

UNST/PSCA
(05)
D3
No. 45
ENC
C.1

DECOLONIZATION



A publication
of the United Nations
Department of Political Affairs

No. 45
November 1993

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 1992
AND OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	3
I. WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1992	
A. General.....	3 -
B. East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).....	6 -
C. American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Pitcairn, St. Helena and Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	13 -
D. Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	15
E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	16

CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>Page</u>
F. Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa	16 - 17
G. Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	17 - 18
H. 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...	18 - 19
I. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 <u>e</u> of the Charter of the United Nations	19
J. Other matters	19 - 20
 II. WORK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION	
A. General	20 - 21
B. Issues considered by the Fourth Committee	21 - 28
C. Issues considered in plenary meeting.....	28 - 29
 <u>Annex.</u> Resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.....	 32 - 33

INTRODUCTION

The General Assembly, by its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, established the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to examine the application of the Declaration contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of its implementation. In fulfilment of its mandate, the Special Committee has, since its inception, actively promoted and facilitated the process of decolonization with respect to the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, which numbered 64 in 1963 and 18 in 1992. At each session, following its consideration of the Committee's annual report, the General Assembly adopts a number of resolutions on decolonization issues and extends the Committee's mandate in relation to the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories for a further year.

The present issue of the Decolonization bulletin summarizes the Special Committee's activities in 1992, its recommendations to the General Assembly (sect. I) and the work of the Assembly at its forty-seventh session on decolonization issues (sect. II).

I. WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1992

A. General

In 1992, the membership of the Special Committee comprised: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

For its 1992 session, the Special Committee elected the following officers: Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, Chairman; Messrs. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, Permanent Representative of Cuba, Andrew G. Bangali (Sierra Leone) and Alexander Slabý (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed (Syrian Arab Republic), Rapporteur.

The Committee decided to maintain its subsidiary bodies, namely, the Working Group, which was increased by one member, and the newly merged Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance. The Subcommittee is comprised of the former Subcommittee on Small Territories and the former Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance. The officers of the Special Committee and the Subcommittee, as well as Congo, Fiji, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Trinidad and Tobago comprise the Working Group. The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance is composed of the entire membership of the Special Committee.

Mr. Amor Ardhaoui, Deputy Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations, and Mr. Hossein Lotfi Hormozabadi of the Islamic Republic of Iran were elected as Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, of the Subcommittee.

In organizing its work for the year, the Special Committee, on the recommendation of its Chairman, allocated some items for consideration in plenary meetings and others to its Subcommittee. 1/ The Committee and Subcommittee took into account information contained in working papers prepared by the Secretariat and transmitted by administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as material from published sources.

On 5 February 1992, the Special Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group with the responsibility of making recommendations regarding further improvements in the efficiency of its work in the light of developments and bearing in mind all suggestions made in the Fourth Committee and at plenary meetings of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The open-ended Working Group, presided over by the Chairman of the Special Committee, held nine meetings between 18 March and 28 May and submitted a report to the Committee. 2/

By adopting the recommendations of the Working Group, the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to defer until 1993 consideration of the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (see sect.E).

Participation of administering Powers

In compliance with the provisions of relevant resolutions and in their capacity as the administering Powers of the Territories concerned, the delegations of New Zealand (administering Power for Tokelau) and Portugal (administering Power for East Timor) continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee.

"The United States of America did not take part in the Committee's consideration of American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Territories for which it is the administering Power. With regard to those Territories, the United States, by a letter dated 4 February 1992, informed the President of the General Assembly as follows: 3/

"The United States, as an administering Power, recognizes its responsibilities under Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and will continue to fulfil those responsibilities. In this era of a new-found spirit of cooperation in the United Nations, the United States has been willing to continue to cooperate with the decolonization committees in the United Nations so long as it has been clear that the committees are adopting a more constructive approach. As the number of remaining non-self-governing Territories diminishes, it is increasingly important that United Nations decolonization committees pay more attention to those territories' particular evolution towards self-government.

"...

"... the United States has decided after careful thought to suspend its cooperation with the Special Committee until it takes the steps needed to bring its work in line with the current focus and spirit of the United Nations."

In respect of the Trust Territory, which is a strategic Territory, the United States maintained the position that the matter fell within the purview of the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council, not the General Assembly.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which is responsible for the administration of the Territories of Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena and the Turks and Caicos Islands, did not participate in their consideration by the Special Committee.4/

France did not participate in the Committee's consideration of New Caledonia, for which it is the administering Power.

The Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance noted with regret that the United Kingdom and the United States, the administering Powers for the majority of Non-Self-Governing Territories, did not participate in its deliberations. In that connection, and in view of the efforts deployed by the Special Committee to streamline and rationalize its work, the Subcommittee appealed to the United Kingdom and the United States to reconsider their position and to resume their participation in the work of the Special Committee.

In a related context, the Special Committee, on 28 July 1992, adopted a resolution on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. ^{5/} By its resolution, the Committee, "noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee", called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions. It also called upon those administering Powers that were not participating in the work of the Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee.

B. East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia,
Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands
(Malvinas)

1. Requests for hearing

As in previous years, the Special Committee allocated the questions of East Timor, Gibraltar, New Caledonia, Western Sahara and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) for consideration in its plenary meetings.

In connection with its consideration of these Territories, the Special Committee granted a number of requests for hearing and heard 28 petitioners: 23 concerning East Timor, 4 concerning New Caledonia and 1 concerning Western Sahara:

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Meeting at which petitioner was heard</u>
<u>Question of East Timor</u>	
Mr. José Ramos-Horta, on behalf of Mr. Xanana Gusmão of the National Council of Maubere Resistance	1404th
Ms. Victoria Forbes-Adam, on behalf of Amnesty International	1404th
Mr. Liem Soei Liong, on behalf of Indonesia Human Rights Campaign (TAPOL)	1404th
Mr. Douglas McGregor, on behalf of Hobart East Timor Committee	1404th
Mr. Charles A. Scheiner East Timor Action Network - U.S.A.	1404th
Ms. Sidney Jones Asia Watch	1404th
Mr. Kan Akatani Free East Timor Japan Coalition/Japanese Catholic Council for Justice and Peace	1404th
Mr. Richard Koch, on behalf of Komitee Indonesia/Netherlands East Timor Working Group	1404th
Ms. Vanessa Ramos, on behalf of American Association of Jurists	1404th
Mr. Russell Rollason Australian Council for Overseas Aid	1404th
Mr. Roger S. Clark International Platform of Jurists for East Timor	1405th
Mr. Alex Robinson, on behalf of The British Coalition for East Timor/East Timor Ireland Solidarity Campaign	1405th
Ms. Eleanor Hoffman Westchester People's Action Coalition	1405th

<u>Petitioner</u>	<u>Meeting at which petitioner was heard</u>
Ms. Li-lien Gibbons East Timor Alert Network	1405th
Ms. Amy Goodman Journalist	1405th
Mr. Allan Nairn Journalist	1405th
Mr. João Rui Gaspar de Almeida Member of Parliament (Portugal) Socialist Party	1405th
Mr. Guido Orlando de Freitas Rodrigues Member of Parliament (Portugal) Social Democratic Party	1405th
Mr. Miguel Urbano Tavares Rodrigues Member of Parliament (Portugal) Communist Party	1405th
Mr. Thomas Mehady, on behalf of Pax Christi International	1405th
Mr. Vicente da Silva Guterres União Democrática Timorense (UDT)	1405th
Mr. Jose Luis Guterres Frente Revolucionaria de Timor-Leste Independente (FRETILIN)	1406th
Mr. Ken Simons, on behalf of War Resisters' International	1406th
<u>Question of New Caledonia</u>	
Mr. Paul Robel Commission d'enquête indépendante sur la situation actuelle en Nouvelle Calédonie	1406th
Mr. Yann Céléne Uregei Front uni de libération kanak (FULK)	1406th
Ms. Deborah Robinson	1407th

Petitioner

Meeting at which
petitioner was heard

Mr. Rock Wamytan
Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste
(FLNKS)

1408th

Question of Western Sahara

Mr. Mouloud Said, on behalf of
Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia
el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO)

1407th

The views expressed by these petitioners are reproduced in the records of the Committee meetings (A/AC.109/PV.1404-1408).

2. Question of East Timor

During the Special Committee's consideration of East Timor, the representative of Indonesia opposed any discussion of the question of East Timor. The representative stated that the process of decolonization had been carried out 17 years previously when the overwhelming majority of the people of East Timor chose to exercise their right to self-determination, and opted for integration with Indonesia with the same constitutional rights and obligations as the other provinces of the country (A/AC.109/PV.1403, 1404 and 1406).

The representative of Portugal, which is the administering Power concerned, made reference to a tragic episode which had occurred at Santa Cruz, East Timor, and its aftermath which had highlighted in the eyes of world public opinion the persistence of the unresolved East Timor question. Those developments in the Territory had shown that Indonesia was clinging to an acceptable status quo and to the pursuit of a policy that had clearly failed. For many years, his country had been calling to the attention of the international community the intolerable human rights situation in East Timor due to the widespread war, repression, famine and disease, which prevailed subsequent to the illegal invasion of that Territory in late 1975. The Government of Portugal had submitted to the Secretary-General a proposal to initiate immediately, without preconditions and under the auspices of the Secretary-General, a dialogue on the substance of the problem. The proposal had been supported by the European Community and its members States. Also, Portugal had expressed its readiness to participate in a dialogue with Indonesia and with all the parties directly concerned, aimed at reaching a

just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement of the question (see A/AC.109/PV.1406).

The representative of Indonesia stated that the events at Santa Cruz were tragic and regrettable, as a result of which the Indonesian Government had established a National Commission of Inquiry to investigate the incident. The Commission had concluded, among other things, that the incident was the culmination of a series of earlier anti-integration demonstrations. The Commission had recommended that those responsible should be prosecuted in accordance with Indonesian law. According to the representative, his Government was committed to continuing its dialogue under the auspices of the Secretary-General and to finding a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question.

Following the statements of the representatives of Portugal and Indonesia, as well as the testimony of 23 petitioners, the Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the item at its 1993 session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-seventh session (A/AC.109/PV.1406).

3. Question of Gibraltar

The Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Honourable Joe Bossano, appeared before the Special Committee on 28 July 1992 and stated that the Territory's views had not been presented before the Committee for a quarter of a century. He stressed the importance of dialogue, but regretted that the hopes of engaging in such a dialogue with Spain in the 1980s had not been fulfilled. He believed that in Gibraltar's case the right to self-determination existed as in the case of any other Non-Self-Governing Territory with whose welfare the Committee was concerned and that the provisions of General Assembly resolutions were equally applicable to Gibraltar. The fact that there were differing views on how the right should be exercised should be recognized and addressed. In addressing the issue, the Chief Minister referred to a Statement by His Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, who had expressed the hope that the negotiating process under way would be effective in achieving a solution "in harmony with the times in which we live". The Chief Minister further stated that the territorial Government attached great importance to the development of a sustainable economy. It faced the problem of adjusting to a market economy and a world system which demanded competition. While formerly three quarters of Gibraltar's income had been derived from the military expenditure of, and aid from, the United Kingdom, that military contribution to the Territory's economy had been reduced to a mere 15 per cent. The achievements and progress in the social, political and

economic development of the people could therefore be attributed to their own revenue raising efforts and hard work (see A/AC.109/PV.1406).

The representative of Spain stated that, as was well known, the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom were involved in bilateral talks aimed at resolving the question of Gibraltar. Those negotiations provided the framework for dealing with all outstanding issues relating to the dispute (see A/AC.109/PV.1406).

After taking into account the related developments, the Special Committee decided that it would resume consideration of the question at its 1993 session.

4. Question of New Caledonia

Following the statements of petitioners, an address was delivered by the representative of the Solomon Islands on behalf of the seven members of the South Pacific Forum (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) which are also States Members of the United Nations. The representative stated that the South Pacific Forum had expressed the hope that the French authorities would expand their assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population in order to enable all New Caledonians to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions. The Forum was convinced that besides equitable social and economic development, transparency in the preparation of electoral rolls and continued dialogue among all parties in New Caledonia were important in ensuring an act of self-determination consistent with the practices and principles of the United Nations in which all options, including independence, were open and which could safeguard the rights of the indigenous Kanaks, as well as of all other New Caledonians. The Forum had reiterated the hope that France would facilitate increased contacts between New Caledonia and the States of the Forum, and had expressed the belief that New Caledonia was an integral part of the South Pacific region (see A/AC.109/PV.1406-1408).

In introducing the draft resolution on the item, the representative of Papua New Guinea stated that he believed there were positive signs on the horizon for all the parties concerned to achieve an amicable solution in line with the aspirations and the wishes of the Kanaks, the Front de liberation nationale Kanake socialist (FLNKS) and all the people of New Caledonia. He stressed the importance of visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and expressed the hope of his delegation that the relevant provision would be included in the draft resolution on the item, although he acknowledged that the

political climate necessary to achieve that objective had not yet been reached. Nevertheless, he welcomed the decision by the French authorities to allow visits to New Caledonia by members of the South Pacific Forum (see A/AC.109/PV.1409).

The Committee thereafter adopted the draft resolution without a vote. 6/

5. Question of Western Sahara

In view of the peace process which was under way in respect of Western Sahara, and after hearing a statement by the representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its forty-seventh session, to transmit all relevant documentation on Western Sahara to the General Assembly to facilitate the latter's consideration of the question.

6. Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The representative of Argentina participated in the Committee's consideration of the question and stated that, since the beginning of its existence as a nation, Argentina had manifested its political will to consolidate the nation in the southern seas and lands, exercising effective sovereignty over islands it had inherited from Spain. The process had been interrupted, however, by the British occupation in 1833. His Government was determined to recover, through diplomatic means, the exercise of its territorial sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. His Government was certain that the strengthening of contacts between Argentina and the United Kingdom based on the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries should lead to a solution of the conflict between the two nations. Regarding the actual question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), cooperation agreements on fisheries and upcoming talks on petroleum were instances of progress towards strengthening the favourable climate between Argentina and the United Kingdom. In September 1991, the Argentine-British working group on South Atlantic matters had agreed to a substantive change which had led to greater flexibility in the system for naval units, as well as the normalization of civilian and military air transit. Meetings of the South Atlantic Fishing Commission had been held, at which joint scientific research projects were proposed, and measures were considered to enhance cooperation in order to curb illegal fishing in the region. The Commission had also agreed to extend by one year the prohibition on commercial fishing for vessels of

any flag in areas surrounding the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). That prohibition sought to protect marine species in the area.

In the post cold-war world, the representative of Argentina said, the continuance of the dispute over sovereignty based on a colonial situation was anachronistic, and the lack of progress in responding to the international community's appeal that a bilateral approach be taken in settling that dispute was difficult to explain. Argentina was ready to work for a just settlement of the dispute, bearing in mind the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands. The United Kingdom should respond favourably to the majority of the international community by reviewing its position and agreeing to tackle the question with a genuine will to negotiate on the basis of what has been achieved through the strengthening of mutual trust. In conclusion, the representative stated that support for the draft resolution before the Committee, would contribute to a peaceful negotiated settlement of the dispute (see A/AC.109/PV.1408).

The Special Committee adopted, by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, a resolution on the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), 7/ by which it requested the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute. The Committee reiterated its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question.

C. American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Pitcairn, St. Helena and Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The Special Committee granted two requests for hearing and heard the petitioners: one each concerning the United States Virgin Islands and Guam:

United States Virgin Islands

Meeting at which
petitioner was heard

Ms. Judith L. Bourne, on behalf of
the Save Long Bay Coalition, Inc.

1403rd

Guam

Meeting at which
petitioner was heard

Mr. Ron Rivera, on behalf of
the Organization of People for
Indigenous Rights

1407th

The representatives of the Governors of Guam and the United States Virgin Islands participated in the work of the Special Committee in its consideration of the respective Territories.

In respect of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Special Committee considered the report of the open-ended Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1776), which stated that, having noted, inter alia, that

"extensive discussions are now under way between the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (the last entity still under the International Trusteeship System) to find a solution to the question of the future political status of that Territory, the Working Group recommends that in order to allow for a climate conducive to a positive and constructive outcome of the above discussions, that the Special Committee defer consideration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until 1993."

By adopting that report, the Special Committee decided to defer consideration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to its 1993 session.

On the basis of a recommendation of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, the Special Committee adopted a two-part consolidated resolution on American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands. 8/

In the preamble to part A of the resolution, the Special Committee recalled previous General Assembly resolutions, particularly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) of 14 and 15 December 1960, respectively, and reiterated that it was conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of those Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000.

The Special Committee reiterated the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way serve as a pretext to delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination. The Committee reaffirmed the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the economic and social development of the Territories and to preserve their cultural identity. The administering Powers were urged to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to own, develop or dispose of the natural resources of those Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment and to counter problems related to drug trafficking.

The Special Committee also urged the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with it in its work by providing timely and up-to-date information for each Territory under their administration, in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, and by facilitating the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information thereon and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants; and appealed to the administering Powers to continue or to resume their participation in the work of the Committee and to ensure the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Committee's work.

In part B of the resolution, a section was specifically devoted to each of the 10 Territories concerned.

As regards Pitcairn and St. Helena, the Special Committee adopted separate decisions on the basis of reports by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance. 9/

D. Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

The Special Committee has always attached great importance to securing first hand information on the political, economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as well as to learning the views and aspirations of their inhabitants.

In 1992, by a resolution adopted by consensus on 28 July, 10/ the Special Committee stressed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration; called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration; and continued to call upon those administering Powers that were

not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

In continuing its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable, the Special Committee, at the outset of its session decided to consider an item entitled "Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico". By adopting the report of the open-ended Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1776), however, the Special Committee endorsed the Working Group's recommendation that the Committee should defer consideration of the above-mentioned decision until 1993 and its suggestion that requests for hearing be given due consideration by the Committee on the basis of its usual practice. The Committee had before it the report of its Rapporteur, 11/ in which he had drawn attention to related reports 12/ and a study on Puerto Rico. 13/ The Committee also heard the statements of representatives of 19 organizations (A/AC.109/PV.1409 and 1410).

F. Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa

The Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat on economic conditions with particular reference to foreign economic activities in Anguilla, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands. 14/ The Committee granted one request for hearing and heard the petitioner at its 1407th meeting (A/AC.109/PV.1407).

Upon conclusion of the general debate, the Special Committee, in the preparation of a draft resolution on the item, took into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the open-ended Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1776) which it had adopted previously. The Committee adopted by 17 votes to 3, with 1 abstention, a resolution that it recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. 15/

By that resolution, the Special Committee reaffirmed its concern over the activities of those foreign economic, financial and other interests which continued to exploit the natural resources that were the heritage of the indigenous populations of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, as well as their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, thus depriving them of their right to control the resources of their Territories and impeding the realization by those peoples of their legitimate aspirations for self-determination and independence.

The Special Committee condemned the activities of those foreign economic and other interests in the colonial Territories which impeded the implementation of the Declaration, and strongly condemned the collaboration with the South African regime by certain countries, as well as transnational corporations that continued to make new investments in South Africa and supplied the racist regime with armaments, nuclear technology and all other materials that were likely to buttress it and thus aggravate the threat to peace in the region.

The Special Committee decided to continue to monitor closely the situation in the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories were aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of the indigenous peoples and at promoting the economic and financial viability of the Territories. The Committee requested the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

G. Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

The decision on this question, 16/ which took into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the open-ended Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1776), was adopted by 17 votes to 3, with 1 abstention. In that decision, the Special Committee reiterated its condemnation of all military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration that might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence; once again called upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate military activities and to eliminate military bases in the Territories under their administration; and deplored the continued alienation of land in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions