

VII. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED ON THE REPORTS OF THE FOURTH COMMITTEE<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For the decisions adopted on the reports of the Fourth Committee, see sect. X.B.5

**39/30. Question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands**

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands,

*Having heard* the statements of the representatives of Australia,<sup>2</sup>

*Having heard* the statement of the Chairman of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

*Recalling also* its decision 38/412 of 7 December 1983, by which it noted, *inter alia*, that the administering Power had discussed with the representatives of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community the question of holding an act of

self-determination to determine their future political status, and its decision 38/420 of 7 December 1983, by which it authorized the Secretary-General to appoint and dispatch a United Nations mission to visit the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 1984 and requested him to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the findings of the mission,

*Having heard* the statement of the Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission<sup>4</sup> dispatched to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in April 1984 pursuant to General Assembly decision 38/420 and having considered the report of the Visiting Mission,<sup>5</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the active participation of the administering Power in the work 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 in regard to the Cocos (Keeling)

<sup>2</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Fourth Committee, 15th meeting, paras. 6-9 and 21.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 10-13.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 2-5.

<sup>5</sup> A/39/494, annex.

Islands and the co-operation it has extended to the Committee, including the receiving of visiting missions to the Territory in 1974 and 1980,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the observations and recommendations of the United Nations Visiting Mission to **Observe** the Act of Self-Determination in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 1984;<sup>6</sup>

2. *Takes note* that the people of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands voted by a substantial majority for integration with Australia;

3. *Endorses* the view of the Visiting Mission that, in so doing, the people of the Territory have exercised their right to self-determination in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

4. *Considers it appropriate* that, in view of the decision of the people of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the transmission of information in respect of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands under Article 73 *e* of the Charter should cease;

5. *Takes note* of the actions taken by the Government of Australia to transfer ownership of land to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community and to extend relevant legislation to the community so that it may enjoy the same benefits as those available to the Australian community at large, as well as the Government's assurances that the unique cultural identity, heritage and traditions of the Cocos community will be preserved;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Australia, as the administering Power concerned, and to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council for the co-operation extended to the United Nations;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for the work it has accomplished, in close co-operation with the administering Power, in respect of the Territory.

*87th plenary meeting  
5 December 1984*

### 39/31. Question of American Samoa

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the question of American Samoa,

*Having examined* the relevant chapters of the report 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,<sup>7</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all other resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to American Samoa, including in particular its resolution 38/41 of 7 December 1983,

*Taking into account* the statement of the representative of the administering Power relating to American Samoa,<sup>8</sup>

*Conscious* of the need to promote progress towards the full implementation of the Declaration in respect of American Samoa,

*Noting with appreciation* the continued participation of the administering Power in the work of the Special Com-

mittee in regard to American Samoa, thereby enabling it to conduct a more informed and meaningful examination of the situation in the Territory,

*Reiterating* the view that it remains the obligation of the administering Power to carry out a thorough programme of political education so as to ensure that the people of American Samoa are made fully aware of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

*Noting* that the first five-year economic development plan for the Territory, implemented by the Development Planning Office of the Government of American Samoa, is due to expire at the end of 1984,

*Aware* of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of American Samoa and stressing the necessity of diversifying the economy of the Territory as a matter of priority in order to reduce its dependence on fluctuating market conditions,

*Mindful* that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories and expressing its satisfaction at the willingness of the administering Power to receive visiting missions in the Territories under its administration,

1. *Approves* the chapter of the report 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 relating to American Samoa;<sup>9</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of American Samoa to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

3. *Reiterates* the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the people of the Territory of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), which fully applies to American Samoa;

4. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America, as the administering Power, to take all necessary steps, taking into account the freely expressed wishes of the people of American Samoa, to expedite the process of decolonization of the Territory in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration;

5. *Reaffirms* that it is the responsibility of the administering Power to carry out a thorough programme of political education so as to ensure that the people of American Samoa are kept fully aware of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

6. *Takes note* of the fact that a constitutional convention was held in American Samoa and that the convention adopted, on 16 February 1984, a revised draft constitution for the Territory, which was transmitted to the Congress of the United States;

7. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Power, under the Charter, for the economic and social development of the Territory;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Power to intensify its efforts to strengthen and diversify the economy of American Samoa in order to reduce its heavy dependence

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. VI.

<sup>7</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/39/23)*, chaps. IV and XVII.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Fourth Committee, 17th meeting, paras. 73-82.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/39/23), chap. XVII.