning the item, in paragraph 13 of which it requested the Council to continue 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.

^{1/} Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/8023), part IV, chap. IV.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the President of the Council held consultations on the question with the Chairman of the Special Committee on 26 October 1971.

5. The Chairman informed the President that the Special Committee had concluded its consideration of the item and had adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/387) on 21 October 1971. In that connexion, the Special Committee had before it the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of paragraph 14 (a) of resolution 2704 (XXV). The Special Committee had also taken into account the report on the item which the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination had adopted during the first part of its tenth session (E/5072), as well as the relevant section of the thirty-seventh report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (E/5012 (part I)). The views of the members of the Special Committee were fully reflected in the records of its meetings (A/AC.109/PV.809, 815, 823, 829 and 830).

6. Following an exchange of views, the President of the Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee agreed that considerable progress had indeed been made, under the aegis of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in enlarging its participation of many of the organizations concerned in refugee assistance programmes benefiting the colonial peoples in Africa and that those organizations were to be commended for their initiative and for their positive response to the relevant recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. At the same time, the two presiding officers agreed that the capacity of the United Nations High Commissioner to extend assistance to refugees would be enhanced if the host Governments were to accord high priority to development projects carried out in co-operation with the agencies concerned which would be beneficial to the refugees, and if the Governments could grant them an adequate legal status including work permits and, where needed, travel documents with an appropriate return clause.

7. The Chairman of the Special Committee noted that only a limited role had so far been played by the United Nations Development Programme and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the field of refugee assistance and observed that, in view of the resources available to them, they should participate more actively in refugee assistance activities. In this connexion the President of the Council stated that he had been informed of UNDP's readiness, subject to appropriate requests being submitted by Governments and to authorization by its

Governing Council, to consider financing educational and training projects beneficial to refugees from within the resources available for interregional projects. The President added that, according to his information, UNDP was also considering, for submission to its Governing Council, proposals for an agreement for mutual co-operation with the Organization of African Unity which might cover technical assistance to OAU, within agreed monetary limits and larger projects involving intercountry subregional or regional co-operation. The Chairman, in welcoming this development, stressed that these arrangements should not be regarded as an end in themselves but that they were a means for the implementation of the relevant provisions of resolution 2704 (XXV).

8. The Chairman of the Special Committee concurred in the view of the President of the Council that there was a need to bring into proper relationship the activities undertaken by the various organizations of the United Nations system in the field of education and training for the colonial peoples of southern Africa, and, in that connexion, to maintain close contact with the Organization of African Unity Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees. Recalling that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination has been provided with an oral progress report on the consultations which had taken place to this end, the two presiding officers expressed the hope that the matter would be covered in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly under paragraph 14 (b) of resolution 2704 (XXV).

9. As regards the extension of moral and material assistance, through OAU, to the national liberation movements in the colonial Territories in Africa, the two presiding officers noted that a number of agencies had sent special missions to consult with OAU as regards the needs and the possibilities. In their view, the active initiative of OAU and the closest liaison between it and the agencies concerned were essential for the formulation of the desired programmes of assistance; OAU was in a unique position to provide the agencies with a systematic assessment of the requirements of the national liberation movements and to act as a channel for assistance to the movements from those agencies. They also agreed that those agencies which had not as yet established contact with OAU or discussed with it the ways in which they could extend assistance to the peoples of the Territories should be urged to do so as soon as possible.

10. With respect to the provisions of resolution 2704 (XXV) calling for the discontinuance of all collaboration with and assistance to the régimes pursuing colonialist and racialist policies in southern Africa, the two presiding officers agreed that it was for the executive heads of the agencies to bring to the attention of their respective legislative agencies, for the necessary decisions, any constitutional, legal or other difficulties that might exist. In that connexion, the President noted, with reference to paragraph 8 of resolution 2704 (XXV) that UNESCO's decision to extend assistance to the liberation movements concerned had led to Portugal's announcement of its intention to withdraw from that agency. The President also noted, and commended, the resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO which inter alia called for an investigation of international intergovernmental organizations enjoying relations with the agency, which had branches, sections, affiliates or constituent parts in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia or Portuguese-dominated African Territories, with respect to the practice of racial discrimination or segregation in their policies, activities, or membership or their co-operation in any way with the South African Government's policy of apartheid. The President suggested, and the Chairman agreed, that the Economic and Social Council might consider ways and means of enlisting the support of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council in the achievement of the objectives of General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV).

11. Both the President and the Chairman noted the absence, from the Secretary-General's comprehensive report, of information on action taken or envisaged by the various units within the United Nations itself, including those concerned with technical assistance, in implementation of the above-mentioned provisions of resolution 2704 (XXV). They expressed the hope that such information would be included in future reports of the Secretary-General on the item.

12. Referring to the provisions of the resolutions which concerned the possible participation of representatives of liberation movements of the Territories in agency conferences, seminars and meetings, the President regretted that the Secretary-General's comprehensive report did not contain adequate information on action taken by the agencies. As regards the legal and procedural problems encountered by some agencies in that connexion, to which reference is made in the report, the President shared the view of the Chairman that they were not incapable

of solution. The two presiding officers noted that it was the intention of the Secretary-General to include an analysis of those problems in his report to the General Assembly under operative paragraph 14 (b) of General Assembly resolution 2704 (XXV). In the same connexion, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to a resolution adopted by the Special Committee on 9 September 1971 following its consideration of the situation in Southern Rhodesia, Namibia and Territories under Portuguese administration (A/8423/Add. 1, chap. V, para. 19), by which it, inter alia, decided to study the possibility of associating representatives of the national liberation movements of those Territories more closely with its work. The President of the Council, for his part, referred to the arrangements which were awaiting approval by the General Assembly, under which representatives of certain of those liberation movements would participate in meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa. The two presiding officers considered that those measures were useful examples of the ways in which effect could be given to the wishes of the General Assembly in the matter.

13. Stressing the importance of keeping the matters raised above under review, and of following up the constructive discussions which had taken place on the item during the year in the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Special Committee, the President and the Chairman agreed that it was desirable for those bodies to continue to give consideration thereto at their sessions next year. In conclusion, the President and the Chairman agreed that, guided by such decisions as might be taken by the Council and the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session, they should maintain contact with each other on the question.
